

THE WESAK FESTIVAL 2018

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Happy Liberation Day, Everyone!

Or, Happy Anzac Day, if you are Australian or Kiwi. As it so happens, liberation is a theme that is always to the fore with the Taurus interval every year. Liberation Day is a public holiday in Italy, a day that celebrates Italy's liberation by the US and Britain from Nazi occupation during WWII. It is a nation that is known in particular for its art, and which will wax in importance as the decades pass. More on that point later. Here in Italy we love our opera. I have seen a couple of them live since I have been here. The most recent one was a Puccini opera, *Madama Butterfly*, performed at our recently renovated Teatro Zandonai here in Rovereto. If you don't know the story of *Madama*, it is set initially as a love story between an American sailor and a Japanese girl of 15 in 1904, which includes among other things, a marriage of convenience, abandonment, a child, longing desire, betrayal and a tragic ending. What more could one want from a dramatic opera? We do love our dramas and tragic endings, it would seem, as long as those do not involve us. If you don't know the opera, I won't give the full story away. *Madama* was played here to a packed house, and at the fall of the curtain at the final act there quite a few handkerchiefs out among the audience and a long round of applause. The music, performers and scenery were excellent, and it was a very welcome treat after all the recent news of the world. The world has been quite a dramatic place since the start of last month, somewhat in the vein of an opera, but with the hopes that we will not see tragic endings to our dramas.

Are we living in interesting times?: To say it has been an 'interesting' quarter thus far, especially since the last full moon, would be a bit of an understatement. The [Mountain Dog year](#)¹ has held true to its nature thus far, with dramatic shifts in international relations upon us, with restiveness as indicated by the Sun/Mars square in the Aries ingress figure for this year, greatly soured relations between the West and Russia, revelations about the ongoing [Skripal](#)² spy drama, a [missile strike](#)³ on Syria based upon dubious reasons, attempts at regime change in [Nicaragua](#)⁴ and [Armenia](#)^{5,6} with riots in those nations, [riots in France](#)⁷ over Macron's labor reforms (and they aren't about [Nutella](#)⁸), a [tragic fire](#)⁹ in Kemerovo Russia – and these are just a few highlights, not to make light of anything. I have articles on a few of those linked items on my site, so we need not address them here. On top of that, we are currently in a solar minimum, which is keeping other more fiery planetary influences at a commensurate minimum, thank goodness. And there are also hopeful signs, which we will get to. But, we are not going to focus on restive events here, except as

sidelines. Instead, there is another, more far-reaching influence we will consider, and that involves our current topic, Taurus, along with another planet which will bring its influence in the coming years, and which we will examine later in this letter. So, on Taurus, its influences and what that will mean for us in the immediate years ahead.

Taureans are known for their determined, plodding temperament. The sign is ruled in the orthodox by Venus, which gives a very pleasant speaking voice and appearance. Taurus rules the throat and associated glands and regions, including the base of the skull, known to esotericists as the [alta major](#)¹⁰ center (chakra). The throat, energetically, is associated with creating space, or for entering space-like meditative states. Its primary emphasis is upon the creative mind. The throat rules breathing and the myriad uses of the breath. Taurus is thus associated with creativity through these factors and with the pursuit of beauty and comfortable living. Thus, we begin to get an idea of the importance of this sign in terms of spirituality. In its lower aspects, Taureans are known for their ‘bull in the China shop’ mentality, rushing to and fro, causing upset wherever they go, and doing damage, mostly to themselves, in the process. Taurus is associated with great passion, is known as one of the great lovers of the zodiac through its Venusian rulership, and for its earthiness. It is an earth sign, after all, along with Virgo and Capricorn. And these latter aspects point toward why it is known as one of the catalytic signs, along with Aries and Capricorn.¹¹ It is said to open the door to the Kingdom of Souls through the first two initiations,¹² which are associated with the overcoming of the physical and desire natures, to the extent that they are the controlling factors in one’s life.

