

# THE VIRGO FESTIVAL 2017

6 SEP 17

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The mother can lay the first foundations for the investigation of psychic energy; even up to birth of the child, the mother will take note of the whole routine of life and of feeding. The character of the future man is already defined in the mother's womb.

AUM 552<sup>1</sup>

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Greetings Friends!

I trust that all went well with the eclipse in the US and that all of our American friends got to see it, or at least some aspect of it. I'm sure that a few of you managed to make it to the path of totality. (Boy, *there's* a statement if you think about it!) Lucky you! I watched a video of it, since I am in Italy now. The eclipse took place after sunset here. I would have traveled to see it had I been in the US. The video was quite good until the actual totality, when a man in the background began yelling, "The aliens are here to take us away!" and other words to that effect, over and over. There always seems to be one in every crowd. I have seen a few total eclipses before, the last one being in Shigatse, Tibet in 2009. They are magical events, and are especially potent if one can spend the time in silence and meditation. And, if they fall on planets or angles in one's chart, they can also indicate the coming of life-changing circumstances, dependent upon what they contact in the chart and the nature of the activating planets afterward.

**Eclipse Effects for Individuals:** For those of you who have Uranus on or opposite the eclipse point (people born between late '61 – late '63, 2002 – 2003 or even 1918 – 1920), this has likely been a period of rapid and sudden change, given the Martian influence and subsequent activations of this eclipse, which will continue over the next weeks, and I have already had contact with a couple of people who have reported such. If so, it is in the nature of a needed change and a move toward greater freedom of expression. And for the generation who has Pluto at the late degrees of Leo/very early Virgo (1955 – 1959), this could be a real mixed bag – either a deepening of wisdom or the end of situations that need to end – a gain in wisdom certainly. Anger levels should be closely monitored over the next couple of weeks. The same for the Uranian people. For those people born between 2010 – 2013, or in the late 1920s, if you are still with us, this eclipse would have likely

fallen across from or on your Neptune, which can indicate problems with health, but it can also indicate visions and profound spiritual experiences, noting these especially if your Neptune is in Virgo, which brings us to the topic of this letter – the full moon of the Virgo interval for this year. We will get to that very shortly.

**The Eclipse and the Bigger Picture:** In the interim, starting with the US and what we are seeing with this eclipse, we have just seen the catastrophic and deadly [hurricane Harvey](#) in Texas, which will cause problems for Texans and the US for some time into the future. Harvey made landfall when Pluto was elevated and square to the horizon of the event, with Jupiter on the horizon in the 7<sup>th</sup> house square to Pluto and conjunct the Moon, indicating the massive amounts of water we saw dumped on Texas. Ceres was in the 4<sup>th</sup> house of the event chart, opposite Pluto and also square to Jupiter and the horizon. Not to make a bad pun or to be insensitive, but Harvey will likely prove to be a watershed event as time passes. This is a time that calls on the nation's soul for healing. We also saw the pardon of ex-sheriff Joe Arpaio by Trump as Harvey approached landfall, which is causing a storm of its own, along with reports of the administration trying to scuttle the nuclear deal with Iran, the racial unrest in Charlottesville, VA, the rising concern over extremism in the US – and this is with regard to right-wing extremists and left-wing anarchists – and people rapidly distancing themselves from Trump and his policies. All of this ties in with Virgo in a curious sort of fashion, which we will examine later. There is one thing to remember with regard to the total eclipse and the US, though: It is more about the American people than it is about Trump, and what has been and will be activated as a result of Mars passing over the eclipse point in a few days.

In addition, turning to the wider world, There are also the countries other than the US affected by this eclipse, which included North Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Israel. When we looked at the forecast for the Cancer – Virgo quarter for the year we saw that it would be very combustible, with Mars and Mercury out-of-bounds, amounting to fiery rhetoric and stronger than usual violent events. In that vein, we had the slinging match between Trump and Kim Jong-un with fears of a nuclear war (don't expect one), terrible flooding and mudslides in India (for which Harvey pales in comparison in terms of the destruction and disruption of lives and casualties), Bangladesh, Southeast Asia and Nepal, riots over the conviction of the 'Guru of bling' in India and his sentence to 20 years in prison, Trump's aggravating of tensions between India, China and Pakistan with his Afghanistan policy rollout, two powerful earthquakes in China and the Ischia quake in Italy, the latter three all with fatalities and extensive damage. And there have been stronger than usual terrorist events worldwide.

