

## THE WESAK FESTIVAL 2017

10 MAY 2017

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“Everyone can declare war on his own ignorance. Such a war is honorable; it is a guarantee of achievement and a service to his nation.”

Supermundane 625

Greetings Everyone!

I was recently on the Adriatic coast during the period from Liberation Day (a national holiday in Italy) through the May Day holiday period. I was there during the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Artevento degli Aquiloni,<sup>1</sup> an international celebration of kites, which has been an annual pilgrimage for many Italians and overseas guests for all those years. There were participants from every populated continent, as diverse as one could imagine. This year there were people from Australia, Russia, Great Britain, France, Nigeria, Italy (of course), to name a few and I even saw a small Tibetan contingent. There was recently a similar event hosted at Semaphore in South Australia and I recognized many of the kites there that I have seen in past years in Cervia. It is a celebration of art, of wind, sea and sand, of common humanity, diverse cultures and plenty of good food. There were school groups that attended with little kids sporting hand-made kite t-shirts and families out for a long weekend enjoying the beach and the sights, all eyes cast toward the heavens. Dreams and visions carried on the winds. And on May Day, I was fortunate enough to be able to watch the sunrise at the dawn of the new day, although at the time I was not too happy at being awakened at that hour by our Taurean dog who had to go outside. But as a few people have noted to me, we have perhaps seen a new day dawn in world affairs in recent months, and the Taurus interval this year brings many thoughts to light with regard to what is about to transpire in this period of history.

Taurus is one of the more powerful signs of the zodiac. In esoteric astrology it is said to transmit the first ray anyway (will or power). Its esoteric ruler, Vulcan, although currently deemed to be hypothetical, is one of the transmitters of that Ray. Taurus is said to transmit ‘the Light of the Path’ – our vision of the way forward spiritually and essentially – and in understanding what that path is or the way forward, we get a real sense of what a lifetime under the rulership of Taurus really means, especially if one’s sun or rising sign is Taurus. As was mentioned in the last letter, Taurus is one of the three catalytic signs of the zodiac, the other two being Aries and Capricorn, and anyone who has Taurus strongly placed in their chart can tell you that life certainly does carry one or two transformative surprises. It has been called “the sign of the major life incentive,”<sup>2</sup> because Taurus represents desire in all its phases, from the basest of physical urges, the highest of spiritual aspiration, or driven by a strong sense of divine purpose. And often, all these phases can manifest in the Taurus individual at one point or another, and often simultaneously.

We are perhaps all familiar with the phrase ‘bull in the china shop’. When driven solely by material desires and impulses, Taurus can manifest as one of the more destructive signs, as the Taurean will rush around blindly (meaning, in spiritual blindness) in pursuit of that which they desire, causing havoc sometimes in their relationships with loved ones or peers. It is said that the primary question every Taurean type should constantly ask themselves is, paraphrasing: Is my life geared toward the fulfilment of some personal desire for material comfort, or am I seeking to be of service to the greater divine purpose, as much as I can ascertain it, and anchor that divine light in the world?”<sup>3</sup> Taurus is an earth sign, and as such its major sphere of activity is ‘here on the ground’, as it were. In other words, its major sphere of work is to manifest its most significant spiritual attributes in everyday life on the physical plane – to influence thought to such an extent that great and needed changes manifest in outer world affairs. But, as we know from any school of esoteric thought, change comes ‘from the top down’, in other words, by influencing the thoughts of people, by first realizing the divine within ourselves and reorganizing our own minds to fit with that divine light.

We have a unique opportunity presented to us with Taurus through its two rulers, Venus and Vulcan. Venus rules the ajna center (chakra) in our subtle anatomy,<sup>4</sup> the center between the eyebrows, which is connected with the pituitary body. The pituitary secretes a host of hormones and has been called ‘the master gland’ because its secretions control many other endocrine glands, but one of the primary ones is human growth hormone – a very suggestive name, considering esoteric symbolism. Primarily, the pituitary hormonal secretions serve to keep the body integrated and functioning smoothly. During the first years of our life, they promote our growth and govern the timing and extent of our physical development. Afterward, they perform the maintenance function which keeps us running smoothly.

Esoterically, the ajna center governs the integration of the personality. Now, here we are not talking about what is called the ‘third eye’. The third eye is the organ of spiritual perception, is synthetic, and is formed through spiritual attainments by uniting the three major centers in the head – at the base of the skull (alta major), ajna and crown center, the latter being the 1000-petaled lotus at the top of the head. Venus, in a collective sense, governs our integration into society as a whole, first through our familial relations, our sexual relations and social relations. So, Venus has a very close relation to our growth from the purely individual through to the collective via how we relate to people and our environment. But more than that, Venus governs the relationship between our personal self and our higher Self and the intercourse between the two.

