

## MERCURY, THE DIVINE MESSENGER

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**Note:** What follows is a revised version of a letter from 2003 regarding the inferior conjunction of Mercury. It has been updated.

Greetings Everyone!

Well, the times and energies certainly are momentous in this period. Having just come through two of the three most important full moons of the year and a major war we are also blessed to have begun a new 2nd-order cycle of Mercury<sup>1</sup>. As you may know, there have been two other 2nd-order cycles of other planets that have recently commenced as well - those of Mars and Venus. These 2nd-order cycles are social cycles and do not concern individuals so much, except insofar as we are all affected by the societies in which we live. Put another way, these cycles are more connected with the operation and unfolding of groups of all sorts. This cycle of Mercury lasts for 65 years<sup>2</sup> and brings about many changes at its inception, but those changes may not be so obvious to the casual observer, for Mercury, as we shall see, is one of the most mysterious and occult planets in our solar system, and it presides over no less than our transformation from the human to the divine, ushering us all eventually to membership in the Kingdom of Souls.



Some background on Mercury would be appropriate at this point. Mercury was the Roman god of commerce, travel and thievery and was the counterpart of the Greek god Hermes, the messenger of the gods<sup>3</sup>. Scientifically, we know less about Mercury than any other planet except Pluto, due to the close proximity between Mercury and the Sun (thus making it very difficult to observe). It is the second-densest body in the solar system after Earth and is probably the most iron-rich body in the solar system. It has a very thin, wispy atmosphere of sodium, but it actually has water in the form of ice in the shadows of protected craters on its surface. It exhibits what is called orbital resonance, meaning the spin of the planet (its day) is coupled with its orbit at a ratio of 2:3. The length of its day is 88 Earth-days. These figures are significant to esotericists and give many clues as to how Mercury works. This orbital resonance is due to Mercury's closeness to the Sun and gravitational pulling by the Sun. In esoteric literature Mercury and the Sun are often said to be one<sup>4</sup>.

Mercury was called the 'Son of Wisdom'<sup>5</sup> and it was the planet sacred to Gautama, the Buddha<sup>6</sup>. This latest Mercury cycle [there has been one since this writing] commenced during the Wesak period, the Festival of the Buddha. The north node of Mercury was in the sign of Taurus, the birth-sign of the Buddha, and it is these nodes which determine the commencement of the 2nd-order cycles. Mercury was called the 'Watchman of the Sun'<sup>7</sup>, the 'Sustainer of Dominions', and was the 'strongest of all the vigilants'<sup>8</sup>. It is equated with the archangel Michael and was also associated with Raphael, one of the '4 Holy Ones' the Lords of Karma, the guides of humanity. It is called the first of the celestial gods, the god Hermes, to which is attributed the invention of and the first initiation of men into Magic. It is 'budha' (from the root word 'budh'--to enlighten or to know) as distinct from Buddha (the Enlightened One), wisdom, enlightenment or 'reawakening' in the divine science. Mercury was always known as the god of secret wisdom.

Mercury receives seven times as much light as the Earth. Its corresponding metal is mercury (from the alchemical system), its color is yellow or gold, its day is Wednesday (Woden's day) and is said to be personified omniscience. It is said to heal the blind and to restore sight, mental and physical [subjective and objective]. It is more mysterious still than Venus, the Earth's alter-ego, is identical with Mithra, is the perpetual companion of the 'Sun of Wisdom' and is the 'leader and evocateur of souls'<sup>9</sup>. Mercury, as Hermes, conjoined with Venus (Aphrodite) on the psycho-spiritual planes gives humans the name 'Hermaphrodite'.

