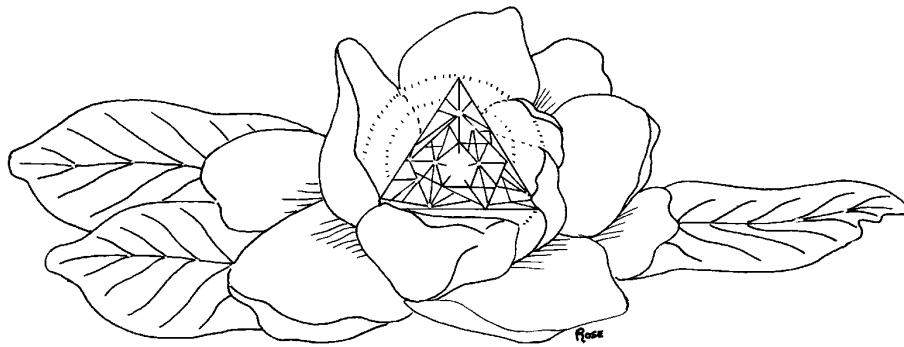


ThoughtLine

October 2000



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 In this Issue

The Turning Point

P. 1 - by Jo Ann Gaines

Out-breathing

P. 5 - by Tom Carney

 Workshops and Study Groups

NEW

Nature of the Soul - Starting October 4 - Wednesdays 7:00 to 9:30 PM
For details, please see enclosed flyer.

ONGOING

White Magic - Tuesdays 7:30 to 9:00 PM

Astrology - Thursdays 7:30 to 9:00 PM

 Up Coming Events

October 12, Thursday, 7:45 PM

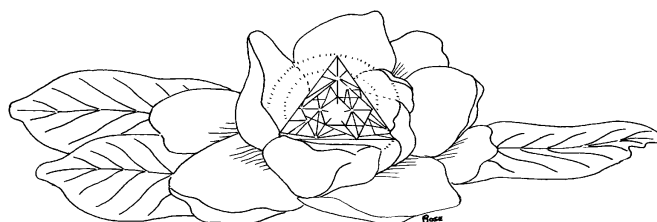
Libra Community Meditation Meeting
Arcana Workshops, 3916 Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 202, Culver City

November 10, Friday, 7:45 PM

Scorpio Community Meditation Meeting
Arcana Workshops, 3916 Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 202, Culver City

Conference at Meditation Mount
Saturday, November 11 and Sunday November 12

Location: Meditation Mount in Ojai, California.
For information: Write Meditation Mount at PO Box 566, Ojai, CA 93024
Call (805) 646-5508 or E-mail – meditation@meditation.com
Website: www.meditation.com



THE TURNING POINT

A human being is a part of the whole, called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest...a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty

Albert Einstein

We might compare Einstein's optical delusion with that of viewing the world as if with one eye closed. What we see is significantly restricted. It's one sided, and somewhat flat at that. Just try putting your hand over one eye. When we remove our hand, our range of vision is greatly expanded. Both eyes open, we see with new perspective and proportion, a more balanced view from which we can better direct and control our movements.

If such an improvement in sight is possible on a physical level, imagine, on a higher turn of the spiral, the window of vision that can be opened up when the inner eye, the window of the soul in the physical plane, is brought into play. From this vantage point, we could see with clarity into Einstein's wider and more inclusive circle of reality. We could see both the reality of our inner unity as well as our outer diversity. We could be more in touch with cause as well as effects. We could foster compassion and understanding, and the world would thereby be enriched.

The development of sight, and the achievement of spiritual insight, is a definite objective towards which

we are working at this time. The words "**WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH**" carved in large letters on the local Hermosa Beach Community Center provide us with a daily reminder.

Such inner vision provides a more balanced perspective from which we can weigh the two sides of nature—the subjective spiritual side, and its values, in relation to the objective form side, and its materialistic values—and consequently choose and direct more wisely our actions, particularly as we relate to one another.

The Balance or Scales is the symbol of the relation between such opposites. It is the symbol for Libra, the sign in which we are told, the first real vision of the path appears, the "narrow razor-edged path" which runs between pairs of opposites, and which, if it is to be safely traveled, Djwhal Khul tells us, requires the development of a sense of values and the power to rightly utilize the balancing, analytical faculty of the mind. Importantly, Libra is also a sign of intuitive perception, which concerns unity, and is itself developed through the discrimination process.