With Vulcan, we get a different dynamic. Vulcan rules the crown center.<sup>5</sup> Vulcan stands symbolically for the higher Self, the ‘inner spiritual man’.<sup>6</sup> Vulcan was the god of the forge, who fashioned the beautiful instruments used by the gods. He “goes down into the depths [of material existence] to find the material upon which to expend his innate art and to fashion that which is beautiful and useful.”<sup>7</sup> In our early soul history Vulcan is unknown to us, working away quietly behind the scenes and occasionally forging a fundamental change of mind for us from time to time through experiences that shatter our illusions and align us more fully with a sense of greater purpose. Eventually, though, when we are awake enough through Vulcan’s actions, we are more or less enough aligned with our soul that there is a seamless connection between the functioning of Venus and Vulcan. Then, the spiritual eye – the third eye – becomes coordinated and is functioning. This happens when there is a clear channel of light between the crown and ajna centers.<sup>8</sup> We then see things clear. Our ‘eye is single, and full of light’. We see the light of the path clearly, meaning our divine purpose, and nothing stands in the way of its realization except for our occasional personal foibles.

This festival is closely associated with the historical Buddha, Gautama, and with Buddhism in general. Gautama, purportedly a Taurean, taught the world about desire in all its forms and its consequences, as well as the way to extricate ourselves from its clutches. There is a sentence from a Buddhist prayer that perhaps best describes the influence of Vulcan through this sign, and it runs along the lines of: “Bless me to generate uninterruptedly, all day and night in my mindstream, the mind that takes up what is essential to attain buddhahood.” This is where the rulership of Vulcan appears in the continuum of the advanced Taurean mindstream, for it hammers away steadily without cessation on the mind of the Taurean type, to the extent that nothing can stay them from the attainment of their spiritual aims and sense of purpose. Taurus in the long term represents a life that orients one solidly toward a stated objective, that objective being some aspect of their soul that the Taurean is seeking to express. As such, it is one of the signs of the zodiac that speaks of fixation upon objectives, being one of the four fixed signs – Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius – and of those four, Taurus most powerfully exhibits that fixity of purpose.

In summation, Taurus always carries some aspect of the will with it. The Wesak festival is associated with planetary will, or governance, since Wesak in esoteric astrology takes place at the full moon of the Taurus interval each year. True willpower always carries a destructive power with it, because to act with will means that one will invariably encounter obstructions. Willpower is the

unstoppable force that overcomes all obstacles. It is an energy that ‘takes no prisoners’ in people’s personal lives, and when selfishly used, evidences itself as ‘the destroyer of souls’. When spiritually oriented, though, divine willpower is always beneficent, in that it overcomes the obstacles that limit a person’s, or a nation’s, soul expression. Gautama gave us the keys to overcome any obstacle in our lives and gave the roadmap to enlightenment, which was expanded upon by the Christ roughly 500 years later. The philosophy of Buddhism that came out of Gautama’s teaching emphasizes the use of the will in first stilling the chatter of the mind and thereafter systematically removing the obstructions that stand between us and universal consciousness and life.

So, with the Taurus full moon, the Wesak festival each year, we get a clearer vision of the obstacles that stand in the way of our collective progress and thus the changes necessary for us to proceed with greater facility on the Path. Given the events of the past couple of years, especially, we have before us this year a very clear view of the primary cause of world discontent and what must be done to change it. It is true that there are many factors that keep us from seeing the way clear to a planetary society that favors spiritual striving rather than living from paycheck to paycheck, but there is one thing in particular that stands out. Taurus always brings to the forefront some sort of conflict between materialism and spiritual striving.

The primary force that has brought us to our present state of world affairs in the past decades, although there are many, is free market economics. It is a vast subject, really, and open to many interpretations. In itself, it would not be a bad system in a world where everyone thought ethically and sought just distribution and sharing of resources. But such is not the case today, and will not likely be until future centuries. As it is today, free market capitalism is wide open to deceptive practices and manipulation, often to the detriment of at least 90% of the free world’s population. The policies associated with the free market approach to capitalism are what must be radically changed in the near future if we are to see any lasting peace in the world and a return to sovereignty for nations and for individuals. It would be quite useful for everyone to understand more about basic economics, and it is something that should be taught in schools as a required course. Money is energy, and we could all benefit in learning how to use our energies more effectively. We have unwittingly given our energies away or had them taken from us with our current economic system.

