

THE PISCES FESTIVAL 2018

1/2 MAR 2018

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Hope has two beautiful daughters: their names are anger and courage. Anger that things are the way they are. Courage to make them the way they ought to be.

St Augustine

Topics (linked to paragraphs):

A symbolic day

Pisces: a short overview

Pluto

Pisces, salvation and spiritual teachers

The full moon and Orcus

Orcus and Neptune in opposition

Marching us off to war?

Our current propaganda

War and 2025?

Scared yet?

The real purpose of Russia-gate

Livin' in the USA

Crises and hope

Heads-up, Australia

And how would that war go?

The world and 2025

Hope for the future

Hope and her two sisters

Greetings Everyone!

A symbolic day: I have to smile sometimes with the way in which events and their symbolism present themselves. Before I get to why, I will start by saying that this letter will appear to resemble more a Scorpio theme as we go along, rather than being about Pisces. But there are a couple of threads common to both signs, and we will have a look at those in due course. To begin, though, and I am not making this story up, we are now in the midst a blast of frigid air from Siberia over the next few days with nighttime temperatures well below freezing, but one would hardly pick it from the weather the other day. That day began bright and warm, with the snow quickly disappearing from the mountain peaks in the distance. I was outside after my morning coffee hanging out some wash, and was suddenly accosted by the sound of a helicopter, growing very loud, and it came into view shortly thereafter directly overhead – too close overhead, to my liking. We live in close proximity to a public park which has a large, open playing field, and the emergency services sometimes utilize it to land helicopters there in order to evacuate emergency medical cases. This has happened several times since I have lived here, and it is always a great occasion for the neighborhood to come out and have a sticky-beak. (I haven't lost my Aussie slang, and I often get confused looks from English-speaking Italians when I use such terms.) Sure enough, the helicopter landed in the park, with the sounds of sirens following quickly in its wake. Once we got the dogs settled down, we took them out for a walk and to join the crowd that was gathering at the park.

Such events are always accompanied by police, fire trucks and ambulances – all the emergency services. The kids love it and are always excited to see it, even though the purpose of it is always somber. It means that someone is in dire straits, and especially dire, because it means that the

hospital here cannot handle the emergency and the person has to be flown to Trento or Verona where there are larger and better-equipped hospitals. But the helicopter was not the only thing that happened that morning. On our way out the door to the park, a huge white hearse passed in front of our building, complete with coffin, going *contromano* (in the wrong direction), followed by a funeral procession. I thought the unfolding scene to be quite bizarre. And then, to top it off, as we were walking toward the park, there was a vintage car rally that was in process, passing by us as we walked. Cars of old passed in front of us, celebrating bygone days. As I reflected on the morning, it became clear that it was a morning perfectly representing Pisces, saying this tongue-in-cheek: The hearse, the emergency patient and the helicopter – death, resurrection and ascension – themes Piscean, all. And there was the theater of it all that accompanied it, with the crowd excited by the spectacle, the passing on of the old, as in the days of Pisces passing out, its days being numbered, the wrong direction death is now taking, and so forth. We live in a society that makes pure theater of what would otherwise be painful events to most people, and we will get to why after we look at the full moon. But, on to Pisces and its meaning for us.

Pisces: a short overview: It is said that the “...duality of Pisces must be studied in relation to its three keynotes which are, Bondage or captivity; Renunciation or detachment and Sacrifice and death.”¹ Pisces is represented to us by a pair of fishes, bound together by a cord. In this case, the cord represents the ‘silver cord’, or *sutratma*, which binds the higher Self and the personality together. It is a sign that represents imprisonment (bondage/captivity), posited for us in the natural 12th house of the zodiac, which among other things speaks of prisons, self-undoing (which can be either positive or negative) institutions, secret enemies, as well as hidden helps and accumulated wisdom. As such, Pisces is a dualistic sign, mutable and watery, with a common emphasis on astralism (water), psychic abilities, fluidity of life and insight, and a sort of nebulous approach to life in general, at least seen from the outside. Neptune is now said to be the ruler of Pisces as the orthodox ruler, although in the past that ruler was Jupiter. The latter is still considered to be the orthodox ruler in esoteric astrology, with Neptune instead focusing the power of the sign rather than ruling it. The focusing power of Neptune applies to mass consciousness and especially to the spiritual path.² This focusing power of Neptune is brought to bear on Pisces primarily through the actions of the little planets that are tied to Neptune gravitationally – Pluto, Orcus, Ixion and Huya, along with several others – although this is not stated in *Esoteric Astrology*,³ with Pluto being the esoteric ruler of Pisces. Pluto’s rulership of Pisces is of particular interest in these days.