So Libra is a sign of balancing, of carefully weighing values, and achieving equilibrium between opposites, before choosing whether to proceed in a usual fashion and according to custom or tipping the scales in the opposite direction.

The Interplay of the Opposites

As individuals, we know all too well the interplay of opposites on some level or another—on an emotional level, a mental level, or between personality and soul. We oscillate back and forth, experimenting, making adjustments, learning in the process, until we achieve a relative balance and can make that major choice which turns us in the direction of the next higher, wider aspect, and thus releasing us from the confines or "prison" of our prior focus.

In fact, for individuals, we're told, there comes a moment in the long cycles of lives, when a point of balance is reached between one's personal side and

spiritual side, between the personality and the soul, and where an actual reversal on the wheel of life takes place and a new orientation onto the subjective Path is established. Over this event, Libra presides.

There have been many individuals who have crossed that threshold, who have put aside selfish aims, who have a clear vision of the whole, who know evolution as a cooperative venture, and are working for the good of the whole and not any one part. And their numbers are growing.

A statement that Djwhal Khul puts out—that the end of the 20th Century will see the influence of Libra steadily coming into a position of power in the planetary horoscope—got me thinking about balance and major decision points in the bigger scheme of things, within the whole of humanity and in a planetary sense.

The present world situation and the need for adjustment is no surprise. But one more indication of a possible major planetary decision point and therefore turning point, added to any number of other prophecies of natural and esoteric cycles coinciding with the end of the 20th Century, made me wonder more about what that might look like and what role Humanity as a whole is playing in this.

The world is most definitely in a state of flux and change, the interplay of opposites going on before our eyes. On the one hand, we have upheaval, chaos and difficulty in every area—there's the population explosion, ecological vulnerability, corrupt politics, economic shifts, and social ills like drug addiction, crime, AIDS, and starvation, yes war, and even volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. On the other hand, the world is in breakthrough—witness scientific and technological advances, the environmental movement, developing democratic principles, Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and the ever accelerating march toward freedom and dignity.

We are questioning every established hypothesis—not just our political ideologies, but also religious teaching that does not serve our spiritual nature, educational processes that fail to educate our developing nature, and so on. The whole moral and ethical code of society is being brought under scrutiny.

Our difficulties present a pretty graphic picture of our relation to one another, of nation to nation, of our relation with the environment, of the effects of our materialistic and selfish desires. They help clarify our vision and induce thoughtful people everywhere to sort out their values and fundamental philosophies. And we are questioning every established hypothesis—not just our political ideologies, but also religious teaching that does not serve our spiritual nature, educational processes that fail to educate our developing nature, and so on. The whole moral and ethical code of society is being brought under scrutiny.

Astrologically, we are transitioning out of the Piscean Age into the Age of Aquarius, and their influences

are having their effect. Pisces is bringing an end of old forms of civilization. Aquarius, the sign of universal relationship, interplay and consciousness, is bringing in the new spiritual objective.

And the influence of Libra can affect the application of the mind not just for the understanding of objective existence, as it has principally been applied to date, but as a reflector of our subjective side, and of soul purpose. It can condition our understanding of the cause of things the way they are, and the desire to change the old order and old orientation into the new. This is ever, of course, the occult approach.

New Scientific Models

Interestingly, some of the new scientific models show remarkable points of similarity to the occult teachings and approaches, and are tending themselves to a more balanced view. One of the major shifts in scientific ideas is the Implicate order—the hidden order behind the universe. The Implicate order is a boundless whole which can be envisioned as a great holomovement which continually unfolds and enfolds.

David Bohm, the creator of the theory, has a particular model for the Implicate order, or unfolding and enfolding, in which a dye is dropped in glycerin

which is held between two rotating cylinders. As one is turned, the drop disappears in a homogeneous mixture within the background of the glycerin. However, if the direction of rotation is reversed, the dye reappears as it was. Bohm suggests that existence manifests and unmanifests in an analogous fashion. (The reversal process is particularly interesting, in light of the role of Libra.) Although the model itself can be explained mechanically, the analogy is a good one. What Bohm seems to be saying from his standpoint of theoretical quantum physics is that in non-manifest reality, or Implicate order, all is interpenetrating, interconnected and One.

