

PENTAGRAM

SPECIAL ISSUE:
THE LANGUAGE OF AQUARIUS



Aquarius is the spirit that makes
everything transparent, that explains
to the human being who he is, where
he is standing, and what development
awaits him.



CONTENTS

- 2 THE SIGN OF AQUARIUS AND ITS
ASTROSOPHICAL MEANING
- 9 THE SEEKERS
- 10 WHEN DOES THE AGE OF
AQUARIUS BEGIN?
- 16 RETROSPECT. *A few letters*
- 18 A SIGN ON THE TRAIL OF THE
BROTHERHOOD
- 24 THE GOTTORF GLOBE
- 30 OF THE GREAT AWAKENING
- 34 400 YEARS OF THE ROSYCROSS
- 41 AQUARIUS THE WATERBEARER

VOLUME 27 NO 2

MARCH/APRIL 2005

THE SIGN OF AQUARIUS AND ITS ASTROSOPHICAL MEANING

The wisdom of the stars... Insight into how this affects the human consciousness means possessing a magical key, with which a door can be opened and a new life can be entered.

Yet, a world of difference lies between the study of an individual's fate by means of a horoscope and learning about the great relationship between the energies that guide and traverse the universe and stimulate human development *in a liberating sense*. Liberation from what, you may ask? From heaviness, from trouble and sorrow, from worry, from limitation, jealousy and selfishness. This is possible, if only the human being can find the correct point of departure, the divine inner principle that could link him with the vast life of the solar macrocosm. In this context, the energies of the Age of Aquarius can be helpful in a special way.

The key to this wonderful life is located at the soul level. This is why *astrology* – which is based on the life of the personality – can do nothing in this respect. On the contrary. A human being who joins a group that is characterized by a different level of unity, on the basis of the new soul, will be liberated from the web of his personal horoscope. The further he progresses on the road of soul development, the less accurate his horoscope will become, because he is being influenced by the energy of the stars in a new way; a different vibration touches him.

THREE LEVELS OF COSMIC ENERGY

As a life wave, humanity is one with the universe. It is a living cell in the body of the all-manifestation; humanity is living in the focal point of mighty energies from the cosmos. These energies approach humanity on three different levels: from our own planetary solar system, from the zodiac with its twelve great signs and from certain large constellations. In addition, humanity is guided by the specific atmosphere and influences of the earth. All of these have different levels of vibration, each with specific characteristics that accompany the development of humanity.

THE ZODIAC, A WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE

In the current stage of human development, the zodiacal energies influence the earth. Initially, they are connected with the state of the human soul, because the task of discarding our encapsulating, earthly personality and allow a new, universal soul state to awaken, lies on this level!

The twelve signs of our zodiac are, themselves, receivers of many energy currents from the macrocosm. Along with the energy of each zodiacal sign, they reach our solar system and, on their journey, also visit the earth, a minuscule dust particle in infinite space. But for us it is of the greatest importance because, based on the harmonics of the three powerful life principles of the coming times, which we

The blast of the trumpet, the Fama that calls a human being to a life on the basis of a new ensoulment. Illustration from the manuscript *Commentaries on the Apocalypse and the end of the world*, by Béatus de Liebana. Mid 11th century. Paris, National Library.

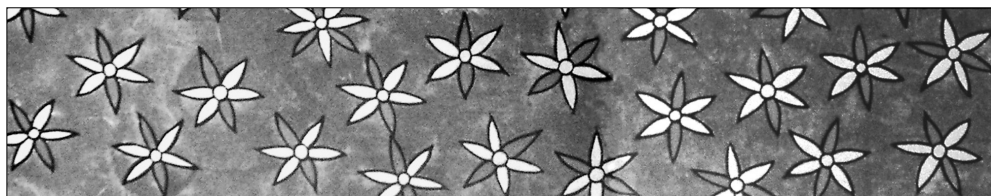


equate with Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, this forms our 'window' on the universe. The human being can open this window in two directions: either onto the three-dimensional material world in which we are presently living, or onto the cosmic plane to which fallen humanity belongs and to which it will return. The 'magnetic

switch' for choosing the direction lies hidden within the human being himself.

SIDEREAL YEARS

The spring equinox of the sun has a retrograde (backward) movement of approximately 26,000 years. Because of



this, the earth and humanity are subject to periodically changing zodiacal influences. At present, the spring equinox occurs during the transition between Pisces and Aquarius, between the sign of the Fishes and the sign of the Waterbearer. This means that humanity is standing on the threshold of a new period, the Age of Aquarius.

Each new period opens a new door through which the human being can enter into the freedom of the original state of life. He also has the opportunity to make this choice again now, at the beginning of the Age of Aquarius. He can choose to offer his soul its freedom or continue to cling to this world. Every individual is confronted with this choice, whether he is aware of it or not; no one can withdraw from these cosmic radiations. They affect everything and everyone and at this crossroads of eras we *can* choose: either to be taken up into a great new development, moving along with the powers that move the original cosmos, or to continue to go along with a development of the earth, which will last a whole era. Thus, the zodiac offers an opening to the light path to the new life – or it can remain the impenetrable, barred window of this nature.