Pluto: Pluto’s actions are threefold: Firstly, it is the planet that rules over the house of major separations and of death (Scorpio, the 8th house).⁴ Secondly, its work is done primarily in the realm of the solar plexus chakra, meaning its role is the clarification of desire-mind. And lastly, from its mythology, Pluto is said to be the keeper of a quest object,⁵ i.e., the gift of Pluto is revealed at the end of the trials entailed in a spiritual quest, sometimes called the lesser burning ground, and in other traditions, a pilgrimage. Paraphrasing, Pluto, “...becomes active in the life of the person who is becoming alive in the higher sense, the lower nature passing into the smoke and darkness of Pluto, who governs the lesser burning ground, in order that one may live in truth in the higher land of light.”⁶ That higher land of light is revealed through Neptune once Pluto has done its work, Neptune being equated with pure reason/*buddhi*/intuition.⁷ We see, then, a clear path represented by the relation of Pluto to Neptune. Pluto takes us into the smoke and darkness of our infernal realms, to cleanse and heal us, and in the process to ready us for the light of day, which Neptune represents. Neptune, in this regard, represents the light that comes at the end on an initiatory experience, the result of our ‘dis-illusionment’. Neptune is associated with illusion, dissolution and confusion in modern astrology, but I would posit that Neptune actually represents the clarity that comes as the end result of disillusionment, and that what we see prior to that is Pluto, or one of the other plutinos,⁸ working as an agent of Neptune prior to ‘the dawn of a new day’.

We will be focusing particularly on this process of disillusionment after our look at the full moon. At present, as the Age of Pisces passes out, there is quite a bit in the way of illusion that is being presented to us, in hopes by interested parties of ensuring certain more selfish outcomes. This relates to the bondage/captivity aspect of Pisces. Neptune and Pluto are particularly involved with propaganda in astrology. Neptune is said to give the blinding or deceptive side of negative propaganda, with Pluto acting to subvert what would otherwise be moves by people against the source of the propaganda, thus calling us to act against innocent parties and our own best interests. Such propaganda is meant to bind us to separative ideals, to blind us to ulterior motives, and to motivate us for accepting things we would not accept when normally under the influence of our higher ethics. To be sure, there is good propaganda too, which moves us to help our neighbors and those in need, but there is a particularly pernicious form of it that is especially pronounced at this time. Pisces is related to Scorpio through Pluto, and both signs exhibit their own version of the burning ground in an individual's life.

Pisces, salvation and spiritual teachers: One of the wonderful qualities that comes through Pisces is the renunciation of self in service to others or to a greater need. Pisceans can exhibit great sweetness and care for others, sacrificing much of themselves when they sense the need is great enough. Another side to renunciation is to refute falsehood, to refuse materialistic motivations and to throw one's weight behind a just cause. This often leads to major separations when others do not agree with our motivations. The life of the Piscean who is beginning to respond to the influence of Pluto is hardly one of ease and leisure, as one would see otherwise in the Jupiterian Piscean. Pisces, working with Pluto, becomes a great saving force among the zodiacal family. For these reasons, Pisces is the sign associated with the World Teacher, or World Saviour.⁹ The work of salvation, whether individual or collective, requires the shedding of light into areas of darkness, of raising the human spirit out of its bondage to material concerns, of confronting illusions with facts, of demonstration love instead of glamour or separative feelings, of restoring balance to the physical life, and so forth. A true spiritual teacher always confronts us with our ourselves, challenging us to walk the higher way, which usually means renouncing certain comforts, and the latter in particular involves abandoning those modes of thinking that lull us into a sense of security, but which are false. Such a teacher/mentor will challenge us to look beyond the appearance of things, to see the essence, and then to discriminate what is the greatest good to come from our investigations. With these points in mind, we will leave our consideration of Pisces for this year and turn instead to some rather serious concerns which are confronting us now and into the near future.

