

PISCES FESTIVAL 2017

12 MAR 17

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Greetings Friends!

It has been said that there are three moments that are of the greatest importance in our lives – the moment of conception, the first breath at birth and the last breath at the end of life. Our lives begin at conception and the blueprint for one's life is thus set, and the tone or blueprint for our next life is set at the moment of passage from this life. Our energy fields are consolidated at the moment of birth.¹ Most of us have experienced the death of someone close and as well, the birth of dear ones into our families. Those are profoundly special moments. Births are usually seen as great blessings for family and friends, welcoming a beloved soul back into our presence after sometimes a prolonged absence. Death, on the other hand, is usually seen as a dreaded experience and is most often accompanied by profound grief on the part of those left behind. If we could see it, though, the departed ones are surrounded by love and a blissful peace, unless they have behaved particularly badly in life. Even then, they are eventually released into that state of peace and bliss. For those of us who are left behind, though, if we could be still and at peace, those loved ones who have departed very often leave messages for us if we could get past the grief and make an effort to dwell instead in the space of peace with the departed ones. Death, like birth, changes people's lives, and always carries with it the blessings of wisdom – the wisdom of the long history of the soul who has left and the wisdom gained of life experience.

We will cover several specific points in this letter, aside from Pisces: the coming and presently evolving world spiritual awakening, the obstacles to humanity's realization of that awakening, and the need for 'rising above the waters', which Pisces represents. Before we get to those points, though, and returning to the opening paragraph, I made mention in my last full moon letter that my father had passed on. He lived a long and full life and drank deeply from the experiences of his life. He sought to pass what wisdom he had on to everyone he encountered. Many of us have experienced the passing of loved ones recently, although nothing is really lost from the angle of the soul. The reason I mention my father here is multifaceted: Firstly, as a point of interest and for astrologers and future investigations, referring to the opening sentence of this letter and if his death chart is anything to go by, he will be conceived in Aquarius in his next life, since that is when he passed on,² with possibly a Scorpio birth, and his next life will probably be quite fortunate, given the aspects in evidence at the time of his death. Good for him! Indications of a life well-lived. Much insight can come from a death chart as to how well or not a person has lived their life, the blessings and difficulties they will face in future lives, the tone of their immediate experience in the afterlife, and even our future relations with them, if we could avail ourselves of that breadth of vision.

A death chart is as important as a birth or conception chart. There is a linear continuity in terms of our personal consciousness and experience from life-to-life, and that is a karmic imperative, although the higher Self's experience of lives is not linear at all, but instead is more holographic/kaleidoscopic.³ From one perspective it is true that we can have rebirths as animals, in denser or higher realms and so forth, if we recognize that time is not linear, if we could see from the angle of the higher Self. Time as we know it in this reality does not exist at the level of the higher Self. Realizing that, if we are able to enter into clear light meditation and bring back the experiences into the waking consciousness, then we can experience events from past lives and probable future lives, unconstrained by our linear personal consciousness. But the more important thing here is that anyone who passes on definitely has something to pass on to the family, friends and associates they leave behind. If we can reach a mental space wherein we are able to sense the consciousness of others in the case of a death of someone close, then it induces a very reflective state of mind and it brings realizations of factors that had perhaps lain dormant or had escaped our notice before.

The passing of one's spiritual mentors is especially important – not that family members and friends are not important teachers and mentors – because those teachers often have the next steps ahead for us once they are released from their physical forms. I had two such mentors who have passed in recent years, and I had very significant experiences after their release on several occasions. These experiences can come in various forms for anyone – dreams, visions, strong inner promptings to tend to things we had neglected, deeply symbolic events, strong sudden urges to take a new course, etc. And very often, those experiences are accompanied by peaceful, even blissful, remembrance of the one who has passed. Then again, those experiences can also be quite uncomfortable if we have been going against our soul's guidance, much like we would experience from a scolding yet concerned parent or teacher. To have such experiences is always a blessing, though, and it shows the power that we can have ourselves as souls when we are not bound by our physical bodies and cares of the world – when we can 'rise above the waters'.

