

The Aquarian Theosophist

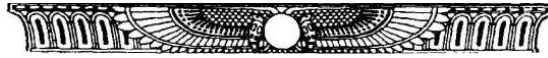


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Plato's musical code revealed after 2,400 years

by a Canadian correspondent

A ground breaking new book has been published on the hidden "Musical Structure of Plato's Dialogues", being called "A Quick Guide to the Strongest Evidence".

As the correspondent said who brought it to the attention of the AQ "it seems that he offers the best understanding since Thomas Taylor."

It was from the CBS radio show "As it Happens" the discussion was Kennedy's research on the Music and Math concealed in Plato's work. He indicated that it was so concealed as to avoid the Greek church dogma at the time.

"But, friend, when you grasp the number and nature of the intervals of sound, from high to low, and the boundaries of those intervals, and how many scales arise from them, which those who came before handed down to us, their followers, to call 'harmonies,' and when you grasp the various qualities inhering in the motions of the body, which they said must be measured with numbers and named 'rhythm' and 'metre,' and when you apprehend that every One and Many should be so investigated, when you have grasped all of that, then you are wise ..."

Plato, Philebus, 17c11-e1

Let's see how it was covered in a recent radio broad cast from CBS and then by Dr Kennedy:

"The writings of the Greek philosopher Plato have been credited with providing the foundations for modern Western culture and science.

"And since he stopped his philosophizing about two thousand, three hundred and fifty years ago - right around the time he died - we've had plenty of time to go over what he left us.

"Which scholars have done, thoroughly, for centuries, everywhere in the world. So it's all the more amazing that, despite all that focused attention, a science historian at the University of Manchester (UK) is now saying a significant part

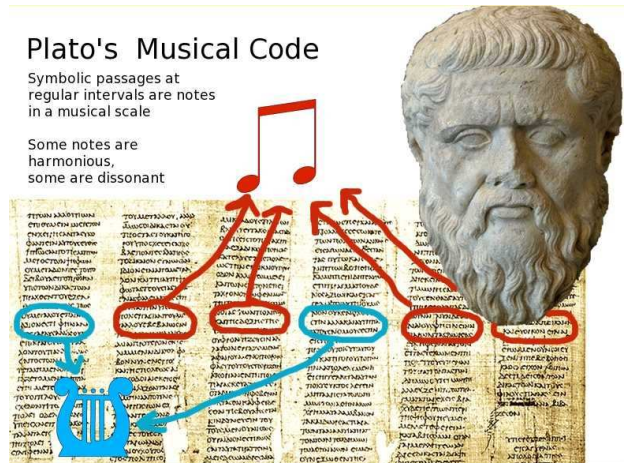
of Plato's writing has been completely ignored. Although, to be fair, that significant part was a bit tough to find."

Research Scholar Dr. Jay Kennedy says:

Plato's Musical Code

Symbolic passages at regular intervals are notes in a musical scale

Some notes are harmonious, some are dissonant



"there are secret coded messages hidden throughout Plato's work that will completely transform our understanding of early Western thought and the great scholar himself." Cont'd on p2.../

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And luckily for us, Dr. Kennedy has cracked the "Plato code". No one tell Dan Brown."

from CBS Radio, to listen again:
http://www.cbc.ca/radioshows/AS_IT_HAPPENS/20100707.shtml
 go to Part 1, at approx 11 minutes into the show.

In Dr Kennedy's words from his blog and book:

In antiquity, many of Plato's followers said, in various ways, that Plato wrote symbolically or allegorically, and that his true philosophy would be found in the layers of meaning underneath the surface stories he tells. In ancient religions, sects, guilds, and fraternities, it was normal to 'reserve' knowledge to initiates and Plato, they contended, had used symbols to hide his philosophy within his writings....

I am a philosopher who specialises in an area called the History and Philosophy of Science. This field was transformed a generation or so ago when it was widely recognised that the study of primitive pseudo-sciences was necessary to understand the birth of our modern sciences. **To understand chemistry, it was necessary to study alchemy; to understand astronomy, it was necessary to study astrology.** Unusually among Plato scholars, I was therefore familiar with the numerology and music theory which was at the heart of early Pythagoreanism. This interdisciplinary preparation enabled me to see and decipher Plato's musical symbolism....

Even for those who are not specialists, these results should be thrilling. Western culture is sometimes said to rest on the twin pillars of Socrates and Jesus, two poor men who wrote nothing. Plato's teacher Socrates launched philosophical and scientific research in Athens, but we know of him primarily through Plato's writings. **The philosophy and science of Socrates and Plato combined with the religions of the East in the Roman period to create central strands of what became modern European culture.** Now our understanding of the birth of that culture will need to be reworked. Plato is sometimes thought of as a cold fish who banished poets and pushed the West toward logic, mathematics, and science. Now we know he was a hidden romantic. The philosophy contained beneath his stories mixes science and mysticism, mathematics and God. By understanding our roots better, we understand ourselves better.

...

Perhaps even more surprisingly, Plato's positive philosophy shows us how to combine science and religion. Today we hear much of the culture wars between believers and atheists, between those who insist our world is

imbued with meaning and value and those who argue for materialism and evolution.

For Plato, music was mathematical and mathematics was musical. In particular, we hear musical notes harmonising with each other when their pitches form simple ratios.

For him, the perception of this beauty in music was at once the perception of a beauty inherent in mathematics. Thus mathematics and the laws governing our universe were imbued with beauty and value: they were divine.

Modern scientists don't ask where their fundamental laws come from; for Plato, the beauty and order inherent in mathematical law meant its source was divine (a Pythagorean version of modern deism). Plato may light a middle way through today's culture wars.

Regarding the codes Plato embedded into his writing Dr Kennedy illustrates how this was done:

"... certain patterns of **musical symbols** are repeated at regular intervals through Plato's Symposium and mark out the notes of a known musical scale.