The natural tendency for Taureans is to immerse themselves in worldly concerns and pursuits. Taurus governs the 2nd house of the natural zodiac, which is associated with banking and finance. That will become important later on in this piece. Eventually, though, Taureans get to the point where all that chasing after what one desires is so wearing that they turn their focus inward, realizing that temporal concerns only ultimately lead to dissatisfaction and bring no lasting sense of peace. That brings us to the association of Taurus with Buddhism, and specifically with Gautama, the Buddha, who was said to have been born in this most powerful of signs. Wesak is the celebration of the birth of Gautama, also known as Shakyamuni. Taurus is said to transmit ‘the penetrating Light of the Path’,¹³ which points to Taurus’ particular connection with Buddhism as a philosophy, which expounds the steady, graded steps toward enlightenment – plodding toward enlightenment, if you will.

Taurus and Buddhism: Buddhist texts speak much of desire and suffering, desire being the central theme of Taurean life in its earlier manifestations. The root of all suffering is said to be desire, which leads to realization of the [four noble truths](#):¹⁴ suffering, the root of suffering, the cessation of suffering, and the path that leads to the cessation of suffering. This is the fundamental teaching of Buddhism – ‘Buddhism 101’, if you will. In the last Noble Truth, we have the manifestation of Taurus as Light on the Path. It might be helpful if we examined what is entailed in this last noble truth, especially in its relation to what we call ‘Western astrology’ with its twelve signs. There is a [prayer](#)¹⁵ in which one of the stanzas describes the path of Taurus quite well, reading, “... bless me to develop uninterruptedly in my mindstream, all day and night, the mind that takes up what is essential to attain buddhahood.” This points to the esoteric ruler of Taurus¹⁶ – Vulcan – the god of the forge, which works uninterruptedly, with steady resolve, forging the new forms with which a person can work, and this includes the ‘equipment’ one needs on the path to enlightenment. Vulcan stands for the soul, and it transmits the 1st ray, of will or power.¹⁷ This also points to why Taurus is seen as being one of the most powerful of the signs, why Taureans can be indomitable when they find their sense of purpose and direction and why they can be such an unsettling influence sometimes in the lives of others, because nothing personal is allowed to ultimately interfere in their progress.

Many readers will be familiar with the *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*, especially as those sutras relate to the unfolding of the higher spiritual powers. It is a fascinating look at what lies ahead for all of us as we progress forward along whatever spiritual path lay ahead of us. The results will be the same, regardless of the path we choose. What may not be realized in looking at those sutras, though, is that they represent the later stages of one's path to enlightenment for the most part. In fact, the *Yoga Sutras* describe *sa lam* in Buddhism, or the *Grounds and Paths* – 10 grounds and 5 paths – in greater detail than what we get from Buddhist texts. I have given a [brief outline](#)¹⁸ from my [book](#)¹⁹ of the grounds and paths as they relate to our concepts of initiations, which is posted on my site. We can only but touch on what those represent here. But given that Buddhism has led millions of people on the Path for millennia, and that many of those people have attained spiritual powers, liberation and enlightenment as a result, it is a worthy study to look at both the *Yoga Sutras* of Patanjali²⁰ and *sa lam*²¹ in Buddhism, as a comparative and complementary study. The trans-Himalayan schools have given the most consistent results on the Path in terms of mental training and spiritual attainments of any systems I know.

Students of Buddhism are advised to proceed slowly and carefully, even among Vajrayana practitioners, which is said to be the quick path to enlightenment, and ideally suited to the West. In many Buddhist schools and monasteries (since we are talking about the Wesak festival) texts and teachings are routinely debated, often vigorously, in order to give quick recognition of facts, to rapidly refine thinking and to remove doubts. I was involved in Buddhist studies for about five years – a very short time from their perspective – prior to my move here, and I have great respect for their methods. It is a system that gives one certainty, and quickly, but it takes work and study, and constant vigilance as to how one's mind works. And one of the biggest gifts of such a study is that it teaches one to look beyond ordinary appearances. In other words, nothing is taken on faith, except in watching and following the example of others who have achieved through those methods. It constantly hammers the mind into shape, creating a sharp discernment, to the point where the mind can be held steady enough to receive the sought-for insights and attainments. Nothing is left to chance, no stone unturned if one diligently applies the principles involved. And that brings us to the world as it is presented to us by others and by our various media outlets.

