

AQUARIUS SOLAR FESTIVAL 2018
“THE RUSSIA/US LETTER”
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Greetings Friends!

As we look forward into 2018 and probably gladly leave behind the Year of the Fire Rooster, we find ourselves with much to consider in our quickly changing world. We have about another month left in the lunar year, and for that reason I have had to send this letter out a week early. I have the Chinese New Year letter to send out in the first part of February, which will look back over the year that was and be a more in-depth look at the evolving geopolitics. We will also have some fun with that letter. But more on that later. 2018 will be a full year: a double-Earth year (Saturnian influence), five eclipses in total – two total lunar eclipses and three partial solar, with three of them taking place in the northern summer, and the first two full moons of the year being super-moons. And, with Saturn opposing the 21st Chinese lunar mansion for much of the year, heads are going to roll (figuratively, we hope) in the world elites and power structures. We already see signs of it, with elections regional and national this year in many countries. But first, since we enter the Aquarian interval for 2018 on the 20th of this month, there will be a particular emphasis in this letter on the nature of friendship and cooperation, especially with regard to the US and Russia, which Aquarius always emphasizes. So, without further ado, we’ll get straight into the meaning of Aquarius and how it might bear out for us in a year that looks to be one of great shifting and change.

Aquarius is the sign most associated with friendship and group endeavor, ruling as it does the natural 11th house – ‘friends, hopes and wishes’. Aquarius rules over all sorts of group enterprise, societies, organizations, etc. In mundane astrology the 11th house also rules legislatures, among other things, and we have midterm elections coming up in the US this year. But more to the point, Aquarius is overall associated with service, especially on a large scale. It is the sign of the ‘world server’,¹ the person who responds only to the massed or group need and who is decentralized, knowing no national or regional boundaries when it comes to our common sense of humanity. Its symbol is the water bearer, carrying the water urn on his/her shoulder, giving the ‘water of life’ to everyone they encounter according to the person’s or group’s need. That is no small feat – knowing

what a person or a group truly needs – and as such, service in the Aquarian mode requires a fair amount of knowledge, foresight and insight. Aquarius is an air sign, associated with the mind and thought in general according to common interpretations, and as such its influence is all-pervasive and interpenetrating.² It is also rapidly gaining in influence due to the precession of the Sun into the sign, Aquarius, from its long sojourn in Pisces.

Aquarius is a fixed sign, aside from being an air sign, and this marks it esoterically as being one of discipleship, with all the ‘struggles toward the light’ discipleship entails. The fixed signs – Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius – are preeminently ones of struggle and fixed, determined purpose in life, as anyone born in one of those signs can attest. It is the task of any liberated Aquarian to distribute the water of spiritual life throughout the human kingdom. Hence, we have the Aquarian motto: “Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.”³ Aquarius also does this for the other kingdoms in nature, too, but with the air emphasis it is especially concerned with human consciousness and the lifting of the human condition.⁴

Aquarius is ruled by Uranus as the common ruler, one of the impersonal planets. Uranus is associated with technology, the new, sudden change, electricity, flight and overall with the introduction of new orders of being and government. It is the planet that is equated with the urge to better conditions,⁵ meaning those conditions in one’s personal life which incline toward a fuller expression of one’s spirituality. As such, Uranus is often mistakenly seen as a disruptive (negative) influence when it is active in a person’s chart, either natively or by progression, direction of transit. **Aquarius’ rulership:** People who are born with Uranus on one of the angles in their natal chart often have difficult personal lives for the reasons thus stated, as their soul seeks to make way for its greater expression. As a result those people often find that they have to greatly simplify the way they live, and they also often find that they must periodically and unexpectedly make themselves available for others. Uranus thus placed imposes a new order on one’s life, and it can do this by transit, progression and direction as well. Resistance is futile with Uranus. Uranus trains a person in selfless service, and it does this by causing life to be fluid, to have to deal with the unexpected and to lose oneself, meaning one’s selfishness, in a greater reality. This is the influence of Uranus at a personal level. In short, Uranus opens one to soul force from a higher perspective, to function more and more as a soul in one’s everyday life. People who resist this influence can be a real concern to themselves and others, but the years and experience more often than not cause a more humanitarian outlook for a person lucky enough to come under Uranian influence.

The esoteric ruler of Aquarius is Jupiter, which gives an expansive outlook, moving toward “an inherent tendency to fusion which nothing can arrest.”⁶ With Uranus we have the 7th ray of ceremony, order and magic. With Jupiter, we have the 2nd ray of love and wisdom. When the two are combined in Aquarius, they act as a liberating force, bringing groups of people together, especially in thought (Aquarius being an air sign) and thereby forming a magnetic focal point that can be a powerful force for good, or for evil if wrongly used. The power of the group mind should never be underestimated. If we look at the material advances we have seen in recent centuries, these are the product of sometimes millions of minds working in concert in directed purpose. This is Aquarian work, and it began to make its presence felt, dimly at first, in the last two centuries especially. The pace of our technological and social advancement has accelerated steadily ever since. This Aquarian/Jupiterian/Uranian force is behind such initiatives as the United Nations, the European Union and other meldings of nations in common purpose. Those initiatives, it should be kept in mind, are also young, still in the stage of experimentation (which Uranus also rules) trial and error, and prone to mistakes and fractures as a result of humanity’s inexperience and selfishness. But they are still our best efforts so far at the community of nations and peoples and they go toward producing a more peaceful and united world. These sorts of unions will only grow in strength and purpose as the decades pass, although they will necessarily change and be subject to the same fluidity which Aquarius always exhibits.

