

FESTIVAL OF AQUARIUS – NEW YORK – FEBRUARY 2013

A Time for ‘Beneficent Organisation’

Laurence Newey

Welcome to the Festival of Aquarius. May we begin by saying the Mantram of the New Group of World Servers together:

*May the power of the One life
Pour through the group of all true servers
May the Love of the One Soul
Characterise the lives of all who seek to aid the Great Ones
May I fulfil my part in the One Work
Through self-forgetfulness, harmlessness and right speech
OM*

Aquarius is a wonderful sign to contemplate, not least because its esoteric ruler is Jupiter, a planet which governs growth of all kinds and bestows a marvellous sense of upliftment and expansiveness. While observing Jupiter in the night sky, it is possible to sense its golden opulence thrilling through the ethers, filling the heart with joy and elevating the soul towards new horizons. The mysterious inner halls of Jupiter are described in esoteric literature as the “Palace of Opulence”, and initiates are said to be trained here in the art of “beneficent magic”. And while all this may seem comparable to the great works of fantasy fiction that are currently stirring the public imagination, if the intuition is tapped, such esoteric truths may be seen as part of the subjective stimulus behind much of the creativity that we are currently witnessing on film and in books.

While the quality of beneficence describes the Jupiter effect, great power and energy of organisation characterise Uranus, the exoteric ruler of Aquarius. Together, we therefore have the prospect of beneficent organisation on the physical plane – a particular need in this chaotic information age where we are fast sinking in a deluge of unfiltered information from all corners of the globe. In his book, *Tyranny of the Moment*, Thomas Eriksen, a Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Oslo, points out that the great irony of the information age is that we are being harried by the very technology created to liberate us – robbed of time by time saving devices. Technology, he says, affects the way we live in time, and “even the ‘here and now’ is threatened since the next moment comes so quickly that it becomes difficult to live in the present. We live with our gaze firmly fixed on a point about two seconds into the future...both the past and the future as mental categories are threatened by the tyranny of the moment. This is the era of computers, the Internet, communication satellites, multi-channel television, short text messages on GSM phones, e-mail, palmtops and e-commerce. Whenever one is on the sending side, the scarcest resource is the attention of others. Whenever one is on the receiving side, the scarcest resource is slow, continuous time. Here lies a main tension in contemporary society.”¹

Being an academic, people like Thomas Eriksen probably notice their loss of free thinking space more than others, for the information age particularly conditions the way mentally focused people

interact. However, the image of the earth as a chattering planet is a real one, symptomatic of humanity's feverish state of mind, shortening attention span and constant need for stimulus. The hyperactive mind craves the soothing balm of the soul. Discrimination, self-forgetfulness and harmlessness need to guide our fingertips on the keyboards of our communication systems as much as they need to help us cultivate right speech.

It was just over a century ago that the real start of the information age began in earnest when Marconi stood on a cliff-top in Newfoundland and picked up a radio signal transmitted under his direction from Cornwall. Commenting on this, the journalist Thomas Sutcliffe wrote it was “just a series of Morse code dots. But, as the first transatlantic radio transmission, it was a cultural landmark – initiating the century of the global village, the century in which nation could speak unto nation simultaneously; in which rulers could address their subjects by the million; in which culture, information and ideology could be disseminated more widely than ever before, instantaneously. In short, the radio century: the first century of the modern world.”

Radio was the first of the electronic mediums to create a real feeling of presence at a great distance. While the telephone had already been invented by Alexander Bell, it was limited by wires, but radio was airborne communication, and a person could make their presence felt in millions of different places at once. Its development by Marconi was an instance of science working for the good of the entire world, and according to the Tibetan, under the influence of Venus working in relation with Jupiter. Interestingly, Plato called Jupiter *The Word of the Sun*, and this suggests the idea of a transmitter, where Jupiter can be seen as the first step downwards into limitation from the life of the solar Logos. In more recent times, Alan Leo described this planet as “the agent between the Creator and the created; a messenger bringing the higher influence downwards, and a vehicle raising the lower consciousness upwards.”² Furthermore, Jupiter is especially related to the magnetic aura that surrounds all living creatures and, as the *Word of the Sun*, it carries the life energy of the solar Logos to all things bringing growth and expansion.

