

GOODWILL FESTIVAL 2017
GEMINI FESTIVAL
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“...at the time of danger people forget the most helpful advice. Even an imagined danger deprives people of common sense. Many nations have instructive stories similar to the one about the head of a family who taught his near ones how to behave in case of fire. Nevertheless, when a fire occurred, none of them acted as they had been told...There are those people who continue to invent nonexistent dangers, concerned more about their own existence and caring little about dangers to the planet.”

Supermundane 494¹

Greetings Everyone!

I was with a couple of friends some years ago and experienced an event similar to what was referenced in the quote above. The experience has reverberations today. We were walking along a street one morning to the local café, talking over matters esoteric, when all of a sudden a man burst out of his front door yelling, “Help! Help” There’s a fire in my house! There’s a fire in my house!” So, we all ran in to help out the distraught man, not knowing if there was any real danger, and were directed into the kitchen, where there was a pan in flames on the stove. Apparently, he had been frying some bacon and had walked away from it, with the inevitable result. He had panicked, and instead of taking a moment to assess the situation, had instead run out of the house looking for help. Once we were inside there was a lot scurrying about in the ensuing moments, something being mentioned about a fire extinguisher, which the man did not have. Some of us were looking for rags, asking for water, anything to put out the fire. In the meantime, one of us noticed the lid to the pan sitting on the stove beside the flaming bacon, duly placing the lid where it should have been in the first place. With it in place, the fire was immediately extinguished, to the stunned dismay of the other people present. Such a simple thing to prevent the loss of a house. The man was most appreciative, anyway, though embarrassed, and was admonished to keep a fire extinguisher in the house, after which we then made our way to the café to discuss the wider implications Agni (the God of Fire) in relation to our planetary evolution. True story, slightly modified.

When confronted with a crisis, people often panic, while others, seizing on the moment, or being guided in that instant by some prescience, use their common sense or even the creative aspects of their higher Self. The latter people are the exception rather than the rule, but we often hear stories of heroism in the face of danger these days, not that this little story was anything significant. We will have more on the opening quote in a bit.

In our everyday discourses with friends, family and coworkers we hear all manner of tales, most being mundane, some invented, but others relating serious matters and unusual goings-on. We live in a moment of history where there is plenty that is quite unusual to relate, much that arouses concern, and the more we uncover, the more unbelievable some of this ‘stuff’ seems to become. With the coming of the Gemini interval each year, the nature of our conversations becomes highlighted at a purely mundane level. However, our words are the expressions of our thoughts. How do we think on a daily basis? What do our words reveal about the prevailing currents of thought upon which our minds ride and engage? We all know the phrase, “Silence is golden.” But, how much more would be golden if we were to speak in terms that uplifted our fellow travelers as a matter of course, rather than much of the coarse conversation and posts we encounter hour-by-hour? While it is true that we live in divisive times, if we engage in that sort of behavior, we only enable those people and factions who seek to divide and keep us under thumb, or engaged in their own pet emotional bubbles, not to mention the black cloud it puts around us and loved ones.

Gemini has a very close relation to opposing points of view, but more especially to the resolution of those opposites. The Gemini interval is one of the most important periods of the year from a subjective perspective, being the period that emphasizes the essential unity of humanity in divine purpose, and the resolution of conflicts in the cause of peace. Aside from the Aries and Taurus full moons, it is the most important, and from the standpoint of humanity, it *is* subjectively the most important full moon of the year, because it has a way of bringing minds together in order to work out our collective problems. We have the following in this regard:

When astrologers understand the true significance of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and the dual forces which pour through this sign (the "forces in conflict" as they are sometimes called or "the quarrelling brothers") and beat upon our planetary life, then the true method of resolving the dualities will be known.²

Esoterically, Gemini is ruled by Venus, the great 'planet of relationship'. The orthodox ruler is Mercury, the planet of 'divine discourse', or the 'divine messenger'. In a sense, the realizations that come through Gemini begin when we are 'hit between the eyes' by opposing points of view. Esoterically, this means conflicts between our personal world view and what our higher Self would be seeking to do in the world, i.e., the purpose of our life. This being said, we are not given much information to date about how the signs affect or work through the chakras in the human body. We have much in the way of generalizations about those relations, such as Aries ruling the head, Capricorn ruling the ankles and so forth. But, we have little else. Gemini is said to rule the arms and the hands, which places the emphasis of the sign upon work in the world, embracing our fellow humanity and upon molding our physical reality to conform with our thoughts. With respect to this, Gemini is a sign intimately related to service to others, and it is the latter which is emphasized through this sign every year. The full moon of the month of Gemini is specifically associated with goodwill, and with all people who seek unity and peace between peoples.