"More specifically, the evidence below will show that passages containing subtle constellations of symbols are **located at each twelfth of the way through the text of the Symposium.** That is, clusters of terms with symbolic meanings are located at one-twelfth, at two-twelfths, and so forth.

"The ancient Pythagoreans reportedly held that the cosmos had an underlying musical or mathematical structure."

He shows how the analysis of Plato's dialogues contains these mathematical scales and illustrates them in the texts:

'No one, Eryximachus,' said Socrates, 'will vote against you: **HARMONY: ORDER, AGREEMENT** $\frac{1}{8}$ I do not see how I could myself decline, [177e] when I set up to understand nothing but erotics; nor could Agathon and Pausanias either, nor yet Aristophanes, who divides his time between Dionysus and Aphrodite; nor could any other of the persons I see before me. To be sure, we who sit at the bottom $\frac{2}{8}$ do not get a fair chance: but if the earlier speakers rise nobly to the occasion, we shall be quite content. So now let Phaedrus, with our best wishes, make a beginning and give us a eulogy of Love.' To this they assented one and all, (1/9) [178a] bidding him do as Socrates said. Now the entire speech in each case was beyond Aristodemus's recollection, $\frac{3}{8}$ and so too the whole of what he told me is beyond mine: but those parts which, on account also of the speakers, I deemed most memorable, I will tell you successively as they were delivered.

He makes a well-made case for the hidden esoteric meaning in Plato's works:

The so-called neo-Pythagoreans, also from about the first century BCE, claimed that Pythagorean doctrines were symbolically embedded in Plato's dialogues.

Tarrant summarises the fragmentary remains of these neo-Pythagoreans:

"All this suggests (their) belief that Pythagorean doctrines are hidden in Plato, who for one reason or another is reluctant to reveal them, and that true Pythagoreanism can be teased out of Platonic texts by in-depth interpretation.

"... So it would seem safe to say that something quite esoteric is regularly being detected beneath Plato's text, concealing details of the allegedly Pythagorean metaphysic that Pythagoreans, almost as a matter of faith, supposed to exist there."

Full copy of the text from:

<http://personalpages.manchester.ac.uk/staff/jay.kennedy/Symp%20Mus%20Book%20pp1-53.271-8.pdf>

website <http://personalpages.manchester.ac.uk/staff/jay.kennedy/>

**"Be kind, for everyone you meet
is fighting a hard battle."**

Plato

19th c. Pointers to Plato's codes

"... it is but in the legitimate defence of our own statements, i.e., the vindication of Ancient Wisdom and its great truths, that we mean to take our "great authorities" to task." H.P.Blavatsky

One of the main points in this Volume¹ is to indicate in the works of the old Aryan, Greek, and other Philosophers of note, as well as in all the world-scriptures, **the presence of a strong Esoteric allegory and symbolism.**

Another of the objects is to prove that the key of interpretation, as furnished by the Eastern Hindu-Buddhistic canon of Occultism - fitting as well the Christian Gospels as it does archaic Egyptian, Greek, Chaldaean, Persian, and even Hebrew-Mosaic Books - must have been one common to all the nations, however divergent may have been their respective methods and exoteric "blinds."

These claims are vehemently denied by some of the foremost scholars of our day. In his Edinburgh Lectures, Prof. Max Müller discarded

this fundamental statement of the Theosophists... The learned Sanskrit scholar stated in so many words that there was no hidden meaning, no Esoteric element or "blinds," either in the Purânas or the Upanishads. Considering that the word "Upanishad" means, when translated, the "Secret Doctrine," the assertion is, to say the least, extraordinary.

...

Prof. B. Jowett, again, as contemptuously passes the sponge over the "absurd" interpretations of Plato's Timæus and the Mosaic Books by the Neo-Platonists. There is not a breath of the Oriental (Gnostic) spirit of Mysticism in Plato's Dialogues, the Regius Professor of Greek tells us, nor any approach to Science, either.

...

For, as explained repeatedly in so many words, while the Rishis and the Sages of old have walked far over the arid fields of myth and superstition, the mediaeval Scholar, and even the average eighteenth century Scientist, have always been more or less cramped by their "supernatural" religion and beliefs.

True, it is generally conceded that some ancient and also mediaeval Scholars, such as Pythagoras, Plato, Paracelsus and Roger Bacon, followed by a host of glorious names, had indeed left not a few landmarks over precious mines of Philosophy and unexplored lodes of Physical Science. But then the actual excavation of these, the smelting of the gold and silver, and the cutting of the precious jewels they contain, are all due to the patient labors of the modern man of Science.



And is it not to the unparalleled genius of the latter that the ignorant and hitherto deluded world owes a correct knowledge of the real nature of the Kosmos, of the true origin of the universe and man, as revealed in the automatic and mechanical theories of the Physicists, in accordance with strictly scientific Philosophy? Before our cultured era, Science

¹ "The Secret Doctrine" by H.P.Blavatsky.

was but a name, Philosophy a delusion and a snare. According to the modest claims of contemporary authority on genuine Science and Philosophy, the Tree of Knowledge has only now sprung from the dead weeds of superstition, as a beautiful butterfly emerges from an ugly grub. We have, therefore, nothing for which to thank our forefathers. The Ancients have at best prepared and fertilized the soil; **it is the Moderns who have planted the seeds of knowledge and reared the lovely plants called blank negation and sterile agnosticism.**

...