The reason we are looking at this – and there is much more that could be said – is that the Pisces interval each year brings to mind the themes of death, release from the bondage of form, one's spiritual mentors, the endings that open the door to new starts, etc. Pisces could be said to be the 'omega' of the zodiac – the end – especially when we consider the 'the reversed wheel through the signs'⁴ and the connection of Pluto with the esoteric rulership of the sign with regard to that reversed wheel.⁵ Pluto governs definitive endings among other things, and release from the bondage of the past. Pisces is a most curious sign in many ways, especially since it also indicates expansive thinking and relationships through the orthodox ruler of the sign, Jupiter, as well as the generation of wealth, which Jupiter also represents. And these days we also have the modern ruler of the sign, Neptune, which in reality focuses Pisces by its connection with *buddhi*, or pure reason.⁶ Neptune as ruler of Pisces refers to humanity as a whole and not to individuals, though. Pisces also refers to the final process of liberation and full enlightenment, and in this process Neptune and Pluto work very closely together as a force for freedom and clarity of consciousness. Pisces is the sign most associated with the 'Saviour',⁷ for which many religious people look today and which they sense will come soon in the Earth's evolution, whatever 'soon' means.

Neptune is said to rule over the astral plane, the realm of the emotions, and Pisces itself is associated with the oceans. Neptune was the ancient god of the oceans, hence its modern association with Pisces. The point is that Neptune, in terms of the person on the path to liberation and greater world service, oversees the clarification of astral nature in concert with Pluto and his ken, one of which we will examine later. The astral plane is twofold in its uses and effects. Its primary role is that of a reflector. It either reflects our lower mind, combined with physical urges, in which case it becomes like a cloudy looking glass that skews or obscures the truth. Used in that mode, the astral nature is a deceptive influence and can cause endless trouble to a person who seeks peace in their life. On the other hand, it reflects the clear light of the higher Self when it is clarified and rendered limpid through the influence of the higher mind. Then, in the latter case we are released us from the illusory nature of our existence and ushered to the doorway into 'the bliss of full enlightenment'. Then, for us, 'there is no more sea'⁸ and we are no longer tempest-tossed about by the waves of emotion that pass through and around us every moment of the day. Then, supreme compassion overcomes the initiated one and the esoteric motto for Pisces becomes evident: "I leave the Father's Home and turning back, I save."⁹ The ultimate goal with regard to the astral nature, then, is to transmit and reflect the bliss of the higher Self and as such, it becomes magnetic and radiates a sense of peace to all who are lucky enough to encounter such an expression.

Neptune and Jupiter are the two major 'power players' with regard to planetary bodies in our solar system. Jupiter holds sway over the planetary bodies in the inner part of the solar system, while Neptune holds sway over the 'outers', or the trans-Neptunian objects. Jupiter, and to a lesser extent Uranus, govern the orbits of the myriad asteroids that we have used in astrology for some time now. Neptune, on the other hand, governs over the 'unknown quantities' in the outer reaches of the solar

system – the plutinos, plutoids, resonant and non-resonant objects, the inner Kuiper belt objects, etc. Jupiter and Neptune work with *groups* of planetary bodies, more than any other planets, and Jupiter and Neptune in concert – as in the case of a human who comes strongly under their influence – have the capacity to effect considerable influence over the minds of people, either nefariously, or in the way of freeing people from their misconceptions and empowering people for discovering their own divine birthright.

Thus, we have a threefold action with the planets that rule Pisces. Two of those rulers only function fully when a person steps onto the path and seeks to ‘return to the Father’s home’ – Neptune and Pluto. Jupiter, on the other hand, is always active with Pisces. In everyday life Jupiter produces that nature that seeks inclusion, material comfort, the drive to expand one’s horizons and the like. In people focused on worldly affairs, it produces executives, people largely on the line of love-wisdom (Ray 2) and people who come into life needing in some way to blend the head and the heart. Until a person realizes the power of the sign – and it is quite a powerful sign – the Piscean can be a worry to family and friends, constantly buffeted about by emotional appeals from others and their own psychic impressions, which can seem quite real to them, and easily swayed by such. But in people beginning to realize their own spirituality, Pluto begins to take hold and the Piscean nature is toughened through experience, the mind greatly clarified and the personality becomes magnetic and authoritative. Any Piscean who channels some measure of soul force becomes a leader of groups, a teacher in some capacity, and usually quite a benefactor in some fashion.