We have a little more information about planetary rulership through the chakras than we do the signs, but that information is largely based in this current world period and is liable to change over time.³ However, this rulership of Gemini by Venus is of great interest in terms of resolving 'the pairs of opposites' and thus conflict. As for the previous astrological quote and the correct resolution of the opposites, Venus rules the ajna center, the center between the eyebrows, as we examined in the last letter. Venus, through the ajna center, is the doorway to the minor centers (chakras) in the head, leading to the final synthesis in the crown center. It is thus a doorway to the consciousness of one's higher Self and is a meeting point for the life of the personality and the energy of one's higher Self. There is much that is hidden in these concepts, which we cannot go into here, but the main theme for the occult resolution of conflict is one of withdrawal of one's consciousness from the five senses into the sixth sense (the mind) and then taking that beyond even the personal mind into the realms of the Universal, wherein all sense of duality is transcended. This is accomplished through meditation, and the main techniques for the West are those vouchsafed by the trans-Himalayan schools.⁴ Concentration on any matter activates the ajna center, which has led to the scientific revolution we have seen over the past few centuries. And, even when we think deeply on some matter, it leads to the development of common sense, which is the direct result of mental effort at overcoming obstacles and challenges in life. Duality and its resolution, in the occult sense, is represented for us in the Four Noble Truths⁵ of Buddhism. Meditation on those truths leads to resolution of life's problems and our liberation from the cycle of life and death.

In a mundane chart, Gemini rules two main areas: the media and local commerce, the former upon which we will focus here. We touched upon commerce in the last letter, so we will leave any discussion of that for now. The Gemini interval each year is greatly concerned with public discourse, finding common ground and with the resolution of conflicts, as was stated previously. Negatively, public discourse periodically devolves into the kind of polarization and divisiveness we see before us at the moment – conflict, in other words, instead of unity. And this brings up the

theme of ‘common sense’. What is our common sense of things – in other words, our sense of common goals and needs? Common sense is the energy of a developed and sound mind, and this is channeled energetically through the ajna center. In everyday life it denotes a balanced, intelligent and worldly-wise individual, able to deal with life without much trouble in the normal course of events.

We had a look in the last letter at the primary problem facing humanity at the moment – that of unregulated free market capitalism, although there are other major problems to be certain. The concentration of wealth in recent years has led to our current world problem of corporate ownership of the major media outlets, and this has come to be true both in the US and in Britain⁶ especially. Australia has one of the most concentrated media ownerships in the world. It is a real concern, because monopolization of the media and the corrupting power of concentrated ownership has led us down some twisted paths in the past, and continues to do so. With respect to that, just think of the major wars we have had in the past decades and recent elections, and it is not difficult to find that vested interests have controlled the dialog within nations via the media. It is the corporate news media and the press in general which we will address in this letter to start, and then a wider look at the world view. It is a vast subject, and in reality we can only touch on some of the major points, but the media and the press guides so much of our public discourse, and it is important to know what is going on with it, and why there is all the emphasis now on truth in the media. It is a healthy sign that people question, in reality, although people often question the wrong things. But, it will eventually lead us toward a more sober and saner public view.

We hear so much talk these days about ‘the liberal media’, the alt-right, conservative media and the like. We hear of foreign propaganda outlets, especially with respect to Russian-based or Arabic news sites. Every country is going to have its more nationalistic outlets. Media outlets are often used by intelligence agencies to spread propaganda. Stories are leaked to the press by various sources to sway the public to a cause. There are various means by which media is used to influence public opinion, such as deliberate disinformation, withholding of certain key facts in a matter, heavily slanted language, inflammatory opinion pieces, favoring certain people or factions over others, and so on. We have all seen these sorts of things. This kind of reporting is especially in evidence during election cycles, as we have recently all experienced. In the US we saw free advertising for Trump and the marginalization of Bernie Sanders. Social media was awash with all sorts of wild tales about candidates, much of which was rubbish. The media was guided by the likes of a few billionaires, such as Mercer, Soros, the Lewis brothers, Rupert Murdoch and the Koch Brothers, and the result was a Trump victory, with Clinton being shown up as an elitist candidate. The sad point to this is that unless the candidates in elections lean toward the corporate interests, they are shoved to the sidelines or actively smeared in some way, such as Jeremy Corbin in the UK.

There are all types of media, too – entertainment, sports, lifestyle, etc. What we are addressing here is the news media, though, and its takeover by corporate interests. With regard to the corporate media, we have heard quite a bit since the Trump election about ‘fake news’ and the credibility of many sources. But since the election we have seen with clarity how the media is in a way very similar to what we see in the Congress of the US: corporations and billionaires control what we see and hear in media to a very great extent, especially since the Clinton presidency, and there is a real lack of transparency that goes on behind the scenes in terms of business and political influence.

As a small example, it has recently been pointed out that there is a major conflict of interest involving the owner of The Washington Post (Jeff Bezos, who also owns Amazon) and the CIA, which gives Bezos in the neighborhood of \$600 million in contracts every year.⁷ The Washington Post has been one of the biggest mouthpieces against ‘fake news’, yet it never posts disclaimers in its own columns about its own possible conflicts of interest. This is one of the most trusted newspapers in the US. For anyone who is paying attention, it is also a major source of propaganda for the Washington elites. It is worth noting, for example, that in the lead-up to the Iraq War, the

Post published many articles about the suspected weapons of mass destruction that Iraq was said to have, helping to manufacture consent for and guiding public discourse toward engaging the Iraq War. And now we see its reporting on Russia-gate in a similar manner.