But there is a still-higher ruler of Aquarius which bears a brief mention and which will be rounded out at the end of this letter. That ruler is the Moon, and it works entirely at a collective level with Aquarius. In this case, the Moon governs those movements and events which take us out of our instinctive, knee-jerk reactions and bring us instead to use the intellect in the solution of our problems.⁷ The Moon ‘veils’ planets in esoteric astrology, meaning it stands as a symbol for other influences, but what we have here is enough to consider. Aquarius rules ‘The Baskets of Nourishment’, represented by the Moon.⁸ This group of lives are called ‘the blinded lives’, having as its symbol a blindfolded man facing backwards, which is quite suggestive in terms of humanity. The rising influence of Aquarius is taking us out of our collective blindness, considering that we are all tiny units in this great world collective effort. We are blind to its larger purposes, but our experiences over the last centuries have given us great pause to stop and think about what we are doing, to look past our instinctive reactions to events, people and cultures and to work together for a more positive future. And this brings us to nations and the title of this letter.

Aquarius and Nations: Aquarius rules the national souls of both Russia and the United States, and due to that fact any consideration of Aquarius becomes increasingly important as the years go by. The influence of Aquarius will therefore stir the soul force of those two great nations increasingly. It also rules the national soul of the Netherlands and the personal expression of Switzerland, and the rise of Aquarius will have its effects in those two nations as well, but we will not deal with those here. But for all the nations mentioned, we will see much in the way of change, shifting, upset, an impressed need for cooperation over time instead of the present unnecessary enmity we see between the US and Russia, for instance, increased grassroots actions in both nations, a greater sense the urgency of the need for world service and a requisite relinquishing of selfishness. The latter will be particularly difficult for the United States due to a variety of factors, such as the huge wealth gap, its failing educational system, its insistence on its current economic model, the overt fundamentalist and hypocritical religious bent of a significant part of the population, its subverted corporate media, and so forth. Yet, the underlying spirit of the American people is far from being killed out and is steadily rising in spite of the best efforts of many politicians, unelected government bodies and corporate interests to snuff it out. We will not go into all that here. But I say these things as an American who has lived both in and outside the US for long enough to see all sides of what is playing out. I have great expectations for the US, despite what might appear on the surface. Never having lived in Russia and knowing but a few Russians, I cannot speak for them, but I would expect there are many similarities between its people and the those of the US in their attitude toward government and moneyed interests. I get the sense of great things for that nation as well. So, let’s have a closer look, starting with the full moon.

The full moon takes place on 31 Jan 18 at 13:27 UT (1 Mar 18 at 00:27 AEDT). This will be the first of two total lunar eclipses this year, the next one coming in July. The eclipse degree is the 12th degree of Leo, with the Sun at 12 Aquarius. This current eclipse will be followed in two weeks with a partial solar eclipse at the new moon of Aquarius, which is also the start of the Lunar New Year for 2018. Thus, the Chinese New Year begins with an eclipse, which is highly significant, indicating issues and occurrences around heads of state. The full moon/eclipse has Ceres within two minutes conjunct the moon, which highlights especially the power of women, but also indicates a turning point, being also the eclipse point. Venus is conjunct the Sun, further adding to the power of the feminine with this eclipse. As a small example, this eclipse precedes the release of the film *The Post*, with Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep, which is the story of the Pentagon Papers and how the Washington Post handled the story. The Post at that time was headed by Katherine Graham, the first woman in the US to head a major news organization. Their publishing of the Pentagon papers, along with the New York Times, was instrumental in events that led to the impeachment of Nixon and bringing an end to the Vietnam War. The symbolism and synchronicity of events is a fascinating study, and in 2018 we are likely to see further such reporting on yet another ‘turn of the spiral’ about people in places of power, both in the US and abroad.

Other than Ceres and Venus being involved with the eclipse, there is otherwise not much in it. However, the eclipse at the start of the lunar year will have Mercury as lord, on the 27th degree of Aquarius. We'll have more on that one in the next letter. That eclipse will see a significant upload of propaganda, with a Mars/Neptune square in the eclipse figure and Mercury conjunct the eclipse point. The first activation of that eclipse will come in the first days of November by Mars. The total lunar eclipse will see its first activation by the retrograde station of Mars at the end of June this year, followed by its final passage for the year over the eclipse point at mid-October. Because there is so much to cover in the remainder of this letter, we will leave the full moon and eclipses here.

Moving on to the title theme of this letter, there are several news items that have surfaced in the past couple of weeks that I will discuss more fully in the Chinese New Year letter, which will likely serve as catalysts for further important developments in the years to come. However, we will touch on them here, as they are important, and they also relate to Aquarius in one way or another.

The slap felt 'round the world: Following up on last month's [Israel letter](#), whoever thinks that one, apparently insignificant person can make a difference has not been paying attention to the story of the 16 year-old Palestinian girl, Ahd Tamimi. Ahd was recently arrested by the Israeli military for the unconscionable act of slapping an Israeli soldier during a raid on her family's home. I am being sarcastic with the 'unconscionable' remark, but that is the way many sources in the Israeli media reported the incident, with some of the commentary about the incident, Palestinians and even girls and women being quite appalling and disgusting. There was also much saner reporting of the incident in the Israeli press in other sources. But, the incident has served to highlight many issues about Israel and Israeli society in general, although it should be noted here that there are many Israeli citizens who have come out against the treatment of Ahd Tamimi and Palestinians in general, and who really do wish to find a just and peaceful solution to the situation there. And one thing that is conveniently left out of coverage about the incident is that Ahd was slapped first by the soldier,⁹ quite aside from the fact that several members of her immediate family have been either jailed, tortured, injured or killed in the past, with the family home having been invaded many times and also being under threat of demolition at any moment. Up to now, the Tamimi family has shown remarkable restraint and resolve in the face of what has happened to them.¹⁰