We are rapidly passing out of the Piscean Age, and that Age has gifted us with many things, including the capacity for group work, the great religions of the world, the ability for the common person to aspire to greatness, etc. It has also given us the tendency toward authoritarianism and ‘true belief’, as well as the more fanatical side of the sixth Ray, which are factors with which we are currently faced. What do we believe? Why do we believe? Who or what are the ultimate authorities in our lives? Are our beliefs on a sound footing, or are they manufactured for us? Must we believe in a ‘higher authority’ to ensure our spiritual success? These are all questions that we increasingly ponder in the morass of information to which we are constantly exposed and which are being brought up for us in this intervening period between the Piscean and the Aquarian Ages.

There is one thing about which we can be sure, though, which is that the time of the fanatic, the authoritarian and the ‘true believer’, which includes beliefs such as super-patriotism, is very close to ending. And, the fact that we see these things strongly now and that we have so much conflict around them is a sign that their death is nigh, that a new movement is afoot which will guarantee us more freedom and prosperity in the long term. This movement refers more to the upsurge among common people everywhere for real and lasting change to systems of all types that have failed us in recent history, and this across every walk of life. This passing out of the Piscean Age, with its emphasis on belief and fanatical adherence, has produced the upsurge in extremism in many countries on all sides, and in this year especially and the years immediately following, we are being clearly shown the costs of such extremism, especially as a disruptive and enslaving force in society. There are some common characteristics of extremists of any type, and they might be listed as follows:¹⁰

- They are against any compromise with the other side.
- They are entirely sure of their position.
- They advocate and sometimes use violence to achieve their ends.
- They are nationalistic, or blindly loyal to their group.
- They are intolerant of dissent within their group.
- They demonize the other side

Extremists, again, are from every walk of life, be it on the left or right of politics, in science, in religion, in medicine, etc., although we tend to think of extremism primarily in the field of religion. People see this, though, and they demand freedom of choice, such as with vaccines, health care, spiritual in distinction to religious orientation, politics, etc. We see it everywhere we look. All this is leading and has led to our current crisis between the status quo and the emerging spiritual imperative, the latter of which will lead eventually to the reappearance of a World Teacher, which has been prophesied by all the major religions. Where, when and how, then, will this person and/or movement appear? We might get a clue from the following:

“...the focal point of His activity will be dependent upon the medium used by Him to implement that purpose...Should politics be the medium through which He best can serve, that then will determine the locality of the focal point; if it should be the religious organisations of the world, it may prove to be elsewhere; if the field of economics or of the social sciences, then still another locality may prove appropriate. The determining factor in all cases, and that which will indicate to Him the appropriate place for this focal point, will be the number and the ability and status of the disciples found active in the chosen field. More, I may not suggest.”¹¹

And then, realizing that this was written in a time when political correctness and feminism were practically non-existent, we should be aware that this person, if it is a single person, may well be a woman. Strength of leadership is not indicated by ‘male-ness’. And, we are looking at a period that will be decades into the future, more likely than not. The thing to realize is that the reappearance will manifest first as a movement – with all that word implies – and that such a movement will inevitably produce conflict between those people who are being inspired by the incoming spiritual potency and the unthinking people still bound up in emotional reactions, their own suffering and propaganda.¹² If we look into the present world situation, is that not the sort of situation that we see before us today? We have reached yet again another world crisis, and this time the conflict is definitely primarily in the field of economics, and with its carry-on influence in the realm of politics and information technology. This is evidenced by the unipolar political landscape we see in many countries with its focus appearing to be solely on the influence that money can buy, the influence on the media that a ratings-driven mentality produces with its skewing of viewpoint toward the moneyed interests, and with the ever-widening wealth gap between the super-rich and the average citizen. The field for conflict is ripe. The preceding points indicate, although vaguely, how and where the reappearance will take place. As to when, we are told the following:

“...a great and new movement is proceeding and a tremendously increased interplay and interaction is taking place. This will go on until A.D. 2025. During the years intervening between now and then very great changes will be seen taking place, and...in 2025 the date *in all probability* will be set for the first stage of the externalisation of the Hierarchy.”¹³

Given the tone of this letter thus far, if we are to see a better world, then hatred and intolerance, which are seen largely in extremist viewpoints, must be offset, keeping in mind that this applies to extremism in any form. Common ground must be emphasized in all conversations. To begin, we must look deeply within ourselves to see if any such biases toward extremist views exist, and root them out. Ignorance is the primary cause of hatred and intolerance, and it is used to great effect by those materialistically inclined in order to keep people divided, and thus to keep themselves in power. If we truly believe that ‘God is love’, for instance, and that ‘God created all people and things’ then there can be no ‘one, true religion’ or belief at the expense of others, no wrong view on the part of people if they truly aspire to live a loving life. This applies also to people who have no religious faith, yet who are basically good people and who seek to live according to the higher values of life.

And, to add a little to the mix for the religiously-inclined, there can be no eternal damnation for wrong views or belief in other faiths if God is truly a God of love, nor can there be paradise for those who commit heinous acts ‘in the name of God’. Hell is a construct primarily of men who have sought to exercise control over the minds and lives of others. ‘Hell’ – a Piscean construct as we presently have it thrust at us – is cited in teachings in order to keep people in line. It has no other purpose – certainly not a divine purpose. We are not here to be punished. We are here to learn to love more fully. There are purgatories, the primary one being life in a physical body, but they are nowhere near eternal, and they are as there as cleansing experiences in order that we might come more into alignment with our own divine essence, whatever that means to us. There is more to add, but with that, let’s have a look at the full moon.

The full moon takes place on 12 Mar 17 at 13:50 UT (12:50 AM AEDT on the 13th). The full moon axis forms a t-square with Saturn at the apex. Saturn is conjunct the [dwarf planet Ixion](#). Saturn conjunct Ixion represents ‘lawlessness called to account’. Ixion is a plutino, in that it has a 2:3 orbital resonance with Neptune. This makes it, like Pluto, one of the prerequisites for the full experience of Neptune. It is a clarifying planet, in other words, and it addresses anything in our nature that wants to act outside of our divine essence, or our soul’s design for us. To willfully go against that essence induces a sort of madness into one’s nature. We will get to more about Ixion in a bit. The Sun is conjunct Mercury and Chiron, and Mercury is square to Saturn within eight minutes of arc. That aspect is an indication of ‘the investigator’, with all that might imply as to current world affairs. Pluto forms an easy opposition with the full moon axis. Pluto is also still the apex of a t-square with Uranus/Eris opposite Jupiter in the base. And, Jupiter is linked to the Sun via quincunx, introducing a more positive note to the figure.

Lastly, Venus is retrograde in the figure. It turned retrograde fully on the 5th at the 14th degree of Aries, and entered its shadow period the 31st of January. It turns direct on the 17th of next month at the 27th degree of Pisces, just after the full moon of Aries. It is conjunct the Sun on the 25th of March, but it will not be seen on the face of the Sun again until 2117 – not in our lifetimes. Venus forms no major aspects in the full moon figure except for a quincunx to the Moon, but it is parallel to Mars. One of the keys to understanding retrograde planets is that there is no *direct* action or challenges to express the qualities of the planet when in its retrograde phase. When Venus is acting normally (in direct motion) it produces an integrating, unifying force. It favors all sorts of feminine activities, especially with aesthetics, and is also connected with justice and how we value things or people. As such, then, Venus has much to say about how we express our morality and how we function as members within groups and society. It is equated with values (which includes money) partnerships of all sorts and the dissolving of the same, and also open conflict, strange as that might sound. But, the latter revolves more around the resolution of conflicts rather than producing them.