It is also worth a note here that common sense is often found to be lacking in the more fanatical or devotional sixth Ray types, and we see this also in countries which have that as their personality Ray. The tendency in such countries is toward homogeneity and suppression of free discussion in more fanatical times. In this world period, the primary countries that have this as a personality Ray are the US and Russia, whereas Italy and Spain have it as the Ray of the national soul. There appears to be little in the US media in the way of common sense when it comes to reporting on Russia, and we see this particularly in the corporate press.

Now, Bezos did not own the Post at the time of the Iraq War. It was then owned by the Graham family, owners of Graham Holdings Co, employing some 11,500 people, which also owns *Slate*, an online magazine. It is also of further interest to note that the CEO of Graham Holdings is Donald E. Graham, who also happens to be the lead independent director of Facebook's board of directors. He has served as a member of the Pulitzer Prize board, is a Bilderberg invitee, having attended a couple of meetings, and his wife is a senior editor at Bloomberg News, not that any of that is anything sinister. However, when he was heading The Post, it was on his watch that The Post was involved in a scandal by failing to report that Graham had heavily lobbied a senator to favor the company's cell phone holdings, in violation of the GATT treaty, bringing heavy criticism from The Post's competitors. The Post had to apologize, and its credibility was damaged as a result.⁸ There are many such similar stories, and the press is routinely used to manufacture public consent for what would otherwise be unpopular policies. Perhaps with this small example we begin to get an idea of what is going on behind the scenes with money and power in the halls of government and industry.

And then, there are many stories of journalists who have done some very good investigative reporting, have submitted articles to major papers and media outlets, only to have their stories pulled by the controlling interests. The same is true of books with major publishers. We in the US think we live in a free and open society, one that is free (relatively) of censorship. But such is not the case. Censorship can be overt or quite subtle. Now, it is illegal in the US to ban books, for instance, under freedom of speech laws, but that does not mean that books do not end up sidelined when they expose or go against controlling interests. If you want to get an idea of the type of discourse that gets buried, there is a new initiative aimed at rectifying that, as an example, at the [Forbidden Bookshelf](#). These previously buried books are being resurrected as e-books, and they give a revealing view of the behind-the-scenes goings-on in the US and abroad about which the wider public is largely unaware. They give an insight into how we, in our enlightened society, are consistently and successfully deceived and manipulated. It's pretty sobering information, and it is all a matter of public record. The thing is, if a person brings up these ideas and tries to engage people in discussion, they are routinely labelled as 'conspiracy nuts' or 'tin-foil hat-wearers', so complete is the indoctrination. The public at large is, to borrow a song title, comfortably numb as a result of this type of obfuscation and manipulation. Having lived and traveled abroad, I can tell Americans in particular that much of the world does not hold views similar to ours on Russia and China, for instance.

If an article or story is aimed at pulling at people emotionally, then it is more likely propaganda than not, and this is the primary way in which the public is manipulated. News media should report the facts, unbiased and complete so far as they can be had. Period. But, we see opinionated pieces in the press, social media and some alternative news sites all the time. We are routinely given doses of the reasons to fear and hate Russia, China, Iran, the Syrian regime, North Korea, etc. We are fed heavy streams of moralizing via the media as to why such and such a country should be sanctioned, or why Western countries are 'in the right' with their foreign policy, while countries with differing needs and cultures are admonished to step up to our standards, otherwise they will not get the aid

they need. And when it comes to elections, there are always the issues of “guns, gays and God”, in the US for instance, along with the other issues of migrants and ‘communists’, which often win elections for members of Congress over people’s better sense and judgement. Each country has its hot-button issues. And these sorts of comments are routinely reported in the media, as we have recently witnessed in the Brexit and Trump campaigns.

Corporate and wealthy family control of media and propaganda has caused us no end of trouble and suffering. It keeps us at odds with our neighbors at home and abroad, keeps many of us in a continual state of heightened anxiety with consequent negative effects on our health, keeps us distracted while people in power work under cover to further disadvantage the populace, etc. We see this especially in the US, but it is extant everywhere to greater or lesser degree. This sort of thing got Donald Trump elected, and now we see what is coming of it, and has stacked the Congress against the American people. If the press is to be truly an instrument of informed public discourse, then it should be publicly funded, but such a thing is not possible at the moment. In the meantime, if we want to effectively serve the public interest, then we must educate ourselves, ignore the emotional pulls that keep us in lockstep with indoctrination, and above all, use our well-developed common sense when it comes to information. It takes time and effort, and it takes us out of the public norm, but it also frees us from the well-worn grooves keep us in the same old rut all the time. We’ll make enemies along the way, too, but such is the mark of successful independent thinking and speech. So, with these points in mind, what about the full moon?