**Ceres and the Next Quarter:** On 2 July Ceres passed Mars and the Sun in declination on its way out-of-bounds, and as Mars came back in bounds. Ceres goes back in-bounds on 19 September, just before the Libra ingress. In mundane astrology I often see Ceres as an indicator of turning points, and it has certainly been a season for such, especially with regard to the US. However, the coming quarter will be calmer, and will be given over to investigations (Mercury square to Saturn), calling people to account (Mars conjunct Orcus), efforts to try to swing the populace to accept some otherwise unpalatable policies (Mars/Orcus opposite Neptune) and the like. Ceres (the Roman equivalent of the Greek's Demeter) is a Pluto-like world, and although she does have much to do with nurturing and the mother aspect in astrology, she also has a sterner side when the divine feminine is offended in some way. She, like Virgo, is depicted holding sheaves of wheat. She was a goddess of agriculture and nurturing, and is tied in with the mythology of Pluto. Ceres is very closely associated with Virgo through the mother aspect, though, and given that is the case, let's have a look at Virgo.

**Virgo's Symbolism:** Virgo's symbol is the Virgin, and as such it is a sign that has many religious and spiritual connotations. As the virgin, the sign is associated with what we might term 'virginal essence', or purity in other words. It is a very ancient sign, having been with us since before all the

others,<sup>2</sup> and she has gone through several transformations through the ages as we have come to know her. The Egyptians, Sumerians, Hebrews and Greeks all universally recognized her. To the Chinese, Virgo was their Green Dragon, marked by the star Spica ( $\alpha$  Virginis), denoting the start of their first lunar mansion, The Horn. There is far too much to go into here, but we can highlight some very pertinent and interesting aspects of this sign, much of which is misunderstood in popular astrology.

**A Journey into the Stars:** The [region of Virgo](#) in the sky is quite interesting, especially if one delves into the history of the naming of the constellations. There are three main modern constellations in the region – Virgo, Leo and Coma Berenices. It is this latter constellation that is of particular interest to us as regards this letter and esoteric astrology in general. Coma Berenices means “Berenice’s hair”, Berenice having been a queen of Egypt. The area of the sky now called that constellation has been alluded to for the past two millennia by various sources, sometimes as a separate constellation, sometimes as a part of Virgo.<sup>3</sup> It is the latter that is of particular interest to us. It was finally named and outlined in its current state – separated off from ‘mother Virgo’ – by Tycho Brahe in 1602, which in itself is quite significant. Virgo has been associated with the Christ child for millennia, although ‘Christ child’ has been a Christian appellation, largely by the Catholic Church. However, even before that, the asterism we now know as Coma Berenices has been associated with the birth of divine beings, and with the creation of humanity. In the Egyptian and Sumerian zodiacs Coma was known *Shes-nu* and as *Ninmah*, respectively. *Shes-nu* means ‘the desired son’ and *Ninmah* means ‘the exalted lady’. The Hebrews recognized the asterism, too, and called it *Comah* – ‘the desired’, or ‘the longed-for’. Given the latter, it is not difficult to imagine that Coma as our modern constellation is a mistranslation and/or corruption of *Comah*. So, the one longed-for in ancient traditions becomes tresses of hair in our modern world, which Berenice cuts off from her head as she promised upon her husband’s safe return from battle, after which they are stolen by the gods to be placed in space as a constellation.<sup>4</sup>

Coma occupies an area of the sky just behind the lion’s tail of Leo and is composed largely of faint 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> magnitude stars. The three main stars ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  Comae) comprise the seat upon which the blessed mother sits. In modern astronomy these three represent the support for the tresses of Berenice. The asterism that represents the longed-for child is composed of faint star clusters and galactic clusters, including the Coma galactic supercluster and also including the galaxies M53, 58, 91, 98 and 100. Even though it is a dim area of the sky, the potency of the area is extreme, though distant, which again is significant. Because the area is distant and faint, it puts us in mind of something longed-for and obscure, but approaching our understanding nonetheless, and since Tycho Brahe named the constellation of Coma, we have come to understand that area of the sky quite well. A number of supernovae have been noted in the asterism, which might well have been cast as ‘the star in the east’ in ancient days, or as an indicator of ‘the coming one’ in various traditions. The fact of Coma being separated from Virgo, though, represents something in terms of human evolution. The child is no longer a part of and bonded to the mother, but instead has gained independence. And with respect to the clusters that make up the child, they can also represent the head from which the tresses flow, thus indicating our mental development since Coma’s naming.