Taurus rules the second house of the natural zodiac, which rules among other things banking, the banking sector, personal income, and very importantly, self-esteem. Particularly where men are concerned in our modern culture, much of a man’s self-esteem is tied up in his earning power. One of the first things a man is most-often asked on first meeting him is, “What do you do for a living?” And by this he is often judged in many ways. But this sort of thing affects both sexes. It is more difficult these days for families to make ends meet, and the future is uncertain. There is little in the way of job security. Youth unemployment is high in many countries, and young people of working age increasingly work in a ‘gig culture’ – in short-term jobs with low pay and few benefits if any. ‘Job growth’ tends to be in temporary employment, which generally means no benefits. It is called ‘an adaptable work force’, among other terms. In the US people often have to work sometimes far past retirement age (65) because their pension is insufficient to support them. At the end of their lives people find there is not much to leave their families except for memories (speaking here of middle and lower class people). Retirement years are now a scary prospect for many people, especially where health issues are concerned. It is certainly a different world than what we had in the US after WWII, then with a very affluent and secure future for families. We see the same sorts of things more and more in other Western countries as well. We cannot blame all these changes on free market capitalism and de-regulation, but it has been a large factor at the base of many of the changes we have seen. I and many of you have watched these things evolve over the years.

Free market capitalism is the basis of financial systems known by several names and variants, but the most commonly-used terms are ‘laissez faire economics’, ‘neoliberal economics’, ‘globalism’, ‘Thatcherism’, ‘Reagonomics’, ‘voodoo economics’, ‘trickle-down-economics’, ‘supply side

economics', etc. There are slight differences between these in terms of their application, but they all have certain factors in common: de-regulation of financial markets, less government intervention, fiat currencies, privatization, a move toward free trade agreements and cutting of spending on social programs, among other things. These policies have led to the exact opposite of the gains touted for their implementation and their promised good fortunes for the masses. Instead, what we have seen is a steady and concerted erosion of people's well-being, rights and financial security since the 1970s, economic bubbles and crashes, depressed economic growth and sluggish recovery, the great disparity of wealth between the poor and the very rich, etc. Nowhere is this more evident than in the West, especially in Europe and the US. We have been sold certain myths and been given scare tactics to lead us to accept these policies. The disinformation around them is staggering. Essentially, our economy in the West is run now under what might best be described as a pervasive and massive Ponzi scheme.<sup>9</sup> There is no one person or group behind it, though. It has wide participation and is used to great effect by the few who know how to game the systems. We might list a few of the myths we are told about free market capitalism here, and they are constantly parroted to us:

- There is such a thing as a free market.
- We should leave the markets alone. They will adjust themselves. Less government intervention is the best policy to ensure the efficient functioning of markets.
- Financial markets need to become more efficient.
- If you give more wealth and freedom to the wealthy, they will stimulate growth through investment. In other words, cutting taxes to the rich and corporations stimulates growth.
- Money has no nationality. It is impersonal, as witnessed by trans-national corporations.
- We live in a post-industrial age. Technology and services are the way forward.
- Free market policies help the developing world.
- The US has the highest standard of living in the world.
- Paying CEOs more helps build companies and attracts the best talent to management.
- Companies should be left to their own devices. The owners (stockholders) know what is best for a company and will act accordingly.
- Inflation is bad. Interest rates should be kept as low as possible.
- Stock markets are reliable indicators of economic growth and a country's financial health.
- A central banking system is needed for stability.
- Macroeconomic stability makes the world economy more stable.

As stated before, all the bullet points listed above are false, but they are held before an unknowledgeable public as the only or best way forward by politicians and many economists. And, these points are only a start in understanding a system that has, in the large, failed as an economic system for the 'common man', and which is instead perhaps leading us to a collapse which might be much worse than anything we have seen thus far. We could go into long discourses on any one of these points, but I have found one book that summarizes these things quite succinctly, cited in the endnotes<sup>10</sup> to this letter, and which gives answers to the problems. There are many other books, videos and articles on the subject, to be certain, and it is worth the time to investigate these matters and inform ourselves. However, we can cite a couple of topical events here and begin to expose some of these myths for what they are, starting with growth and stability, and using the US as an example.