The full moon and Orcus: The full moon takes place on 2 Mar 2018 at 00:51 UT (11:51 AM AEDT), 1 Mar, 7:51 PM EST for North and South America. The Moon is conjunct the dwarf planet Orcus in the full moon figure, with the Sun conjunct Neptune. This setup goes along with what we had examined previously regarding Neptune and the plutinos, because Orcus is one of those plutinos. The focus for this full moon is fully upon dispelling illusions and upon making certain that one is firmly upon one's soul path. This applies to both nations and individuals. Orcus could be called 'the drill instructor' of the planets, in that its main function appears to be to enable one to keep one's vows to oneself and others, especially with regard to one's higher ethics. In that sense it can exhibit as extremist tendencies in a chart when it is prominent, i.e., when it appears on one of the angles or is elevated in the chart. On the ascendant, for example, it tends to give prodigious output along one's chosen path, family tragedies early in life, perfectionism regarding one's work, anarchism toward established orders because of perceived offenses against one's own sense of ethics, and so forth. Orcus will also bring these qualities to the focus of this full moon period. As such, it represents an opportunity for people and nations to remind themselves of their true path in life and to get back to essentials in one's life rather than wasting energies.

Orcus entered Virgo a year or so before Neptune entered Pisces in 2011. The two have more or less been in opposition throughout the years since then, off and on. The opposition finished essentially

last year, allowing a one-degree orb. Throughout that period the Middle East had been very restive and information began to emerge about the actions of the CIA, other Western powers, certain Arab nations and Israel in the Arab Spring ‘revolutions’,¹⁰ and thereafter using extremist elements in the Middle East to do their dirty work in Syria in an effort to oust the Assad government. This period includes as well the troubles in Ukraine, which brought Russia to intervene there in 2014 in earnest, and then in Syria along with Iran under invitation in September of 2015. The last time the transit occurred was around 1520, which was the start of the Protestant Reformation, and which also saw the zenith of the Ottoman Empire to its greatest extension, with 1520 seeing the installation of Suleiman the Magnificent as Sultan of the empire. The opposition of Orcus and Neptune this time around saw Erdogan come to power in 2014 and the Turkish coup attempt in July of 2016, that many in Turkey feel had the CIA behind it.¹¹ Turkish/US relations have soured considerably since the coup and Turkey has looked east as a result. Erdogan has been called ‘the man who would be Sultan’, which is interesting, given this particular cycle.¹²

Orcus and Neptune in opposition: The point we are getting to in the preceding consideration is this: the opposition of Orcus and Neptune brings clarity as to belief structures, as well as geopolitical shifts. In the last opposition we had the Protestant Reformation, the recognition of the sun as the center of the solar system, drastically changing our view of the place of the earth in the solar system and dealing a blow to the belief in the divine right of kings and the Church. We also had the expedition of Magellan and Elcano, who were the first to circumnavigate the Earth, the Chinese repelled an attempted Portuguese invasion and that period eventually saw the end of the Italian Renaissance. What are we left with this time around? History does repeat itself, meaning that cycles tend to carry certain karmic themes through to their completion, and we have some of the same players in the arena today that we saw then – Europe, China and Turkey, as well as religious differences. The one cog in the wheel of international affairs that was not in play at that time was the United States. So, there is something here that needs to be laid out, and given the current atmosphere in the corporate press, much of what we are about to address would be labeled as conspiratorial, not to mention Russia, Russia, Russia. However, the information about to be put forward is readily available from independent, investigative news sources. I know I will be as a lone voice in the wilderness on some of these matters, but given what is taking place now it is imperative that we really come to understand the events unfolding before us, what they represent, and most especially, what is being misrepresented to us or left completely unreported.

Marching us off to war?: I clearly remember the wars of the last fifty years of American history and the lead-up to most of them, and there are many similarities with what we see taking place in the media and Washington now. The establishment in Washington, which includes the Pentagon, most lawmakers in Congress, much of the intelligence community and many think tanks (another term for lobbyists/donors), is readying the nation – and they hope, their allies – for yet another war. But this one would be more terrible than any we have seen recently. That being said, it would also likely be very short, but also very bloody. We already see the media beginning the efforts at manufacturing consent, painting North Korea, Iran and Russia, and even Venezuela to a lesser extent, especially as rogue states and ‘threats to national security’ (nothing could be further from the truth). We are told to fear a nuclear attack from North Korea, which would be laughable if the rhetoric weren’t so dangerous. We are told Russia has interfered with our elections and that they intend to interfere with the midterm elections, even though the CIA itself with the backing of past administrations has interfered in the elections of over 100 countries in the past decades, and still does – in Honduras,¹³ Thailand¹⁴ and Venezuela,¹⁵ to name a few. There is no shame in our Western media, and the hypocrisy surrounding accusations against Russia is astounding. I hear similar fearmongering about Russia here in Italy and from other European nations.