**Virgo, Science and Human Development:** 1602 in Europe was at the beginning of the Scientific Revolution, which would soon end the rule of the Church over people’s lives to a large degree and instead promote individual thought and development, which is continuing today. It is worth noting, too, that this was the very start of the waxing of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ray into manifestation,<sup>5</sup> the Ray of love/wisdom. In 1575, too, there was a marked shift in the sensitivity of humanity, rendering the control of the personality much quicker as a result of mental stimulation. Humanity began to grow in wisdom as a whole at that point, and devotion to religion and to personalities began to wane rapidly after that, with the start of the rapid passing out of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ray in 1625.<sup>6</sup> The interval of ‘cycles of interest’ by the guides of the human race was changed from every thousand years to

every 300 years, starting in 1575.<sup>7</sup> The next cycle was in 1875, when Helena Blavatsky and Theosophy appeared on the scene.

The esoteric motto of Virgo is, “I am the Mother and the Child, I God, I matter am.”<sup>8</sup> Given the preceding points, this is not difficult to see. The Catholic Church goes along with this thinking, saying that Jesus was conceived by Mary, who was pure of heart – in other words, incorruptible, of the purest *virginal*, spiritual essence. This says nothing of and is in reality a contradiction of the Protestant idea of Jesus being born to Mary through some sort of miraculous divine intervention, without the agency of a father/partner/husband. But, such are the urban legends that we are brought up believing. We could see this sort of thing in another manner and say that ‘the one longed-for’ is conceived in and nurtured through attention to the incorruptible essence of the spirit, moving upon the face of the mother’s waters. The mother attends to this with the greatest of care and interest, as any loving mother would. Why else would we say that a mother-to-be is ‘expecting’?

**Comah and the Planets:** It is of interest to note that none of the major planets pass through Coma (We might want to call it *Comah* now, and reincorporate it with Virgo). However, there are several dwarf trans-Neptunian planets that do, most notably Pluto, Eris and Ixion. Symbolically, these three planets represent the age-old story that the one longed-for is typically not recognized by the societies into which they are born (the latter represented by the orbits of the major planets), upsetting the established status quo and introducing conflict until a new order is established, sowing discontent with the established order among the members of the populace who are awake enough to recognize that the chosen one has indeed arrived. Pluto breaks the waters and induces the birth, as well as ending the old order in time. Eris throws the golden apple of wisdom in amongst the masses once the child has grown to adulthood, and Ixion represents the discontent with the established order. The orbits of the new planets and the constellations through which they pass is a revealing study in and of itself, one in which I have engaged for several years now. This is but one example of the same.

So, the Virgo interval each year reminds us of that which should remain pure and uncorrupted in our daily lives. It reminds us of our divine essence, which we are (or probably should be) nurturing on a moment-by-moment basis. Virgo is renowned for its attention to detail. Is there a single facet of a child’s life that escapes a mother’s notice in the early days of a child’s development? The mother attends to every aspect of the child’s development, represented for us in the mythology of Eve, Isis and Mary, respectively the mind, emotions and physical manifestation, or body. Virgo stands for the synthesis of all three.<sup>9</sup> The rulers of Virgo are Mercury, the Moon and Jupiter.<sup>10</sup> The Moon in this case stands for the planet Vulcan, an esoteric planet, which governs over the fashioning of the form necessary for the proper and full expression of the spiritual qualities we are meant to manifest through our lives. Mercury represents the fluid mental nature, the Moon represents the desired outcome of the life and the hammering away at achieving that goal and Jupiter represents the expansion outward into experience, looking ‘from the top downward’, and looking at it quite simplistically. Jupiter, in reality, represents the expansive nature of love – true love, not sentimental love – being the purveyor of the synthetic Ray of our solar system, which is love itself. Who loves us more than our mothers? In that regard, there is one more point to add before we look at the full moon.

**Virgo and Our Mothers in Buddhism:** There is a line in a [Buddhist prayer](#) that has a close connection with Virgo, which reads as follows:

Seeing that, just as I have fallen into the ocean of cyclic existence, so too have all transmigrating beings who have been my mothers, I ask blessing to develop the supreme thought of enlightenment which takes on the burden of liberating transmigrating beings.

