

Cult Or Consciousness: A Global Ultimatum

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The entire world is now experiencing a dynamic paradigm switch, precisely calculated for a sixteen-year period that began officially (and coincidentally for Australia) on January 26, 2008. The previous era had lasted for twelve years and had introduced both beneficial and detrimental innovations to our World-culture.

The new era may also present substantial challenges and changes. They may not strike with the explosive shock of a tsunami or earth tremor, but will nonetheless quickly rouse our collective consciousness to take stock of where we have arrived. These changes have the capacity to sweep through entire generations of people at one time, dramatically altering our culture, for good or ill.

The term "cult", or at least its origin in the Latin *colere*, is the source of our word "culture". A cult is anything that takes hold of a mass of people with a mesmerising force at the unconscious "survival" level of mind. It can be religious, political, social, or even fashionable. Cult followings often develop through our unconscious desire to project responsibility onto others, or by the desire to feel secure within a group "identity" - both principally having the same psychological basis.

The fluctuating tides of mass consciousness are not random phenomena, are not controlled ultimately by the media or by fashion magnates, but are the direct result of specific astrological forces as they impact upon our world over a measurable span of years.

These subtle influences are sourced in the vibratory frequencies (much like the cycles per second of audible sound) created by the enormous orbital paths of the outer-most planets in our solar system.

These frequencies affect the Earth's magnetic field lines that resonate like invisible harp strings between our magnetic poles. It may be the regular frequency fluctuations created from within the Earth's own magnetic field that produce what we know as the twelve zodiac signs of Western astrology.

The outer planetary paths have specific influences upon the consciousness within all life forms. They are also responsible for stimulating - and actually developing - particular areas of the human brain, which correspond to major facets of our mind at the deepest levels.

One such orbital frequency is that produced by the distant moon-sized body of Pluto. This frequency resonates most powerfully with our instinctive survival patterns of unconscious mind, creating our attachments and desires. Each of the twelve consecutive zodiac signs filtering Pluto's basic frequency by turn (over a total period of around 248 years) resonates with a unique survival issue.

The Era of Wisdom

From November 1995, Pluto had been working through the Sagittarius frequency of expansion and freedom, prompting us to pursue higher knowledge and philosophy (including religious ideology), and stimulating an abundance of information - all being an expansion of mind. Having knowledge is a form of power, which the subconscious aspect of mind registers as an enhancement to personal survival.

As Pluto began its twelve-year transit through Sagittarius, Bill Gates released Windows 95 and his innovative software package, Internet Explorer. Before this time, it was rare to find a personal computer in any home, or even school. What swiftly followed was a rush of extraordinary consumer panic to buy PCs and connect to an ISP for internet downloads. A massive thrust of information was then flooded into the living spaces of individuals and families all over the technological world. This had been unprecedented in human history.

We may have already forgotten that before 1995, access to such a magnitude of diverse information was restricted to libraries and encyclopaedias. The internet has now become a significant component of our culture's survival structure.

Through this same Sagittarian dynamic, we have also witnessed the rise of religious fundamentalism, which draws religious philosophy down to the level of survival rather than to the heights of compassion (being the aspiration to alleviate the suffering of all living beings - a focus on "other" rather than "self"). What the fundamentalists have missed is that through developing compassion, we may no longer be tightly constrained and fixated by anger, resentment, fear, or personal suffering. Compassion is genuine freedom.

Sadly, during this transit, we have also seen the accepted escalation of "happiness" drugs (Sagittarius also resonates with positive, exuberant states of mind), such as an array of medically prescribed anti-depressants. These have often robbed people of the experience of true insight and growth. Also, the cult of recreational brain-altering drugs has sometimes led to aggressive and irresponsible behaviour as the neurological capacity for "joy" had been destroyed after the experience of short bouts of euphoria.

Happiness that is induced through chemical manipulation is not a happiness of the mind but of the brain, and is therefore not long lasting, and consequently creates dependency with the ingested substance - this is not freedom.