As part of this work treats of the Initiates and the secret knowledge imparted during the Mysteries, the statements of those who, in spite of the fact that Plato was an Initiate, maintain that no hidden Mysticism is to be discovered in his works, have to be first examined. Too many of the present scholars, Greek and Sanskrit, are but too apt to forego facts in favour of their own preconceived theories based on personal prejudice. They conveniently forget, at every opportunity, not only the numerous changes in language, but also that the allegorical style in the writings of old Philosophers and the secretiveness of the Mystics had their *raison d'être*; that both the pre-Christian and the post-Christian classical writers – the great majority at all events – were under the sacred obligation never to divulge the solemn secrets communicated to them in the sanctuaries; and that this alone is sufficient to sadly mislead their translators and profane critics. But these critics will admit nothing of the kind, as will presently be seen.

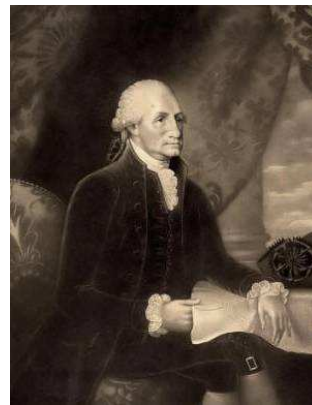
For over twenty-two centuries everyone who has read Plato has been aware that, like most of the other Greek Philosophers of note, he had been initiated; that therefore, being tied down by the Sodalian Oath, **he could speak of certain things only in veiled allegories.** His reverence for the Mysteries is unbounded; he openly confesses that he writes "enigmatically," and we see him take the greatest precautions to conceal the true meaning of his words. Every time the subject touches the greater secrets of Oriental Wisdom – the cosmogony of the universe, or the ideal pre-existing world – Plato shrouds his Philosophy in the profoundest darkness. His *Timaeus* is so confused that no one but an Initiate can understand the hidden meaning.

From "Blavatsky Collected Writings", Vol 14, Introductory pp 4 - 6.

Washington's Vision

In the National Tribune, 1880, an article appeared giving an account of the "Vision of Washington" at Valley Forge. The account was told by a gentleman named Anthony Sherman, who supposedly was at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. The story has been published several times.

Some people will say that it is substantiated by the fact that a copy of the account is in the Library of Congress. This argument of authenticity is misleading in and of itself. The Library of Congress has copies of anything published. That does not indicate accuracy of the content.



I am unaware of any eighteenth-century evidence that corroborates this story. The soldier mentioned as having a first-hand account of the "Vision," Anthony Sherman, was a soldier in the Continental Army. However, according to his pension

application, written by him, he states that he was at Saratoga under the command of Benedict Arnold at the end of 1777 and only joined the main forces in 1778 in New Jersey just before the Battle of Monmouth.

Anthony Sherman wrote:

"You doubtless heard the story of Washington's going to the thicket to pray in secret for aid and comfort from God, the interposition of whose Divine Providence brought us safely through the darkest days of tribulation. One day, I remember it well, when the chilly winds whistled through the leafless trees, though the sky was cloudless and the sun shown brightly, he remained in his quarters nearly all the afternoon alone. When he came out, I noticed that his face was a shade paler than usual. There seemed to be something on his mind of more than ordinary importance. Returning just after dusk, he dispatched an orderly to the quarters who was presently in attendance. After a preliminary conversation of about an hour, Washington, gazing upon his companion with that strange look of dignity which he alone commanded, related the event that occurred that day.

George Washington describes his vision

This afternoon, as I was sitting at this table engaged in preparing a dispatch, something seemed to disturb me. Looking up, I beheld standing opposite me a singularly beautiful female. So astonished was I, for I had given strict orders not to be disturbed, that it was some moments before I found language to inquire the cause of her presence. A second, a third and even a fourth time did I repeat my question, but received no answer from my mysterious visitor except a slight raising of her eyes.

By this time I felt strange sensations spreading through me. I would have risen but the riveted gaze of the being before me rendered volition impossible. I assayed once more to address her, but my tongue had become useless, as though it had become paralyzed.

A new influence, mysterious, potent, irresistible, took possession of me. All I could do was to gaze steadily, vacantly at my unknown visitor. Gradually the surrounding atmosphere seemed as if it had become filled with sensations, and luminous. Everything about me seemed to rarefy, the mysterious visitor herself becoming more airy and yet more distinct to my sight than before. I now began to feel as one dying, or rather to experience the sensations which I have sometimes imagined accompany dissolution. I did not think, I did not reason, I did not move; all were alike impossible. I was only conscious of gazing fixedly, vacantly at my companion.

Presently I heard a voice saying, "Son of the Republic, look and learn," while at the same time my visitor extended her arm eastwardly, I now beheld a heavy white vapor at some distance rising fold upon fold. This gradually dissipated, and I looked upon a stranger scene. Before me lay spread out in one vast plain all the countries of the world — Europe, Asia, Africa and America. I saw rolling and tossing between Europe and America the billows of the Atlantic, and between Asia and America lay the Pacific.

"Son of the Republic," said the same mysterious voice as before, "look and learn." At that moment I beheld a dark, shadowy being, like an angel, standing or rather floating in mid-air, between Europe and America. Dipping water out of the ocean in the hollow of each hand, he sprinkled some upon America with his right hand, while with his left hand he cast some

on Europe. Immediately a cloud raised from these countries, and joined in mid-ocean. For a while it remained stationary, and then moved slowly westward, until it enveloped America in its murky folds. Sharp flashes of lightning gleamed through it at intervals, and I heard the smothered groans and cries of the American people.

A second time the angel dipped water from the ocean, and sprinkled it out as before. The dark cloud was then drawn back to the ocean, in whose heaving billows it sank from view. A third time I heard the mysterious voice saying, "Son of the Republic, look and learn," I cast my eyes upon America and beheld villages and towns and cities springing up one after another until the whole land from the Atlantic to the Pacific was dotted with them.