A physical plane parallel of Jupiter's qualities lies in the discovery made in the 1950's that this planet is a powerful transmitter of radio signals. Deep beneath the clouds of Jupiter, the pressures are so great that there is thought to exist a vast sloshing ocean of liquid metallic hydrogen. The electric currents generated here are thought to be the source of the planet's enormous magnetic field, and of its associated belt of trapped electrons and protons. These charged particles, ejected from the sun and carried by the solar wind, are captured and accelerated by Jupiter's magnetic field. Vast numbers of them are trapped above the clouds and bounce from pole to pole in its radiation belt, creating cascades of charged particles and bursts of radio energy whenever Io, one of Jupiter's moons, passes through it. By computing the position of Io, it is possible to predict radio emissions from Jupiter with better reliability than weather forecasts on earth. With such an obvious physical impact on our planet, the spiritual effects are bound to be tremendous too – the radio bursts being but a lower correspondence of more esoteric transmissions.

A perfect working partner for Jupiter is to be found in Uranus, the exoteric ruler of Aquarius, for while Jupiter's magnetic effect brings upliftment and growth, Uranus promotes evolutionary development through the “will to be and to know simultaneously on all planes of manifestation”. Uranus therefore works powerfully in the ethers of our planet to bring about the physical

manifestation of subjective influences. We can imagine the *Word of the Sun* from Jupiter being precipitated into substance by this 'planet of the violet force' as it is called. An interesting example of this power to organise and objectify is found in the use of ultraviolet light by the technology at the heart of information processing. During the formation of the computer chip, the minute circuitry of the silicon chip is produced by a technique called photolithography. After the circuit pattern for a microchip has been written, a mask is made of it – the equivalent of a photographic negative. A beam of ultraviolet light is then directed at the mask and through a lens, shrinking the pattern and focusing the light onto silicon wafer. Through this technique, the potential to process information is stamped into matter, and electricity, passing through the circuitry pattern on a silicon chip, is forced to perform a little ritualistic dance. While we often associate science and technology with the third ray of intelligent activity and the fifth ray of concrete mind, we should not forget the great seventh ray of ceremonial order, of which Uranus is an exponent; for machines of all kinds perform an ordered, repetitive dance – the rudiments of ceremony and ritual.

At the human level, we could do with a little of this economy of organisation in our political, economic and social intercourse laying the appropriate etheric lines of communication throughout the planet through goodwill and right human relationships to bring peace and prosperity to all. The sense of upliftment that Jupiter bestows would then be felt like an injection of freedom running through the arteries and veins of our planetary Logos, lifting the whole human family up closer to the spiritual government of the planet. The divine Plan could then be implemented more rapidly, uniting humanity as one through an understanding of its purpose and function in the scheme of things. It is this sense of purpose and spiritual usefulness that needs to awaken in humanity to restore a true sense of identity. Unwittingly, the information age is helping this process along by provoking an identity crisis through the breakdown and change that inevitably accompanies the speeding up of the pace of life. The foundations of our old identity are crumbling as the sense of impermanence replaces that of familiarity, certainty and therefore, security.

Human identity develops through a linear sense of time – a steady moving forward through a sequence of experiences or events. Our interaction with these forms complex patterns and relationships shaping character and personality. And as the pace of modern life accelerates, more events and experiences are crammed into less time and space leaving less opportunity to establish these vital relationships. One illustration of this would be fashions, the following of which gives a sense of identity through association. Fashion in music, clothes, furnishings etc., now change so rapidly that a multitude of new and recycled styles exist simultaneously and in many cases merge into one another. Clear cut definitions are disappearing, fads come and go and nothing has time to settle around which our personality can crystallise.

Nor do people have the opportunity to fix a sense of identity around long term employment now as job security is undermined by the speed of technological change. Life-long semi-skilled work at one place of employment is coming to an end, and there is a pressure to keep educating ourselves and learning new skills in order to keep up with demand and competition. Outer stability has gone and we are having to look within ourselves for other criteria to determine who we are. Courses are now starting to appear on spirituality in the workplace and the meaning of work. Institutions such as Boeing and the World Bank are hiring consultants to encourage spiritual growth in the workplace to build a sense of community and improve productivity. The growth of the group idea is spreading

rapidly during this first part of the Aquarian age and people want to be part of shared projects and to participate in the dynamics of group interaction. They want not just financial targets but real goals that have inherent quality and benefit the community as well. Thus people are looking for identity in the wider group concept and not just in their immediate circle of family and friends.