Bohm feels that there is a super-implicate order, and maybe even a series of levels. His vision increasingly approaches that of our seven-level chart of the planes. One suggestion is that the super-implicate order might be one of consciousness. Bohm is just one of several modern day scientists that are beginning to present a view of consciousness as the primary field of evolution, as mystics and occultists do.

Another part of the theory lies in the concept that space does not separate things, it unites them. The normal view is that of two separate points in space joined by a hypothetical dotted line. There is a major shift in perception, however, if we see that only the dotted line is actually real, with two points appearing on it. Such notions in modern physics (and elsewhere) are begging an overall non-fragmentary world view. In fact, the event of individual persons can be seen this way, for in this model there are no separate people joined by the hypothetical dotted line, only the line itself—*humanity*. This would mean that any sense of separateness would be false and an illusion.

Putting it another way, the hidden order is more real than the objects within it. “The present state of theoretical physics implies that empty space has all this energy and that matter is a slight increase of that

energy and therefore matter is like a small ripple on this tremendous ocean of energy, having some relative stability and being manifest. Therefore my suggestion is that this implicate order implies a reality immensely beyond what we call matter. Matter itself is merely a ripple in this background.” (Bohm)

We stand at the threshold of an important opportunity to generate a major shift in human consciousness—from our focus on individual energies functioning not just through ourselves, but also nations, races, etc., to a real grasp of the interrelation and effects upon each other.

“Ripple events of matter” in time and space are known through our minds, but the mind and the thinker are

inseparable from the whole process of flowing movement and essential to what things are. In this model, we are part of the movement. We are not only shaped by evolution, but we are shapers. There is no separation between us and it. We are part of the way in which it shapes itself.

So even certain developments in science support the notion that we can bring ourselves to a point from which we can affect a turn in the evolutionary direction, which in turn changes us. Any drastic change in the consciousness of a critical mass of humanity, any significant alteration in our view of how we stand within our world, any action within our environment which can serve to further a process already taking place, could tip the balance and a new evolutionary threshold could open up.

Amidst the play of energies and events now occurring in the world, a full presentation is being brought forward which is making a major choice and consequent reorientation inevitable. We stand at the threshold of an important opportunity to generate a major shift in human consciousness—from our focus on individual energies functioning not just through ourselves, but also nations, races, etc., to a real grasp of the interrelation and effects upon each other.

Although we may not yet see with total clarity, and are some distance from being fully aware or even mentally focused as a whole, we are learning the nature of desire and the distinction between opposites. We can, I think, if we so choose, finally achieve

balance as a whole on the emotional plane and tip the scales from our material orientation and selfish desires—from aggression, glamour and greed—toward spiritual aspiration, and take a major turn in the direction of the Aquarian ideal—of groups based on brotherhood, on will-to-good, and the freedom of the whole.

The views we have of ourselves, the species as a whole, the world in which we live, are undergoing a profound shift, and, as a whole, we are reaching out toward a higher consciousness on a global scale. And where are we reaching? Toward the heart of the matter, toward true love, involving inclusiveness, compassion and understanding, and towards wisdom in dealing with world needs.

Our role, if we so choose, can help in raising the current state of consciousness from its focus in the lower levels into a higher state—from the solar plexus center to the planetary heart center and the Hierarchy perhaps?—tipping the balance in favor of the Forces of Light and the new world order and all that it brings. No small accomplishment.

The views we have of ourselves, the species as a whole, the world in which we live, are undergoing a profound shift, and, as a whole, we are reaching out toward a higher consciousness on a global scale.

To make such attainments a reality, we must continue the work already begun of reorganizing our structure of world thought, world politics, and so on, and of building a new civilization on the foundations of the old. One of our hardest problems seems to be overcoming the inertia of our old ways in responding to human need. And not just as individuals. The United States, for example, seems to still largely hide behind the glamour of fighting for its ideals rather than reacting to real need. Djwhal Khul tells us that in the awareness of needs and the ability to meet them, in understanding and sharing, real peace is possible.

Let us work for the time, sooner than later, when all nations can be free from their selfish aims, see the vision clearly, and agree in the unity of the work to be done for the whole.

Our group meditations are our means of unitedly sensing the vision. From that balanced perspective, at a midway point, let us reach out and help tip the scales.