Again, I heard the mysterious voice say, "Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn." At this the dark shadowy angel turned his face southward, and from Africa I saw an ill omened specter approach our land. It flitted slowly over every town and city of the latter. The inhabitants presently set themselves in battle array against each other. As I continued looking I saw a bright angel, on whose brow rested a crown of light, on which was traced the word "Union," bearing the American flag which he placed between the divided nation, and said, "Remember ye are brethren." Instantly, the inhabitants, casting from them their weapons became friends once more, and united around the National Standard.

"And again I heard the mysterious voice saying "Son of the Republic, look and learn." At this the dark, shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth, and blew three distinct blasts; and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia and Africa. Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene: From each of these countries arose thick, black clouds that were soon joined into one. Throughout this mass there gleamed a dark red light by which I saw hordes of armed men, who, moving with the cloud, marched by land and sailed by sea to America. Our country was enveloped in this volume of cloud, and I saw these vast armies devastate the whole country and burn the villages, towns and cities that I beheld springing up. As my ears listened to the thundering of the cannon, clashing of sword, and the shouts and cries of millions in mortal combat, I heard again the mysterious voice saying, "Son of the Republic, look and learn." When the voice had

ceased, the dark shadowy angel placed his trumpet once more to his mouth, and blew a long and fearful blast. "Instantly a light as of a thousand suns shone down from above me, and pierced and broke into fragments the dark cloud which enveloped America. At the same moment the angel upon whose head still shone the word Union, and who bore our national flag in one hand and a sword in the other, descended from the heavens attended by legions of white spirits. These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who I perceived were will nigh overcome, but who immediately taking courage again, closed up their broken ranks and renewed the battle.

Again, amid the fearful noise of the conflict, I heard the mysterious voice saying, "Son of the Republic, look and learn." As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of the land victorious!

Then once more I beheld the villages, towns and cities springing up where I had seen them before, while the bright angel, planting the azure standard he had brought in the midst of them, cried with a loud voice: "While the stars remain, and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, so long shall the Union last." And taking from his brow the crown on which blazoned the word "Union," he placed it upon the Standard while the people, kneeling down, said, "Amen."

The scene instantly began to fade and dissolve, and I at last saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I at first beheld. This also disappearing, I found myself once more gazing upon the mysterious visitor, who, in the same voice I had heard before, said, "Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted: Three great perils will come upon the Republic. The most fearful is the third, but in this greatest conflict the whole world united shall not prevail against her. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his land and the Union." With these words the vision vanished, and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown to me the birth, progress, and destiny of the United States.

<http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/washington/vision.html>

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The American Indians

These original Americans once inhabited the present United States from Coast to Coast. In manners, customs, and general features the difference between the Indians of the Gulf States and those of the shores of the Northern Lakes is scarcely perceptible; it is only by languages that they can be grouped into great families. East of the Mississippi there were not more than eight radically distinct languages, four of which are still in existence, while the others have disappeared.

Indian Prayer

Religion — They believed in a good and Supreme Being, and in an Evil Spirit, and recognized the existence of inferior good and evil spirits. They believed in a future state of existence, and there were no infidels among them.



Superstition among swayed them powerfully, and special men, called "medicine-men," were their physicians, priests, and prophets, who, on all occasions, used incantations. Christian missionaries have labored among them in many places, from the time the Spaniards and Frenchmen settled in America until now.

<http://www.sonofthesouth.net/american-indians/>

Monitoring Planet Gaia

The Geo-Planetary Situation in August 2010 O Teosofista

This article was first published in the Portuguese language at the August 2010 edition of "O Teosofista", the monthly Internet magazine of www.filosofiaesoterica.com

During translation it was updated to include events up to the end of August

For more than a century a multidimensional crisis has been challenging the materialistic civilization. The acceleration of the climate crisis is one of the external effects of the lack of balance in the course of human evolution. And the change in the geological metabolism has increased in the year 2010.

Let's see a few practical examples taking place during August:

The monsoon season began and Pakistan is being devastated by heavy flooding. According to the country's prime minister this is the nation's "worst-ever calamity". More than 2 thousands deaths, 4 millions of homeless and at least 20 million people have been affected by this natural disaster.



CNN footage of Pakistan's flooded areas

The United Nations has warned that more than 3 million children are in danger of contracting deadly diseases, and the UN general secretary said that Pakistan floods are a "slow-motion" tsunami, a "global disaster like few the world as ever seen", and "one of the greatest tests of global solidarity in our times".

(1)

Meanwhile, something similar events are happening in China, with heavy rains causing gigantic landslides and rivers to burst their banks. Hundreds of people died, thousands are missing and more than 300 million people have been affected. (2) It has been reported that "nearly 260,000 flee flooding along China-North Korea border". (3)

In Brazil, the combination of heavy rains with floods and extreme drought are also making a frightening picture.

Europe also was fustigated by severe weather conditions and other natural disasters. During August heavy rains lashed several countries of central Europe, causing floods and destruction. Throughout southern Europe, a heat wave has helped to spread hundreds of fires. In Portugal, there were more fires just in one month than in two years.

In Russia, the most intense heat wave of the past 130 years, together with a severe drought that affected the central areas of the country, helped the proliferation of more than 500 wildfires that destroyed thousands of hectares of forest. The Russian authorities account for more than 15.000 deaths due to heat and fires. According to NASA, the cloud of smoke caused by fires was similar to that of the volcanoes and came to have a length of 3.000 km.

