

## Libra Full Moon Meeting – London – September 2015

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Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the festival of Libra; a warm welcome also to the many friends and co-workers who are listening in on the internet via our website.

The zodiacal sign for Libra is symbolised by the weighing scales, for Libra is a sign of balancing, of the careful weighing of values, and of achieving the right equilibrium between the pairs of opposites. It is that razor edged path towards which the disciple must ultimately direct his steps and if it is to be safely trodden, requires the development of a sense of values and the power to utilise rightly the balancing, analytical faculty of the mind. It is in Libra that the life of the soul and the form is balanced, where neither dominates, they esoterically therefore, "tune each other out." <sup>1</sup>

Equilibrium is a state in which opposing forces or influences are balanced. We can see this idea of equilibrium throughout human thinking, an idea that rests on the belief that life constantly readjusts towards that point where the forces are balanced. The artist Mondrian reflected this state of equilibrium in his work. His easily recognisable paintings are based on grids of vertical and horizontal black lines interspaced with the three primary colours. He is quoted as saying, 'Vertical and horizontal lines are the expression of two opposing forces; they exist everywhere and dominate everything; their reciprocal action constitutes 'life'. I recognised that the equilibrium of any particular aspect of nature rests on the equivalence of its opposites'.<sup>2</sup>

In physics the equilibrium position is central to the understanding of the physical environment; Newton's Laws of Motion predict the behaviour of objects when all existing forces are balanced and how it takes an unbalanced force to create motion. This tendency towards balance is seen in nature and some scientists recognise the Balance of Nature Theory that proposes that ecological systems are usually in a stable equilibrium, which is to say that a small change in some particular parameter (the size of a particular population, for example) will be corrected by some negative feedback that will bring the parameter back to its original "point of balance" with the rest of the system. It may apply where populations depend on each other, for example in predator/prey systems, or relationships between herbivores and their food source. It is also sometimes applied to the relationship between the Earth's ecosystem, the composition of the atmosphere, and the world's weather.

Perhaps one of the most interesting theories based on this idea that life always moves towards the equilibrium, is known as the Gaia Theory. It suggests that the Earth and its ecology act as co-ordinated systems in order to maintain the balance of nature. It proposes that organisms interact with their inorganic surroundings on

Earth to form a self-regulating, complex system that contributes to maintaining the conditions for life on the planet. It suggests that this living system has automatically controlled global temperature, atmospheric content, ocean salinity, and other factors that allow it to maintain its own habitability. In other words, “life maintains conditions suitable for its own survival.” In this respect, the living system of Earth can be thought of as analogous to the workings of any individual organism that regulates body temperature, blood salinity, etc. So, for instance, even though the luminosity of the sun – the Earth’s heat source – has increased by about 30 percent since life began almost four billion years ago, the living system has reacted as a whole to maintain temperatures at levels suitable for life.

The Gaia theory was developed in the late 1960’s by Dr. James Lovelock, a British scientist and inventor. In the past 15-20 years, many of the mechanisms by which Earth self-regulates have now been identified. While there are many scientists who criticise the Gaia Theory, it has inspired many leading figures of the past 20 years, including Havel (the first president of the Czech Republic and a philosopher), John Todd an inventor of alternative technologies, Freeman Dyson (physicist), Al Gore, to name but a few. These and many other people have written and spoken eloquently about how the Gaia Theory can help us model human activities after the living systems of our planet; the concept offers lessons for the design of energy, economic, social and governmental systems.

Let us pause for a couple of moments and then say together the Mantram of Unification:

**The sons of men are one and I am one with them.**

**I seek to love, not hate;**

**I seek to serve and not exact due service;**

**I seek to heal, not hurt.**

**Let pain bring due reward of light and love.**

**Let the soul control the outer form, and life and all events**

**And bring to light the love that underlies the happenings of the time.**

**Let vision come and insight.**

**Let the future stand revealed.**

**Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.**

**Let love prevail. Let all men love.**

The equilibrium is also a very important concept in economics and is the basis of classical economics which asserts that markets function best without government interference. The market being the interaction of the demand and supply for goods and services, which if left to work freely without government intervention, will lead to the most efficient price and allocation of resources.