Venus in its retrograde phase is the end of what is known as its Hesperus interval – the wisdom phase of its orbit, when it is seen in the evening sky. It is highest in the sky in the evening at that point, and it has been quite bright and visible just after sunset in the western sky in the past months. What we have with Venus retrograde, then, is a period of re-evaluation of our ethics, how we love, on what we place value, and these issues will come to their maximum emphases the closer Venus gets to the Sun. We began to get a sense of what we would be examining when Venus entered its shadow period. What we have seen during that period were Trump’s first days in office, with the introduction and backlash from his travel ban, the infamous phone call between Trump and Australian PM Malcolm Turnbull, Brexit heating up in the UK, the North Korean missile test and Chinese sanctions against North Korea, Duterte’s escapades in the Philippines, and these for starters. Saturn was approaching its conjunction within a degree to Ixion at the point of the inception of the Venus shadow period. In addition, the allegations of Russia’s involvement with the Trump administration are getting increasingly heated. So, there is much to watch, and much to be gained in wisdom. As for Ixion, let’s have a look at the following.

Notable people in recent history who had/have Saturn conjunct Ixion within a few degrees include Adolph Hitler, Stephen Miller (advisor and speechwriter for Donald Trump), Milo Hanrahan (aka Yiannopoulos, right-wing commentator and provocateur who was recently disgraced for comments about underage gay sex and had to resign from Breitbart news), Jimmy Connors (tennis great, known for his antics on the field and adversarial style), Vladimir Putin, Christopher Reeve (Superman), Cherrie Moraga (Mexican-American feminist activist, poet, essayist, and playwright), Colin Friels (Aussie actor), and Roseanne (everyone's favorite American 'domestic goddess' of comedic fame and acerbic humor). These are the names that popped up in my database when I researched this, and they weren't cherry-picked. Saturn is conjunct Ixion for brief periods roughly every 31 – 33 years, depending upon the obliquity of Ixion's orbit. The one thing that stands out about Ixion is the theme of provocateur, and most of the examples cited here have been provocative in some way. There is also a kind of strange mix between conservative viewpoints and anarchic sentiments with the Saturn/Ixion aspects, which is what we might expect from such a combination. It is interesting that no scientists, religious leaders or technical people showed up in the search, although I am certain there are some who have that conjunction, though lesser-known.

Unless the Saturn/Ixion conjunction is modified by trines or sextiles from other planets, it can exhibit as quite an adversarial personal expression, even to the extent of verbal and physical cruelty, the latter if Mars makes a hard aspect to the conjunction, either to Saturn or to Ixion. The most revealing thing about the conjunction is its political component, and it seems to apply particularly to the US at this point in human history. Saturn/Ixion in the past 200 years has signaled US administrations and Congresses, especially, that have been plagued with scandals. In that regard, they were conjunct around 1984, 1952, 1921 and 1888, give or take 9 months or so. So, what did we see in those years?

- 1984: Ronald Reagan's second term in office, and an administration and Congress richly blessed with scandals. In fact, the Iran-Contra ordeal was started in earnest in 1984, with Reagan's blessing. I have heard people speak of Trump as another 'Reagan', but if Reagan's presidential history is anything to go by, Trump had better hope he does better than that. On the surface, Trump's administration more closely resembles that of Harding or Jackson.
- 1952: The peak of the McCarthy hearings, which ended the career of McCarthy and many others, for that matter. Of interest there, also, was the involvement of Roy Cohn, the infamous NY attorney, and who had Venus opposite Ixion. He was also a mentor to Donald Trump in later years. Then there was also the shady life of J. Edgar Hoover.

Before we continue to examine these points, it is worth noting that Roy Cohn strongly influenced Trump's adversarial style, which was to go strongly on the offensive whenever he was put on the defensive, never ever admit defeat and in thus doing to keep the plaintiffs distracted from the main issue with the countersuit. This is what we see with Trump's latest tweet about the Obama wiretap allegations, that tweet being made when Mars was square to the [Trump administration](#)'s meridian. It was a gamble, and could work against the administration in the long term, opening investigations into matters Trump would probably like to keep hidden. Continuing...

- 1921: The Harding administration, which was one of the more corrupt administrations in US history, best known for the Teapot Dome oil scandal. Harding was also an infamous womanizer (re: Ixion and philandering) and was threatened by one of his mistresses with exposure pre-WWI in an effort to get him to vote against the war.
- And in 1888, there was the felony polygamy conviction of George Q. Cannon in the legislative branch, for which he was refused his seat and served six months in Utah State Penitentiary.