This might seem to be a strange statement, given that we do not think of insects and other animals as being our mothers, for instance, but there are several points about the quote to realize or remember. During the period of gestation in the womb we go through all the stages of the lower kingdoms in nature during the development of the embryo and fetus. And in Buddhism, there are six classes of transmigrating beings, or beings that are born or arise from life to life in various types of forms, from ‘hell beings’, pretas, animals, humans, and demigods, all the way to gods. And we embody all of these at once as human beings. Hence, the preciousness of human life and our ability to gain in experience and service to all the classes of transmigrating beings. If we realize, too, that time to the soul is not linear, but instead is kaleidoscopic (spiral-cyclic, yet eternally ‘in the moment’)<sup>11</sup>, not only can we see our history as souls, but also our prehistory in the lower kingdoms. We encompass all those types of consciousness. We have all been through hellish experiences, periods of the most intense unfulfilled desire, our bodies are in reality animals, our souls are demigods and as the divine spark or essence, we are gods. As humans we are all of these at once, and can experience any of these at any time we like or need, depending on our development and our karma. Past lives can be re-experienced if need be, as well as possible futures.

**Time, Past Lives and the Eternal Moment:** Let’s say for instance that our soul history stretches back by a very conservative guess of around 18 million years in linear time. For the majority of people reading this, the time factor is probably considerably longer than that. Given that, we have to ask ourselves: What is the true significance of a single human life? I mean, what does a single human life mean in the larger scheme of time, or of things? It is literally true that a single life is probably less than a blink of an eye for the soul. And in the period between lives we experience lives as demigods, or as hell beings or pretas in the purgatorial realms.

As an astrologer, I often get asked, “What can you see about my past lives in the chart?” The truthful answer from any astrologer should probably be: not a whole heck of a lot. What we *can* see, if we are cognizant, are the tendencies from the immediate past that affect us now, both for good and ill, and where that should contribute to or possibly hinder one’s progress as life goes on. We can see where we left off the last life in the Moon and the lunar nodes, what we have to work on now in the Sun and the associated sign/aspects/house, etc., and where we should be headed in the ascendant and by association, in growth through the houses. To focus on past lives is really pointless unless there is a particularly troublesome aspect of the past that holds us back. But, looking at past lives is a fascination with many people, not realizing that being able to live in the ‘eternal moment’ (as a soul) is the aim. It is probably the better part of wisdom not to care about the past, but instead to focus on the present life and what we want to build for in the future. Unless the astrologer can accurately read the soul’s records, using the natal chart as a sort of seed or starting point – which requires an extraordinary level of development – one cannot read the soul’s records through a single natal chart. What we have instead is a sort of generalized statement about the past that influences us in the present.

It is true that all lives are like the days in the life of the soul. Most of them pass by without any major incident. There are but few that are lives of real importance. It is like going to school in a way. Virgo excels at detailed study, we might add. We study a subject for days on end, and periodically in the class we have exams. The drudgery of study day after day begins to wear until we realize that exams are upon us, at which point the coffee flows along with the late night cramming, and we devote all of our attention and worry toward passing that exam, whereas all we really had to do was to pay attention all along and apply what we learned each day. And then we move on to the next course of study once the crisis of the exam is done. But these studies prepare us for our real work in the world at the end our coursework – those lives wherein we are of real influence in the lives of people, after we have passed through the portal of initiation. Prior to that we pass through many minor initiations through our exams, wherein we are tested as to our knowledge, strength of character and wisdom gained through experience. And through all of this,

the Great Mother nourishes, strengthens and cares for our development, providing just the right environment for our experiences as we go along.

So, to finish our little journey with Virgo, we have with that sign the eternal Mother – the matter by which we are nourished, the loving care with which the soul molds our experiences through material existence, the great attention to detail that should characterize our every step along the Way and most importantly, the realization of the service we can render in any given moment in response to the presented need. Virgo has been rightly called ‘the workhorse of the zodiac’ for these very reasons. It is one of the great service signs, along with Pisces and Aquarius. No one works harder for us than our mothers, all being well (and not to sideline fathers, but that is another sign and story), and we would be hard-pressed to find anyone who would love us more unconditionally, especially for all the grief we give them. But then, are we not all ‘the mother and the son’, speaking symbolically, the embodiment of Virgo itself, nurturing the thing most longed-for with any of us – the bliss, peace and rest of full enlightenment, and the eternal path before us of the supreme joy of helping all others who are still bound to the wheel of rebirth? When our passion becomes our work, our labor ceases and we feel only liberation. With that, what do we see with the full moon?