The full moon takes place on 9 June 17 at 12:49 UT (10:49 PM AEDT). This is a more optimistic, expansive full moon figure, with the Sun conjunct dwarf planet Ceres and trine to Jupiter. However, the full moon axis also forms a t-square with Neptune at the apex, indicating hypersensitivity, delusion, potential for deception but also for a clearing of the air, which Neptune often foretells. For those people who know how to use this type of energy positively, there is a doorway open at this full moon toward a clarity of perception into world affairs and a deepening of the connection with one’s higher self, especially as regards the path of the heart. This is also aided by the conjunction of the Moon to Saturn, which has a tendency to force us to face realities. For those readers engaged in Eastern practices, the path of bliss is indicated, aided by the sextile between Venus and Mars. From a mundane perspective, this full moon will favor a re-evaluation of power politics, shown by the link between the Sun and Pluto and Saturn’s connection with the full moon axis.

Women, especially the power of the feminine, are also favored at this full moon. This is indicated by the Sun’s conjunction with the star Bellatrix, in the left shoulder of Orion, the Hunter. Bellatrix has been called the ‘Amazon Star’, or the female warrior. Conjunct the Sun, it does give military honors, also riches, but also vacillation and a final downfall,⁹ with the Sun indicating leaders in a mundane figure. This is a full moon that favors positive interaction and the breakdown of barriers to understanding, but how does it relate to the world at large?

In terms of world goodwill, we cannot look past the recent trip of Trump overseas and the carry-on effects it will have, first to Saudi Arabia, the Israel, then the Vatican and finally to the G7 conference. In Saudi Arabia he lobbied for an ‘Arab NATO’ and signed deals with the Saudis for weapons that could amount to up to 350 billion dollars over ten years. Now, the Saudis can pay for that, at least as things stand now, through the sale of their oil. But experience with regimes in other countries has shown that arms sales to repressive regimes – such as Saudi Arabia – more often than not, end up as a tool of repression against the populace of the home and neighboring countries. And in the case of the Saudis, Yemen gets the brunt of that arms sale. But this visit was couched to take the fight against Daesh and place it more in the hands of the Arab states. Here is the thing, though: Daesh is made up largely of Salafist Sunni Muslims, an ideology that has its roots in Saudi Arabia, an ideology which that country exports throughout the world. This deal and the ‘Arab NATO’ is supposed to enable the fight of ‘radical Islamic terrorism’, whereas in actual fact, it is meant to counter Iranian influence in the region, which is a Shia Muslim nation. For some reason, Iran is

seen in the US as the major source of Islamic-based terrorism in the world, whereas Saudi Arabia is seen as a close ally. Most curious (not really).

Where is Iran most active militarily at the moment?: in Syria, Yemen and Iraq, and this with only a small number of support troops. Basically, Iran is an active supporter wherever Shia Muslims are found, and there are larger concentrations of Shia in the aforementioned three countries. As for relations with its neighbors, relations between Iran and Iraq warmed after Saddam Hussein was overthrown by the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. There is cooperation between Turkey and Iran in several areas, although they disagree on Syria. People may not realize it, but Turkey is a big tourist destination for Iranians, with over a million visitors a year from Iran to Turkey. Iran has recently stepped up its aid to the Houthis in Yemen¹⁰, which could tip the balance of power in the ongoing war there. Iran supports Hezbollah in Syria, which is arrayed against Daesh there, and in support of Syrian government forces, but that irritates Israel, who sees Hezbollah as a threat. Iran was the first country to support the fight against Daesh in Iraq, launching air strikes there in 2014.¹¹ So, we see that Iran is an active participant in the fight *against* 'radical Islamic extremism'. Yet, Trump wants to build a coalition to counter Iranian interests in the Middle East.

On the surface of this issue, Trump's support of Saudi Arabia over and against Iran might seem very curious indeed if the main issue is the fight against Daesh. But then, that's not the issue, is it? The two main issues with Iran in the US are the Iranian Revolution and Israel. Ever since the Iranian revolution, which deposed the US proxy monarch, the Shah of Iran (put in place by the US in the '50s), relations have been sour between the two countries. Iran is rightly very sensitive about foreign interference in its affairs, and the US has interfered there in a big way in the past, going so far as to destabilize that country and fomenting a coup that overthrew its democratically elected leader.¹² Britain was also involved. Iran is flush with oil, now has a stable democracy, even if it is an Islamic state, is quite strong militarily, has recently re-elected its reformist president and simply seeks stable relations with the world at large. Yet, there is an active bill in the US Congress that would authorize a US president to launch a pre-emptive strike against Iran if 'conditions warrant' such an attack.¹³ The anti-Iranian sentiment in the US halls of power is beyond all reason – unless that reason is to seek to regain control of the Iranian oil resources. And in fact, it takes little research to find that oil is the main driver for US/Middle East policy, along with its support of Israel. We'll get to the oil question a little deeper in a bit, with a rather interesting twist. But, since there is a strong enmity between Saudi Arabia and Iran, and the Saudis are strong allies of the US, it is not difficult to see why Trump has done what he has on his Saudi trip. And this brings us back to the arms sale to the Saudis.