There were also scandalous administrations at the Saturn/Ixion oppositions, most notable of which were those of Andrew Jackson, Ulysses Grant and Richard Nixon.¹⁴ And then there was another aspect of the conjunction that has also raised its head in those periods previously cited – the factor

of the 'Red Scare', or fear of communism or Russia, especially since WWI. Reactionary politics is one of the manifestations of Saturn/Ixion aspects. We see another such reaction to Russia currently in the US and in Europe, whipped up mostly by the left. And there may be something to it, although the US especially cannot really cry foul about foreign powers interfering with elections and administrations in the US. If there were one thing that would bring down the Trump administration quickly, it would be *proven* revelations of collusion between Trump, his advisors and/or staff with Russian officials, efforts at a cover-up, etc. That may work the other way, too, with regard to the Obama administration. And, it is only human nature: If you want to be sure an investigation takes place, then try to hide evidence of wrongdoing, divert attention from or try to bury the investigation, which is what we are seeing currently with the Trump administration and many Republicans.

At a personal level, one of the indicators of when Ixion is active in a chart is that the person will exhibit a sort of don't-give-a-damn attitude in their speech or dealings with people, and this is especially evident when in stressful aspects to Mars and/or Mercury. Such is the case with Donald Trump, Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller, Paul Keating (Australian ex-PM) and Ted Cruz, to name a few. Again, this tendency would be modified with sextiles or trines by other planets to Ixion. A case of the latter can be seen in Robin Williams, who had Ixion square to Mars, but also conjunct Neptune, sextile Mercury and opposite Jupiter. David Bowie and Lucille Ball are cases similar to Robin Williams. So, on a more positive note, Ixion can give a real insight into the craziness of our human existence when it is well-integrated into a chart. Otherwise, it can also manifest as madness in the person themselves. With respect to the full moon figure, then, the Saturn/Ixion conjunction in the lunation chart is somewhat modified by being at the midpoint of trines to Mars and Uranus.

With these points in mind, we are immersed, largely without realizing it, in a massive third Ray enterprise aimed at mathematical manipulation of even how we think, which has been ongoing for some time. The key to coming out of that mess is to watch very closely as to whether we have strong reactions to what we read in media and act accordingly, which keeps us blinded to other possibilities, or whether we read, then take a step back, mark and trace information and then make informed decisions that guide our actions. Media as it exists is geared toward evincing emotional reactions from people, playing on people's desire natures. We don't see technical manuals and entries from encyclopedias being put up on Facebook or other like sites, for instance, do we? Such postings don't *feel* good. They aren't sexy, don't evoke many 'Aww!!' reactions or generate many 'likes'. In fact, the point is that there is no feeling in such informative posts. However, those sorts of things *do* give us very valuable information. But as we have seen, it is not information that wins and loses elections or which move people. It is how people feel. Consider the following, as a trending example, and one that is used by many influential people:¹⁵

"There's nothing accidental about Trump's behavior... "That press conference. It was absolutely brilliant. I could see exactly what he was doing. There's feedback going on constantly. That's what you can do with artificial intelligence. You can measure every reaction to every word. He has a word room, where you fix key words. We did it. So with immigration, there are actually key words within that subject matter which people are concerned about. So when you are going to make a speech, it's all about how can you use these trending words."

These same techniques were used in the Brexit campaign. Every time we click on a site or a link, every time we 'like' something, every time we log on to our favorite sites or make comments on posts, that information goes into supercomputers that plug it into algorithms, and those algorithms are used to generate the data that governs what search engines offer up to us. Those programs and data are also trawled by special interest groups, often with lots of money to throw around, and that data is then used to influence public opinion – to stir the pot, in other words – and as we have seen, sometimes in ways that go against the interests of the larger populace. It is very Neptunian in a way.

It can be used constructively or subversively, and many times it is difficult to pick out. To get to the truth of matters requires constant vigilance and fact-checking, which most people seem loathe to do. It is very comfortable instead for most people to stay in their echo chambers with their friends, constantly reinforcing their emotional reactions to issues, and often against ‘the others’, whoever they might be. Such behavior reinforces separativeness and divisiveness in society, with little or no effort to find common ground with people and groups who express differing views.