Our current propaganda: To be more pointed about the propaganda we are being peddled, we are told in the Western corporate media lately that there is a frigid wind blowing out of the cold heart of

Russia – with a frightening spectre in the form of Vladimir Putin – that seeks to undermine our way of life, subvert our democracies, is committing war crimes as we speak in Syria and suppresses the rights of her own people. We are told that Iran is tightening its noose around Israel and that it is the premier state that funds and promotes terrorism in the world, aggressively advancing her interests in neighboring countries. We are told that Kim Jong-un is crazy and that he seeks to lob a nuclear-armed missile into the heartland of America, to obliterate us before we can get him. We are told that Ukrainians want to join the EU, but are prevented from doing so by Russian interference, and that they hate Russia for annexing Crimea. Conversely we are told that Saudi Arabia and Israel are our close allies, that we (meaning the US in particular) are a beneficent and high-minded force for good in the world, that we seek only to liberate the world from tyranny and that the only thing we want is peace and democracy on earth. Yet, for the largest part, none of this is true, at least as far as governments and associated establishments are concerned. We must look beyond the home-grown corporate press of we are to get at the truth. Those readers who have traveled and spent time abroad will already have an idea of this.

Parsing the points in the preceding paragraph, we are told to beware of Russian aggression in Ukraine and that Russia threatens Europe, even though NATO has been expanded right up to Russia's borders. Russia sees this as war posturing by the West. The truth is that many European countries have peaceful trade agreements and relations with Russia. Instead, the US is arming Ukrainian neo-Nazis in order to back an excursion into the Donbass region, where there is a large ethnic Russian population, right on Russia's doorstep. This is very concerning. We were told that the Euromaidan revolution was a people's popular uprising, but information has emerged since that it was a coup orchestrated by oligarchs in Ukraine, far right elements there and foreign intelligence interests.¹⁶ Russia will retaliate against such moves, as would we if the situation were reversed, but we will be told once again about 'Russian aggression'. We are told Iran has ballistic missiles that can reach Europe, even though Iran's missiles are purely defensive, and are there largely as a hedge against Saudi Arabia and Israel. These 'rogue states' that are a 'threat' to US security have too many internal problems to be any real threat to the US militarily, except for maybe China, and Russia to a lesser degree. What they are actually a threat to is US *corporate* interests, not domestic security. The moves toward the economic fusion of Europe and Asia, and to a lesser extent Latin American countries, are the real threat, and that is what the Washington establishment wants to interrupt. That is why we have troops in Syria and Afghanistan, over 800 military bases in 75% of the world's nations, for instance, why we support Israel militarily and why we are in Ukraine. Just sit back and think about it clearly for a moment.

War and 2025?: But why would I say we are being prepared for war? It relates to certain statements and actions that have recently been in the news, and the hawks have a definite timeline in which to act. One of these indicators is the massive increase in the defense budget in the US, to over 700 billion dollars for 2019 alone. Trump has given the Pentagon everything they want and then some. This increase alone represents more than the entire Russian military budget for a year. Supposedly, this is, "...to prevent a bomb going off in Times Square". Trump has been told he will be a wartime President by 'Mad Dog' Mattis.¹⁷ Note these previous two items very carefully. Last year I posed a [rhetorical question](#)¹⁸ regarding the incoming administration, looking at the generals and oligarchs composing Trump's cabinet choices: "For what are we being prepared?" It has come into pretty clear view now. It is also made abundantly clear if we consider the following: If the US is to win a war against China, the current thinking of the RAND Corporation¹⁹ is that China would have parity with the US by 2025, called a 'balance of losses' in [their recent report](#) – an interesting date for readers of Alice Bailey's books. That 'balance of losses' is a nicer way of saying large numbers of deaths and loss of infrastructure on both sides. Confronting Russia would be the first step, because it would isolate China and interrupt the Belt and Road initiative. So, there is not much time to foment some sort of military action, if that is to be. This can be stopped by an aware and

activated populace, which is why I am writing this, but most people in the US remain unaware of what is taking place.

Scared yet?: The propaganda machine is doing its best to try to scare the pants off people, with articles such as Russia's supposed '[doomsday torpedo](#)' that would destroy an entire US coastline and render it uninhabitable for at least a century. It has echoes of [Doctor Strangelove](#), with the Russian doomsday device in that film, which was never actually a thing. The doomsday torpedo is totally unconfirmed, and is probably untrue, but it has great propaganda value. This type of scaremongering is used as justification for building up and modernizing the US nuclear arsenal. This is the kind of madness that has gripped the Washington establishment. And then there is all the Russia-gate nonsense, with the latest installment being the Mueller indictment of 13 Russian troll farm agents, who are said to have had a large impact in getting Trump elected. If you have studied this in any depth, it is quickly revealed to be the farce that it is.²⁰ Keep in mind that this St. Petersburg troll farm that was supposed to have swung the election had no connection with Russian intelligence services, and it is headed by an ex-hot dog vendor, with their entire worldwide budget being just over a million dollars. Plus, well over 75% of the ads that were supposed to have swung the election appeared *after* the election.²¹ And, a big reason for all the posts from that troll farm were blowback from US intelligence involvement in the 2014 coup in Ukraine. We are going to be hearing quite a lot about troll farms, sock puppets, interference in elections via social media and so forth from now and into the immediate future.