Free market economics was supposed to stimulate growth, for example. In fact, it has cut economic growth for families by half since the US went off the gold standard under Nixon and Reagonomics was later introduced. That being said, economics is in part a third ray activity (active intelligence) in its lower aspect,<sup>11</sup> meaning that it can be convoluted, complicated, and open to all sorts of interpretations, depending upon one's source of information and skill at using it – and we should say, manipulation. We are all familiar with the term 'cooking the books' when it comes to economics forecasts and reporting, and governments are notorious for giving us their most optimistic forecasts and analyses in order to ensure they meet with the public's approval (meaning that they hope to be re-elected). But the perceptions of people are not false when it comes to their useable income. Just in the

US, in the 1960s the tax rates on the top earners were between 82 – 92% and family income growth for the middle and lower classes was steady at about 2 ½% per annum.<sup>12</sup> This was the ‘golden age’ for Americans, and what Trump had promised to return to Americans. When taxes were reduced by a mere 15%, for the top 5%, family income growth for the middle class and the poor was slashed by 1%. When Reagan cut taxes again by between 25 – 40% (roundly approved by Congress, we might add), the family income growth rate for everyone under the top 5% fell to under 1% per annum, while the family income growth for the top 1% skyrocketed to almost 6%. And the disparity has gotten steadily worse ever since. Family income growth has remained flat and even regressed.

At the same time, and more importantly coinciding with the many tax cuts, we saw deregulation of financial markets<sup>13</sup> and the steady rollback of the Franklin D. Roosevelt financial controls that were put in place during the Great Depression. And then we have an example of what can happen when free market capitalism is corrupted or misused as can be seen in the steep rise in CEO salaries in the US, for example. Up until the ‘70s, the pay of a CEO was about 30 times that of the average company employee.<sup>14</sup> The disparity began to rise during the Reagan years, topping 50 times the average. During the Clinton years, the disparity topped 100 times the average (with the introduction of his ‘3<sup>rd</sup> Way economics’, along with Tony Blair in Britain). The disparity topped 300 times the average during the first Bush term in 2001. It has wavered since then, but the disparity has stayed consistently above 150 times the average. Unsurprisingly, some of the highest-paid CEOs were in the investment and financial services sectors, but perhaps more revealing for Americans is the pharmaceutical sector, which had the highest-paid CEO by far – Valeant Pharmaceuticals – whose CEO ‘earned’ almost 4000 times the average worker’s pay in that company in 2016. Several pharmaceutical companies had similar pay for their CEOs,<sup>15</sup> which brings us to another point.

A combination of factors, such as deregulation, tax cuts, rising costs, lack of competition (monopolization), costly drugs and new technologies, etc., have led to the explosion of the cost of US health care, which is at the root of the strain placed on government spending for programs such as Medicare and Social Security. Health care and Social Security make up half of all government spending in the US, or almost 2 trillion dollars for 2016.<sup>16</sup> This is classed as mandatory federal spending, and it is what the Congress, as a whole, wants to cut. Republicans almost without fail want to cut services, but Democrats are not blameless, either. The problem is, if insurance companies could be regulated, if interstate and international competition were brought to bear on the pharmaceutical companies, if something like single-payer health care were introduced, then there would be no need to cut federal spending on social programs. In fact, there would be plenty to go around – but it would mean abandoning at least part of the free market economic model and re-introducing some of the regulations that we had as a result of the Great Depression. In point of fact, income inequality is higher now than it was just prior to the Great Depression, and if we keep going, it will be at the same rate very shortly as it was during the robber baron era.<sup>17</sup>

Now, in terms of Europe it might be helpful to realize that the current structure of the EU and the Eurozone in particular was formed during the heyday of free market policies, and strongly backed by the US, so those policies are entrenched in EU policies and politics. Europe now faces a potentially devastating banking crisis among many other issues. Hence, we see the current structures under which the economy and social structure of Europe now groan and against which the people of the various countries of Europe are rising. We can call it nationalism if we like, but what we are actually seeing is a move toward greater national and cultural sovereignty, albeit strongly colored at the moment by racism, finger-pointing and blaming, highly separatist thinking and national selfishness.