Hidden in our illusions are also our gifts, though, in the sense that in our efforts to become clear we gain much in the way of wisdom as we work through those illusions. We are moving very quickly as a society as we set aside the illusions of the past and move forward into a more enlightened future. In looking at the two Ages, Pisces and Aquarius, we might get a clearer sense of where we are headed and what is to be left behind. Consider the following table:

Factor	Pisces	Aquarius
Authority	Centralized	Decentralized
Belief	Homogenous belief: “my way or the highway”, the ‘tall poppy’ syndrome	Multiplicity of belief, people recognized for their individual genius and talents
Energy source	Oil (fossil fuel)	Electricity, especially from solar-based sources
Government	Centralized	Decentralized, sovereign but interdependent
Relations	Exclusive if of differing views, enforced	Inclusive, based upon sensed sympathy of vibration
Religious emphasis	Faith-based, often fanatical, exclusive, the dictated need for an authority figure to ensure progress	Ritually-based, self-effort, spiritual leadership determined by choice and example, freedom to choose one’s path
Economics	Central control	Sharing/barter, possibly w/o currency
Society	Religious basis	Secular basis
Judicial	Law and order, aimed at uniformity and enforcement	Order, based upon recognition of divine order, self-engaged
Educational	Standards-based, with emphasis on testing and conformity	Needs-based, upon recognized abilities
Science	Corporate-based to a large degree, and thus skewed	Based upon the sensed need for the next steps ahead, and in step with natural law
Business	Tending to conglomeration, monopoly, geared toward shareholder profits	Small-business, worker-owned cooperatives, geared toward social benefit
Industry	Skills-based, manual	Automated, tech-based
Military	Imperialist, overwhelming, threat-driven	Peacekeeping, and increasingly reduced over time, with greatly decreasing casualties
Change	Brought about by a strong leader – a ‘savior’ or a ‘white knight’	Brought about by a united, well-informed and active public – the Aquarian idea of ‘friends/groups working together for change’

With all the preceding points, we can see the overlap and blending between the two Ages, especially since the 1700s. As we progress through this century we will see the preceding factors drift more and more toward the Aquarian values. And if we look closely at the geopolitical and social trends since the end of WWII, we can perhaps see how far we have gone along those lines, but yet how much more work we need to do at the same time. Oil, for instance, was like a parting gift of the Piscean Age and it greatly accelerated our technological and economic progress. Yet now, it is increasingly being seen as a problem, as something to be moved beyond for a variety of reasons, not least of which are that it is a finite resource and it does great harm to the environment. It has served its purpose. Now it is time to find a better way. We have the capacity at hand, for instance, to power the entire world via the sun – our single greatest source of nuclear energy, and it is inexhaustible. There are vast areas of land in every continent, except maybe for Europe, that are uninhabited and which could be utilized for the harvesting of solar-powered electricity. This is not a pipe dream. It is completely do-able. Automotive industries can be re-tooled toward electric cars, and mass transit can be made totally electric, much like the train services here in Europe or the trams in Melbourne. What we need are the people of vision and the financial/political will to carry it off. But there again is the problem – there is too much money and vested interest in oil to change without a struggle, and the oil interests will not give ground easily.

The one thing that must be addressed at the moment, which will set us free from the financial terrorism¹⁶ that we now see, and which is at the root of most of the world's troubles, is a fundamental reorganization of our financial institutions and economic orders, the world over. There will be no true freedom for people until this is fixed. “The love of money is the root of all evil”, borrowing a Piscean theme, but also a great truth. In the US for instance – if you happen to hear this Mr. Trump, and if you want to keep your voter base instead of your donors happy – we desperately need a re-introduction of the Glass-Steagall Act or an equivalent (separating the commercial and investment banks), much more competition in the pharmaceutical and information sectors, getting off the fiat status of the dollar, etc. There needs to be *more* regulation of the banks, not less, *higher* taxes on the large corporations, and a progressive wealth tax. One can almost hear the howls of, “Communism!” or “It will wreck the economy!” or “Taxes will kill economic growth and recovery!” – tired old refrains – but what we are seeing with the current situation in the US with deregulation is a return to the scene we had just prior to the Great Depression. We have a stock market bubble that has ballooned, as we had then, and it is largely based on optimism on Wall Street about Trump's presidency, but underneath that balloon there is a growing anxiety about many factors, and the stock market is notoriously fickle.¹⁷