By the middle of August, the head of the Russian Meteorological Service said:

"There was nothing similar to this on the territory of Russia during the last one thousand years in regard to the heat." (4)

By then, we were also informed that "17 nations comprising 19% of Earth's total land area have set extreme heat records this year". (5)

The weather phenomenon was so extreme that the renowned meteorologist Jeff Masters wrote:

"Earth has now seen four consecutive months with its warmest temperature on record, and the first half of 2010 was the warmest such 6-month period in the planet's history. It is not a surprise that many all-time extreme heat records are being shattered when the planet as a whole is so warm. Global warming "loads the dice" to favour extreme heat events unprecedented in recorded history." (6)

There is one aspect in all this that has been widely discussed by some of us in the Portuguese language theosophical e-group "SerAtento". It is the silence and unconcern with which the media are treating the planetary crisis. One of the greatest examples of this global cover-up happened with the floods recorded in May 2010 in Tennessee, USA. Considered one of the most "epic extreme weather events in U.S. history", the "deluge of Tennessee" was proportionately larger than Hurricane Katrina. Several experts have come to classify this event as the "deluge of the millennium", such is the rarity of this phenomenon. (7)

Now, in Pakistan and China, we are facing an even bigger catastrophe. Referring to the affected people, the UN general secretary, Ban-Ki Moon, alerted: "That is more than the entire population hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami, the Kashmir earthquake, Cyclone Nargis, and the earthquake in Haiti - combined." (8) There are already reports warning that Russian heatwave and floods in Pakistan and China are a big threat to supplies for basic human diet, and that this could have a "profound effect on global food security" (9) But people are still not being properly informed by the media and by their governments. The media keeps on with its merely fragmentary and disconnected description of this and that isolated effect.

Signs of accelerating physiological and climate deregulation of the planet do not stop here. Early August new information was released on one central theme: the destruction of the oceanic capacity to regulate global climate. There is a decline of about 40% of phytoplankton in the ocean since 1950, caused by increases in temperature of the sea surface. Recently, the journal "Nature Geoscience" published a study showing that "the seas are acidifying ten times faster today than 55 million years ago when a mass extinction of marine species occurred." (10) As one scientist said about the decline of phytoplankton (small aquatic microscopic organisms), "the consequences could be catastrophic". (11)

One does not need to be an expert to understand what he meant by "catastrophic consequences". It is enough to know that the phytoplankton has photosynthetic capacity, and produces about half the oxygen in the world, retaining massive amounts of carbon dioxide. It also forms the basis of the food chain of marine life.

Recent research points to the fact that "warming over past decade caused droughts that reduced the number of plants available to soak up carbon dioxide". (12)

Another dramatic sign of the acceleration of the climate crisis is that "coral is dying at one of the fastest rates ever recorded because of a dramatic rise in water temperatures." According to marine biologists, a hotspot in Indian Ocean has affected reefs across Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Sri Lanka. The coordinator at the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network in Australia said:

"We are in a major heating period, it's breaking all records, and there are (...) worries now about the Philippines and eventually Taiwan and probably southern Japan. This is really quite serious." (13)

There are many other events going on. Among them perhaps the most evident is the rapid disappearance of hundreds of glaciers around the world. The process of melting glaciers is getting more intense. (14)



"We measure the snowpack by probing through it to the previous summer's impenetrable surface, due to melting and refreezing or being blue glacier ice"

On this subject, it is worth reading the article "The Big Melt", published in "National Geographic" magazine last April. (15)

The melting is affecting the poles. In February 2010 an Iceberg the size of Luxembourg has separated from a glacier in Antarctica. Now halfway through the year, a new giant iceberg, with an area four times larger than the island of Manhattan, separated from one of the largest glaciers of Greenland. (16)

Besides all this, we have seen already this year some other tremendous events.

The year opened with an impressive earthquake in Haiti that caused great destruction, thousands of victims and millions of homeless. About one month later, one of the world's most powerful earthquakes hits Chile. NASA reported that the quake was so powerful that it could have moved Earth's axis. (17)

Then, in April, airspace was closed almost all over Europe because volcanic ashes were released by a small volcano under a glacier in Iceland. The point is: according to some studies, the melting of the glaciers could increase volcanic activity. The magazine "New Scientist" published an article in 2008 saying:

"A warmer world could be a more explosive one. Global warming is having a much more profound effect than just melting ice caps - it is melting magma too." (18)

In all this we are talking about the relation between glaciers retreat, the action of weight changes on the surface of the globe and changes in the Earth's axis, a subject which is addressed in "The Secret Doctrine" of H.P.Blavatsky. (19)

Meantime, in late August, the volcano at Mount Sinabung on Indonesia has erupted for the first time in four centuries. Scientists and authorities were caught by surprise by this sudden eruption. Thousands of people were evacuated. (20)

As if all this were not enough, there is another fact to consider in this complex process of planetary change: the influence of periods of higher intensity of sunspots on human activities. In a small footnote at "The Secret Doctrine", HPB shows her appreciation for this research area:

"...We have men of science who astrologize upon the spots. Professor Jevons attributes all the great periodical commercial crises to the influence of the Sun spots every eleventh cyclic year. (...) This is worthy of praise and encouragement surely." (21)

In recent decades, the last peak of solar magnetic activity occurred in 2001. If we investigate along the lines referred to by HPB, we will find in 2001 several important events: beginning of the Bush administration, terrorist attacks to the Twin Towers, the destruction of giant statues of Bamian by the Taliban, a world

economic crisis (between 2000 and 2001), and so on.

The next big peak of solar magnetic activity will occur around 2012. Recent news reports point to the fact that we are beginning to leave the longest period of solar retraction in the last 100 years (22).

We will enter a new period of expansion in sunspots. This constitutes one more challenge for a vulnerable society which is increasingly dependent on high technology. It is well-known that the electrical and electronic processes suffer a direct impact of periodic expansion of sunspots (23).

In relation to the solar cycle of expansion and retraction of 11 years, Theosophy teaches that the magnetism of the sun - in its sevenfold nature - enters the Earth through the poles, and then circulates around the globe. The northern lights are thus manifestations of the psychomagnetic vitality of Earth itself, and have a close relationship with the sunspot cycles.

There is a direct link between sunspot activity and climate process. In the focal points of greatest magnetic relation with the sun, which are the terrestrial poles, we are watching enormous physiological changes, with the rapid melting of polar icecaps.