Jo Ann Gaines



OUT-BREATHING

Cycles:

*Oh Thou Who givest sustenance to the Universe,
From Whom all things proceed,
To Whom all things return,...*

Cycles. I love cycles. They are inescapable, and to me a source of wonder and great amusement. It amuses me that everything comes and goes, appears and disappears in an observable rhythm. When I say everything, I mean it, literally. Everything under the sun, the sun too, and no doubt everything beyond the sun has an observable rhythm of appearance and disappearance. It is true that the cycles of some things, the sun and its solar system, for example, are much too large for us, in our myopic human state, to discern; and it is true that the cycles of appearance and disappearance of other things, some radioactive elements, for example, are so short that it requires very powerful scientific machinery to even know that they exist. I am equally certain that there are macro and micro cycles the existence of or about which we are totally unaware.

It is amusing to realize this apparently unalterable natural law, to think about the things that come and go and come again: things like tadpoles and frogs and caterpillars and butterflies, breakfast and dinner, spring and fall, summer and winter, night and day, the snow on the mountains, the fullness of the waterfalls in Yosemite, the dogwood, the poppies in the desert, your relatives from the mid-west, Labor Day, Christmas, birthdays, babies and children, youth, teenagers, maturity and old age, death and birth, incarnations and reincarnations. Days and weeks and years and centuries roll effortlessly, and apparently endlessly, by, not in a line, but in cycles.

It is amusing and delightful, somehow, to contemplate this ceaseless interplay of appearing and disappearing things, to sit on a mountain

somewhere and look out over the land, or on the edge of the ocean and look toward the horizon, to locate your own consciousness in the middle of all this movement and change, and to sort of tune in on this divine, and on the surface soundless, music, the variations of which are limited only by one's powers of observation and ability to connect beginnings and endings over relative spaces of this stuff we call time.

I think sometimes that it is the natural cycles that make time. And then I sometimes think that it is time that makes the cycles. However, I really understand, when I do understand, that these events, these cycles of things, and this time and the space in which they all occur always and only co-exist and give meaning and shape to one another.

There is a connection between the waxing and waning of the moon and birth and breathing and life and death and seeds and flowers which the heart comprehends, but which defies the ability of ordinary language to depict, and forces us into metaphor and paradox. And thus forces us, when we truly accept the possibility of discipleship, to render into form the truths our hearts understand

In the parlance of esotericism, we call the effort to create a living demonstration of the wisdom of the heart, service.

through the medium of our daily lives, to try to make metaphors of our lives. In the parlance

of esotericism, we call the effort to create a living demonstration of the wisdom of the heart, service.

And service, like everything else in the universe, literally breathes. From Capricorn to Gemini the server breathes in, gathering the energy, insights, directions, understandings he will need, release, use in the out-breathing cycle. Tadpoles and frogs, caterpillars and butterflies, winter snowstorms, summer flower storms— Cycles of Life.

In my fancy, the inbreathing cycle starts the day after the winter solstice, the shortest day and the longest night, and ends the day before the summer solstice, the longest day and shortest night. The out-breathing cycle starts the day after the summer

solstice in June and ends the day before the winter solstice in December.

The days of solstice themselves are the pauses between breaths, and as such are always days of deep spiritual significance. We always do the inner work between two actions, don't we? Between meditation and illumination there is that space where nothing happens called contemplation.

Starting the 20th of June, we began the process of breathing out. We started the process of manifesting into new and vibrant forms those ideas, those enlightened lives, we encountered and absorbed through the long inbreathing cycle.

This early stage is a time for caution. We are, all of us, just now, full of breath and we can feel the pressure of that breath. Those who are experienced and skilled in the work of manifesting, of building into form that which has been envisioned, touched, sensed, maintain a watchful control over themselves. They carefully pace themselves. They make haste slowly, as Djwhal Khul advises. They do this for a number of reasons.

Marathon Runners

First of all, they are marathon runners. They are in the race for the long haul. They know this up front. They have committed to it at the "get go." They will be in there at the finish because they will to finish. They will allow no shadow of despair or disappointment to block their way and drain their energy, thus releasing themselves from that inner pressure. They will not allow personality issues to hinder their efforts, sidetracking them into wasted time and fruitless displays of purely personal power, again wasting their energy and releasing the pressure.