For the Aquarian age to move into full swing however, the idea of competition itself will need to be addressed, and this can only occur when the spiritual call lifts us away from consumerism. For as well as living in the information age, we also live in the age of consumerism, making time a precious commodity as competitive forces vie for our attention and money. The outcome is a tremendous amount of choice and attendant decision making, most of which is concerned with satisfying physical, emotional and mental appetites. Economic growth is a main priority for all countries and the logic of this requires everyone to produce more efficiently and to consume more intensively. While this is spiritually helpful for developing economies there comes a point where the needs of life are supplied, and from thereon it is a matter of discrimination as to what promotes the education of the soul and what is over-indulgent materialism. Finding this point is very difficult though as we are all at different stages of evolution and what may be necessary for one may not be required by another. Nevertheless, most would agree that the overwhelming amount of choice presented to us in this information age does not represent freedom in the true sense of the word and that we need to stand back and reassess what is required.

In this reassessment one of the main illusions that we have to contend with is a self-satisfaction with creative prowess and technology for its own sake. Efficiency seems to have become a goal in itself, but to what end we are only now starting to question in a real sense. As we are besieged by advertising from all quarters, constantly stimulating our appetites, fears and insecurities, the danger is a severe fragmentation of our thinking. Such fragmentation can undermine the search for meaning in life and thereafter the cohesiveness of society with snippets of unrelated information bombarding us from all directions and becoming more extreme and exaggerated – advertising is becoming increasingly coarse and bizarre in an effort to shout more loudly than the competition.

So an imperative of our times seems to be a freedom *from* information, a cultivation of the discriminative mind to filter information and to re-focus on meaning and the essentials of life. Another priority is to free ourselves from the glamour of speed – the feverish state of acceleration that leads to a state of *ex-tension*, where one's energies are fast drained leading to depletion and exhaustion. Instead of living life like a plate spinning act, where one is constantly rushing between the poles to keep the plates from crashing to the floor, the question being asked is why do this empty trick at all? Interestingly, time management is a big issue in business these days, as it is in all walks of life, and while the dark side of this may be exploitation of employees, turning them into professional plate spinners, it also has wonderful potential when based on right values and a wholesome perception of spiritual purpose, be it in business, politics, economics, or any of the other great departments of human enterprise.

That there is a sense of spiritual purpose emerging in the world today is very evident from the proliferation of Non-Governmental Organisations, charities and conferences on all manner of humanitarian concerns. In fact there is so much going on that it can be quite confusing and impossible to keep in mind all of the names of the various groups and agencies that are working for

the good of the whole, let alone exactly what they do, and the differences between them. There seems to be an overlapping and duplication of effort which could be resolved if the common ground between serving individuals and groups were highlighted and they were kept more in touch with one another. Then through greater communication and cooperation, the many tributaries could form one mighty river and the new group of world servers enunciate the keynote of Aquarius as one: *Water of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men*. Diversity and individual creativity is important of course and would remain, but each individual and group would be more aware and attuned to others doing similar work and a lighted network of goodwill and service would become a prominent feature of the twenty-first century. To help bring this about is one of the aims of World Goodwill.

While humanity is being influenced by Aquarius and its exoteric ruler, Uranus, the responsibility lies with those who are sufficiently sensitive to respond to the esoteric ruler, Jupiter, to make of the rapidly forming etheric lines of communication, the light and sound waves of the air, a lighted, beneficent network. The seventh ray of ceremonial order working through Uranus provides a wonderful foundation on which Jupiter can cast its uplifting energy. For H.P. Blavatsky refers to Jupiter as “a deity who is the symbol and prototype of...ritualistic worship. He is the priest, sacrificer, suppliant and the medium through which the prayers of mortals reach the Gods.”³ Working on the magnetised aura of a meditating group, Jupiter lifts and guides coordinated aspiration towards the divine.

Great days of celebration such as the full moon festivals are therefore destined to become planetary events in the Aquarian age, participated in by the general public the world over. The many groups that are coming together to celebrate these festivals are planting the magnetic seed of the future. And in this sign of Aquarius, we are helping to produce a ‘beneficent organisation’ of the energies of the human kingdom that will create a subjective synthesis and eventual fusion with the fifth kingdom of nature, the Spiritual Hierarchy. This will be a mass reflection of a great process that takes place in the subjective composition of each individual when transiting out of the human kingdom into the divine. For it is said that “at the fifth and final initiation *Uranus and Jupiter* appear and produce a ‘beneficent organisation’ of the totality of energies found in the initiate's equipment. When this reorganisation is complete, the initiate can then ‘escape from off the wheel and then can truly live.’”⁴

1. *Tyranny of the Moment*. pp 2-3 T H Eriksen.
2. *The Art of Synthesis*. p. 81 Alan Leo.
3. *The Secret Doctrine II*. p. 49, H P Blavatsky. Third revised edition.
4. *Esoteric Astrology*. P. 74. A.A. Bailey