More positively, the children born during the Pluto-in-Sagittarius era often exhibit an extraordinary capacity for wisdom and skills beyond their age. The new age movement has labelled them "Indigo Children" (not surprisingly, indigo is the colour-tone that resonates with the Sagittarian frequency). Their generational collective "Pluto-security" blueprint involves the expression of the great wisdom and astounding knowledge they have brought with them from previous lives.

The Era of Ethics

We are collectively now being affected by a vastly different resonance from Pluto's orbit. Many people have already been sensing this change, and have been preparing for a renaissance of thought in how we manage our economies, our planetary resources, and ourselves.

Pluto's influence is now being filtered through the Capricorn frequency in the Earth's field. This will not mean the end of the internet, but will bring another shift in our collective survival-emphasis, stimulating a major change in our consciousness on a global level.

Where Sagittarius spaciouly opens the subconscious mind to the idea of freedom, Capricorn produces the thought of restrictions, boundaries, and structures, as it is the sign of spiritual initiation. Things may become more difficult for our ego-desires as the entire human race will be required to master the Capricornian spiritual virtues of ethical discipline and personal responsibility. This is why Capricorn is associated with the notion of karma.

Karma is inescapable and produces everything we experience. It is not a condition of judgement from any external source, but is generated from within our own subtle mind. Karma is the Eastern equivalent of the Law of Causality. In its Buddhist psychological sense, it has an ethical emphasis and relates to our intentions as well as to our actions, which both leave habitual imprints within our brain chemistry and neural "wiring". The way we think and the way we act produce the currents of our life. Nothing is random. All effects are produced by causes and conditions.

For each of us personally, the results of the way we have lived will come to fruition during this sixteen-year period. If we have been irresponsible and lazy, or selfish in our dealings with others (both personally and professionally), the results will certainly bring a backlash that will force us toward spiritual maturity. Conversely, if we have gained wisdom through the prior transit of Pluto in Sagittarius, we may be heading for a time of great accomplishment in its practical application.

The Capricorn frequency teaches us that authentic spirituality has nothing to do with seeing auras or inner visions, channelling disembodied voices, or "Aum-ing" our way to bliss.

A spiritual person is one who lives happily and mindfully through inner discipline for the benefit of others - with no traces of martyrdom or victim-consciousness - as he or she has transcended the insidious attachment to "ego-self". Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha, was a master psychologist who had discovered that our compulsive focus on self causes our personal suffering.

We may each become more interested in meditation disciplines that can permanently develop and enhance our positive states of mind. This will naturally involve methods in mind training for attention and focus, possibly leading us toward a revival of traditional (that is, "time-tested" - another Capricorn resonance) religious and spiritual philosophies, also providing ethical and moral structures that advance our individual consciousness.

At the same time, we must carefully avoid the "cult-mentality" of segregating and ostracising people of certain religious or cultural orientation, perpetuating the "us and them" attitude and producing yet another cultural dunking into fundamentalism. Cross-cultural respect will be highlighted by this transit, as we may have a great deal to gain from studying especially the more "earth-respecting" cultures.

The new Australian Government was quick to pick up the frequency changes "in the air", and has swiftly corrected some karmic imbalances from our previous era. First was the signing of the Kyoto Agreement; and secondly, the public apology to our Indigenous Australians (both being important declarations of responsibility). These acts may imprint the qualities of responsibility and morality into the collective Australian psyche.

This new transit of Pluto will also emphasise our personal responsibility for the actual causes and healing of our disease states of both mind and body. The new field of Epigenetic Medicine is scientifically demonstrating the immediate effects of our thoughts and emotions upon the genes that create our DNA molecules, affecting cellular function. This is karma in process. For thousands of years, the Eastern philosophies and their medical lores have been teaching that the power of mind creates the body.

We have recently seen a cult revival of the 1980s' Pluto-in-Scorpio "power of mind" techniques to manifest our greed-based desires (rather than our altruistic promptings). This is the mundane side of Capricorn (status-based materialism), linked only to personal survival. However, when we harness the mind to altruistic intent, we heal not only ourselves, but also others in our field of influence, which then spreads beyond.