Toward the end of the cycle, in Scorpio and Sagittarius, when the going gets really tough, they can be counted on to be there. They will last. They will pace themselves. They will have energy

reserves that will enable them to face the darkest night and the shortest day.

Secondly, experienced and skilled builders know that what they contain is spirit. They know that the breath they have gathered into their systems during the long cycle of inbreathing and which they feel pushing inside, trying to get out, is fire.

They know that to allow this fire to rush out into the environment in half-baked (beautiful metaphor) projects and schemes, not only wastes the energy, but actually scorches, and burns the unfortunates who happen to be the recipients of the intended help.

They know that the breath they have gathered into their systems during the long cycle of inbreathing and which they feel pushing inside, trying to get out, is fire.

Besides making haste slowly, those who are truly experienced in the work of manifestation will try to work within a group, with a group of like minded co-

workers. They will do this for a number of reasons also.

For one, they know that the spirit with which they have imbued themselves during the long inbreathing cycle is group energy, Aquarian energy. Although it may not be apparent to everyone, it really required a group effort, participation in a group effort to contact and absorb this energy. It will require a group effort, participation in a group effort to manifest it into the newer truly needed forms.

The day of the strong individual working for and by himself is very nearly over. However, the day of the strong individual is not over. Indeed, the day for which strong individuals were developed is here, or very nearly here. That is the day of group work, that is the Aquarian Age. Only strong individuals can work in group formation.

Ever since, somewhere toward the end of the Atlantean period, Humanity has been involved in the process of developing self consciousness, the flower of which is the appearance of those great

men and women in the arts and sciences, who have made notable contributions to human life. Although there were undoubtedly others who came earlier, whose names have been lost in the space of the thousands of years this particular developmental period covers, I am thinking of individuals like Plato and the Greek playwrights and statesmen. I am thinking of individuals like Erasmus, St. Thomas, Shakespeare, Newton and so on.

Imagine for a moment a group of Platos, a group of Newtons. What will a group of such individuals be able to build? What sort of political systems, educational systems, economic systems will be engendered by groups of such men and women? Humanity is standing on the threshold of such possibilities.

It is quite natural for us to feel tired when we arrive at the end of either the out-breathing or the inbreathing cycle. And it is quite natural for our tiredness to want to give way to discouragement and even despair. Disciples must always be on guard against these two, but especially so now. We may be tempted to withdraw from the fray, the effort, the play, but we really cannot withdraw.

Mode Switching

It helps to recall what Morya said about switching the channel or the part of the equipment we are using when we encounter fatigue. Switching from the inbreathing mode to the out-breathing mode will, in fact, release the sense of fatigue we are all experiencing when the sun finally enters Cancer. We simply need to exercise skill and caution in how we do it

Avoiding out-breathing is, obviously, impossible. One can only hold one's breath for so long. The fact is that we will out-breathe. We will use the substance which we invoked in some form of building activity. The question is whether what we will build will be a prison of despair, something that will feed our own separative desires, or a

wonderful lighted form that will aid the common good.

Which brings me back to cycles. It appears to me that cycles always spiral. Thus we have evolution. It also appears to me that there are forces and lives involved in these cycles and spirals that are way, way beyond my ability to comprehend. Life has a

direction. It is moving in that direction. I think that I and you and we are all going to go in the direction of this Larger Life regard-

less of what we do. So, to me, it makes good practical sense to try to figure out what this direction is and to make every effort to go with it. I think the ride would be a lot smoother. I am reminded of that passage from *The Rays and the Initiations*:

Students should also bear in mind that they need to rid themselves of the usual idea of sacrifice as a process of giving-up, or renunciation of all that makes life worth living. Sacrifice is, technically speaking, the achievement of a state of bliss and of ecstasy because it is the realization of another divine aspect, hidden hitherto by both the soul and the personality. It is understanding and recognition of the will-to-good which made creation possible and inevitable, and which was the true cause of manifestation. Ponder on this, for it is very different in its significance to the usual concepts anent sacrifice.

A Treatise on The Seven Rays Vol. V, page 492

Finally, I am reminded of a few words of the Master Morya:

“Even a worm will set no limits to his passageways of darkness - and you, looking into infinity, you cannot resemble the worm.”

Tom Carney