Common sense would tell us that arms sales to the Saudis are a bad idea. Theirs is a brutal, repressive regime. If there is one country in the region that needs regime change, it would have to be Saudi Arabia if we really want to reduce terrorism. They export extremism through educational means throughout the world. They have young, inexperienced leaders, aggressive and aiming to make a name for themselves, they are facing internal pressures, not the least of which is a marginalized Shia minority population, wide wealth disparity and they are having to face the fact that Iran, Russia and central Asian regions will soon supplant them as the major world oil suppliers and economic powers. It's not looking good for the Saudi rulers. The war in Yemen is not going well for them, either. Although the Saudis have a modern, well-equipped fighting force, their ineptitude against the Yemenis shows in that they are unable to deliver a decisive blow against the Houthis. And Britain and the US continue to send massive amounts of arms to the Saudis. It beggars the imagination. But, it gets even better.

There is no true unity among the Arab League (22 states in all). There are three countries in the region who would like to see a wider Arab caliphate – Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran – and in this we have a big clue as to what is going on behind the scenes. The Arab world has had terrible sectarian fighting in its history. And then there is Israel, which wants to be the main player in the

region and would like to see the Arab world either broken up into smaller sectarian states or continually destabilized. The Iranians recognize this and aren't having a bar of it. Israel and the Israeli lobby in the US are one of the biggest reasons we see antagonism toward Iran. Not only has Trump expressed support for the wider Arab world, but there is a larger consensus in Washington that Israel should be supported at all costs. And then, there is a final piece to the puzzle.

Trump, just after he was inaugurated, addressed the CIA. In his speech he made mention of his opinion that he thought the US should have kept the oil in Iraq after the US invasion. A transcript of that part of his speech¹⁴ is worth repeating, because it sheds light on how this administration thinks, and where it might be headed:

The old expression, "*to the victor belong the spoils*" – you remember. I always used to say, keep the oil. I wasn't a fan of Iraq. I didn't want to go into Iraq. But I will tell you, when we were in, we got out wrong. And I always said, in addition to that, keep the oil. Now, I said it for economic reasons. But if you think about it...if we kept the oil you probably wouldn't have ISIS because that's where they made their money in the first place. So we should have kept the oil. But okay. (Laughter.) *Maybe you'll have another chance*. But the fact is, *should have kept the oil*.

There has been speculation that part of the plans of this administration is to go back into Iraq at some point under the guise of fighting Daesh.¹⁵ That would sideline Iran there. However, the possible formation of an 'Arab NATO' would appear to contradict such speculation. We cannot ignore these patterns of Trump's speech, however. They may be subconscious slips on his part, but those sorts of thoughts are in his mind. The statement he made to the effect that there would be no ISIS if we had kept the oil shows Trump's ignorance of what actually happened in Iraq. Daesh was formed out of disarmed Iraqi military men – battle-hardened soldiers – who were cast off by the US after the invasion and were later recruited to the conflict in Syria. When Daesh started, their main oil revenues were from captured *Syrian* oil fields. They only controlled Iraqi oil fields for a brief period. Iraqi forces had already recaptured Iraq's oil fields as of September of 2016. There are currently around 6000 US troops in Iraq and Syria. We are already leading bombing raids in Iraq at Mosul, which kill civilians (and which are called war crimes if another country does the same) as well as Daesh fighters. But another point to be held in mind is that Daesh is well on its way to defeat both in Syria and Iraq. It has virtually been driven out of Iraq, holding only small pockets of territory in the far north of that country now.¹⁶ So, we need to send more weapons and forces in to combat Daesh and extremists throughout the region? Why?

The old meme of the increased need for fighting extremism would appear to be a manufactured smoke screen in the face of evidence, given the preceding points. And this meme is constantly harped in the mainstream media. If we really want to fight extremism, then why not take a hard look at Israeli, Saudi and Western policies in the Middle East? Given the heavy emphasis on fossil fuels in this administration, the pervading influence of the defense industry in US and UK politics and past history, it is not difficult to figure out what is really behind Trump's efforts in the Middle East, or British arms sales to the Saudis, for that matter. Sending massive amounts of weapons to Israel and Saudi Arabia is only going to further destabilize the region. But then, maybe that is the real plan here: continual conflict with resultant control of the resources there, tremendous human suffering, short-term gains with long-range consequences, and an increase in terrorism abroad, only perpetuating the cycle. If this sounds like a dark point of view, it is, but these are policies that have been willfully engaged by Western powers for many years. Those policies have been well documented. There is nothing about goodwill here, and much to say about selfish international interests. And then there is Trump pulling the US out of the Paris Climate Accord, which in itself speaks volumes about the agenda of the administration.

Thankfully, public discourse is beginning to take hold, and unless this US administration makes changes soon and begins to work for the public and international good, its days are numbered. Let's hold the focus that it will choose the right path, or end quickly. The correct path would be to draw on the cooperative interests of the US and all other nations, rather than on antagonisms, and an honest assessment of what has actually taken place. It is wishful thinking, I know. Trump's proposed budget and recent actions show with little doubt that his words on the campaign trail were empty rhetoric. His message was for change, for which many people voted, yet his actions put those same voters at risk as well as most of America and the world at large. His policies favor extreme wealth, arms manufacture, a financial model of generating growth that has been shown to be a failure except for a very few, financial forecasts that are pure speculation at best, and the list goes on. If the defense industry is one of the keys to 'making America great again', consider the following quote:

This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some 50 miles of concrete highway. We pay for a single fighter with a half million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people. This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.¹⁷

Bleeding-heart liberalism, or statement of fact? – the reader can decide. The figures would be even more alarming these days, but we get the point. But here is an interesting point: The man who uttered those words was a Republican US President, and a man who had seen war firsthand. It was the kind of Republican philosophy that was embraced by the 'Greatest Generation'¹⁸, a generation that is sadly now all but gone. Instead, what we have now in Western media is more or less a constant stream of bad news, aimed at keeping us engaged on the 'need' for security, which usually means support for military/police forces and weaponization, which keeps us on edge with what is going on outside our borders, or which emphasizes the 'fact' that the bad things which happen within our borders are somehow brought in by people who have come in from outside ("Immigrants cause trouble, and they take our jobs!" , "We're bringing terrorists into the country!", etc.)