**The Full Moon:** The full moon takes place on 6 Sep 17 at 7:03 UT (3:03 PM AEST). It will have Neptune in attendance with the Moon, with the full moon axis being across the 14<sup>th</sup> degree of the Virgo/Pisces axis. Mars will have just passed the ‘American eclipse’ point, having brought about probably the most major events of that eclipse. It’s like the song line, “The first cut is the deepest.”<sup>12</sup> Pluto makes an easy opposition of the full moon axis and what we will see as an impulse with this full moon is an emphasis upon healing. Both Pluto and Virgo emphasize healing, and we could all certainly use that energy at the moment. Pluto in Capricorn brings about a re-evaluation of all things plutocratic – big money, autocratic power bases, monopolistic tendencies, US presidents, etc. And we have recently heard of huge stores of mineral wealth (which Pluto also rules) having been discovered in two of the most troubled areas of the world: Afghanistan<sup>13</sup> and North Korea. We are talking a trillion dollars-worth in each place, so it is small wonder that we are hearing of increased troop levels in Afghanistan and rumblings of war with North Korea. More on those points in a bit.

As for fixed stars, the Sun is conjunct the longitude of Mizar/Alcor (“the waistband”, in the tail of the Great Bear)<sup>14</sup> while the Moon is conjunct the longitude of Achernar (“the end of the river” Eridanus).<sup>15</sup> The Mizar/Alcor pair is an interesting combination. ‘Alcor’ means ‘the forgotten one’ or ‘the neglected one’. It is a very dim star by eyesight and we can somewhat draw parallels with Coma on that point. The emphasis with Mizar/Alcor is upon something that has passed and receded, however, whereas the emphasis with Coma is with something expected. But Alcor was also known to the Hindus as a virtuous lady, the loyal wife of the Rishi which we now know as Mizar. To the Arabs, Alcor was an infant carried by one of the mourners in a funeral procession. So, there are parallels here also between Coma and the Mizar/Alcor pair. Whether the Sun/Mizar/Alcor will represent mourning or virtue, we will have to wait and see, but the allusion to the ‘forgotten one’ with Alcor might indicate the coming forward of someone who has been forgotten from the past, but who is important to present circumstance and could bring resolution of difficulties.

Mercury is conjunct Mars in the full moon figure, both of which are trine to Uranus. Mercury also makes its direct station on the day of the full moon, after which communications, travel and technology will begin to sort themselves out again. We can also expect to see some communications coming out regarding the areas of the globe affected by the August eclipses (see the [Sirius letter](#)). We also have a sextile between Jupiter and Saturn, the latter of which has just turned direct in the past days, and that will aid all processes of building for the future, business and legal affairs. On the whole, this full moon will be a clarifying one, with the emphasis upon re-establishing good relations, righting wrongs, making certain that affairs are conducted in a just manner and that the

souls of people and nations have better avenues of expression through individuals and leaders. And this brings us to the current state of global affairs, especially with regards to the US, seeing as the eclipse just happened across that land. Since so much is happening so quickly in the US, we need to take a look at a few things, and especially since this past eclipse has been so heavily investigated with regard to Trump.

**The Changing Story of Trump:** This is a painful time for the [Trump administration](#), with transiting Saturn squaring the administration's Chiron from the 8<sup>th</sup> house. They have highlighted many of the nation's old wounds and called them up for healing, not that they intended it that way. In point of fact, Trump has poured salt in those wounds. But, there is a transformation taking place in the White House. Whether it means a death (8<sup>th</sup> house) or not, we will have to wait and see. We can expect an event in that regard (transformation, that is) when Saturn passes the square to the administration's Mars (17 – 31 Oct), which co-rules the 7<sup>th</sup> house (litigations and legal matters, as well as open conflicts) and the 12<sup>th</sup> house (institutions – which include hospitals and prisons – hidden enemies, self-undoing, and also accumulated wisdom). Karma will come home to roost. Will this mean an imminent demise for Trump? Don't look for it, at least not yet, unless there is some sort of health issue which takes its toll on him, which is a possibility given his age and the aspects. For all who will celebrate when Trump is gone, though, it might be a helpful word of advice to be careful what one wishes for. This administration is being moved toward the center from the far right now, has neocons firmly in place and at the ears of administration officials, and toward a more globalist agenda, which Mike Pence represents. And if people think that Trump is racist, sexist and so on, Mike Pence represents another manifestation of that, perhaps more chilling, because his is clothed in 'Christian' beliefs. For the most part, Trump is a-religious.