The thing is – and I never hear it mentioned in discussions – that the US experienced its greatest period of unprecedented wealth and power on the world stage while at the same time living under Glass-Steagall regulations, a gold-standard currency, etc. Those post-WWII years were remembered as ‘the good old days’ in the US, back when ‘a dollar was worth a dollar’. It was hardly a communist or even a socialist state. Yet, such is the power of the illusion and fear that the word ‘communism’ evokes in the US consciousness. It is unfounded, but it is used to great effect by power brokers. It was one of the things that scuttled Bernie Sanders' run for the White House. There are many other key words that evoke the same sorts of reactions from the public.

In closing, we see that there is much to be done. But at the same time, we see that the public across the political and belief spectrums are coming together and rising in our demand for positive change and a more just society. There *will* be very great changes instituted in the years leading up to 2025, and those have started in earnest since the Brexit and Trump victories, for example. It would be helpful to see these sorts of events as victories for the people instead of tragedies or mistakes, and also as vehicles that will ultimately usher in the changes that we seek. The people behind them were visionary in some way, even though we might disagree with aspects of their vision. They sensed a need and/or an opportunity, for whatever it was worth, and the public responded. Their vision might

have strong selfish overtones, they may ultimately be deposed, and they may and probably will do some good, but the galvanizing effect on the majority of the public cannot be denied or underestimated. The point is that such events have served to shake us out of our illusions and have brought issues to the surface in ways that nothing else would have, except for the passage of time. And yes, such events have been divisive. However, in division are also the keys to unity. We are on a quickened timeline here, and the years are clicking by quickly. If we can see Trump, Brexit, Crimea, Duterte, *et al*, in terms of catalysts, then the workings of the various forces that shape our world and our consciousness might begin to make much more sense.

Conflict can both unite and destroy. WWII both first divided and destroyed much of the world order, but it then united the world in the cause of world peace during and after the fact. We see the same sort of dynamic today. That the cause of peace has faltered and been subverted in many cases is true, but under the surface it is still very much there and continually growing in the human heart. Our struggles should unite us, rather than causing derision and divisiveness. Therein is our opportunity, and what we have at present is an opportunity the likes of which we have not seen for a while, little as many people might dislike the agents of change. Derision is misguided and obscures the light of the soul. History has proven as fact time and again the power of the human spirit to arise above difficulties and to excel in peaceful cooperation. As we move into the high point of this year, close out the last yearly cycle and look for the next steps ahead through the next three full moon intervals, may we keep those proofs and truths firmly in mind in a spirit of true cooperative effort and constructive enterprise.

Blessings,
Malvin
8 Mar 17

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, but please do so without charge or alteration.

¹ Zidloch, Erich J., *Towards the Millennium and Beyond*, addendum (1997) ISBN 0646331744

² Bailey Alice A., *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 436

³ Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 36

⁴ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 339

⁵ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 68

⁶ Bailey, *The Light of the Soul*, p. 159, also, "Neptune is the God of reasoning." Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine II*, p. 840. "No man begins to coordinate the buddhic vehicle until he comes under the influence of Neptune...." Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 899

⁷ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 117

⁸ Bailey, *Letters on Occult Meditation*, p. 283

⁹ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 654

¹⁰ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extremism>

¹¹ Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 617

¹² Op cit, and p. 618

¹³ *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 530

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_federal_political_scandals_in_the_United_States

¹⁵ https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/feb/26/robert-mercero-breitbart-war-on-media-steve-bannon-donald-trump-nigel-farage?CMP=oth_b-aplnws_d-1

¹⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5e7qhC5o2M> Max is a trip, but always good value.

¹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=htPeWxpBEOw&t=8s> It's a pretty good synopsis, regardless of media outlet.