Since this is the Gemini letter, we cannot go past having one last look at Trump, astrologically considered, since he is a Gemini. From a previous letter prior to the election, there was this:

The [administration](#) will begin with hubris, with a perceived mandate, and then a raft of bad decisions will ensue which will put the administration firmly on the nose of the American public. This will be an administration that will call for much soul-searching in the US.¹⁹

The quote is pretty much bearing itself out. Many people had hoped that Trump would be a powerful figure, able to bring real and lasting change to what is now widely perceived to be a broken system in Washington, and that he would live true to his word. He is turning out to be a Trojan horse, much as Reagan was. But is the system really broken, or has it simply temporarily been caught up in a national glamour and deception by powerful interests? We might consider that the glamour which has existed is part and parcel of a young nation that has been endowed with great wealth and power and which has yet to fully learn how to share that and use it in answer to world need. There were two main events in that country's history when the soul of the nation won out and exemplified the principles upon which it was founded: the Civil War and the Franklin Roosevelt years. Both Lincoln and Roosevelt united the country in times of great national crisis and the people responded. Both times – with the Civil War and the Great Depression/WWII – there were decisive

victories against materialism and slavery. With the Civil War the victory was against literal slavery and with the Great Depression the victory was of the common working person over the banking and capitalist elites. Where does Trump stand with all this, especially in relation to the Gemini persona of the US? Well, the system is starting to work again, and it is doing so against Trump, the economic system and Congressional elites under public pressure and the common sense of people across the public spectrum.

It has been pointed out that there are two main lines of affront against the American public.²⁰ The first line is the constant media harping of what is going on with Trump and dramas in the White House, and the other is that while all that is distracting the American public, the Republican-dominated Congress is seeking to produce the meanest public policies since before the Great Depression. This is not to say that all Republicans are that mean-spirited. They aren't. The most cynical part of the latter affront is that many of the policies being trotted out before the Paul Ryan/Mitch McConnell Congress – deregulation, gutting of Medicare and Social Security, etc. – are being touted by hardline conservatives, many of whom hide behind the label of evangelical Christianity, speaking of the sixth Ray personality of the US. To call themselves Christians while endorsing such policies is hardly Christ-like, and it is doubtful that Jesus would have approved. Evangelical Christianity needs a serious look, as in turning over the rock and seeing what lies underneath, and a re-think in the US. Much of what passes for evangelical Christianity is Christian in name only, and is more about power, wealth and influence than anything else. That being said, there are many Christians – true Christians – in the US and the world over who are doing wonderful work and seeking to raise the standard of life across the globe. Trump's campaign brought the endorsement of the 'Christian right', though, and Vice President Pence (a hardline evangelical) more or less fully endorses what the Congress is seeking to do. Trump himself is for the most part a-religious, but that Christian vote in middle American is what won him the election, aside from the failed Democratic campaign.

The point to be made here is that there is blatant hypocrisy in Washington which is clearly seeking to undermine the American public. And aside from that, we see the same sorts of things with the Tories in Britain, minus the evangelical slant of the US. The glamour that has been cast over the US began just after WWII. While the American public was enjoying its years of peak prosperity in the '50s and '60s the 'deep state' in the US (which is not representative of the US population, by the way) was causing trouble worldwide. The thing about a glamour is that it lulls one into a false sense that everything is going well, that one is on the right path. Vietnam began the breaking of that glamour, starting with the assassination of Kennedy. And meanwhile, while the public in the US is distracted by Trump, the billionaire class is happily rubbing their hands, saying, "Let the good times roll! Leave Trump alone. He's doing a good job!" They actually are saying those sorts of things.²¹

Trump has played right to the American ethos and nationalism – the Gemini president to the Gemini persona of the US. There are some people in the US who would like to see a return to the decades of the '50s and '60s and that sort of prosperity and mores, but I would have doubts that most people do. People want to be secure, yes, and they want to be able to pay their bills without worry. They want universal health care and decent jobs. Beyond that, they are open. Trump's words speak to the old ethos, but his actions and policies speak to the opposite, except for the billionaire class. But more to the point, Trump speaks of winning (Mars on his Leo ascendant) and of greatness (Leo again, but the lower aspect of that sign). His everyday supporters fail to see that, though. That is where the old US glamour is strongest still in the US, and apparently it will take more pain to shake them out of it. However, the total solar eclipse on the 21st of August this year will fall on Trump's ascendant/Mars, and will be activated by Mars within two weeks afterward. If we are to see anything happen with Trump, we can expect to see it then or shortly thereafter. Total eclipses on angles are especially important, and Mars activations of such eclipses most often bring conflicts,

fevers, especially on the ascendant, acute situations, etc. Astrologers will know what I mean, without going into further detail.