The real purpose of Russia-gate: But more and more people, especially Democrats, are starting to believe the anti-Russia narrative because it is endlessly, breathlessly repeated in the media, because they are led to believe it will lead to Trump's removal from office, and because it serves other purposes. There are two main objectives with this troll farm Russia-gate business: to try to oust Trump from office, which is the main story we are told, and the more insidious, which is to drive the nation further and further into a cold war stance with Russia, which in turn supports the bloated military budget. Liberals and Democrats should especially beware of Russia-gate. These accusations about Russian meddling are also being used to cow promising progressive candidates from running in the midterms and in the next presidential election. Unfortunately, left-leaning, progressive attitudes are conflated with Russian influence and 'commies' now, and this is used very effectively as a political tool by conservatives, and now by the Democratic Party establishment.

Having said this, I can understand the desire by many people to want to see Trump out of the White House, given his policies – or lack thereof – and his personality. This ignores the larger picture, though, and plays on people's knee-jerk reactions as well as their very real concerns and criticisms of the man and American government. It is very unlikely that we will see Trump impeached, at least in the short term. And even if he was to be removed from office, what then? Do we suppose that things will be better with a fundamentalist Christian Zionist as president? Given the behavior of Pence at the winter Olympics in Korea and his many statements on foreign policy, it leaves little to the imagination as to how he would act as Trump's replacement. Much of the Russia-gate phenomenon has been put forward not because of supposed collusion between Trump and Russian officials, but because Trump was promoting dialog with Russia (horrors!), even if it was for his own interests, plus the lesser-known fact that he wanted to expose the machinations of the [shadow government](#), and that simply cannot be allowed, to their minds. So, what are we left with?

Livin' in the USA: Like many of you, I have grave concerns for the people of the US, and for the world at large, given the foreign policy posturing of the Washington establishment and US domestic policy. We should be dialoging directly and seriously with Russia on many pressing issues instead of seeing 'Russians under the bed' and pushing further and further into Cold War v. 2.0. We should be de-nuclearizing and scaling back militarization and projection of US force abroad. Trump is not the problem. He is the symptom and result of a very troubled society. We need sensible leadership,

better and enforced gun laws, for instance, public oversight of the police and the Pentagon, a re-think of our economic and health policies, and so forth. But most of all, we need public outrage and action. For those readers who see Trump and Russia as the problem, think again. There were very significant numbers of Americans who did not want more of the same in the White House with a Clinton presidency, could not vote for Bernie Sanders because of Democratic establishment meddling, and did not like what Clinton stood for, which is why Trump got elected, not because of 'Russians'. The average American who voted for Trump, in hopes that he would bring change, in the large have very valid concerns. I am not speaking of the racist, far-right elements who support Trump, but the people instead who would have voted for Bernie Sanders, had he been permitted to run what was the rightful Democratic campaign.

The biggest and true threat to the American way of life is domestic, not foreign. It relates to endemic corruption in American politics, ignorance and apathy among many in the public at large as to what faces them, to the mountainous debt with which we are increasingly saddled, a *lack* of regulation and oversight, climate change (and it *is* real) and so forth. It is these matters upon which we should be focused, not personalities or agents abroad. There is no foreign power that poses an existential threat to the US mainland, despite what we are led to believe about Russia, China, North Korea or Iran. This latter point is also true of Europe. Thus, we have no need for the extreme spending we see on the military. We need that money at home to take care of our own. Our military is stretched far too thin as it is and exists in its present form largely to protect American corporate interests abroad, not domestic security. If anything, our present and proposed military policy erodes domestic security rather than enhancing it. The policy makers in Washington and the associated think tanks live in some sort of dream world that America can remain the world #1 in many ways, not having studied or cared to pay attention to historical precedents, not seeing that the US is headed the way of the Roman Empire toward its fall, not seeing that the world needs to head toward a multi-polar constituency instead of concentration of power in the hands of a few.