[Ahd Tamimi](#) is an Aries, if her date of birth is correct (30 Mar 2001, birth time unknown¹¹). There is also another source citing a date of birth on 31 Jan 2001, from prison records.¹² She is a fighter and known Palestinian activist. Any astrological profile of her is only speculation at this point and an interesting exercise in astrology, but along that line I would tend toward Scorpio rising, given the taests she has faced thus far and with her physiognomy, especially with the hooding of the eyes, which would also place her Moon firmly opposite Mars in the Aries chart, and thus forming a t-square with her Mercury. This, along with the Aries Sun, would speak much to her fighting spirit, turns of temper, precocious warrior temperament, and intelligence. Add to this the Saturn/Uranus square in her chart, her Mars/Pluto conjunction and the Mars/Uranus sextile, and you have the makings of an indomitable and implacable champion of the Palestinian cause with a steely magnetism, not to mention Scorpio rising, if that happens to be the case. And with a natal Sun/Venus conjunction she would be an icon for the Palestinian people. To some Israelis, she is known as 'Shirley Temper', a trouble-maker, and someone who should be locked away.¹³ The Aries chart would really seem to fit, and she has served to endear herself to the world at large. She has appeared at a time – as people often do at key times – when the Palestinian situation looks to be at a renewed point of crisis, either to be resolved violently or through negotiated settlement. The negotiated solution looks like a lost cause now, but stranger things have happened.

This girl is but one example of resistance against Israeli policy toward Palestinians, but what might this mean in the larger picture? At [the time of her arrest](#) Uranus (remembering what we saw about Uranus previously) was transiting square to the Israeli Midheaven, conjunct the Israeli descendant, a sort of parting shot as Uranus moves on in the next months after having hovered around there all

last year. There are elections in Israel coming up, and Netanyahu is being pressured to resign because of corruption allegations, which have only been intensified with release of a recording of his son bragging about how his dad had secured a deal with an Israeli billionaire for a gas field deal.¹⁴ There is great anger in the Arab world over the Jerusalem declaration by Trump, a push by combined Israeli, Saudi and US interests to destabilize Iran and the proxy war in Syria taking another turn with the US-backed Kurds looking to partition northeast Syria. The point is, anything can happen in Israel at this juncture. If the conservative government loses the elections, there may yet be a revival of the peace process with the Palestinians. If there is an attack on Hezbollah or Iran, the fight is likely to be taken into Israel. Suffice it to say, the Palestinian cause is on the radar again and not looking good at the moment. But the image of this sixteen year old girl resisting and being arrested for it will be remembered by the world as events go forward, and it has taken another veil off of the more unseemly aspects of Israeli society, not least of which is its treatment of children as young as eleven.¹⁵ And then, there was Korea.

The Olympics, the Koreas and alliances: A ray of light has broken through on the Korean peninsula recently, in that the communication line between the two Koreas which was severed two years ago has been reopened, the Koreans are talking once again, and – lo and behold – the North Koreans have been invited, and have accepted, to participate in the PyeongChang winter Olympics next month. Not only that, but the two Koreas will be marching under their unification flag at the opening ceremony, as well as talking about unified teams in some events during the games, which is highly symbolic. And, the US has agreed to halt any military exercises on the peninsula while the Olympics take place. At least for the next couple of months, there will be a relative peace in the Koreas. Let us hold the thought those Olympics will go off without incident and will serve to put a chink in the armor of militarism on the peninsula. Wishful thinking?¹⁶ Well, the Olympics represent an Aquarian effort – nations coming together in the spirit of friendship, friendly competition and sharing of cultures, with sports overcoming politics – and these particular games take place in the backdrop of the Aquarian interval this year. And if we remember the ‘ping-pong diplomacy’ which opened the door to trade with China, with the resulting shift in geopolitics that produced, this latest action by the Koreas is more than just a passing fancy. It is a shrewd political move on the part of the two Koreas, because it makes moves toward militarism there in the future more unpalatable. And it is rather interesting, or fortuitous, that the games are in South Korea this time around, given current tensions there. Perhaps the world can get a different, more positive view of the North Koreans than how they are commonly portrayed in the Western media. Russia and China are both encouraging Korean dialog, and if the talks stick and progress it would signal very significant changes in the regional power structure and a lessening of American influence in the region. But then, we recently had a couple of pieces of disturbing news that reminded us of the ‘threat’ that North Korea poses, leading up to these games.

The Koreans are talking: and Washington is not happy!¹⁷ We’ll get to why they are not happy in a moment. We recently heard the news of a false alarm in Hawaii regarding an impending ballistic missile attack from North Korea, broadcast through the cell phone network on the islands. This was followed two days later by another false alarm in Japan. They were cast as human error afterward, enacted by an unnamed employee with the Hawaiian alarm, who mistakenly clicked on the wrong drop-down menus on his/her computer screen at shift change, but many people question this, instead seeing it as a drill to gauge public reaction in preparation for a US military strike on North Korea. The [astrology of the event](#) in Hawaii is rather interesting, with Mars/Jupiter conjunct the Midheaven and Sun conjunct Pluto in the 12th house. It was an event that was meant to sow panic, from the astrology. Mars has two moons, ‘Fear’ and ‘Panic’ (Phobos and Deimos). The alarms could well have been mistakes, but what it has done is to show up inadequacies in the early warning system on the Hawaiian islands. The astrology of the [Japanese event](#) was also similar, with the Mars/Jupiter conjunction square the horizon of the event. If the two events were meant as another type of reminder – that North Korea poses a threat regardless of the Koreas talking now – they

backfired in their purpose, because the next time an alarm comes, if so, people will not be so likely to respond to it. A case of ‘the boy who cried wolf’.