It is this belief in the equilibrium price that underlies the free-market mechanism that sits at the heart of Capitalism. It forms the basis for the Theory of the Firm which consists of a number of economic theories that explain and predict the nature of the firm and its relationship to the market. It distinguishes between the short-run and long-run and states that in the short-run when supply is limited due to the small amount of firms able to meet demand that premium prices can be charged. These premium prices lead to short-run super profits, that is, profits that are over and above what is considered efficient or optimum for the market. An optimum profit is the minimum needed to keep a firm in that particular market. However the existence of super profits will attract more firms into the industry increasing supply and therefore reducing price until the super profits are eroded. Those firms that are not efficient will be pushed out of the market and so in the long run the market will move to its most efficient equilibrium price with the optimal allocation of resources. Government intervention is only needed to ensure that this mechanism works freely, so it needs to legislate against monopoly power for example.

It is this simple mechanism with its distinction between the short-term and the long-term that has dominated economic thinking and is part of the reason why economics and therefore politics is so short-termist in its thinking. It is a system that fits so well with the individualistic, materialistic society that has predominated under the Piscean influence. It is an Age, certainly in the West that has encouraged the individual, where success is measured through acquisition of power, money and status. The man is only concerned with the short-term for he believes that he exists for only one life and that he must experience and accumulate as much as is available to him in that one life. At the end of that life he will hopefully enjoy eternal bliss rather than burn in the fires of hell as the Christian and other Biblical religions teach. However as we move into the Age of Aquarius there are significant signs of a shift in thinking towards the longer term. For example, Hilary Clinton on her campaign trail has an important message for voters, that capitalism is failing them. She says that corporate America has been hijacked by Wall Street and that shareholder's demands for short-term profits are sucking business dry and robbing it of the funds needed for long-term investment. As a result big businesses are failing the nation. A similar message is being heard in Britain, Andy Haldane, the chief economist of the Bank of England recently spoke on Newsnight, of his concern that the Capitalist system may have lost its way. Profits and cash which should be invested by companies in re-equipping, in research and in training to deliver economic growth for themselves and the nation, were instead being paid to shareholders. In the US companies are investing a lower proportion of their profits than at any time since 1947. The result of this short-term thinking is that due to low investment, productivity does not increase, wages stagnate and the economy fails to grow. Capitalism it appears to some; is showing signs of cracking due to this unhealthy focus on the short-term. The economic mogul George Soros has recently said, 'I put forward a pretty general theory that financial markets are intrinsically unstable. That we really have a false picture when we think about markets tending towards equilibrium'.<sup>3</sup> With such committed Capitalists as Soros doubting the free market system it seems that there is

a need for a major shift in thinking. There is evidence that this shift in thinking is coming about, for there are many new voices on the subject, one for example is Thomas Piketty with his book *Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century*, the main theme of which is around the central thesis that inequality is not an accident but rather a feature of capitalism and can only be reversed through state intervention. He argues that unless capitalism is reformed, the very democratic order will be threatened. Charles Eisenstein's 2011 book *Sacred Economics* revolves around the theme of how the current monetary system based on interest and lending, along with the abandonment of the gift economy, has led to alienation, competition and therefore an economic system founded on the need for continuous growth. Capitalism is indeed under fire.

Pope Francis has also commented on the problems of Capitalism in his recent Encyclical sub-titled *Care for our Common Home*.<sup>4</sup> In this paper he is clearly trying to encourage a shift to more long term thinking. He writes, "Once more, we need to reject a magical conception of the market, which would suggest that problems can be solved simply by an increase in the profits of companies or individuals. Is it realistic to hope that those who are obsessed with maximizing profits will stop to reflect on the environmental damage which they will leave behind for future generations? Where profits alone count, there can be no thinking about the rhythms of nature, its phases of decay and regeneration, or the complexity of ecosystems which may be gravely upset by human intervention".<sup>5</sup>

He also writes, "But a sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests and consumerism, is actually making our earth less rich and beautiful, ever more limited and grey, even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly. We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves".