By what light are we guided these days? By what others tell us, or as a result of our own study and discernment? Are we to trust what we are told, or are we to trust our own reason and experience? Our mainstream media (MSM) these days is awash in the most astounding campaign of misinformation we have seen in recent years. The reason for that is because of what is coming in the immediate future, changes which will give us a renewed sense of purpose in this world of ours. Materialist Western causes clamor for war and for hatred of individuals, groups and nations. Their world is under great threat, so their noise level has increased dramatically. We have seen what amounts to a [concerted attack](#)²² by the MSM on any journalist or politician who speaks out against events in Syria, for instance, or contradicts the British establishment on the Skripal affair, for another. Not a single major journalism outlet in the US spoke out against the recent bombing in Syria, for example, and many of them spoke in support of it. We have demons, thugs, crazy despots and so forth thrust at us one after another in the press. The corporate press, such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian and so forth are some of the worst offenders. But for most Americans and British, citing those papers, these are go-to sources for news. It's not to say that everything in those papers is bad or false. Television news is even worse, though. But even worse, is that people seem disinclined to even question what they see and hear.

However, there is one point in particular that needs to be made with regard to our news services, and that is the way they are used by materialistic forces to manufacture consent for wars and other actions we would otherwise find unconscionable. And one of their favorite methods is to use the human rights hook, which has been used time and again to leverage an otherwise passive or liberal populace toward outrage for action. Pictures and reports of dead or suffering children are

particularly effective in that effort, such as we have seen recently with Syria. We, in our comfortable societies, are told Assad is a monster, and animal, and so forth, and that “Something must be done!”. Is he really a monster, though? Here’s a little exercise, if you care to test the waters. You can see opposing views on Assad [here](#)²³ and [here](#).²⁴ I’ll warn you beforehand – they are confronting articles. Unless you have looked at such issues dispassionately for a time, one or both of them will be upsetting for various reasons. It has taken me years to divest myself of many knee-jerk reactions and conditioning that I received coming along in the US and later in Australia. It takes digging deep to find the truth and the causes of events. It takes time. But, what is the price we would pay for peace of mind and enlightenment? But then there is a final point: Once we know the truth, so far as we can determine it, and if action is truly needed, to then do nothing is only to worsen the situation and to enable it. And this applies to any area of life. We can shed light on our paths and on others’, but what good is a path if we do not walk it? This is particularly important in these days, because with the changes we are seeing and much more to come, if we remain inactive, then a truly great opportunity is lost to us, and to our posterity. So, what about this Wesak moon for this year?

The full moon takes place on 30 Apr 18 at 00:58 UT (29 Apr at 6:48 PM EDT, 10:58 AM AEST). The full moon axis forms a t-square with a Ceres/north node conjunction in Leo at the apex. Thus, with this full moon we have a ‘moon wobble’, which points toward emotional turmoil, but which can be resolved via Cerean influence – i.e., the power of the feminine, an emphasis on nurturing, on providing for people’s needs, etc. That Cerean apex also points to crossroads in world affairs, which is perhaps not difficult to see, given recent events, and to the need for compromises rather than threats of reprisals. But there is one thing that is of particular importance, one that will be affecting us for the year leading up to 2025, and that is the Uranian ingress into Taurus. It will mark a period of recklessness and flash points, but one that will ultimately lead to better international relations and spiritual conditions for the average world citizen. It is that upon which we will focus for the remainder of this letter.

Uranus enters Taurus two weeks after this full moon on the 15th, roughly four hours after the new moon of Taurus. This full moon sets the scene for that, and the ingress of Uranus into Taurus has been much anticipated in my posts I have seen. To give an idea of what Uranus in Taurus represents, the last time it entered Taurus was at the height of the Great Depression, and there was great restiveness and militaristic buildup in the world at that point. Germany was in full production mode and its economy went from high unemployment when Hitler came to power in 1933, to near-zero unemployment a few years later.²⁵ In 1936 plans were put forward for Germany to be ready for war by 1940. The situation was similar in Japan, and they began their invasions of China and surrounding areas with Uranus in Taurus. There was rapid industrialization in Russia during that period. Italy had nationalized the greater part of its industries. And Roosevelt in the US had started his ‘First New Deal’. So, there was a great deal of reorganization of economies in the world order. Economic interventionism was the order of the day.