Scientist James Lovelock has warned in his latest works to the fact that, with the melting of the ice, a greater amount of heat will be absorbed by the Arctic, which further accelerates the melting process itself, in a vicious circle.

If this is happening at an increasing pace in recent years and with an unprecedented degree in 2010, what can we expect now that we are starting a new period of intense solar activity?

We should continue to monitor the global situation. **Our duty is to focus on what depends on us**, while keeping ourselves informed about everything that concerns the planet. **As it deepens the cultural, spiritual and environmental change of current civilization, there are new options and alternatives, and the responsibility of every conscious citizen becomes greater.**

More articles on the planetary change and the civilization of the future can be seen at www.filosofiaesoterica.com/materiais.php?session=21

NOTES:

- (1) Read at <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/08/20/pakistan.floods/index.html>
- (2) Read at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11008107>
- (3) Read at <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/08/22/china.flooding/index.html?hpt=Sbin>
- (4) Read at <http://climateprogress.org/2010/08/09/russia-heat-wave-one-thousand-years-global-warming/>
- (5) At the same link mentioned above.
- (6) At the same link mentioned above.
- (7) Read at <http://climateprogress.org/2010/05/26/nashville-katrina-tennessee-superstorm-1000-year-flood/>
- (8) Read at <http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/08/20/pakistan.floods/index.html>
- (9) Read at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/19/food-shortages-afghanistan-africa-pakistan-russia>
- (10) Read at <http://e360.yale.edu/content/feature.msp?id=2241>
- (11) Read at <http://climateprogress.org/2010/07/29/nature-decline-ocean-phytoplankton-global-warming-boris-worm/>
- (12) Read at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/19/rising-temperatures-plants-carbon>
- (13) Read at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/18/indonesia-coral-reefs-dyi_n_686374.html
- (14) For more information visit the excellent blog <http://glacierchange.wordpress.com/>
- (15) Read at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2010/04/tibetan-plateau/larmer-text>. A Portuguese language version of this article has been published in the website www.filosofiaesoterica.com.
- (16) Read at <http://climateprogress.org/2010/08/08/greenland-ice-sheet-glacier-calves-sea-level-ris/>
- (17) Read at <http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/earth-20100301.html>
- (18) "Melting ice caps may trigger more volcanic eruptions", *New Scientist*, April 2008, <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn13583-melting-ice-caps-may-trigger-more-volcanic-eruptions.html>. Read also "Will present day glacier retreat increase volcanic activity?", *Geophysical Research Letters*, Vol.35, <http://homepages.see.leeds.ac.uk/~earcpa/2008GL033510.pdf>.
- (19) Read the article "Al Gore, Theosophy and the Cycle", <http://www.filosofiaesoterica.com/ler.php?id=519>
- (20) Read at <http://scienceblogs.com/eruptions>
- (21) "The Secret Doctrine", H.P. Blavatsky, Vol. I, Theosophy Company, Los Angeles, p. 541.
- (22) See articles "Are Sunspots Disappearing?", at http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2009/03sep_sunspots/, and "Deep Solar Minimum", at http://science.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2009/01apr_deepsolarminimum/
- (23) See article "More Active Sun Means Nasty Solar Storms Ahead", at <http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/active-sun-solar-storms-100609.html>

Life Ball 2010 in Vienna

"The Greatest Charity-Event for Aids in Austria"

(Readers won't take this sub-title at "face value" – **ie on appearances** – after they have read this critical review of social fundraising. Eds)

We Theosophists have the function to open man's heart for true love.

The yearly Life Ball took place on 17 July 2010 in Vienna. It is the greatest charity-event for Aids in Austria. The Austrian television reported about this event some hours. This year there was a net profit of €1.6 millions.

At the gala we could see Bill Clinton, Whoopi Goldberg (who represented 'amfAR'), David Garrith and many other prominent people. Vienna's politicians have been very proud that such an event took place in Austria.

But many people in Vienna are thinking that this event is to shrill and eccentric. Other are doubtful about the prominence's and the event manager's engagement and believe they especially make Public Relations for themselves.

What in fact is the use of this event?

From the international point of view €1.6 millions are a small amount. Certainly one can help in cooperation with national and international partners thousands of people in Europe, Africa and Asia. There is money for prevention, educational campaigns, medical treatments and education. But I wonder if that is all what we should do.

My opinion is that we don't root out the main cause for Aids as we are only speaking about methods of prevention when people have sex but no one is talking about true love and our sexual behaviour. Why are people so often changing their partners?

What part is played by the Principle of Passions and Desires in our sexual life?

HPB says in 'Isis Unveiled, I, 318',

"When one falls into a love of self and love of the world, with its pleasures, losing the divine love of God and of the neighbour, he falls from life to death."

Theosophy makes a point of the fact that Kama (Passions and Desires) is not caused by the body but is a principle in itself. It is the fourth

principle in the seven-fold constitution of man. It is the balance principle from which the ways go up or down.

A valuable picture of the Passions and Desires and their place in our lives is given by M. Judge in the 'Ocean, p. 49'. He says:

"Passion and desire together with astral-body are common to men and animals, as also to the vegetable kingdom, though in the last but faintly developed and at one period in evolution no further material principles had been developed, and all the three higher, of Mind, Soul, and Spirit were but latent.

"Up to this point man and animal were equal, for the brute in us is made of the passions and the astral body. The development of the germs of Mind made man because it constituted the great differentiation. The God within begins with Manas or mind, and it is the struggle between this God and the brute below which Theosophy speaks of and warns about."

Theosophy teaches that Kama has two aspects, one low and the other high. If we are not able to control the lower aspect then our way will go down.