That total eclipse will also be opposite the US Moon, which rules the 8th house (foreign banks, national treasury, pension funds and taxation) in the US Sibley chart. A likely scenario would be for Trump to do something rash out of frustration or desperation, or for his dealings with Russian interests or Deutsche Bank to come out. Or, perhaps he and Congress finally succeed in collapsing the Affordable Care Act, which would leave millions of Americans without health insurance, with the effort then being to force the public to accept an unacceptable plan. The public reaction would be swift and damning. Any of a number of things might happen, but it is clear that whatever happens will affect both Trump and the average US citizen.

As horrifying as the Trump White House is to many people, in another respect we could not have asked for a quicker way to awaken the collective soul of the US. Conflict and crystallization of the type we have seen is a signal that there is greater light about to break through. The thing is, if Bernie Sanders had, by some miracle, been elected to the office of President this term, it is doubtful we would have seen much in the way of change, at least for the first couple of years given the make-up of the Congress. He, like Clinton, would have been opposed at every turn. Until such outrageous concepts as care of the sick, the needy and the lifting of the poor from poverty take universal or overwhelming hold in the US and sweep away the members of Congress who oppose such actions on the grounds of 'fiscal responsibility', not much is going to change. What we are confronting here is yet another crisis of the type that draws out the best and worst in people. And it is not just in the US. This is a world crisis. We saw exactly this sort of thing with the public response to the recent Manchester arena terrorist attack. People came together. They were not cowed by the event. We might draw parallels to the Battle of Britain in WWII and the response of the British public then to the bombings. However, the government reaction was exactly the sort of thing any terrorist would have wanted – troops on the streets, alarm levels raised to critical, etc. The public knew better how to handle the event than did Theresa May's government. There are other points that are very worthy of mention, but which will have to wait for another time for addressing, for example:

- The UK election, which will be another cliffhanger in all likelihood. The outcome of that election is going to spark vigorous debate in that country, which is sorely needed. The US and the UK are so closely subjectively related that this election comes as no surprise. Jeremy Corbin may just win the election, to the dismay of the Tories, and his recent stating of the 'unsayable' about UK foreign policy in the Middle East and its link to terrorism in the UK has turned heads.²² It has also boosted his chances in the election.
- The rift between the US and Germany, and also the EU, with Merkel's statement that Germany and Europe can no longer count on the US.²³ Russia and China will likely fill the void.
- The prosecution of Deutsche Bank as a criminal organization by Italian authorities²⁴
- Talk of reorganizing the Eurozone. It's just talk now, but that, too, has now been officially stated, with an emphasis on more sovereignty for member states²⁵
- The beginning of the end for globalization, at least in its current model²⁶
- The drastic restructuring of workforces in developed countries due to the forces of automation, internet shopping, changes in technology, etc.

But there is one more point to be made here which few people realize, related to the last bullet point above, which will change the world in a big way. Yet there is little mention of it, because few people would believe it, and also because it would affect an entire industry.

In a few short years the Middle East will cease to be the main source of strife in the world, and Middle Eastern countries will be abandoned by corporate interests, meaning we will cease the

biggest part of our meddling there, ‘we’ meaning Western corporate interests. A technological revolution is upon us on par with the invention of the automobile and the need for petrol, and it will be in the same area. What I mean here is that ‘Big Oil’ is on its way out the further we go with the development of electric vehicles.²⁷ Scoff if you like, but people ridicule every time something new is introduced. As always, first the idea is dismissed, then it is actively opposed, and then it will be universally accepted. Gasoline is the main product of petroleum distillation, comprising nearly half of all fossil fuels.²⁸ When the cost of an electric car falls below a certain threshold, which is within our reach, then the need for petroleum will cease except as heating and industrial fuel, along with long distance haulage, maritime shipping and aviation. And that, too, is likely to be phased out over time. When battery technology enables an electric a car to be driven hundreds of miles, then the real death knell of Big Oil will be sounded. I would expect to see this within the next decade or two. Think of what that would mean for a few minutes.

Gas stations would become museums. Driverless cars would be the norm in cities, and later with intercity travel. The global warming debate would no longer be on people’s minds for the large part. The atmosphere would be significantly improved, both objectively and subjectively. Large parts of the industry would collapse, which employs millions of people worldwide. This latter point is why electric cars will be vigorously opposed. Since there will be a much-reduced need for petrol, then regimes in the Middle East would collapse, too, because 50% of oil will no longer be needed and will no longer provide the rich income to those regimes. And in kind, major interests in the West in taking or controlling that resource will be largely removed. Hence, military intervention in those regions will basically stop. US and UK defense contractors will have to find someplace else to flog their wares, and some of them may well go out of business, too, or be much reduced. Trump and his Big Oil cabinet are pushing a losing cause, for anyone who has the insight to see it. Electricity will soon supplant oil as the prime mover on this planet. And, I would expect to see major advances in this area by 2025, when a quieter period in world affairs is supposed to intervene.²⁹ And being a Southerner by birth, I’m not just whistlin’ “Dixie” here.³⁰ The pace of innovation in technology has increased rapidly in recent decades, with China beginning to out-pace the US in that area. And China may well indicate the way in which this change is to take place, given its problems with air pollution due to traffic but also the pace of its technology, although the US can still light the way.