He argues that it is the poor of the world who suffer most from our self-interested pursuit of goods. It is the poor who work in the factories to make the goods at the lowest prices, it is the poor who are pushed out of local employment by large producers. It is also the poor that live in areas that are ravaged by pollution from industrial processes, and it is often those poorest countries who deal with the industrial waste that richer countries do not want to dispose of properly. He writes, "The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: 'Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest'".<sup>6</sup>

In the East with its belief in reincarnation the long-term has always been important, however the West with its roots in Christianity and Biblical religions have been

firmly rooted in the short-term. Pope Francis through his encyclical is bringing this to light; he is seeking to establish a sense of responsibility in the mass of men, not only to those affected badly in the short-term, such as the poor and disadvantaged, but a responsibility to future generations. There are many in the world today, those of the new group of world servers and the men and women of goodwill, who already feel this responsibility and work to change attitudes. Pope Francis recognises these people and in speaking out as the head of the Catholic Church he is attempting to reach out to the mass of men so that they may support such work. He is encouraging selflessness in the mass of men, encouraging them to recognise a responsibility to those generations of the future of whom they know nothing. It is no longer an option to think that future generations can sort out the problems we leave behind after death; he beseeches humanity to selflessly look to the long-term.

The Tibetan tells us that humanity now stands upon the probationary path <sup>7</sup>; remember that humanity includes all those in and out of incarnation, from the highest to the lowest in consciousness. This path, Libra governs and controls. The constellation Libra occupies a unique place in the Great Wheel, for it is the energy coming from this constellation which controls the "hub of the wheel", that point in intermediate space where the twelve zodiacal energies meet and cross. Libra, therefore, controls the "moment of reversal of the wheel"<sup>8</sup>. The man on the ordinary progression around the zodiac travels from the difficult times often borne in Scorpio on to an experience in Libra wherein a life is spent in quiet, thoughtful reflection or in a condition of static unresponsiveness; it may be a life of balancing, of weighing this and that, and of determining which way the scales shall fall so that in the next sign certain designed results will occur. He then passes on to Virgo where life will be either one of a personality and materialistic in nature, or there will be evidenced a slowly emerging soul vibration. However, it is at this point that the wheel reverses for those that are ready and who are then led back to Scorpio to face its tests and trials on a higher turn of the spiral. The world probationary disciple, humanity, has reversed on the wheel of life and is now being prepared for the path of true discipleship; the world disciple is being prepared to take initiation.

The individual experience in Libra is of the balanced life wherein experiment is made with its consequent tipping of the Scales in one direction or another until either desire or spiritual aspiration weighs the balances down sufficiently so as to indicate the way that the man must go. There is also the experience of humanity in Libra in which the same adjustments and experiments are made, but this time the entire race of men is involved. This group experience, carried out upon the mental plane, will only happen when all men are polarised mentally. This is not the case as yet, the "point of crisis" in Libra and the present world situation and needed adjustment is the forerunner to this, the present world crisis is related to the balancing upon the astral plane and it is the desires of men that are predominantly in a position of casting the deciding factor. Will the desire for short-term profits and the ravaging of the lower kingdoms for materialistic gain predominate, or will humanity choose the higher values, the selflessness that is inherent in protecting the planet for

future generations. We are told that today, the foremost men of the age—disciples, aspirants and the intelligentsia—are being tested under the Scorpio experience whilst the masses are in the Scales; and that the weight of mass desire will turn them either up towards spiritual decision or down towards material and selfish ends. <sup>9</sup>

Let us work now together to seek to distribute love and light throughout the world of men, to stimulate the soul light that exists within humanity and bring about right decision.

**The keynote for Libra: I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.**

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