Mercury rules the liquid (active) light of the kundalini fire, whereas Mars rules the latent aspect of that serpent. Serpents were always equated with wisdom in occult literature and it is small wonder that kundalini is called the 'serpent fire', because that fire restores the inner, spiritual sight, reveals the 'Wisdom of the Ages' to the astounded initiate and liberates the consciousness that was bound before by the confines of physical existence. As the 'divine intermediary', Mercury carries the messages between the poles (soul and persona) faster than the speed of light<sup>10</sup>. It is the expression of the dual aspects of mind as it mediates between higher and lower<sup>11</sup>. As such, then, it is the star of conflict because it reveals to the mind the duality of life--the 'Self and the 'not-self'. In so doing, it produces a steady pull between that which is perceived and the consciousness who perceives it. As such, too, it is thus the major planet of relationships because it 'engineers' the interplay between the lower self and the higher self, between our Earth and the Sun, and between our Earth and the major constellations which condition us. Lastly, the students of the planetary school on Mercury are called 'The Sons of Aspiration' or 'The Points of Yellow Light'<sup>12</sup>, for those who might wish to use such descriptions in their visualizations. Now, that's a hard act to follow in anyone's book.

This tiny little planet which is nestled so close to the Sun has a very profound significance to our own little world. Orthodox astrology does not accord Mercury with nearly the significance it deserves, probably because Mercury operates more in the realm of consciousness than it does in mundane events. However, to the occultist, the inner planes determine the causality of the manifested universe. Thus, though it may not appear so on the surface, Mercury works potently behind the scenes as one of the truly great 'movers and shakers' in our solar system, shaping consciousness on many worlds and thus ensuring that the plan of God manifests itself in line with divine providence. Mercury is said to be far older than the Earth and it thus acts as an older brother or mentor to the lord of our planet<sup>13</sup>. Along with Mars and our Earth it forms a trinity of planets of rare importance, which brings me to the point of this letter.



We have all been feeling, if we cared to look, that there is something momentous happening on our world at the present time. Especially since 1998, when Mars commenced its 2nd-order cycle<sup>14</sup>, everything seems to have been accelerated and shaken up. People's lives have been in turmoil or at least very busy. Old things from back in the recesses of one's consciousness have been coming out to be resolved and/or more fully integrated into new paradigms of thinking. The world seems polarized and a scary place to many. Yet, if we look beyond or behind the present chaotic happenings there is an indefinable 'something' which seems to be driving us all forward toward greater freedom and spiritual prosperity. To hang a phrase on it, I would have to say there is a deep, growing *vibrant expectancy* that whatever is coming will bless us all in abundance and richness. But, it is still early days yet. There is still much work to be done in terms of clearing away obstacles to that greater freedom before we can see what is coming with any great clarity.

Esotericists know and occultists work with the fact that our Earth is going through the convulsions of a major planetary initiation, a sort of planetary 'crucifixion', which will ultimately seal away evil and liberate the planet and all its inhabitants into the true 'golden age'<sup>15</sup> about which we have all heard so much. This will not happen in fullness for millions of years yet, but we are due for a lesser manifestation of it *in our present lifetime*. One should keep in mind that when talking about planetary occurrences we are looking at geologic periods of time and not human years. But, we do get lesser reflections of these greater periods in social cycles and in any given lifetime. The point is, since the planet is going through this expansion of consciousness it means there are a great many inner processes being stimulated in the planet itself about which we know very little, but which affect us in no small manner just the same. One of the primary forces being stirred in the Earth now is this planetary serpent fire – the planetary kundalini<sup>16</sup>.



Kundalini is a mysterious force, even as understood by many esoteric students. Unless one has experienced its effects directly any description of its actions and effects is purely speculation<sup>17</sup>. But, if one has experienced this electric, liquid, living light in their own life then a brief glimpse around the happenings on our planet will speak of the activation of this liberating fire. Kundalini does two main things when it becomes activated. Firstly, it clears away any obstruction to its progress and removes barriers to higher consciousness. This can be and often is a very painful experience (inwardly and physically)<sup>18</sup> to the one undergoing the process because "the veil is rent in two and torn

asunder"--literally and figuratively. The subtle and physical bodies are completely reorganized and, to make matters worse, the person has to go through all this reorganizing and tearing away while in a very heightened state of awareness - not my idea of a pleasant drive in the country. As all this is happening, any thought-forms (we like to call these things 'issues' in the New Age and social vernacular) left in the inner energy fields of the individual are brought to the surface and pushed out in front of this fire, which then proceeds to destroy either them or the possessor.