Crises and hope: But there is hope. What we are most likely to see in the next few years ahead is a crisis, outwardly manifested (we are already fully in that crisis subjectively) that will result in the multipolar world, not dominated by the United States or by any other world power. That would probably manifest either by natural disaster, or in Ukraine, Lebanon, Venezuela or in Syria. Syria/Lebanon is the more likely stage. A false flag operation has already happened, with more in the making.²² And then there is another possible scenario unfolding, with Syrian government troops coming face-to-face with Turkish troops (the Turks being there illegally) in Afrin, which could in theory be used by NATO allies to invoke [Article 5](#) of the NATO charter, if the Syrian forces are forced to fire on 'defensive' Turkish forces. And as for astrological indicators, we may see something in Lebanon toward the end of this year and into the next, with a provocation in the coming months as Saturn makes its retrograde station on the Lebanese Sun and Mars meets it there at the first of April. And Ukraine is under a heavy Saturnian influence at the moment by solar arc. But then, Israel is facing some big problems from now and into the next few years, too, and will face some significant turning points in its history, with solar arcs of Saturn and then Pluto to its ascendant and then to its meridian. It does not resemble anything like an Israeli victory. Instead, it looks like a complete re-think of its policies. China and Russia, on the other hand, look to be fairly well positioned astrologically over the next couple of years.

China and Russia have been listed in the latest defense directives as '[revisionist powers](#)'. Yes, they are potentially disruptive, but only to US commercial interests. The US is most worried about China, not so much about Russia, although it is a big concern. China, though, holds a [trump card](#) (small 't') when it comes to Washington's threats. We don't have the space to address it here, but the linked article explains it. It would lead to a collapse of the US dollar as the world reserve currency, which would undoubtedly lead to a military confrontation (economic wars lead to hot wars, as the thinking goes). There is also another hand that could be played by China, in that she is

the source of and controls certain rare earth metals that are essential to advanced US military hardware. Turn off that supply in the event of a major conflict, and the use of advanced military hardware by the US would come to a swift halt. No cruise missiles, for instance, advanced guidance systems, new computers – no cheap iPhones – whoops. Pressuring and threatening China is not exactly the smartest strategic move in the world. And then, with respect to China, how many readers have heard of [the Quad](#)? Australians should be paying attention. Malcolm Turnbull's recent trip to the US was not simply to have tea and say hello. Turnbull is looking to give away a big chunk of the retirement savings of Aussies toward Trump's infrastructure plans for the US, but there is something more at work there than simple cozying up to Washington.

Heads-up, Australia: Trump's nomination of Admiral [Harry Harris](#) as US Ambassador to Australia is no small thing, and should give Australians reason to be very concerned and watchful of what the government is up to, and this applies as well to the American and British governments. The government in Canberra can still be dismissed by the Governor General if it doesn't toe a certain line, as Australia is still a constitutional monarchy, and as we saw with the [dismissal of the Whitlam government](#). Harry Harris is a hard-liner with regard to China and North Korea. Australia is leaning further and further toward China in its trade relations, and this goes against Washington policy of 'containment' of China. This appointment, if Harris is confirmed, may mean nothing. However, if a conflict with China arises in the South China Sea, Australians will be called upon for support, meaning troops. As an example of what can happen, Marshall Green, the US ambassador to Australia during the Whitlam years, had a history of being appointed ambassador to countries where coups quickly occurred thereafter. He was appointed a year after Whitlam took office, and left his post just after the dismissal. Funny about that. The CIA had a big part to play in the dismissal of Whitlam.

It will be very interesting to see what, if anything, happens with Australia starting in mid-April, when Saturn makes its retrograde station within orb of the Australian Sun just after Australia's Saturn return, and transiting Uranus is within orb of the inaugural chart ascendant. There is also a solar arc of Mars to the Australian sun that comes within orb at that time, and the Sun rules the 4th house of the inaugural chart (domestic affairs, opposition parties and to authority in general, land disputes, etc.). The aforementioned combination will be more combust at the end of this year. I would be interested to hear what other Australian astrologers have to say on that one. I would say there would be a definite change in public mood around those periods, to say the least.

And how would that war go?: Will we see a war, then? Maybe, but it would not go well for the US, or for other countries in the West if they are involved. If military experience in Afghanistan (the 'graveyard of empires') has proven anything, it is that even with a large invasion force – if for instance we directly went to war with Iran – it would be unwinnable in the long term, would bankrupt the country and would cause untold suffering, on all sides.²³ A war with Iran or even in Syria again or in Lebanon would once again flood Europe with refugees, further alienating European allies, destabilizing the EU and producing yet more extremist elements both in Europe and in the region. Where else would refugees go? Why do we suppose far right parties have emerged in Europe in recent years? There appears to be a vacuum of common sense in Washington with talk of war, or insanity. Maybe there is both. There is certainly a great amount of ignorance in evidence.