Getting more to the point of why Washington is not happy that the Koreans are talking, if one studies the matter of the Koreans in any detail, what quickly emerges is that the US has no real interest in the Koreans, except economically and as a hedge against China’s expansion, and the continued promotion of US interests in the Pacific region. The same is true of the Japanese, with the US having one of its largest military bases in Okinawa. What also emerges is that Washington has no interest in talking peace between the Koreans. It sees South Korea as a US outpost in the region, as recently recounted by a US senator, whose attitude pretty much sums up the collective attitude of the US foreign policy establishment in Washington:

“It is fine for the South Koreans to take the lead [in going ahead with their talks with North Korea], but if they don’t have the U.S. behind them, they won’t get far with North Korea, and if the South Koreans are viewed as *running off the leash*, it will exacerbate tensions within the alliance.”¹⁸ (Italics added for emphasis)

Running off the leash? Really? Exacerbate tensions with whom? But then, why would a nation such as South Korea want to do something as silly as dialoging with what has been characterized in the corporate press as an irrational and warlike regime like North Korea? I am being sarcastic, of course. Washington needs to keep up the charade of a ‘threatening’ North Korea in order to justify its military presence on the peninsula. Such is the arrogance of the Washington establishment. As if China can somehow be contained through military force for very long...I recently read what is probably the best analysis I have seen so far on US policy toward the Koreans, but there are two paragraphs in particular that warrant attention (the entire paper is well worth a read¹⁹):

“...the need for a North Korean threat poses a dilemma for the US. Removal of that ‘threat’, either through military action or through a genuine peace process, would make it difficult to justify the US military presence, and its concomitant political dominance, in South Korea and to a lesser extent in Japan...The smart solution would be ‘if you can’t beat ‘em, get them to join you.’ In this strategy the US would accept North Korea’s deterrent but also reverse its hostility policy, moving quickly to lift sanctions and the military threat and to open up trade, investment and social links, for instance by providing scholarships for North Korean students to study in the US, or in allied countries. There are a large number of measures which could be employed...

...The whole business could be fairly easily presented to the world as *a great triumph of American diplomacy, generosity, and wisdom*.”[italics and bolding added for emphasis]

Most Americans, given our present conditioning, would laugh off such an approach as pure fantasy, or see it as making the US appear weak again and be thus cast in the media as opening the US to a nuclear strike by the North. Fear! Fear! Fear! However, if the Koreans were left alone, such a scenario would probably develop of its own course, eventually. Given the current climate in Washington, the cited paragraph would never happen. Don’t expect talks between the Koreans to get very far, and for US belligerence to resume at some point after the Olympics, torpedoing the talks. But such renewed belligerence would not be viewed well by the wider world, given the opening that has just been made between the Koreans. The timing of the recent ‘error’ of the missile warnings in Hawaii and Japan are questionable, given that there are talks between the Koreans. Do we get a sense of what is taking place here? And that brings us to the Trump administration, which has been hijacked by the Washington hawks, which has done nothing to ameliorate tensions and which has only carried on the policies of past administrations toward the Koreans. Where is the American Aquarian soul, which would embrace the cited scenario in the Koreans and welcome North Korean participation in the Olympics and eventual peaceful reconciliation, for example?

Trump, the stable genius?: Before Trump supporters who might read this get their backs up, you may want to read on. Since the inception of his Presidency at the start of last year, there has been a decided effort to remove Trump from office. This effort has been put forward in various ways and memes in both of the main political Parties in the US. His detractors call him stupid or unstable, incompetent, out to line his own pockets, inexperienced, etc., etc. – all the sorts of comments one might expect from a person’s enemies. His supporters see him as some sort of genius, who appears to bumble on the surface, but who always defeats his enemies. This is especially true of the MAGA²⁰ supporters, as can be read on the various right-wing blog sites and notice boards. There are a couple of points to be made here which may have escaped people’s attention, though. The Mueller investigation into the Russia-gate affair has now been shown to be a farce. No evidence of Russian collusion has emerged. Instead, what we see is collusion with Israel and Saudi Arabia, which goes largely unreported in the US corporate media. Moreover, what the investigation is instead unearthing is corruption, both through the investigation itself and through the blow-back from it. And the entire Russia-gate narrative flies in the face of facts, because the Trump administration has consistently enacted policy that has angered Russia and put it at distinct disadvantage, even to the extent of requiring Russia-based news services to register as foreign agents, sending arms to Ukraine, seeing Montenegro join NATO, imposing further sanctions on Russia, etc. – hardly the sorts of acts that one would expect of a ‘Russian puppet’.²¹

Fire, Fury and Furfphies: Then, there was the recent release of the controversial book by Richard Wolff, *Fire and Fury*,²² which echoed many of the claims made by Trump’s detractors, if the book is a true factual account, but which Trump supporters doubt. However, the timing of the release of this book is a little bit suspicious. Why? Because the Mueller investigation is quickly being shown to fizzle, unless Mueller starts exposing financial records related to Trump and his family with regard to foreign interests,²³ and also because the blowback against the investigation is inducing calls to investigate the Clinton Foundation and their dealings,²⁴ which really do need to be investigated – tit-for-tat politics and corruption at the highest halls of power in the US. Do we get the idea? From where I sit, that book is meant to sow doubt about Trump’s ability to govern and the administration in general, rather than simply being a piece of journalism. And beyond even that, the book reveals, either directly or through inference, the role of billionaires in the US electoral process and politics in general. The likes of the Mercers, the Koch brothers and Sheldon Adelson are essentially a law unto themselves, work largely for their own interests, would like to see an end to any sort of regulation, an end to social programs and unfettered access to the power brokers in DC, among other things. The corruption that is being revealed now is almost beyond belief. So, what is being revealed to the American public is the opposite of the national Aquarian soul’s service ethic, and instead the lowest aspects of Leo self-interest, the sign that is the polar opposite of Aquarius.