Uranus, Taurus and economic changes: This idea of economic interventionism/reorganization will be a central theme as we go along from here. The West and much of the rest of the world is rapidly moving to the point where we will collectively be throwing off the neoliberal economic model that has burdened the average citizen and made a few people obscenely rich. Uranus was in Taurus from the 1930s until May of 1942, when the tide of WWII started to turn, entering then the sign of the ‘warring twins’, Gemini. The time before that was from 1850 – 1857, which was a very turbulent decade. But it also began the integration of the world’s economies through improvements in transportation and major advances in materials production, such as the introduction of the Bessemer converter, the first fractional distillation of petroleum, the replacing of canals with railroads, and so forth. And in that vein, the last time Uranus was in Taurus, we saw the first concerted work done in nuclear fission, resulting in the atom bomb after Uranus entered Gemini in

1942. So, there is a theme here: reorganization of finances when Uranus is in Taurus, and advances in materials sciences, Taurus ruling over material resources. Of geopolitical interest is that the 1850s saw the Crimean War and the First Opium War, with today's tensions between Russia, China and the West being echoes of those times. In the 1930s we saw the Saudi-Yemeni War and the 2nd Sino-Japanese War, also causing echoes today. Apparently, there are national karmas still in process of working out in the tensions we see today in those regions. And that brings us to the Far East and the years into the immediate future. The outcome of what follows will have a direct effect upon China and the surrounding region.

After the 2008 financial crash, many countries began to [repatriate their gold reserves](#)²⁶ out of overseas holdings. It is being done as a hedge against possible future world financial instability, and as a means of moving away from the US dollar as the world's reserve currency. Those holdings are held in large part in the United States. Turkey is currently [repatriating all of its gold](#)²⁷ reserves from the US, wanting to begin trading in currencies other than US dollars. One wonders how that would affect the relation between the US and one of NATO's strongest and more important allies in the long term. China and Russia are currently trading in their national currencies in their mutual dealings, not in dollars. There is a very concerted effort in London and Washington to upset and overturn that sort of thing, because it means that they can no longer control the world's purse strings, thus exerting influence over weaker nations through economic pressures. Venezuela and Iran are making similar moves. And now we have the growing trade war between China and the US. But China is likely to win such a war. However, in terms of the Far East, there is another story taking place that could rapidly change the international landscape in that region.

The Koreans: There is a [movement now](#)²⁸ that is gathering momentum between the Koreans toward a peace treaty between the two nations. It would start first between the two Koreas. But it might not be well known that there was no armistice signed between the two Koreas with the ceasefire at the end of the Korean war. South Korea refused to sign it. In a sense, the Korean War has been ongoing for over six decades. The armistice was signed, instead, between the US, China and North Korea. From that time, the military of South Korea has been under the direction of the US, and that nation in many respects has been a vassal state of the US. There are currently around 26,000 American troops in South Korea, which can be seen as an occupation force in some respects. There are [many reasons](#)²⁹ as to why the talks are taking place now. One that appears to be lost on Western media at present is the fact that North Korea has [declared itself to be a nuclear power](#),³⁰ that it has achieved its objectives with its nuclear program, that it has no further need to test ballistic missiles, and it goes forward into these talks with the full confidence that it can deter an attack against it. For those reasons it has recently declared that it does not care if there are US troops on the peninsula. "Why worry? We have the bomb now, right?" Taking a step back and looking at the situation, it would appear that neither side really has a very clear idea of what the other side is after with these talks. Or maybe they do, and this is just game-playing. The North Koreans will never give up their nuclear weapons so long as they feel threatened, though. Kim Jong-un has stated as much.

The stated peace movement in the Koreans is a grassroots movement in South Korea that has come into force especially since the election of a liberal government under Moon Jae-in. For the biggest part of the past seventy years, South Korea has been governed by conservatives, who have sought to keep tensions high between the North and the South. But, it is that peace movement, which includes North Korean diaspora, which has been the driving force between the current talks between the Koreans, *not* the result, as some might suppose, of Trump's 'fire and fury' comments and coercive rhetoric. It is the will of the Korean people that is moving toward peace on the peninsula. However, that will not likely be received well in the halls of power in Washington. With regard to the latter, the Korean peninsula is seen as a hedge against China, which is the true purpose of the presence of the American military in South Korea. There is another theory, though, that goes to the effect that if the North could be turned toward friendly terms with the West (i.e., Washington), then they could

keep troops in the South and still have their hedge. Given past tensions, one might have doubts about the latter theory bearing fruit.