If all this sounds dark, it can be and is in many ways, but it need not be. From what is emerging, the world is moving relatively quickly away from the economic model that has caused much of our distress, the neoliberal economic model put in place during the Reagan/Thatcher years and further ensconced by Clinton and Blair. This had its start when Nixon took the US off the gold standard and floated the US dollar as a fiat currency, making the US a debt-based economy. It was very seductive and gave the illusion of prosperity for a time, but it is now being shown to be the wealth

grab for the few that it is. It is the direct cause of the massive redistribution of wealth into the hands of the few, the concentration of power that results from that, and largely by conservative forces, and has contributed much to the corruption that we see in governments worldwide. America's [credit card debt](#) alone is staggering, at just over 900 billion dollars as people seek to pay for things they would not otherwise be able to afford. Couple that with the national debt, which is also public debt, and every household in the US is saddled with a debt of approximately 100,000 dollars. And Congress no longer cares about balancing the budget. The present system has to come crashing down at some point. Europeans face similar problems, having bought into the same model, but with exceptions. The EU is headed for some soul-searching in the middle of this year and into the years to come, and this may well be precipitated by what happens in the [Italian elections](#) next month, especially if there is a sharp turn toward right-wing, Euro-skeptic parties there.

The world and 2025: It is said in the Bailey material²⁴ that the World Teacher, getting back to Piscean themes, will not likely reappear in the religious sphere. Given the preceding discussion, this is not difficult to see. We are also told that the next great world religion will come out of Russia.²⁵ So, why are we in the West so concerned about Russia? We are not told when these events will take place, except that they are associated with the Aquarian Age, gradually to come in over the next decades and centuries. We are also told that "...in 2025 the date in all probability will be set for the *first stage* of the externalisation of the Hierarchy. The present cycle (from now until that date) is called technically "The Stage of the Forerunner".²⁶ I have heard many times from some people who think the World Teacher is to come again around 2025, but it is more likely than not to be centuries before the actual event takes place,²⁷ once the last vestiges of the Piscean Age have passed. There is still far too much to do in preparation. What this means is that we have to save ourselves from ourselves in the meantime. And indeed, 'salvation' only comes after we have made the requisite effort. There is much to consider in all the preceding points, but perhaps it can be summarized and a sense of direction forward be indicated in a couple of quotes. Firstly:

The inner structure of the World Federation of Nations will eventually be...well organised, with its outer form taking rapid shape by 2025. Do not infer from this that we shall have...a complete community of nations. Not so rapidly does nature move; but the concept and the idea will be universally recognised, *universally desired, and generally worked for*, and when these conditions exist nothing can stop the appearance of the ultimate physical form for that cycle.²⁸

And then:

The world situation is eloquent today of the fact that possession and the multiplication of material goods constitute a handicap and are not indications that humanity has found the true road to happiness. The lesson is being learnt very rapidly and the revolt in the direction of simplicity is also rapidly gaining ground. The spirit of which commercialism is the indication [a Piscean holdover] is doomed, though not yet ended. This spirit of possession and the aggressive taking of that which is desired has proven widely inclusive and distinguishes the attitude of nations and of races as well as individuals. Aggression in order to possess has been the keynote of our civilisation during the past fifteen hundred years.²⁹ [This is passing out with the passing of the Piscean Age]

Hope for the future: Perhaps we can see that these themes and social currents will take some time to work out, probably not in our lifetimes, but that we are rapidly headed in that direction, in terms of social (generational) cycles. As we pass between the two astrological ages of Pisces and Aquarius, what we are seeing in reality is the dying of an old order, of which many of the the rich, commercialized societies represent, that Pisces has represented, as well as what the religious

conflicts we are seeing also indicate. The cycles of the Ages move almost imperceptibly to our limited human consciousness, but they do move and they are having their effects. People sense that there is an emerging 'new world order', but the idea is clouded with much in the way of negative thinking at present and is met with great conspiratorial fervor on the part of conservatives. It is also subverted by other factions to try to institute some form of overarching commercial order and centralized economic control. The emerging world order, instead, will be based on the recognition of mutual need and universal sharing. This is not some utopian idea. Instead it will be based initially in certain crises that will force that recognition on us by necessity. We see this, for instance, in the earth changes taking place, the changing weather patterns, the gross economic inequalities that confront us, and so forth. So, to be clear, no one nation or group is meant to have control of everything. It goes against the principle that 'God is love' and thus the natural order of things. The age of the superpowers (which is also a Piscean manifestation) is being brought to its rightful end. And we are seeing this happen before our eyes. And if China, for instance, becomes a superpower, it will meet a fate similar to that of the Soviet Union, Great Britain in the past and which the US now also faces.