To be more pointed about this, we should probably question everything that comes out of the media at this point with regard to US politics, given the square of transiting Neptune to the US horizon. There is too much coming out now with the aim of swaying public opinion in the US one way or the other: ‘info-wars’, if you will. More on that in a bit, too. It is good to question everything critically anyway, especially when it concerns world governments and people in power. The upshot of this consideration is that while there is probably some truth in the aforementioned book, its purpose in being rolled out at this time is questionable, and it has been touted by the author as possibly having the ability to bring down Trump. I have my doubts that it would, since recent surveys have shown that only around a third of the public believes it is a factual account.²⁵ But there is something more important to consider here rather than salacious accounts of the US administration.

Rapprochement?: Trump’s rapprochement with Russia – if Washington really wants a just peace in the world – should have been supported by the corporate media. There is a very significant part of the American public who agreed with Trump when he called for easing tensions with Russia. Instead, what we have is a virulent and destructive attitude toward a sister national soul, an attitude

that appears to be marching us blindly toward the precipice of war in some manifestation or another. This is aided and abetted by the so-called ‘liberal media’, which is neither liberal, left nor progressive. And there is absolutely no need for the hyperbole about Russia, nor does it help either the people of the world or more especially, the people of the US. The easing of tensions with Russia should have been pressed for much more vigorously by the American public. Instead, what has been evidenced is hatred toward Trump, distracting us from what should be a genuine concern over increased world tensions and the even remote possibility of a nuclear conflict. Such is the extent of our indoctrination with regard to Russia. The Russia-gate scandal has done nothing except to sideline Trump, enable the hijacking of his agenda by the Washington establishment of friendlier relations with Russia and replaced with greater defense spending, greater surveillance powers against American citizens, a greater atmosphere of fear of countries abroad and highly pronounced internal strife which shows no signs of abating. And, this is pretty clearly shown in the current astrology of the US. It would be helpful to consider Neptune a bit here, as what is shown might be enlightening.

Neptune – deception or enlightenment?: There is an especially pitched battle going on now for the hearts and minds of people everywhere, especially in the US and Western countries. We have covered all this before. This comes and goes in waves, but is especially evident whenever a change is about to take place in the way nations are governed. Neptune has special rulership over the astral plane, over all sorts of glamour, of dreaminess and dreams in general, over oil, drugs and poisons, to name a few things. And in the US especially right now we see all these factors being brought to light. We have the opioid crisis (really, a crisis of pharmaceutical hegemony in the US) which has come to the fore of public consciousness in the past year, the ongoing fight in the Middle East and Russia over oil, the loss of the ‘American dream’ in the working class, all the emphasis on ‘fake news’ and a rejection of scientific fact, and the slipping perception among Americans of the nation’s exceptionalism (the latter points which got Trump elected). Transiting and natal Neptune can be a double-edged sword. It can either bring on deception and chaotic thinking – the classic smoke-screen approach – or it can mean what I have termed ‘positive disillusionment’, with both being part of the overall process induced by the Neptune transit. This is especially true of the conjunctions, semisquares, squares and oppositions by transit and aspect. We are now in the process of disillusionment and awakening to facts as they are in the US, not as we wish to see them. Neptune has been affecting the US horizon since the first months of 2016, with the election cycle then going into full swing.

Trump has played into this Neptunian dynamic, either by design or unwarily. He has a square between his natal Mercury and Neptune, which is unmodified by other aspects. In other words, the aspect stands alone and thus becomes a prominent factor in his makeup. This can manifest in many ways, but what emerges might be of interest: it is particularly to be found in the charts of media personalities and artists. These are people who use the imagination to good effect, who can think off the cuff, who are not so much bound by convention, and with whom ‘fuzzy thinking’ and a healthy fantasy life are an asset rather than a liability. The standalone aspect gives a tendency to daydream, a short attention span and a tendency to be easily distracted. As an example, Alex Jones of “Infowars”, and an Aquarian, has this aspect as well, unintegrated into the greater chart, with Venus at the midpoint of the square trine to Mars. The Venus midpoint gives sometimes what can be called ‘rapturous imaginings’, for which he is known, as well as what we might call a ‘dalliance with the truth’ at times. Clearly, Alex Jones is an entertainer and does well with it for his audience.

Mercury and Neptune: When the aspect is well integrated into the chart by aspect or tamed by other factors, then it can produce visionary characters. Otto von Bismarck was a politician who had a positive use of such a configuration, well integrated into his chart, with Mercury in a wide conjunction with Pluto, and the square being well utilized by his Sun/Saturn sextile, giving him focus, and with Saturn and Mars both being trine to Jupiter – a true nation-builder. As for Trump,

he has a powerful sextile by Mars and trine by Jupiter to his Sun, which gives his optimism, expansive outlook and his interest in business, but Saturn does not join in to give the needed focus, nor are there squares to the luminaries to bring him to reality or to push him forward. As a media personality he was at his most successful, and one could argue that his campaign was one of his best performances ever, but the Venus/Saturn conjunction gives a shaky business sense and an over-emphasis on loyalty, which may yet prove to be his downfall. Other politicians who had this aspect were the likes of Abraham Lincoln, Herbert Hoover, Hendrik Verwoerd (of South Africa), Peter Tatchell (of Australia) and Betty Ford (wife of President Gerald Ford). All of these latter people had the aspect well integrated in their charts. Harvey Milk and George Moscone of San Francisco, both assassinated on the same day by the same gunman, also had this aspect. It is notable that both Lincoln and Verwoerd were also assassinated, not that there is a relation to the aspect, but their vision of things often did not jibe with those of other people in power.