Why do I not see an imminent demise for Trump's administration, one might ask? Firstly, astrology should not be seen as a tool for proscribing outcomes. Just because things look bad in terms of aspects, progressions, etc., that does not mean a particular outcome is guaranteed. There are many other factors at work with the administration besides the man himself and right now he is useful to many within the Washington Beltway. Trump is being aided at the moment by trines of Jupiter and Uranus until mid-October. Any chart needs to be seen within the context of the larger picture, too. Trump's chart has already been exhaustively covered by many astrologers. But the thing that gets left out of discussions are his connections with foreign governments, his support of the military/industrial complex, his playing to his voter base, etc. The Pentagon is running US foreign policy now,<sup>16</sup> and that sits very nicely with career politicians of both parties, because it supports their lobbyists, the biggest one of which is the defense industry. For that very reason, do not expect Trump to be removed from office, at least until after midterms, if things keep going as they are. Something else in the extreme would have to happen to ensure that.

Be that as it may, Trump is facing a difficult period. With transiting Saturn having been on his Moon opposite his Sun, he has been feeling alone, set upon at all angles, raging against perceived injustices and unappreciated. It is a classic for this type of transit. This period started to take hold with the 7 Killing progressed period with his day pillar (Chinese astrology), which lasted from April through June, thereafter to have Saturn in its current position. With transiting Mars about to cross his ascendant and Mars, which are activated by the last eclipse, we could see a health crisis, since he appears to be disinclined to face himself, and also because his 'health axis' (6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> houses) is activated by Saturn. Or, something could come to light around his financial affairs in the next quarter, which would probably prompt him to resign, as much to protect his family as himself. With the administration Uranus in the 12<sup>th</sup> (hidden matters) squaring Pluto (ruling the house of litigation) in the 9<sup>th</sup> (the judiciary), there is a surprise coming, especially since the eclipse was on the administration's south node – something from the past coming to light. And then there are other matters to take into account.

**The Future for the US?:** I am reminded of a quote in the Bailey books about the US that has been playing through my mind since Trump's pardon of Joe Arpaio, especially with the tepid, almost lack of response by Republicans on the matter, along with a similar lack of reactions on the right political wing to the violence we recently saw in Charlottesville:

...there is—*fortunately* for the soul of this great people—much suffering in store for the United States.<sup>17</sup>

So, for those who might be looking on aghast at what we see happening in the US, things could be much worse than they are now, and this would especially be the case if the Republicans gain a supermajority in the Senate at the midterm elections at the end of next year – something that is entirely possible, given the corporate focus of the Democrats and their disconnect with their traditional voter base, many of whom are now or have been Trump supporters. I can see a clear path to it, and unless people wake up and get progressive people into seats of power, the prophesy cited above will come true in a short amount of time. This is not to be alarmist, but instead it is in the nature of stating the obvious. There is a clear strategy with this administration and the Republican-dominated Congress, and it is aimed at gaining that supermajority in the Senate at the midterms. The strategy is to keep the Trump voter base stirred up, the nation distracted by Trump and disasters of many types, “God, gays and guns” at the forefront of less-aware people's minds and the voter base divided. And the more good people are sucked into this sort of thing, the more successful the strategy becomes. To be reactive instead of proactive plays into the negative memes flying around through all sorts of media right now. I can see similar tactics used in countries like Australia and the UK, too. But on the other side, perhaps we need the Republican supermajority and the Trump presidency to wake us up to what is really good and true within the country and the world at large. I am reminded also of this, in case the meaner scenario manifests itself:

...Let your eyes therefore look straight on. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left. The path leads upward and on to greater rapidity of vibration and to greater sensitiveness. Seek the point of balance in your work and keep that balance, for the years hold much work, much pressure and much suffering. Are you strong enough to see the world's woe, to see disaster and yet keep joyful? Can you be a partner in the work of furthering the evolution of the [human] race and see *the necessity for trouble and for discipline* and yet not move to stem the tide of sorrow?<sup>18</sup>

**Immigrants, Anyone?:** Trump pardoned Arpaio with transiting Mars squaring Trump's Midheaven and the ascendant of the event squaring his Saturn, also with Saturn making its direct station partile on his Moon.<sup>19</sup> It was a fateful decision on his part, and it will have repercussions for him later on, in that it will serve as a catalyst for actions that will likely undermine him at some point. It was a slap in the face to the largest part of the American public, especially to the immigrant community. It was especially a thumb of the nose at progressives. But here is a thing: If one is not of aboriginal heritage – and this applies for Australia, too – one is descended from people who were very likely at one time or another ‘the wretched, criminal refuse that is destroying the country’, or was at one time or another. Let's see, Germans, Italians, Romanians, Irish, Chinese, Jews, Japanese, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Koreans, Vietnamese – need we go on? All of these nationalities were at one time or another vilified in the US and in other countries where they immigrated, “taking American jobs, bringing crime and disease into the country”, lazy, not fitting in, so on and so forth. I can remember this with the Vietnamese in particular after the Vietnam war. But we don't hear anything about the Vietnamese now, do we, at least not nearly to the extent that we did? The Vietnamese have integrated quite well into American society. Personally, I quite enjoy all the diversity. But the pardon of Arpaio brings this old animosity up fully in the face of the public. What are we to do about it? Will we and the lawmakers let it slide?