If we only see in our partner a sexual object then we will not be able to satisfy our sexual desires. They will always lead to more and greater desires. Therefore, we will change our partners but will not find fulfilment of our sexual life. These desires are the ones that enslave us and inhibit the freeing of our true nature. When our consciousness is placed on material things, the tendency is to stimulate our animal nature. The attachment to selfish desires closes down the range of our perceptions to nothing but the physical world and the physical senses.

The other aspect of the Kamic nature is the will. It is the same force but used in a different way and with a different motive. When our consciousness is centred in our noblest aspirations and unselfish desires, then Kama is transformed. The force of Spirit comes from our Buddhic nature.

What does that mean for our sexual behaviour?

Theosophy tells us if we wish to set in motion and direct the will we first must arouse the desire; not the desires of the lower nature, but the desires of the higher one.

HPB says "When a thought of good or evil import is begotten on our brain, it draws it impulses of like nature as irresistibly as the magnet attracts iron filings." (Isis Unveiled, I, 181).

We should not make sex if there is not true love for the other being and we should not see him/her as a sexual object but as a loved being. When we love him/her with our whole heart then we will not have any sexual desire for another person. Motive is the factor that determines whether a thought or an act is good or bad. Therefore, true love must be the most important motive in a partnership.

We all have the right motive in our heart. It is not a matter of imposing a new, but of uncovering the real one in our heart. We must open our heart to true love for our partner.²

Mr Judge says in 'The Key to Theosophy, 232',

"All good and evil things in humanity have their roots in human character, and this character is, and has been, conditioned by the endless chain of cause and effect. But this conditioning applies to the future as well as to the present and the past."

Therefore, we must interrupt this chain of cause and effect. **We Theosophists have the function to open man's heart for true love. We should be ourselves good examples. This is the only chance we have to root out the main cause for Aids.**



The White Lotus

² We appreciate the reasoning that will slow down and even prevent the spread of Aids, which in itself is sound and would serve well if applied.

It should be added that the esoteric doctrine goes a step further, and teaches that love must become wholly Universal.

"Theosophy teaches the spirit of "non-separateness," the evanescence and illusion of human creeds and dogma, hence, **inculcates universal love and charity for all mankind "without distinction of race, colour, caste or creed,"** is it not therefore the fittest to alleviate the sufferings of mankind?"

from 'Let Every Man Prove His Own Work', by H.P.Blavatsky.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dionysus on Battles with Atlanteans in N. Africa

Dear Editor

Thank you for your reply. I'm glad that you're well and in good spirits.

There is a description by Diodorus (very similar to the war of Atlanteans by Plato) – finally I found it – in: <http://books.google.com/books?id=agd-eLVNRMMC&printsec=titlepage#v=snippet&q=bacchus&f=false>

On page 212 below I attached a screenshot where I underlined 2-3 phrases...

Dionysius afterwards undertaking a war against Saturn, and marching out of Nysa with all his forces for that purpose, they report that Aristæus his tutor was the first that, with great solemnity, offered sacrifices to him as to a god. It is said the noblest of the Nysæans, called Sileni, were his companions. For Silenus was the first that reigned in this island, who is so very antient, that none knows his origin: and forasmuch as he had a tail growing out at his rump, his posterity, partaking of his nature, had the same badge. Dionysius therefore marched away with his army, and, (after much toil and hazard for want of water, passing through many deserts infested with wild beasts), came at length to Zabirna†, a city of Libya, and there encamped: near to this place he killed the monster (the spawn of Terra†, called Campe), which had destroyed many of the inhabitants, for which he was in high reputation among the people for his valour. He raised a mound of earth over this monstrous beast he had killed, to the end to leave an everlasting monument of his valour to posterity, which remains to this very day. Thence he marched against the Titans, causing his army to pass quietly and orderly through all places, carrying himself courteously and civilly towards all, assuring every body that he undertook this expedition for no other reason but to punish the impious, and benefit all mankind: so that the Libyans, admiring his good order and discipline, and the greatness of his mind, largely supplied his army with provision, and freely joined

It's an old edition (1814, Eds) and the translation is also "old fashioned". Apparently Diodorus seems to have obtained the above description from Ancient Egyptian cripts.

There are similar descriptions in other ancient languages, like Mahabharata, the Sanskrit epic, The Epic of Gilgamesh from Ancient Sumeria, and more.

You (just like me) seem to accept the existence of Atlanteans, and yet, mainstream history seems to reject them unconditionally :-)

I wish you all the best... Keep up with the good work,

C (a correspondent from Greece)

The Geo-Planetary Situation

From a correspondent

on the new E-Theosophy Yahoo Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/E-THEOSOPHY/>

Dear friends

By reading HPB we find out that she herself was constantly updated on the issues of her time. She was a brilliant researcher, not because she wanted to collect data, but because she wanted to be useful. If we try to follow her example we have much to gain.

We need to have the broader possible perspective of the present moment and the various possibilities that are offered to humanity. As students we learn that external determinants of the evolutionary process must be monitored, because nothing is separate. "As above so below".

For this reason, I would like to share with you a text ("Monitoring Planet Gaia") that summarizes a research made by a group of students of theosophy. This is a translation made from the original in the Portuguese language. Because I'm not native English language speaker, I ask to apologize for the language inaccuracies that the text may contain.

This text is only part of a larger study ("Assessing the Planet Earth"), that combines the theosophical perspective with the scientific assessment of the current data on the planetary crisis. The complete article has been published at the website www.filosofiaesoterica.com

Best regards, J

The article "**Monitoring Planet Gaia**" starts on page 7.

The Editors are happy to pass on comments about this or other articles to the authors.

PUBLICATION REVIEWS

The Secret Doctrine Commentaries

The Unpublished 1889 Instructions

transcribed and annotated by Michael Gomes

It was announced at the ITC meeting in August 2010 at The Hague that a new publication of the Secret Doctrine Commentaries is now available in a hard back book version.