Neptune and the US horizon: When Neptune affects the horizon, as it does now with the US, the emphasis is upon the opinions and well-being of the populace and upon the legal structures of the country in general, as well as its enemies – real or imagined. The latter brings us back to the idea of Aquarius and friendship, as well as the Aquarian souls of the US and Russia. So, we might well ask at this point: Why is Russia made out to be the big enemy of the US, and is there any truth to the notion? Why do we need an enemy? These are the questions that are quickly awakening the awareness of the American public, facts about which much of the rest of the world already knows. We'll cover that more in a bit. Neptune has a special rulership over propaganda, especially that sort of propaganda which has the tendency to lull people into false sense of security, insecurity or superiority, and the US is particularly prone to this. It is indicated in the US chart by the Mars/Neptune square, which can be read as 'militarized propaganda', or the glamour of 'might makes right', among other readings. It is a fiery combination, and it has done much to shape the American psyche. It gives, at times, an inflamed sense of nationalism and a skewed sense of one's place in the world view. And with Neptune being natally in the US 9th house, it can give at times a strange view of foreign affairs, a nefarious approach to foreign relations and contributes to the idea that there must be foreign interference when things are not going so well. It also contributes, along with Mars, to the projection of American idealism abroad. And Mars in the natal US seventh house, when not healthily expressed, is always looking for an enemy and seeks to put its own interests above those of its partners. We are speaking of the Washington establishment here, not of the American people in general.

There have been several key time periods in particular when Neptune has stressfully affected the US horizon: 1996 – 1997, 1975 – 1976, 1955 – 1956, 1933 – 1935, 1921 – 1923, to cite a few. And then in the 19th century, there was 1852 – 1854, which is when Neptune was found last at its present position, then 1861 – 1863, 1873 – 1875 and then 1892 – 1895. Students of US history will immediately recognize what was going on in the American psyche during those periods. In the 1800s the main issues were slavery, racism and American expansionism. The 1850s were a period where slavery was being hotly debated, especially with regard to the new territories opening in the west. In the early 1860s there was the Civil War, with Neptune on the US 4th house cusp, and a fractured union. The 1870s were the period of the Reconstruction and the Indian wars. The 1890s were the period known as the 'Gay Nineties', a misnomer really, because during the period stated there was the Panic of 1893, which was one of the worst economic crashes in US history.

In the 20th century, the 1920s began with Prohibition with Saturn squaring the US horizon, followed by the Roaring 20s. Aside from Prohibition (speaking of Neptune and drugs), which was widely circumvented, the Roaring Twenties were a period of great optimism in the US and there was runaway capitalism of the type we are seeing today. People were deluded into thinking they could get rich quickly by playing the stock market. We see reflections of this today in the Bitcoin phenomenon – a financial system that was likely invented by the NSA,²⁶ in case you are interested.

The Roaring 20s were followed in the period of the 1930s by the Great Depression, the reorganization of the American financial system (with transiting Saturn trine to the US Saturn, ruling the US 2nd house) and the repeal of Prohibition. American over-optimism got a healthy dose of reality. The 1950s were the McCarthy era and the 2nd Red Scare, having just seen the armistice in the Korean War, one of the first major wars in which American military might was checked. Thus we have the root of American belligerence toward North Korea. The 1970s were the Vietnam War, Watergate, Nixon's impeachment and the start of the undoing of the New Deal and Roosevelt era economics. The 1990s were the Clinton years, the rise of the internet, the wars in the Balkans, the introduction of '3rd Way' economics (our current neoliberal system) and the beginning of the Dotcom bubble, which was another period of American over-optimism. In each of the stated periods there was a healthy dose of propaganda, either extoling the virtues of 'the American way' or trumpeting the need to fear an enemy, either from within or without. And this brings us to the present day, with another period of the weaponization of propaganda in the US corporate media.

Why is Russia seen as the enemy?: Why is Russia singled out in the US corporate media as an enemy above all others, along with Iran and North Korea? This goes back to Russian and Iranian Revolutions and the Korean War and the perceived threat that those were to Western economic models and control of regions. Poor relations between Europe and Russia go back centuries more than that. More on that latter point in the Chinese New Year letter, because what we are looking at over the next 60 years (if it goes that long) will be economic wars, reinforced by military threats and incursions. We will focus on Russia here, though, because of the Russian and American Aquarian souls. All of the periods of Neptunian influence on the US psyche in the 20th century (and to be sure, we are focusing only on the stressful aspects here) focused in one way or another on Russia. We cannot go into all the whys and wherefores here, but we can touch on specific points.

The 1st Red Scare²⁷ was in the late 'teens in the 20th century as Neptune approached its semisquare to the US meridian, and the fear of communism spreading to the US was on the minds of capitalists in the West, due to the Russian Revolution. The 1930s and the New Deal were perceived by the corporate elites in the US as a move toward communism and they have worked ever since to undo those gains and reinstate laissez faire capitalism as the 'just model' of economics for the US and the world by projection. 'Communism' and 'socialism' are dirty words in the American vernacular due to the very effective propaganda machine in the US against communism at that time and since. The 1950s were the 2nd Red Scare and the depths of the Cold War, when the US was experiencing unprecedented prosperity and world power after WWII. 'American exceptionalism' was the order of the day. We could go on, but perhaps the trend of thinking is clear enough. The 1990s following the fall of the Soviet Union saw American venture capitalists having a field day in Russia – and then came Vladimir Putin, one of America's favorite demons – who put a halt to American meddling in Russia and who set about making Russia great again, to borrow a phrase.