Under our current conditions, I would fully expect to see, for instance, Marine Le Pen make it to the leadership of France, especially since the transiting Uranus/Eris conjunction is square to the horizons of both the first and the fifth French Republic charts. As in the US and with Brexit, we are looking at a close vote there. If she does become president of France, we would likely see much the

same sort of thing we are seeing in the US and Britain with the public reactions and motivations. But more than that, her election would probably do more to cause a restructuring and re-think of the EU bureaucracy than Brexit has, with the specter of France possibly withdrawing from the EU. A Le Pen presidency might be a good thing in the long run, as horrifying as that might sound to some readers. Macron would represent more of the same as France has had in recent years, in the same vein as Clinton would have done in the US. Europe has been an experiment in free trade and free market capitalism, and that system has produced many of the effects there that it has in the US. One of the main differences between the US and Europe, though, is that Europe is governed by an unelected bureaucracy, and a banking system that looks toward austerity measures to solve problems rather than at creative ways of stimulating growth. This is one of the big reasons why the British government sought to withdraw from the EU.

Given all the preceding points, then, is it any wonder we see people upset and increasingly demanding change of leadership and policy? People now do not really want less government. They want government intervention of a different sort – enough to fix what is broken, but not enough to produce a ‘nanny state’, the latter of which is what we increasingly see in Australia, for instance. It is to the point now that people cannot even own things any longer in the US, from their homes to their cars or even tractors, because of copyright laws,<sup>18</sup> bank fees, genetic engineering, mortgage laws, housing bubbles, etc. It will be the same in much of the rest of the world, too, if policy is allowed to continue as it has. One of the best things Trump has done since he started his term is to ditch the TPP, which would have forced much of US corporate policies onto the countries who signed on to the agreement. Much of these sorts of issues have been a by-product of the free market economy and the litigious nature of US culture. Nature is not a commodity, nor are people. We are all part of the same planetary organism and life. However, we are quickly returning, or are being returned, to a saner sense of values with regard to our respective national policies. People have had enough. With the thoughts of higher values, self-esteem, proper use of wealth, etc., in mind, let’s have a look at the full moon.

The full moon takes place on 10 May 2017 at 20:17 UT (11 May at 6:17 AM AEST). This figure carries a hidden aspect set – hidden to what most astrologers commonly use – in that it contains a quintile kite with the full moon axis as the focal axis. The Moon is at the midpoint of the base of the kite with Jupiter and Saturn forming the outer points of the dish, and the Sun forms the reflective focal point opposite the dish. I haven’t mentioned the Sabian symbols in a while, but the symbol for the Sun is quite suggestive in this figure:

“A finger pointing to a line in an open book.” 21 Taurus

And given all the war drums and propaganda we see in the media now, the lunar symbol is also quite indicative:

“Obeying his conscience, a soldier resists orders.” 21 Scorpio

Before we get into what these symbols might mean, we will finish our look at the figure. Along with the kite, we still have the Uranus/Eris conjunction, this time with Mercury in attendance, the latter trine to Saturn. Pluto is trine the Sun, making an easy opposition of the full moon axis. Mars is square to Neptune, indicative of the heightened rhetoric we are seeing and efforts to manufacture consent toward a war footing, as well as to obfuscate what is really taking place in the US and Europe, especially. That Mars/Neptune square is aided by a quincunx by Jupiter to Neptune and a trine to Mars. More on that in a bit. We also have the Saturn/Ixion conjunction again with Saturn having moved retrograde back to that position.

Returning to the quintile kite and the Sabian symbols, then, and tying all this together, we get the sense that something is definitely afoot in Europe and the US, although we might find it difficult to put a finger on exactly what. What appears on the surface via media reporting is often only partial reporting or purposely skewed opinion. The latter is what we see with regard to reporting by the

corporate media about Iran, Syria and North Korea. It is difficult at times to get at the truth of things, especially given the current media climate. Added to that are the moves of special interests behind the scenes who seek to influence the political forces. Quintiles can carry an explosive or unexpected quality to them, but their purpose is ultimately to release creative force. In this case, we are looking at creative forces aimed at stimulating the collective sense of purpose and effort. This creative force can be used in many ways, some productive, some regressive. Regressive use of this force would most likely result in armed conflicts or perhaps accidents. More productive use of this force would result in initiatives aimed at reducing suffering in the more troubled areas of the planet.