Hope and her two sisters: Yes, the powers that be are seeking to take us to war again, but we are more aware now, and the world has changed significantly in the past decades. Gone are the days when the nations of Europe and smaller nations elsewhere walked in lock-step to the directives of the superpowers. It still happens at times, but nations are beginning to reclaim their sovereignty, and that will become more and more a part of the emerging world order. Europe is being shaken and tested in that regard and the nations there are starting to balk at Brussels and Washington, and rightly so. They want to preserve their cultures and they don't like being dictated to. And as for the media, when we hear lines such as 'protecting democracy' or 'promoting democracy', 'protecting human rights', 'defending America's interests' (or some other country's interests), 'protecting our allies', 'defeating terrorism', 'countering weapons of mass destruction' and so forth as pretexts for military intervention somewhere, these are simply propaganda terms used to justify the projection of force abroad in order to bring some 'wayward state' or group into line. The war in Iraq was a good example, and we heard many of those themes then. We are hearing them now in relation to Syria, Ukraine and North Korea. We live at a very dangerous juncture now, and to avert a major disaster our governments in the West, Israel and many Arab states must be brought to heel. Only we, the people, can do that. Prayer and meditation helps, but the two sisters of hope – our sense of righteous indignation and courage – are the ones that must be rallied within the average citizen of every nation if we are to see real change. Only that will really win the day for us.

Blessings (Really!),
Malvin
26 Feb 2018
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These letters are sent as a service. If you wish to be added to the mailing list let me know. Feel free to pass these on, but please do so without charge or alteration.

¹ Bailey, Alice A, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 116

² Ibid, p. 130

³ This is my own theory, one I have investigated thoroughly in recent years.

⁴ *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 510

⁵ From the myth, Orpheus and Euridice: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pluto_\(mythology\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pluto_(mythology))

⁶ *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 79

⁷ Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 899

⁸ Plutino: a small, Pluto-like body. In this case I use the term to represent a planetary body that has a 2:3 orbital resonance with Neptune. For every two orbits of the plutino, Neptune makes three complete orbits of the sun.

⁹ *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 118

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- ¹⁰ <https://www.globalresearch.ca/the-arab-spring-made-in-the-usa/5484950>
- ¹¹ <http://www.moonofalabama.org/2016/07/index.html> There is extensive discussion of the attempted coup and its ramifications on that blog.
- ¹² <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cult-of-man-who-would-be-sultan-m3c8r3xnw>
- ¹³ https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-us-role-in-the-honduras-coup-and-subsequent-violence_us_5766c7ebe4b0092652d7a138
- ¹⁴ <https://journal-neo.org/2018/02/21/confirmed-us-meddling-in-thailands-upcoming-elections/>
- ¹⁵ <https://www.telesurvtv.net/english/analysis/Tracking-US-Intervention-in-Venezuela-Since-2002-20151117-0045.html>
- ¹⁶ <https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2017/12/31/trump-now-arming-ukrainian-neo-nazi-regime-expect-russia-retaliate-escalate.html>
- ¹⁷ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/can-jim-mattis-check-an-impulsive-president-and-still-retain-his-trust/2018/02/07/289297a2-0814-11e8-8777-2a059f168dd2_story.html?utm_term=.176471a17214
- ¹⁸ Pg. 5
- ¹⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RAND_Corporation
- ²⁰ <http://davidstockmanscontracorner.com/muellers-comic-book-indictment-how-to-prosecute-a-great-big-nothingburger/>
- ²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ49XNEIHdY>
- ²² <http://www.moonofalabama.org/2018/02/syria-new-chemical-weapons-fake-planned-chlorine-though-will-not-do.html>
- ²³ <https://consortiumnews.com/2018/02/22/time-to-admit-the-afghan-war-is-nonsense/>
- ²⁴ The books of Alice A. Bailey, Lucis Publishing Co., https://www.lucistrust.org/books/alice_bailey_books
- ²⁵ Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 61
- ²⁶ Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 531
- ²⁷ Ibid, p. 472
- ²⁸ Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 178
- ²⁹ Bailey, *Education in the New Age*, p. 122