Putin: The following statements are likely to anger many readers or cause a sense of disbelief. If so, there is a [recent video](#) by one of America's greatest scholars on Russia that I would urge you to watch. Vladimir Putin, from what I have been able to ascertain, has been grossly misrepresented in the mainstream press, especially in the UK, Australia and the United States. Opinions about him have been shaped largely from a campaign of negative propaganda, portraying him as an autocrat, anti-American/European, aggressive, out to recreate the old Soviet Union and generally as a very nefarious fellow. Actually, he is none of those things. The truth is, he has had a very difficult job. Anytime someone is demonized in the press the way he has been it should be a red flag to anyone who seeks right human relations and international justice. Yet, people seem all too eager to cast Putin in a negative light, as well as Russia. Trump's talk of Russian rapprochement during the election was one of the things he had right, which is why we see Russia-gate now. We don't have the space to go into all that here, but suffice it to say that Putin is deliberately misrepresented in the Western press, as is Russia, and that is a great shame, shows a great ignorance about Russia, as well

as being a dangerous thing to engage. Why would we even want to consider a nuclear exchange with Russia, for instance?

Familiarity breeds contempt?: We might pause here to consider an idea: Perhaps what we are seeing now, in a way, between the US and Russia is a case of ‘familiarity breeds contempt’ – a case of psychic projection, as it were. Both of those countries have Aquarian souls and 6th ray (devotional/fanatical) personalities. Both of those countries have exhibited that type of personality – intense devotion to an ideal, nationalistic fervor, patriotism, ‘my way or the highway’ idealism. But idealism often does not equate with reality on the ground. Russia and the US are both young nations, as far as governments go, but the Russian populace has ancient roots, with a good proportion of it being Oriental. This places Russia in a unique position in world affairs and evolution, in that it must blend and bridge ancient racial stocks from Asia, Western/European racial characteristics and thinking (some of which are also ancient), economic thinking between the Far East and Europe as well as cultural melding, and so forth. It is a nation with its feet in two worlds, and its history has been painful, to say the least. That 6th ray idealism along with its Leo personality caused it to close itself off from the world in the last century (re: the Iron Curtain) as it sought to work out its experiment with communism within. Its Leo personality has come out of its ‘lair experience’ since the 1990s and is now making its presence felt strongly on the world stage once again – we could say, rightfully so.

Having experienced such pain as Russia has, both from internal and external sources, it is now able to come at relations with nations at large with a more realistic perspective, one that is lost on Americans, who have not suffered in such a manner as have the Russians in recent memory. The US has not been invaded in the past 200 years, has not lost tens of millions of citizens in wars, has not suffered under an overt despotic regime, and has enjoyed a type of prosperity that has been the dream of many nations. On the other side, we can talk all we like about how Russia held Eastern Europe under despotic rule after WWII, but this was a reaction against having been invaded twice by Germany and having lost tens of millions of her people in the process. And then there were the Stalinist purges which cost millions more Soviet/Russian lives. If we get down to the crux of the matter, the real rub the West has with Russia (and with China and Iran, too) these days is about her rising power and influence, her rejection of US meddling in her affairs after the fall of the Soviet Union and her moves toward independence from the US dollar as the world reserve currency. Like the US in the 1930s, Russia got a bitter dose of economic realities in the 1990s. We won’t go into that here, either. There is a greater point to be made, especially with regard to Aquarius.

The community of nations?: In both of these great nations – Russia and the US – a spirit of *community*, of *service* to a greater cause, especially as it relates to the needs of the other nations, of the need to be fluid in their relations, and so forth is called for by the souls of those nations, both in relation to their own people and in their relations with other nations. It is an idea whose time is increasingly upon us as we confront some of the greatest problems humanity has ever faced. It is an idea that will become increasingly *impressed upon* those two nations as we move into the next great astrological Age, the Age of Aquarius. Russia is ahead of the US in that regard. It will not, however, be *imposed by* those countries upon other nations. The latter is not the Aquarian way. The Aquarian way is one of friendship, cooperation, service according to *both* person’s or nation’s need, and this begins with the ‘baskets of nourishment’, which Aquarius rules. Perhaps the best word that describes this idea of ‘baskets of nourishment’ in terms of nations is ‘*grassroots*’. It is the root that nourishes a plant. It is the people in their communities within a nation that give a nation its strength, its resilience and its character. If the roots are left with no sustenance and dry out or are neglected, the plant wilts, loses its strength and eventually dies, as does a nation. This is why we see the phenomenon of Trump in the US, for instance, because he promised the grassroots in the US a better future, with jobs, greater autonomy, etc. Promises often don’t equate with reality, though.

That, too, is another story. Can we imagine how the world would be if these two nations actually cooperated? Russia continually calls for it, while the US consistently balks.

The psy-op of collusion: All this talk of ‘Russian collusion’, interference, etc. that we see now in the US especially is a classic case of 6th ray psychological projection, quite aside from the political propaganda angle. The 6th ray is an energy that can particularly exhibit the characteristic of “the pot calling the kettle black”. And it is particularly difficult to convince such a person who has that characteristic strongly (as in the 6th ray personality or even astral body) that they have a mistaken view. Such a person, or a nation, often has to undergo quite a bit of suffering to break the glammers under which they are held, and this is particularly true in the years of one’s youth. Russia’s experiences in the 20th century largely brought an end to her glamour of communist ideology. She is now in a transition period moving toward a more realistic model of governing and economics, however that might fully manifest in the future. She is not there yet, but is rapidly moving toward it. And Vladimir Putin is a key part of his nation’s growth toward that. In the same way, Donald Trump is playing a key role in the US punching through its glammers, albeit it in a different manner. Putin is portrayed as a thug in the West, which is untrue, but then consider where Russia has been, what Western interests *really* were in Russia in the past decades and continue to be, how threatened Russians must feel right now with US military bases ringing her borders, and we might actually gain a truer perspective of the man, and of Russia. Then again, there is little in the way of empathy in Washington, it would appear, either toward the American people or toward other nations.