For their part, Washington sees the gathering momentum for rapprochement between the Koreans with alarm, claiming that it ‘[drives a wedge into the alliance](#)’³¹ between the US and South Korea. The rather obvious truth is that the US wants to be able to keep its troops in South Korea and has no interest in a peace treaty between the US and North Korea. The Chinese and Russians, for their part, would probably like nothing better than for the Americans to leave the Korean peninsula, or at the very least to remove nuclear weapons and strike platforms from the area. North Korea has [mutual defense treaties](#)³² with Russia and China. With Uranus about to enter Taurus, there may be some surprising developments in the talks between the Koreans, but we can probably more realistically expect things to move more slowly, for there to be attempts at scuttling the talks and quite a lot of media hyperbole about the supposed conniving interests and nature of North Korea and the threat they pose to the US in the meantime. In reality, there is no threat to the US from Korea.

China of history and now: As to China’s claims of influence in its region, it is helpful to keep a bit of history in mind. It is one of the oldest continuous cultures on earth, along with India. It has been through periods of turmoil and peace, and while its people are ancient, its government is one of the youngest on earth, all the while yet imbued with its history. It has had a troubled history with Tibet, with Mongolia, Japan and with other Southeast Asian countries, and with the West. Its history is vast, far too much to even touch on here. The point to be made is that we in the West, meaning the populace in general, have little understanding of Chinese motivations or their world view which motivates its relations with its neighbors. For instance, China was once a vassal state of the Mongol Empire for centuries. As another example, for much of its history Tibet has had an on-again off-again relationship with China. It might be surprising to know that Tibet was not a unified country until the 8th century, and was once an empire (in the 8th century) that stretched from Afghanistan to Chengdu and from Urumqi to the bay of Bengal, covering the entire Himalayan range. It was afterward conquered by the Mongols and ruled by them for the most part until the 18th century, when the Qing dynasty took over. It has had periods of autonomy through its history, but no real independence until the 20th century. China has historically laid claim to that land. This is not to excuse the mistreatment of the Tibetans under Chinese communist rule, but it gives an idea of context. It is a subject that evokes strong opinions on all sides.

China and its coming opportunity: I have heard many people say, “China is out to conquer the world.” It is called a ‘revisionist power’ along with Russia in Washington, seen as threats to American interests. In a sense, the latter is true. China and Russia *do* seek to revise the present version of the world order, away from a unipolar power structure that was in place with the US at the head, toward a multipolar world where nations can pursue their own interests on a win-win basis with other nations. But is China really out to ‘conquer the world’? Western rhetoric would have us believe so, but if we dig below the surface, a different picture emerges. China is actually moving toward a sort of apex point in its spirituality that is said to be coming around the middle of this century, as outlined in the following quote:

Finally, when a movement is instituted...working in connection with the fourth root race, it will also be part of the stimulative process, and will result in the rendering radioactive of some of the foremost thinkers of that race. ***It will be their day of opportunity***, and so great is the importance attached to this that...Confucius (as he has been called in the past), will incarnate in order to superintend the work. The preliminary steps are being taken now, and Egos [souls] are coming in [and who are with us now] who will endeavour to direct the energies of this race on to the right line, though the peak of ***the cycle of stimulation will not be until the middle of the next century*** [this century, the 21st]. It is needless for me to point out that ***all such movements are first***

*felt as disturbing, and only when the dust of turmoil, and the noise of clashing forces have died away will purpose be seen emerging. This is very apparent in Russia at the present time.*³³

That “dust of turmoil” will settle after 2025. There are a couple of points here. Firstly, the preceding quote does not infer that Confucianism will be returning to the Orient, or that a new religion or system of philosophy will be appearing there. What it states is that some quite advanced souls will be appearing in the Orient over the next years and leading up to 2050, bringing much in the way of light to its people, and meaning probably also commensurate advancement to their societies, material, social and spiritual. As to who these fourth root race people are:

“...the only fourth root race people to be found upon our planet are the Chinese, the Japanese, the various Mongoloid races in Central Asia (and they are somewhat intermixed with the Caucasian race) and the hybrid groups found in the many islands in the southern waters in both oceans and hemispheres, as well as the descendants of the races which a million years ago made the South American continent famous for its civilisation.”³⁴