There is one more point to be made here, though: If there is to be a period of relative quietude after 2025, how are we to have that, given the pervasive and overbearing influence of the corporate-military complex in Washington, and to a lesser extent in the UK? The point is, we cannot, since it is the main driver of US foreign policy at the moment. Something either within the US government or geopolitically is going to have to change in order to break the control of Eisenhower’s ‘military-industrial complex’ over US foreign policy. I can see several means by which it might happen – major climatic events that necessitate a move away from it, a fundamental change in the US Congress (which would take time, and which we have little of), revolution in the US (which is doubtful), a sea change in public pressure, which forces the needed changes, or the death of Big Oil – perhaps a combination of the preceding. My sense is that Trump was brought in subjectively to hasten this process through his policies, much as his voters may dislike the concept.

In closing, these days guarding the nature of our discourse is an imperative. Also is the use of common sense when troubling situations present themselves – and there will be much that will appear troubling in these intervening years. But above and beyond that, there is nothing we cannot overcome. We have allowed our present world troubles to happen, through our lack of self-education, through apathy (as in not voting, for instance), by refusing to become involved in public matters (matters which affect all of us together), by allowing ourselves to be distracted from what is *really* important (through over-focus on material comfort, for instance): and together we can fix these things. We have done so in the past and we shall prevail again.

There is no left and right in politics where our common humanity is concerned, no essential difference between religions, only in culture and practice. The latter are insignificant when we are faced with a world crisis such as we are today. Only an ‘accident of birth’ separates us from our divine nature, and if we could all but even once experience the blissful unity of consciousness we shared with all souls as we did before we were born, the world’s troubles would melt away in an instant. Such an experience would remove any illusions that we are somehow separate from other beings. Such an experience is a direct realization of ‘the Light of the Christ’, to use the Christian terminology, or a direct realization of Emptiness in Buddhist terms. Such an experience ‘hits us between the eyes’ and leaves us with no doubt as to our path forward – the path that works tirelessly for the enlightenment of all beings and an end to the world’s suffering. This is the ultimate promise and work of Gemini, the uniting of all souls in the work of world peace and enlightenment. Let us roll up our sleeves together with a common sense of purpose and set ourselves to the great Work.

Blessings,

Malvin

2 June 17

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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. If you feel inspired, feel free to pass them on to others, but do so without charge of alteration.

¹ Roerich, Helena, *Supermundane*, (1938) Agni Yoga Society, Inc., New York www.agniyoga.org

² Bailey, Alice A., *Esoteric Astrology* p. 56

³ Ibid, p. 517

⁴ *Letters on Occult Meditation*, p. 302, 303

⁵ Simply: suffering, the origin of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the path that leads to the cessation of suffering. The path that leads to the cessation of suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path: right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, right concentration

⁶ <http://www.mediareform.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/ElephantinthetoomFinalfinal.pdf>

⁷ <https://medium.com/@SarahRRunge/amazon-the-washington-post-and-the-cia-d68a4ee802e>

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_E._Graham

⁹ <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Bellatrix.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-iran-houthis-idUSKBN16S22R>

¹¹ <http://thediplomat.com/2014/12/iran-joins-isis-fight/>

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1953_Iranian_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat

¹³ <http://www.globalresearch.ca/pre-emptive-attack-iran-bill-active-in-us-house/5572899>

¹⁴ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-cia-speech-transcript/>

¹⁵ <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/08/to-crush-isis-will-trump-send-u-s-troops-into-syria/>

¹⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

¹⁷ Address by President Dwight D. Eisenhower "The Chance for Peace" delivered before the American Society of

Newspaper Editors, April 16, 1953 For full transcript, see: <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article9743.htm>

¹⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greatest_Generation

¹⁹ Libra letter, 2016 http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/LIBRA_FESTIVAL_2016.pdf pg. 6

²⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u66GA-YquXo&t=80s>

²¹ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-18/finance-elite-on-president-long-live-trump-or-pence-whichever>

²² <http://www.globalresearch.ca/terror-in-britain-what-did-the-prime-minister-know/5592772>

²³ <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/germany-s-merkel-signals-deepening-rift-u-s-under-trump-n765781>

²⁴ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-01/deutsche-bank-paschi-nomura-staff-charged-over-false-accounts-itr5z2ku>

²⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1aV1j5O_j4

²⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIM_T3XQCQw

²⁷ https://static1.squarespace.com/static/585c3439be65942f022bbf9b/t/591a2e4be6f2e1c13df930c5/1494888038959/RetlinkX+Report_051517.pdf

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petroleum_product

²⁹ Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology*, p. 103.

³⁰ https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/whistle_Dixie, for those readers unfamiliar with the term.