What has been thus far described about the activation of kundalini can be a terrifying and destabilizing process to one who has no knowledge of such things. Even to one who does possess certain knowledge along these lines it is a very humbling, awe-inspiring and amazing ride and it changes one's life irrevocably and for all time. [The first full experience of this – the 'first kiss', if you will, is said to be the commencement of the *path of seeing* in the grounds and paths (*sa lam* in Tibetan) of Buddhist tenets] There are some people who undergo this sort of thing unconsciously who, because they do not understand what is happening, think they are losing their minds and end up in asylums or worse. And, in fact, they have lost their minds in a manner of speaking - all the worst parts of it which they are better off without, but with so much more expanded consciousness and a new type of mind thrown into the deal. There is always a refractory period in which the person must undergo periods of quiet introspection, personal reorganization and instruction from the inner planes as to how to handle all these new faculties. This is one of the primary reasons why it is said that spiritual initiations must be undergone alone. No one on the outer planes can assist in the process save to help make the person comfortable and to lend support while the process is undergone. The actual rising of the fire is only very brief, but the refractory period can take years, depending upon a variety of factors.

The second main thing kundalini does is to put one into rapport with consciousnesses orders of magnitude higher and more numerous than we could ever know in our limited brain awareness. It also puts one in rapport with other kingdoms of Nature, both of this world and outside it, with which we would ordinarily have no contact. Here we see the work of Mercury as *the* planet of relationships, working to establish them both within the person and between the person and their

vastly extended new world through this liquid light of kundalini. The person is thus able to access wisdom from the past, the present and many possible futures, all at once and without effort, in an instant of time, for when one attains such levels of consciousness there is no such thing as temporal time at those levels. Past, present and future all exist simultaneously in brilliant, kaleidoscopic panavision<sup>19</sup>, to use an inadequate phrase. Now, that's a feature not to be missed! So, despite all the initial suffering that can come from the rising of the serpent, the end result is priceless and the memory of that suffering quickly fades into insignificance, given the benefit derived.

To reiterate, we have before us a confluence of cycles that is stimulating the planetary kundalini. We have the Mars cycle of 1998, the new Mercury cycle of 2003, the grand cycle of Mars which culminates and re-commences in August this year, a 1000 year millennial cycle which begins next year and a whole host of supporting cast and characters. Now, all this is not to say that everyone's kundalini is to be raised in this present world period - far from it - but, at a planetary level we can see certain things working out.

Mars rules over the latent aspect of kundalini<sup>20</sup>. Latent kundalini is that portion of the fire that goes toward the warming and general integrity of the system. In humans that is known as metabolism, basic energy levels and body heat and function. At a planetary level we see it as the internal heat of the planet - specifically magma flows, volcanic activity and plate tectonics. There has been a larger than normal number of seismic disturbances in recent days and we are told to expect much more and soon<sup>21</sup>. This sort of activity affects people who are more sensitive in a number of ways. It produces among its symptoms a general lassitude, strange aches, pains and electrical sensations, dragging pains deep in the bones, sciatica and soreness around the base of the spine, digestive difficulties, brain fog and a foggy head, confusion, poor sleep with bad dreams and a general sense of pressure or tension that nothing seems to shake. People can manifest any of a number of such symptoms when seismic activity increases. And, people's emotional quakes tend to go right off the Richter scale. At a planetary level there is also a general increase of heat in the planetary system, changes in weather patterns, heating of the oceans and extremes of weather. The El Nino weather system has come very much into the public eye since 1998.

Mercury, along with Mars, is bringing about many conflicts in people's minds. I have talked often of the polarization going on in the world due to Mars' influence, but Mercury is producing much the same sort of thing in people's minds. The questioning of values that began when Pluto started its transit through Sagittarius is being very much accelerated now that the new Mercury cycle has commenced and the Wesak period just passed has brought through the energies of Mercury so strongly. People feel a very strong need for new ways of relating--to each other and to other kingdoms. We all feel this dynamic point of tension that pervades the world and drives us toward who-knows-what. The work of clearing individual obstructing behavior patterns has become very much accelerated and seemingly more urgent and poignant at times Youth suicide has become a big topic of conversation as our youth questions its place in the world, what it all means and if their very lives have any real purpose. There is real rage and frustration in the masses toward the old status quo, the entrenched power structures and the general feeling that one's time is more and more infringed upon, that one's money does less and less for all the effort we put toward it and that our lives slip away while the things that really matter to us remain unfulfilled. Yet, if we could step back and see the larger view we would see the true purpose of it all: to focus upon the world of meaning and one's inner life instead of temporal, material concerns, or at least to put the material in its proper place.