The Far East and spirituality: Hence, our previous focus upon the Koreans. This is not to suggest that 4th race, speaking in terms of root races, is backwards in any way. In fact it has been in advance of the West in various times in recent millennia. If we look at the Tibetans, for example – leaving out Indians here because they are of the fifth root race – there have been many thousands of Adepts (initiates), if not millions, who have gained their attainments in that land and in Oriental bodies over the centuries – fourth root race bodies. No, there is something else to consider with the first quote above, and it relates to what we are seeing developing in nations like China, Japan, South Korea and Russia. There is a deeply ingrained spirituality in those cultures, often in spite of their governmental constructs. And while governments come and go, culture and racial memory remain. There are some very forward-thinking people in the Orient. We could cite examples here of many such people in all areas of life, but in terms of national leaders in the Orient we have the likes of Xi Jinping and Moon Jae-in, for instance, both being progressive leaders seeking to move their nations forward and holding out for peaceful relations between nations. Now, we can think what we want about such leaders, and our conditioning about their cultures runs deep, and is often negative. But Xi was [heard to state](#)³⁵ last year at the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing:

“We should foster a new type of international relations featuring 'win-win cooperation', and we should forge a partnership of dialogue with no confrontation, and a partnership of *friendship rather than alliance* [an interesting turn of phrase]. All countries should respect each other's sovereignty, dignity and territorial integrity; respect each other's development path and its social systems, and respect each other's core interests and major concerns...What we hope to create is a big family of harmonious coexistence.”

The coming world order: That statement is right in line with the [world order](#)³⁶ that is to emerge under Aquarian principles. It also speaks toward China’s Libran personality.³⁷ But more than that, it indicates an overall emphasis of Venus as the orthodox expression of China’s soul and personality, ruled by Taurus and Libra, respectively. Venus is the ‘integrating planet’, governing the ajna center in the human subtle energy system, that center (chakra) being the point of meeting between the soul and the personality and the place where the two blend and the soul eventually takes control. We may not realize it, or even further, want to think so, but China is playing a key role in the emergence of the coming world order. And it is changing quickly, too. It is no longer the repressive Maoist construct which most of us have been inclined to believe. It is rapidly democratizing, although the state apparatus will remain strong probably far into the future. And with its astrological rulers, we find the esoteric side of China to be quite powerful and occult, the personality being ruled

esoterically by Uranus (moving toward a different world order), and Vulcan bringing forward the will to forge a new identity on the world stage. China is seeking to integrate itself with the rest of the world. It is indicating a way forward out of the imperial international structure we have seen for so many centuries, one under which the West still has a strong inclination.

China, like Russia, receives quite a lot of bad press in the mainstream media of the West. It would benefit us all to study these two nations much more closely, setting aside our conditioned reactions, seeing through the propaganda that seeks to set them as ‘revisionist powers’, as ‘repressive regimes’, as ‘human rights violators’, as against the interests of Western nations (this usually means against the economic interests of the US, UK and a few other nations). They are no better or worse than we in the West, from a historical perspective. If that brings up a negative reaction, then it simply indicates that there are glimmers there that need a close examination and breaking. Once we step back, looking with an unjaundiced eye, we see the strengths and faults of nations more clearly, but more than that, we can begin to take a longer-term view, and see that great progress is being made in the East in many areas. This is alarming to many Western interests, as they see their influence waning, and which is why we are seeing the explosion of negative reporting on Russia and China in particular.

Other nations, cities and Taurus: But there is much more here than just China as we move forward through these intervening years. There are other nations and cities which have Taurus as their soul expressions, with two capital cities of particular note that go far toward explaining what is happening now, and which will rise into particular significance as we move forward: Rome and Moscow. Rome, as we know, is the site of the Holy See of the Catholic Church. But more than that, it is a capital city unique to Europe, in that Italy is a crossroads – economic, migratory, of ancient heritage, and one that is set to be a key outpost in China’s Belt and Road. If things go to plan and Italy can sort out its banking sector, [Venice](#)³⁸ is set to once again become one of the world’s great points of commerce, a [huge port](#)³⁹ of shipping. The south of Italy is already a major point of entry for gas into Europe via [pipelines](#)⁴⁰ into the Puglia region, and into [Sicily](#)⁴¹ from North Africa. These things will come even more to the fore probably after 2025, when the 4th Ray begins to come into manifestation. Italy’s personality is ruled by the 4th ray, so it will be receiving more and more stimulation in the decades to come. And we see changes taking place in the [Catholic faith](#)⁴², which will influence people in large parts of the globe. Italy is another nation that should be studied as to its place in the coming world order. And then there is the old bug-bear to the West in Moscow.