**Racial Purity, Anyone?:** And then there was Charlottesville. I find it quite amusing that there are

many white supremacists/nationalists who are taking DNA tests now in an effort to prove their 'whiteness' or 'racial purity'. Only, they very often find that they have the DNA of other races intermingled, and African in particular, which only goes to prove that we are one humanity. Of course, they try to explain these 'aberrations' away by saying the tests are flawed, or some other spurious argument. And there are many blacks in the US who do the same, in their case being more about curiosity to see their countries of ancestry, only to find that they have a significant portion of European and other blood. We won't go into why that would be the case, which is fairly obvious. But the fact is, the races are always evolving, intermixing, and it is the same with cultures. This brings us back to Virgo again, in that there is no such thing as 'racial purity'. It is a myth and a throwback. And, it might be useful for any racial purist to remember a word that would have to go along with 'racial purity' these days: inbreeding.

'Purebreds' are often inbred, unless there is a very large stock from which to choose. And these days, that is mighty hard to find. Any dog or cat benefactor would be familiar with this concept, as pure breeds often have very specific genetically inherited problems due to inbreeding by disreputable breeders. And how do we think races evolve? Certainly not through 'purity'. It is through intermixing and adaptation to environment. For this reason, countries like the US and Australia will be the typical eventual birthing grounds for the next installment of the human race, because they are societies that have large immigrant populations. This will be true of Europe into the future, too, with large black and Middle Eastern migrations there in recent years. Racism needs to die the ignoble, quick death it deserves, and at the same time it would be helpful for nationalists to put the shoe on the other foot, and to remember what their ancestors endured.

**Monumental Errors, Anyone?:** And all this talk of Confederate monuments in the US goes along with the last few paragraphs. I hear people say that they should stay in place to remind us of our history. People do not want constant reminders of some painful and regrettable part of their history constantly in their faces. The Confederacy was against the founding principles of the nation and for the enslavement of fellow human beings. The monuments were not erected for remembrance of history, but instead to 'keep the blacks in their place', going along with the implementation of Jim Crow laws.<sup>20</sup> As a European resident now, I can tell you we don't have statues of 'Il Duce' in villages and city squares in Italy, nor do the Germans have monuments to WWII Nazi figures. The people want to move on and heal. In fact, such monuments, insignias and the like are illegal in Germany. If one is foolish enough to give a Nazi salute in Germany, as one inebriated American recently did, one is just as likely to get beat up by a German citizen. And if the police catch someone giving the salute, the fine is 600 euros, or somewhere in the neighborhood. It is a pretty good incentive to be respectful. Perhaps we need something like that in the US, or perhaps we can all simply learn to appreciate each other and get along instead, without monuments.

There are two big issues The US has to eventually resolve for itself, and those are race relations and relations between labor and capital. It is said that the climax of the fight between labor and capital will take place in the US, and to a lesser extent in France, Britain and the Commonwealth.<sup>21</sup> We see those problems coming to a head before our eyes, and capital is exemplified in the current US administration, thus producing a reaction in the working populace, with a call to better relations and a more just distribution of wealth by the people and labor. We see this also with the mega-churches in the US, for instance, and with the pastors of those churches being a sort of equivalent to 'the 1%' of the financial elites. The labor movement is worldwide and "...is probably the group which will place goodwill in the forefront of human thinking – upon a pinnacle of thought."<sup>22</sup> And in the interim, the US also needs to resolve the extreme rightward swing on the US Congress. There is no true 'left' there any longer. Only lone members of Congress such as Bernie Sanders truly represent anything resembling a progressive agenda. There are a few others. But, until this is cleaned up there will be no respite from the corporatist agenda in Congress, nor from a perpetual bias toward war in the US. Enough about the US, though. What about the rest of the world and the eclipse activations?