We, as humanity, cannot continue in the old ways and hang onto our old emotional and mental 'baggage' if we are to take the next needed step forward into greater consciousness and livingness. So, the old has to go. We have to be made to see with great rapidity the illusions which have

enthralled us for so long. The children being born today bring a new expectancy and way of looking at things with them. They are bright heralds of things to come. They do things earlier and earlier, often with more grace, than we did a generation ago. Mercury rules youth, too, and this new cycle brings a new impulse of youth. As we go through this minor initiatory period and the planetary kundalini does its work the light will break through with increasing rapidity and brilliance. Will we be ready or will insanity become more prevalent? Frankly, I feel a tremendous excitement (in a good way) about the times and what the possibilities are.

As the herald of the Sun, Mercury is doing its part to usher in the 'New Age'<sup>22</sup>. Through media, through commerce, through communications, through the youth, through travel, through criticism and debate, through educators and all other things Mercurial the new age is being ushered in with ever-increasing speed. The degree for the commencement of this cycle of Mercury (17 Taurus) reads as follows:

*A symbolical battle between swords and torches 17 Taurus*



Dane Rudhyar lists the keynote of this degree as the seeker turning warrior, fighting anew the eternal 'Great War'. The 'Great War' is within us all, within our own mind as it 'slays' what is real and keeps us focused upon non-essentials and materiality. One of the greatest tests for us all in these days is to let go of the illusion that we 'have' things and that our security lies outside who we are in truth. Our attachments to the past and the mind's constant harping upon that binds us and dooms us to repeat the mistakes of that past, rather than extracting the essence of those experiences and moving on from and, indeed, building upon the best parts of them. Let us build anew on the ashes of what is being now burned away and cast our eye upward and inward to the vision of what is coming that we may build correctly at the appointed time and in truth. The ashes of the past form the soil of future efforts. May our fruits be sweet and nourish a hungry and needy, but very deserving world.

Much love and many blessings to you all,

Malvin.

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<sup>1</sup> The inferior conjunction of Mercury with the Sun when it occurs in the center of the solar disc, i.e., at its closest approach to the exact conjunction of the Mercurial node. This happens every 65 -- 66 years.

<sup>2</sup> Walters, Derek, *The Complete Guide to Chinese Astrology*, p. 265

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.theoi.com/greek-mythology/encyclopedia-h.html> and <http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/roman/mercury.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Blavatsky, Helena, *The Secret Doctrine II*, p. 31

<sup>5</sup> Op cit

<sup>6</sup> Blavatsky, *Isis Unveiled*, p. 133

<sup>7</sup> Blavatsky, *Secret Doctrine II*, p. 573

<sup>8</sup> The periodical "Lucifer", Vol 1, Sep 15, 1887, p. 15, "The History of a Planet"

<sup>9</sup> Blavatsky, *Secret Doctrine II*, p. 572

<sup>10</sup> *The Secret Doctrine I*, HP Blavatsky, pg. 513

<sup>11</sup> *The Secret Doctrine II*, HP Blavatsky, pg. 31

<sup>12</sup> Bailey, Alice A., *Esoteric Astrology*, AAB. p.694

<sup>13</sup> Blavatsky, *Secret Doctrine II*, p. 48, and *Secret Doctrine I*, p. 180

<sup>14</sup> Walters, p. 265

<sup>15</sup> Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 385

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, p. 104

<sup>17</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 182

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<sup>18</sup> As described, for instance, in the experiences of Gopi Krishna, *Kundalini: The Evolutionary Energy in Man*, Shambhala Books, 1970

<sup>19</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 37

<sup>20</sup> Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 182

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, p. 908

<sup>22</sup> The Age of Aquarius, suggested to begin in fullness at 2115, from ancillary writings of Alice Bailey..