Now that sabers have been rattled toward the three aforementioned countries, what we are more likely to see are very concerted efforts at strong-arm negotiations with them. This is indicated by the Mercury trine to Saturn along with Uranus and Eris. The moves of the US administration are classic Trump if he wants to influence someone, for anyone who has studied his life. It is bluster right now, and we hope that is all that eventuates from it. What is taking place behind the scenes, without much media attention in the US, are Congressional moves to try to dismantle the last vestiges of the Roosevelt and Johnson years – monetary controls and public programs. These are largely driven by Republicans, but they are not alone. In Europe we are seeing the start of Brexit negotiations and the coming election in France, which is likely to be another upset. What these events will likely do is to spur public activism, and also stiffen the resolve and quicken the pace of more material factors in society. Look for increased pressure on lawmakers to push through agendas that are not very popular with the public and more bellicose rhetoric on a variety of issues. Then, there is all this talk of possible wars. Well, the US has been fighting wars in several countries for some time now, but now there is the latest talk of a confrontation with North Korea.

A war with North Korea would not be the smartest move at this point for a variety of reasons.<sup>19</sup> The primary reason given for moving against them is because of fears around their nuclear program, most of which is unfounded. It is unlikely that the North Koreans would use a nuclear first strike against the US or anyone else, as they are fully aware of the consequences if they were to do so. However, a *defensive* use of nuclear weapons by them would almost certainly eventuate if there were to be military moves against them. Their nuclear arsenal is entirely defensive at this point, which has been its whole purpose all along.<sup>20</sup> So, speaking of the myths that we are sold in the media, one of the big ones is that North Korea presents an aggressive threat to the US and its neighbors. For the US to move into North Korea, that would also present a threat to China, similar to what we see now with respect to NATO and Russia. We are at a very perilous position at the moment, with a US administration that has little to no experience with diplomacy and US-Asia relations, that is easily manipulated by the media, and so forth. War makes ratings soar for the media and for presidents, whereas patient diplomacy – statesmanship – doesn't sell subscriptions or papers and is put forward by the media as a president being weak. Plus, we have a US president who also is on shaky ground, is painfully aware of his own ratings and is unpredictable.

These factors just mentioned point back to the quintile kite in the full moon figure and the Sabian symbols for the Sun and the Moon. There is an old play-book that is open now for all to see, with posturing similar to what we had prior to the wars we have seen in the past century, and especially with regard to Iraq. The finger is pointing at 'aggression' by Iran and North Korea and the page in the book gives the prescribed methods for dealing with such provocation. The propaganda machine is in full swing and many people are more or less waiting for 'the event' that will precipitate a conflict. Hopefully that will not eventuate, and the generals in the US and abroad will see better sense. A war with Iran or North Korea would be disastrous for many reasons – the number of lives lost on all sides, the drain on the economies of the participating belligerents, the stability of world markets, etc., not to mention the stability of our social fabric and the fact in all likelihood such wars would be illegally promulgated – not that the latter ever stopped anyone before. As for the US administration, one of Trump's campaign platforms was that we would not be engaging in regime

change under his watch, but it would appear that ratings matter more than promises in his case. The reality is that much more could be done for the economy by avoiding conflict than by engaging it, since the economy was his biggest platform.

North Korea with its posturing reminds me of a little dog, but with very sharp teeth, for those readers who know dogs. A little dog will bark ferociously at other dogs, and the bigger the other dog, the more aggressive the little dog becomes. It is a defense mechanism. The rhetoric of the North Korean regime is meant to rattle other countries and bring them to the bargaining table, and to keep those countries on the defensive. It has worked quite well with respect to the US in the past and has served the purposes of the military contractors and defense industry. What we see now with Trump, North Korea and Iran is pure theater, from what I can see, but it will be of no help to him in the long term, nor does it really serve US or Western interests in the long term – quite the opposite, really. And on the US side, it is easy for members of Congress to clamor for war, when as a point of interest, the great majority of them have never known the horrors of war,<sup>21</sup> As a matter of public record, almost all Republican members of Congress routinely vote for war, and usually between 25 – 30% of Democrats.<sup>22</sup> And all 100 senators were recently summoned to the White House for a briefing on North Korea and the options – most unusual – but which turned out to be more of a photo-op than anything,<sup>23</sup> pointing to the theater aspect of what we see about these world hotspots.

A very large part of corporate interests are involved in some way with the defense sector. Better than half of all US government discretionary expenditure (which is just over a trillion dollars per year ) goes toward defense spending.<sup>24</sup> The US and the UK, too, depend upon the defense industries for employment and financial security. And when we look at where Trump has made proposed cuts in discretionary spending, we see that almost all other sectors have been cut, except for Veterans' Affairs.<sup>25</sup> Trump has proposed a 9% increase in defense spending, modest really, but still at the expense of most all the other agencies funded by discretionary spending. And then we look at the media reporting regarding perceived threats to the US and its interests – well, it's perhaps not difficult to surmise where the US media is seeking to lean the American public and manufacture consent. Conspiracy? Judge for yourself. But, only concerted public pressure will keep us from war. We could go through a long list of warning signs, but even a brief search of internet sources will give the facts as presented by non-corporate, independent reporting.