**The Larger World Picture:** In the Leo letter we saw Israel, Qatar, Ukraine, the EEC, Iran, Russia, the US and North Korea were all affected by this last eclipse. And a good time is being had by all? To keep this very short, the US is at odds in a big way with both Iran and North Korea. China and Russia have a peace plan for the Korean situation, which is backed by Germany, and which is flatly rejected by the US.<sup>23</sup> The Trump administration is trying to concoct some reason to pull out of the nuclear deal with Iran, while the Europeans and Russia are urging Iran to stay in it.<sup>24</sup> Iraq v2.0, anyone? If it comes to pass, the US is most likely to be isolated in its stance against Iran. Both Iran and North Korea are behaving predictably to the US moves, with typical defiance. The US is talking of sending ‘lethal weaponry’ to Ukraine, in defiance of Russian and European concerns.<sup>25</sup> There has also been talk of sending in Blackwater mercenaries to ‘take care of’ the situation in Afghanistan, which up to this point has been rejected, and which would also be a disaster.<sup>26</sup> And little Qatar is holding her own, being pushed into the waiting arms of the Iranians and the Chinese as the crisis in the region unfolds.

Right now the US has 11,000 troops in Afghanistan,<sup>27</sup> more than has been previously admitted, with Trump planning to send more, in what is now its longest war, and which shows no signs of ending. The Pentagon wants bases there as a hedge against Iran, sandwiching Iran between Iraq and Afghanistan, as a means to disrupt the Chinese New Silk Road project and to keep US hegemony in the region, for which Israel and Saudi Arabia are constantly lobbying the US Congress and administrations. All this adds up to one very important realization: The US is isolating herself more and more, overextending herself likewise, facing lower and lower morale, astronomical debt and low tide in support for the policies of the past, just as Great Britain did in the 1800s and up to the World War. All empires have ended thus. We are looking at the end of empire in the near future for the US and some very deep soul-searching for the American people and the world at large, and this will be a great blessing. Hopefully suffering can be kept to a minimum as this takes place.

Virgo reminds us every year to hold true to our higher values, to focus on what is of true importance, which is the love we share, and to nurture those qualities which will enable us to realize our greater service to the world. It is a sign that speaks of goodwill, of care for others, the care and nurturing of women and children, as well as humanity in general, and so much more that we take for granted. Citing a previous quote, let us keep our focus upward in these times, looking not to the right or the left, and building toward that greater sensitivity which will become a catalyst for the eventual salvation of our world from the problems that we currently face. We do so in courage, in steadfast resolve and in unity with the souls of all like-minded people. Nothing can forestall the coming age of peace that awaits us, except for our own inattention and lack of care. Enjoy the coming months and let us all find joy in the simple sharing of our lives together.

Blessings,

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31 Aug 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 this along to others, but please do so without alteration or charge.

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<sup>1</sup> Roerich, Helena, *AUM*, the Agni Yoga Society

<sup>2</sup> Esoteric Astrology, p.255

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/Constellations/ComaBerenices.html>

<sup>4</sup> Nickel, James, *Lift up Your Eyes on High: Understanding the Stars*, p.28 (1999) Christian Liberty Press

<sup>5</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p.26

<sup>6</sup> Op cit

<sup>7</sup> Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age II*, p. 335

<sup>8</sup> A Treatise on White Magic p. 441

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- <sup>9</sup> Esoteric astrology p. 253
- <sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 68
- <sup>11</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 36
- <sup>12</sup> Song originally by Cat Stevens (1965). Best known by Rod Stewart (1977) and Sheryl Crow (2003).
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2GaURn9OYA> and  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/14/world/asia/14minerals.html>
- <sup>14</sup> <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Alcor.html>
- <sup>15</sup> <http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Achernar.html>
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV9xhY1fngc> starting at 6:00.
- <sup>17</sup> *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 429
- <sup>18</sup> *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 349
- <sup>19</sup> Time cited in a tweet by Trump: <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/08/trump-pardon-arpaio/537729/>
- <sup>20</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim\\_Crow\\_laws](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Crow_laws)
- <sup>21</sup> Bailey, *Problems of Humanity*, pp. 26, 27
- <sup>22</sup> Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 647
- <sup>23</sup> <http://theduran.com/korea-crisis-germany-sides-china-russia-backs-china-peace-plan/>
- <sup>24</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/28/iran-nuclear-deal-violations-white-house-search-intelligence>
- <sup>25</sup> <http://www.globalresearch.ca/mattis-in-kiev-us-may-arm-ukraine-with-lethal-weapons/5605814>
- <sup>26</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/452253d2-7b8b-11e7-9108-edda0bcbc9288>
- <sup>27</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/30/world/asia/afghanistan-troop-totals.html?mcubz=1>