And it may come as a surprise to some American readers, but we Americans actually *like* a certain amount of socialism. It may also come as a surprise that Russia is no longer a communist state. So, why the antagonism toward a country that should actually be quite familiar to us, which in many ways is now quite like us, and with which we should be on friendlier terms? Hopefully we can break this wrong view of Russia without too much suffering in the interim. I am not saying here that we should join hands with Russians around the campfire and all sing “Kumbaya”. A sane approach would be to take a step back from our hostilities, recognize our common needs and sore points and over the next years and decades find points of cooperation that would build trust between the two nations, all the while maintaining their sovereignty. And in the meantime their peoples can do much to address their respective governments and economic woes. The way forward to that goal is in speaking truth to power, in following the money trail, in educating ourselves about our leadership (or lack thereof) and about Russians, speaking as an American. Only the people in their communities and respective nations can change this state of affairs, and that starts by focusing on our common interests, rather than infighting or looking for an enemy, or a savior.

Nourishing the roots: I will close this letter by stating some things that should be obvious, but which also have a healing modality. We are all small units in a much larger organism, be it a city, a nation or the world being. We could look at ourselves as cells in an organ of a greater being. If there is a sickness in an organ, the best way to cure the illness is to correct the imbalance that has caused the dis-ease in the first place. And many of us are quite ill-at-ease. But this restoration of balance gives lasting results. The answer is not to treat the symptom. The symptom is only an indicator. Sometimes it is better to let the symptom fully manifest. If there is an overgrowth of plants, we cut off the supply that contributes to the overgrowth, which ensures that it does not recur. If there is a cancer in an organ or a system, choking off its sustenance will cause it to die off. It is a matter of putting one’s attention elsewhere and in a positive direction. If we attack something, we give it energy and cause it to spread.

The answer to the cure of an illness or social ill is to address the source. If we are constantly focused on ‘them’, then we only fuel ‘their’ growth. So, in our conversations and our interactions within our communities, it would serve us much better to address the roots of our problems, to cease infighting, to recognize common interests and promote those initiatives that sustain us rather than pose a drain on our resources. Divisiveness is draining, poisons one’s system with imperil and

ensures our weakness as a community or as a person. Forgetfulness of our petty self-interests in service to our communities, each in our own way, is the way out of our troubles. Let our agenda in these times be one of friendship and common cause, and let us do that willingly before it is forced upon us. We, in service, must make the effort. There is no other way out of our troubles if we are to ensure a better future for ourselves, our descendants and the planet.

Aquarius blessings,

Malvin

19 Jan 18

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These letters are sent as a service. If you wish to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, let me know. Feel free to pass them on, but do so without charge or alteration.

¹ Bailey, Alice A, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 201

² Ibid, p. 134

³ Ibid, p. 150

⁴ Ibid, pp. 142, 143

⁵ Ibid, p. 139

⁶ Op cit

⁷ Op cit

⁸ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 35

⁹ <http://mondoweiss.net/2017/12/tamimi-slapped-talking/>

¹⁰ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yV1HwG1_phs

¹¹ <https://aawsat.com/english/home/article/1122556/international-petition-seeks-1-million-signatures-plead-release-palestine%E2%80%99s>

¹² <http://www.jewishpress.com/news/eye-on-palestine/palestinian-authority/ahed-tamimi-mom-nariman-tamimi-indicted-on-multiple-charges/2018/01/01/>

¹³ <http://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Palestinian-teen-filmed-slapping-IDF-soldiers-arrested-overnight-518453>

¹⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/01/09/netanyahus-son-brags-about-prostitutes-20-billion-deal-for-friends-dad-in-strip-club-rant/?utm_term=.730e7b37d0ad

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Children_in_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict and

<https://blog.eappi.org/2014/01/13/is-it-acceptable-to-blindfold-and-arrest-an-eleven-year-old/>

¹⁶ <http://edition.cnn.com/2018/01/17/asia/north-south-korea-olympics-flag-intl/index.html> Note particularly the warnings about being mindful of the North using the games as cover to further its nuclear ambitions, about halfway through the article.

¹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hwdQijZB1s>

¹⁸ <https://www.thenation.com/article/the-us-betrayed-russia-but-it-is-not-news-thats-fit-to-print/>

¹⁹ http://www.timbeal.net.nz/geopolitics/Beal_JPC21_Compellence.pdf

²⁰ An acronym of 'Make America Great Again', Trump's campaign slogan

²¹ <https://caitlinjohnstone.com/2018/01/15/the-one-fact-which-disproves-russiagate-but-nobody-wants-to-talk-about/>

²² <https://www.amazon.com/Fire-Fury-Inside-Trump-White/dp/1250158060>

²³ <http://www.ibtimes.com/political-capital/trump-administration-waives-punishment-convicted-banks-including-deutsche-which> Also, this: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jan/08/jared-kushners-company-under-renewed-scrutiny-over-chinese-and-israeli-deals>

²⁴ <https://www.paulcraigroberts.org/2018/01/08/russiagate-turns-originators/>

²⁵ For example: <https://www.aol.com/article/news/2018/01/10/poll-one-third-of-people-view-michael-wolffs-fire-and-fury-as-credible/23329716/>

²⁶ <http://globalintelhub.com/exposed-real-creator-bitcoin-nsa/>

²⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Scare