From what I can see, the more worrying threat to world security at the moment is Israel, with respect to the civil war in Syria. Just a day before the sarin gas incident in Syria, Israel signed a contract with Cyprus and Italy for a deep subsea pipeline to supply natural gas to Europe.<sup>26</sup> Then, we hear reports of Israeli airstrikes inside Syria near Damascus, with perhaps a coming 'red line' for Israeli forces as Assad's forces move south toward the Golan Heights against Daesh with the help of Iranian forces.<sup>27</sup> And then there are increased diplomatic efforts between Israel and some of its Arab neighbors in an effort to counter Iran's increasing influence in the region, witness by a proposed new rail link from Israel through Jordan to Saudi Arabia, as a small example.<sup>28</sup> If something were to happen between Israel and Syria, and it could be pinned on Syria and/or Iran, there would be little doubt as to US responses to such 'provocation'. More conspiracy? We'll see. But to top off the conspiracy pages, Iran, along with Russia, North Korea and China, are the main countries who do not 'play by the rules' of the free market system.

Libya bucked the globalist, free market system, and then Gadhafi's regime was taken out. Iraq was starting to go that way, too, and we know what happened there. There is so much we do not know about these things, as so much is kept secret. But I always found it of great interest that the only Arab state that figures in *Destiny of the Nations*, that is, in the future emerging Aquarian world order, is Turkey.<sup>29</sup> And modern Turkey was set up as a secular state. One would expect secularism to return after the demise of the Erdogan years. But that will be some time into the future. The Aquarian Age is not yet fully upon us. One thing we can probably take from such an omission of the Arab states is that oil will eventually not play a major role in world affairs, which would

relegate the nations of that region which we now hold to be so strategically important as backwaters. Perhaps we can see the evil that is promulgated throughout that region in the name of oil, when we realize that oil is soon to be a thing of the past for the largest part. We are already in the infant stages of that with the development of renewable energy. And Israel is never mentioned as a state, nor as a factor in future world affairs. Nor is it ever mentioned as a holy land or a place of any importance. We should not be troubled by these things, but instead keep pressure on members of Congress and representatives in other countries to seek diplomacy instead of military action. There is so much more we could say, but perhaps we get the idea.

My father used to have a bumper sticker on his car that read “War is not the answer,” which he put there in the lead-up to the Iraq war in 2003. Dad was a proud veteran and served on the front lines in WWII, so he knew the horrors of war. More than that, though, he saw the mishandling of the wars the US was involved with since WWII and what they had produced, which was essentially a lot of suffering and little to no benefit for any populace. He lived through the Depression and saw the Roosevelt years firsthand and what they produced for the country, for which he was indeed proud. He was a die-hard Republican, back when there was dialog between the two major parties, that is, until the Bush years, although he was wavering in his belief in the party before then. He voted for Obama because he saw what the Republican candidates represented. Like so many other Americans, he voted for change then, just as people voted for change with Trump. We have yet to see it, and we watch president after president of both parties swayed from their promises by special interests, the inertia of the state on one hand and the momentum of the war economy on the other hand. Trump is no different. Britain, France and Germany face similar problems, as do other countries.

Roosevelt struck a major blow against materialism in the 1930s when he introduced the legislation that reined in the banks and regulated the economy. He had the support of the people and the Congress then, which enabled him to do it. We see no such wide-based support for such moves in Congress today. However, there is such support among the people, and we see that in the wide support for politicians like Bernie Sanders, who advocates a return to the Roosevelt era economic model, as well as for universal health care. We see similar things rising in Europe, too. The materialists have fought tooth and nail since Roosevelt to overturn every last control he had put in place, very nearly succeeding in overturning everything, with the results speaking for themselves today. There is nothing new here, and we know what to do about our situation in the US. Europe will have slightly different solutions, but we perhaps get the sense that there is sort of a final battle taking place for this world period between materialism and the liberation of humanity in order that we can expand into our spirituality and sense of common purpose in relative peace and security.