Vladimir Putin echoes many of the sentiments and ideas that we hear from Xi Jinping. He wants to see Russia on friendly terms with the West. We have been bombarded with misinformation and outright lies about Russia in recent years, such as the recent Skripal affair, Crimea, Ukraine and Russia’s role in Syria, for instance. We won’t go into all that here. Suffice it to say, we in the West are being lied to about Russia and her motives. Taking a wider view, Moscow, too, presides over one of the world’s crossroads and melting pots. Russia is a meeting place between the fourth and fifth root races, ‘linking two ways’. As such, it is greatly misunderstood and misrepresented in the West, sometimes understandably so. It, too, is of ancient cultures and of very young government, a place of profound potential wealth in so many areas, and which has much to offer to the world at large if we can get past our differences with her. And coming from a liberal arts background in my upbringing, I can say without doubt that the world would be much poorer without Russia’s contributions to arts and letters, not to mention her natural resources, resolve and ingenuity. The same is true of China’s contributions to the world over the millennia.

But there is even more to this, speaking of Taurean themes. As we move into the last decanate of the Aquarian Age by precession, we find ourselves increasingly influenced by the Libra (Venus) decanate of Aquarius, and one that thus favors countries like China, who have either their soul or personality ruled by that sign. It is also a decanate that favors Taurus, especially in mundane affairs.

Poland and Canada also have Taurus as their soul expression. And Britain has it in her personality expression. Several things stand out immediately, especially given the developing international relations. The souls of Moscow and China at the very least share a similar dynamic with Canada and Poland, if not a shared destiny. They move slowly, deliberately, with a long-term view and with great will. And in terms of astrological resonance and interest, about 3% of Canadians claim Polish ancestry. Poles make up the largest foreign born population in the UK, at almost one million. Chinese-Canadians make up 4.5 % of Canada's population. And in fact, the soul/personality signs for China and Canada are mirror reflections, as they are the same.

There were large numbers of [Poles in Russia](#)⁴³ after WWII due to deportations, but that number has shrunk to around 75,000, and only a small number of Russians in Poland. These small numbers are more likely than not the result of poor relations between the two nations resulting from Russian occupation post-WWII. Conversely, there is quite a significant [Russian-Canadian](#)⁴⁴ population. As we know, there is a troubled relation between Poland and Russia, and it is one of the points in tension in trans-European affairs that must be worked out in the immediate future as we move forward. Poland would be a transit point between Russian and Europe, and on the Belt and Road. China at present is [slowly making inroads](#)⁴⁵ with Poland. But the real work before Poland is to overcome her internal relations and overcome old racial and cultural hatreds, as well as an intense, emotional nationalism, we are told.⁴⁶ The [latter has raised its head](#)⁴⁷ again in Poland, and certain factions in their society seek to undo any gains in goodwill that had taken root in that nation in recent decades.

Conclusions: In all this, then, we see great movement, shifting and shaking out of outworn concepts. Venusian and 4th and 7th Ray nations will slowly come more and more into prominence, whereas the 6th Ray personalities such as the US will wane in importance. The latter will still be powerful materially, but probably not nearly to the extent that we see now. The thing to realize about the souls of nations is that the tendency for them is to express the higher, more refined qualities of their astrological syntheses and Ray expressions. There is nothing to fear in this. It is all within order. But if we want to aid in the process of transition which we are all undergoing at the moment, we need clarity, right action, goodwill instead of suspicion, investigation when our inner sense of things tells us that something is not right, and though it may seem a little contradictory, we need a little stress in our lives to get us away from our electronic devices and acting to make outcomes more positive. Taurus is the catalyst that leads us from the path of dissatisfaction to bliss, from crashing about to peace, from ignorance to beauty of thought and deed, from shouting in anger to singing with joy. As such it is one our most important full moons of the year, and this one in particular will have a most unusual effect in the years to come. May we all be open to receive and act upon the opportunities presented, now and into the future.