On a more mundane level, as Capricorn has a natural resonance with our responsibility in the world and the structure and discipline it takes to reach success in life, this sixteen-year period will affect all businesses and commercial ventures. Any business or company - no matter how large - that has not been running on ethical principles, will face dire consequences at some point during this transit. The seeds of a global trend toward corporate responsibility have already begun to germinate among even some multi-national corporations. A few interesting examples of organisations working through responsible themes are Spirit In Business, Spirit At Work, Global Leaders Academy, and Be the Change in the UK.

The new paradigm will teach us that profits actually increase when we conduct business through creative development (rather than attempting to destroy the competition through combative plagiarism); when we practise generosity; and when we find an individual niche in the spirit of co-operation, and without compromising the Earth's delicate eco-systems.

The Compassion Polarity

Ethics without compassion is hollow. And compassion, to be genuine, must become active in all areas of our life.

Due to our ordinary dualistic consciousness, every sign of the zodiac has a polarity opposite sign through which wholeness can be achieved when blended. Therefore, any transiting influence offers us the opportunity of working with both frequencies, being the two sides of any situation or energy pattern.

The polarity sign of Capricorn is Cancer, the sign that may stimulate our compassion through an awakening of our interdependence with all other beings. It is also a strongly protective energy and relates to "family". On a political scale, this would have a military emphasis involving the protection of a country's "family". Though, a higher expression would see the entire human species as one family. And ultimately, this evolves into the protection of the eco-family of microorganisms, plants, insects, birds, animals, and humans, which together create the balance that allows a natural environment to flourish.

It is already obvious that the following sixteen years will highlight the Capricorn-Cancer issues of our personal and collective responsibilities toward the environment of our planet. Due to our abuse of its natural resources, and our arrogance as a species in dominating the natural landscape, we may face some severe challenges in repairing the damage. Also, our present era of mass extinctions is in danger of escalating if we do not consciously attune to Capricorn's higher expression of responsibility. Clean water is already becoming a vital global issue, as Capricorn's polarity frequency of Cancer irrefutably resonates with the water element upon which all life depends.

As US Vice-President Gore had commented, global warming is an ethical issue. We may soon be forced to simplify our lives, and to recognise the role our ego-consciousness has been playing in chaining us to illusory comfort-zones our planet can no longer support. The barrier to a contented inner life has been the reluctance to abandon luxurious lifestyles as a cause of happiness. The trap of relying on external supports for one's happiness only propagates misery in the long-term when those external conditions change (as they always do—nothing is permanent).

Our romance with petrochemicals may soon end as Capricorn stimulates a resonance with natural earth-based fibres and organic substances that we will be adding to our homes and lifestyles. We may finally decry the use of synthetic fibres in our clothes and carpets, which do not enhance our life-force energy, but deplete it through the accumulation of positive ions these fibres attract to our bodies.

The cult-fascination with animal products (leather, skins, bone, etc) in our homes causes enormous suffering to living beings. This fascination often derives from subconscious past-life memories of living within various nomadic cultures that had no alternatives to the use of animal products for tents, floor coverings, and clothing. We may be unconsciously mimicking their lifestyles rather than absorbing their inner teachings. Such cultural obsession can now be appreciated as a subtle act of "spiritual materialism" on our part.

We will eventually come to refuse genetically-modified and non-organically grown foods, and may be drawn to self-sufficient tools and skills such as growing foods (from organic seeds) in pots and gardens; home-bread-baking (not of the frozen-dough variety!); and reviving creative pursuits in sewing, weaving, pottery, and sustainable bamboo/wood-working - all Capricorn resonances.

It is long overdue that those of us living in industrial societies begin to reconnect with our creativity in practical ways. Learning to survive through being as self-sufficient as possible could become a major global drive for many people in technology-saturated and resource-depleted societies. Those of us who have practical skills to teach others will be called upon to extend ourselves for the benefit of the collective whole.

The ultimatum for Pluto's present sixteen-year era is that we either initiate a Golden Age, where we bring about a spiritual renaissance of awakening by collectively embracing the virtues of responsibility and ethics - the first genuine steps on the spiritual path; or we generate a cult of fear and restriction through obsessive materialism, bringing about an Age of Constraint. It is entirely our choice. As any transiting planet may simply bring to awareness whatever has been lurking within our psyche, each one of us is ultimately responsible and in control of the outcome.

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