We will not see major changes come through this US administration, but it will bring all of our national issues right to the surface for view and resolution. Those changes will come in the next administration. A look at [that chart](#) will readily show it, with Mars and Uranus on the ascendant in the 12<sup>th</sup> house (changes in institutions and a powerful, independent leader) and Pluto on the Midheaven, along with a Jupiter/Saturn conjunction in the tenth house. That is actually quite an interesting and inspiring chart, if election cycles hold true. These next few years will set us up for that, though. Trump has now entered his progressed ‘7 Killing’ phase with his Chinese astrology for the next few months. We see that the agenda he brought into office has already been starkly altered and he would now appear to be towing the establishment line, more or less. The same thing happened to Obama and with presidents before him. Special interests will be pressing him for military intervention in the hotspots, but what we are more likely to see are more stringent sanctions against North Korea and Iran. The one worry is Israel with regard to Syria and a manufactured event which would be aimed at pulling the US into a wider conflict in Syria. There is something brewing there, but we do not have the space to go into it here.

Suffice it to say that we, the public, have to keep the pressure on our governments, our media and our financial institutions from now through the intervening years. It is the only way we will see the

changes we want. Steady, applied pressure and effort is the way of progress in anything – any sort of lasting progress. Discipline (regulation) builds wealth, material and spiritual. It is one of the things at which Taurus excels and one of its great gifts. It requires clear vision, self-control and a real sense of purpose. We are beginning to find that sense of purpose again. Our privations have brought us to this point. A comfortable public will never rally for change. The other gift/lesson of Taurus is that real self-esteem comes not from material things, but rather from ‘the things of heaven’. Which do we esteem more – our material accomplishments or our inner sense of well-being, the latter of which comes only from the soul? Every time Taurus is active, either by month, progression or birth, such questions are always brought to our attention. The people we hold in highest esteem are those people who have true strength of character. They have arrived at that most often by the hard knocks of life and by overcoming those. We need to exemplify that character ourselves and to invoke and elect leaders who exemplify it as well, rather than electing characters. May this Wesak festival find you well, and may purpose, not desire, be our guiding light – and may our thoughts take to the wind and inspire others to look heavenward.

Blessings,

Malvin

3 May 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. Feel free to pass these along, but please do so without charge or alteration.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.festivalinternazionaleaquilone.com/> (Translate the page if you don't speak Italian)

<sup>2</sup> Bailey, Alice A., *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 370

<sup>3</sup> Op cit, p. 375

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 517

<sup>5</sup> Op cit.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 384

<sup>7</sup> Op cit, p. 385/6

<sup>8</sup> This refers to the first tenuous completion of the antahkarana, or ‘rainbow bridge’, with which Vulcan is intimately involved in constructing.

<sup>9</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponzi\\_scheme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ponzi_scheme)

<sup>10</sup> Ha-Joon Chang, *23 Things They Don't Tell You about Capitalism*, (2011) Bloomsbury Press; 1st edition. If you do a search you can download it as a PDF. It is about 80 pages, and easy and entertaining read, but full of good, factual common sense.

<sup>11</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 411

<sup>12</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supply-side\\_economics#/media/File:Annual\\_growth\\_in\\_family\\_income\\_vs\\_tax\\_rate.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supply-side_economics#/media/File:Annual_growth_in_family_income_vs_tax_rate.png)

<sup>13</sup> <http://cepr.net/documents/publications/dereg-timeline-2009-07.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive\\_compensation\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_compensation_in_the_United_States)

<sup>15</sup> <http://archives.aflcio.org/Corporate-Watch/Paywatch-2016/100-Highest-Paid-CEOs#>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/budget-basics/federal-budget-101/spending/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://web.stanford.edu/~chadj/facts.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> The Digital Millennium Copyright Act: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital\\_Millennium\\_Copyright\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Millennium_Copyright_Act)

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.activistpost.com/2017/04/war-north-korea-probably-look-like.html>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKhhUPV1NUo&t=3s> starting at 6:10, but the whole video is worth a look.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.aei.org/publication/veterans-in-the-115th-congress/>

<sup>22</sup> For example: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq\\_Resolution#United\\_States\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_Resolution#United_States_House_of_Representatives)

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com/white-house-briefing-on-north-korea-sounded-like-it-was-a-disorganized-mess-2017-4?IR=T>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.nationalpriorities.org/budget-basics/federal-budget-101/spending/>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/politics/ct-trump-budget-cuts-glance-20170315-story.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/78ff60ca-184c-11e7-a53d-df09f373be87>

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.786074>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/world/2017/04/05/israel-proposes-freight-rail-link-to-jordan-saudi-arabia/>

<sup>29</sup> Page 67 of that book.