Blessings,
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24 Apr 2018
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These letters are sent as a service. If you wish to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, let me know. If you feel inspired to, feel free to pass them along, but do so without charge or alteration.

- ¹ <http://malvinartley.com/article30.htm>
- ² <http://malvinartley.com/skripal.htm>
- ³ http://malvinartley.com/2018_damascus_strike.htm
- ⁴ <https://www.telesurtv.net/english/opinion/Nicaragua-Next-in-Line-for-Regime-Change-20180421-0014.html>
- ⁵ <https://www.yahoo.com/news/armenia-protests-pm-opposition-nemesis-103945238.html?guccounter=1>
- ⁶ <https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-04-23/western-backed-regime-change-looms-armenia-pm-resigns-following-mass-protests>
- ⁷ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/22/unions-flood-streets-paris-stand-against-macron-reforms/>
- ⁸ <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/01/26/581031630/this-is-not-normal-nutella-riots-hit-france-after-stores-slash-prices>
- ⁹ <http://malvinartley.com/kemerovo.htm>
- ¹⁰ http://malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/seven_head_centers.pdf
- ¹¹ *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 158
- ¹² Op cit
- ¹³ Ibid, p. 330
- ¹⁴ <https://www.lamayeshe.com/article/four-noble-truths>
- ¹⁵ http://malvinartley.com/Pdf%20Files/yon_tan_gzir_gyur_ma.pdf
- ¹⁶ Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 383, 386
- ¹⁷ Ibid, p. 387
- ¹⁸ <http://malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/appendix7.pdf>
- ¹⁹ <https://www.amazon.com/Full-Moons-Topical-Esoteric-Astrology/dp/1456624695>
- ²⁰ Bailey, *The Light of the Soul*
- ²¹ The study of *sa lam* is quite technical to the person who has not studied Buddhism to any great extent, and involves very precise reasoning.
- ²² <https://medium.com/@caityjohnstone/msm-is-frantically-attacking-dissenting-syria-narratives-and-it-looks-really-bad-487de1395056>
- ²³ <https://theintercept.com/2018/04/19/dear-bashar-al-assad-apologists-your-hero-is-a-war-criminal-even-if-he-didnt-gas-syrians/>
- ²⁴ <https://dissentvoice.org/2018/04/dear-salafist-wahhabist-apologists/>
- ²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Nazi_Germany#Record-high_military_spending
- ²⁶ <https://www.preciousmetals.com/blog/2017/02/world-gold-reserves-top-countries-repatriation-risk-mitigation/>
- ²⁷ <http://www.ummid.com/news/2018/April/20.04.2018/turkey-to-bring-back-its-gold-from-us-federal-reserves.html>
- ²⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hS9JWmQi5-U>
- ²⁹ <https://www.globalresearch.ca/peace-on-the-korean-peninsula-at-last/5636876>
- ³⁰ <https://thesaker.is/the-dprk-declares-itself-a-nuclear-power/>
- ³¹ <https://www.thenation.com/article/why-are-us-troops-still-in-south-korea-anyway/>
- ³² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_conflict
- ³³ Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 1080
- ³⁴ Ibid, p. 119
- ³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izR0EOgrKU0#t=438.705923> the quote begins at 22:22, but the entire speech is worth a listen.
- ³⁶ http://malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/2025_nwo_compilation.pdf
- ³⁷ For all references about the nations, cities, rays and astrological rulers, see compilation here: http://malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/pisces_talk.pdf, pp. 22, 23
- ³⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38y4ooegrKM>
- ³⁹ <http://www.atimes.com/article/marco-polo-reverse-italy-fits-new-silk-roads/>
- ⁴⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Gas_Corridor
- ⁴¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trans-Mediterranean_Pipeline
- ⁴² <https://blog.pachamama.org/pope-francis-changing-the-catholic-church-and-the-world>
- ⁴³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_minority_in_Russia
- ⁴⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Canadians
- ⁴⁵ <https://geopolitica.eu/more/in-english/2724-china-poland-and-the-belt-and-road-initiative-the-future-of-chinese-engagement-in-central-and-eastern-europe>
- ⁴⁶ Bailey, *Problems of Humanity*, pp. 24, 173
- ⁴⁷ <https://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledgebase/160-right-wing-nationalism-in-poland-a-threat-to-human-rights>