Previous commentaries known as "Transactions of the Blavatsky Lodge of the Theosophical Society" covered the first 10 meetings of H. P. Blavatsky's Thursday evening meetings and discussions on the Stanzas of the Volume 1 of The Secret Doctrine; these were published in 1890 and 1891, the proofs being corrected by HPB herself. (They are available in an electronic version ISBN 1-55700-029-8).

The new Commentaries³ cover all these original and also the later meetings – except # 18 for which there is no record – during the period 21st March 1889 (# 11) to 20th June 1889 (#22).

They are largely unchanged and unedited, except as Michael Gomes says "in the uniformity of punctuation and the spelling of words." (p. xv), which enables an interesting side-by-side comparison of HPB's editing of the original Transactions and these 10 unedited ones.

The Isis Foundation describes the new book:

"The Secret Doctrine Commentaries contains the never before published transcription of the shorthand notes of these Blavatsky Lodge meetings. Here is Blavatsky in dialogue with her students: provocative, insightful, spontaneous, and inspiring of the deeper meaning. It offers a unique opportunity to read Blavatsky's direct, prescient answers to questions on Cosmogogenesis, Fohat, the infinitude of the Atom, the nature of Consciousness etc., giving the

reader the impression of participating in these Blavatsky Lodge meetings themselves."

Available from The Isis Foundation, 59 Euros (link)

<http://www.blavatskyhouse.org/newbook.html>



2010 ITC Conference at The Hague

12th - 15th August, The Netherlands

The theme of "Making Theosophy a living power"

A well attended ITC conference was held in Den Haag during August, which was kindly arranged and facilitated by the Point Loma TS group from the Isis Foundation whose centre was very close by.

Large numbers of volunteers and attendees ensured that it was a well spent four days of talks, presentations and workshops.

The key note was of making Theosophy a power or force in the world, through the means of co-operative working between theosophical groups of whatever affiliation and background.



Panel at the start of the conference, with slides translated into English & Dutch

Many attendees came from outside the Netherlands, travelling from the USA and Greece, also from neighbouring European countries and the UK.

The conference was held in English and to cater for Dutch speakers a simultaneous translation was provided in another room, with visual slides translated into both Dutch and English.



Our thanks for the warm welcome the guests received are sent to our hosts.

A Den Haag street nearby

A speaker wrote up his impressions, available on line at [the ITC 2010 website](http://www.inthetheosconf2010.org/ImpressionInternationalTheosophyConference2010.html). The Editors.

<http://www.inthetheosconf2010.org/ImpressionInternationalTheosophyConference2010.html>

³ Some Theosophy discussion groups have discussed the need to make an electronic version of the book available from the publisher (freely or at a lower cost) for those theosophy students to whom the hard copy version is out of reach.

WISDOM IN ACTION

“discovering our mental machinery”

It is “we” ourselves who are creating the phantasmagoria before our eyes and struggling over the solution of its disturbing effects, instead of creating for ourselves a world of effects more in keeping with our real nature — a world in which we can live, undisturbed by the effects that disturb others, except as we are solicitous for their welfare.

“We” are the Self. But, as we stand ordinarily in physical consciousness, “we” are converted more or less into physical consciousness; in other words, “we” are what we think or perceive, continually identifying ourselves with perceptions and sense. “Sense” is always nothing else than a channel for desire to flow through to torment ourselves and others. “There is nothing but the Self.”

As every law is spiritual, so all forms and things, forces and aspects must also be spiritual. **All error springs from an effort to turn to small purposes the diversified streams of spiritual force.** If as individuals we could take the position of Kamaduk, the cow of plenty, and with universal beneficence use our powers without thought of self, life would be another story.

“To establish a new religion” says the enclosed clipping. Humanity has always done that with the clear light of Truth. Always have they created idols and bowed down and worshipped them. What kind of verity is that which substitutes one kind of idol for another? Theosophy is not a religion, and no religion what ever can be Theosophy, although all forms of religion exist because of Theosophy and contain expressions of it.

It is only too true that “religionists of one sort easily become religionists of another sort.” The fact shows that Americans do not think; they just “cerebrate.” All this was portrayed again and again by WQJ as the result of the advent of the Swamis and others to this country — and warned against. Yet we have self-elected teachers saying that Christianity is Theosophy,

and Buddhism is Theosophy, in a sort of namby-pamby catholicism. They are to blame for much of the confusion. If so-called Theosophists remained true to the Message and the lines laid down and followed by Them, there would not have been room for two opinions in the matter.

FROM THE FRIENDLY PHILOSOPHER BY R. CROSBIE

The Bridge of Beauty and Understanding

extracts from article by Rene Wadlow,
Representative to the United Nations
Geneva, Association of World Citizens

The United Nations General Assembly... has proclaimed the year 2010 as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures “to promote universal respect for, and observation and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms.”

Cultures encompass not only the arts and humanities but also different ways of living together, value systems and traditions.

It is true that to an unprecedented degree people are meeting together in congresses, conferences and universities all over the globe. However, in themselves, such meetings are not dialogue and do not necessarily lead to rapprochement of cultures.

There is a need to reach a deeper level. Reaching such deeper levels takes patience, tolerance, the ability to take a longer-range view, and creativity. Thus we are pleased to present the creative efforts of individuals who have helped to create bridges of understanding among cultures.



(One quoted is James Cousins, outlining the influence AE (George Russell) and W B Yates had on him:)

“James Cousins remained close to the other leader of the Irish literary revival, A.E. of whom he wrote that A.E. was “the immortal voice of a spirit thinly veiled in human flesh.” Cousins was also influenced by the writings and activities of Anna Kingsford and Edward Maitland and their teachings of Esoteric Christianity. As both A.E. and Yeats were close to the Theosophical Society, Cousins joined...”

continued at <http://www.theoservice.org/node/329>