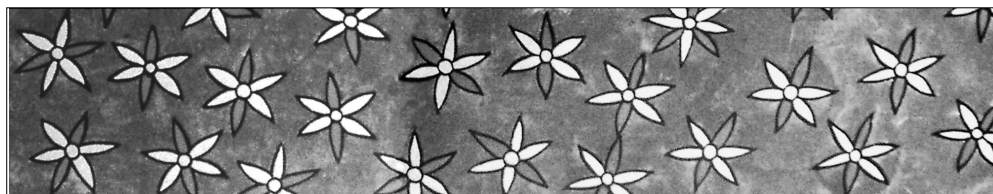
THE INFLUENCES OF AQUARIUS

The twelve signs of the zodiac are divided according to the four elements; earth, water, air and fire. Aquarius is an air sign and the activity of its influence is

mainly on the *etheric planes* of our solar system. Whoever regards the solar system as a system full of vibrating life, as do the Rosicrucians, knows that the etheric sphere of this 'solar body' carries *all* the etheric bodies of all beings and life waves. This etheric body, in turn, is carried by, and vibrates with, the Christ Spirit, which wants to draw the earth up into this life field in a positive way.

Now that the sun, due to its retrograde movement, is entering the sign of Aquarius, those etheric spheres are becoming more electric. The Waterbearer releases new energies there and exerts an influence that detaches us from what is material. Human life will increasingly take place on the etheric plane. Human beings will – from sheer necessity – withdraw from matter and will be able to become conscious of, perceive, and act in the etheric plane. Take for example the mobile telephone. Anyone walking the streets engaged in a telephone conversation, has his consciousness concentrated in the virtual atmosphere in which the conversation is taking place, and remains barely aware of his surroundings, unless acute danger arises.

This is an extremely important process. Now the question is: how will this detachment happen? The process of achieving etheric consciousness involves dealing consciously with thinking matter, the reflecting ether. This forms the basis of the thinking faculty. Bi-polar, logical thinking is primarily what is developing in the present sphere of humanity. In



Max Heindel's Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception, this is called *the region of concrete thought*.

The creative thinking faculty that can exist in *the region of abstract thought* belongs to conscious soul life. This faculty develops when the solar life in the human being is vivified, because the true thinking faculty is the body of the soul. Rather, we should say that the new soul and the new thinking faculty develop together and cannot be imagined separately. This development is especially stimulated by the special energies reaching humanity via Aquarius. The four familiar ethers are being purified in an unprecedented powerful way for the benefit of the new soul, and the fifth ether, the fire ether, is breaking through and opening the way for the living soul to connect with the power of the spirit.

Yet, at this moment, the Waterbearer is already promoting the development of the thinking faculty and all its associated activities. Unprecedented scientific discoveries are being presented, while the truly sensible, selfless love for one's fellow human beings is also being forcefully stimulated.

AUTOMATIC SALVATION THROUGH LIBERATION FROM MATTER?

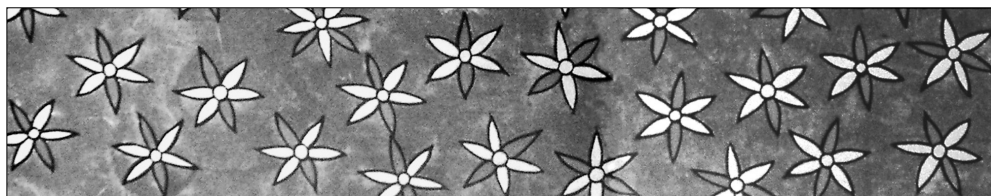
Many seekers who are now turning their attention to the Age of Aquarius, consider the tendency of matter to become more subtle to be the long-expected, and apparently automatic, liberation and

salvation that accompanies Aquarius. But this is not the case. Just as the Age of Pisces did not lead to the liberation of humanity, in spite of the Christ appearing in the earth's atmosphere. On the contrary. To understand this, it is necessary to take a closer look at the activities of the planets.

The energies of every zodiacal period are, among other things, manifested by the activities of the planets. The five visible planets of our solar system, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn, each embody specific energies that stimulate the development of the personality and, at their higher octave, the development of the soul.¹

The three recently discovered trans-saturnian planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, are situated beyond Saturn, which is also called the 'guardian on the threshold'.² These three planets have been identified with the emanation of totally new qualities. They are also called the mystery planets. They are active at the level of the spirit and develop the three higher, human faculties: imagination, inspiration and intuition.

Recently a few more small planets have been discovered: Chiron³, called the mediator of, or key to Uranus, because it revolves in an elongated orbit around the sun and crosses the orbits of Saturn and Uranus. The key to Neptune is Pholus⁴. This planet describes an elongated orbit around the sun and touches the orbits of Saturn and Neptune.



THE INFLUENCE OF THE MYSTERY PLANETS IN THE AGE OF AQUARIUS

In addition to the vibrations that affect the personality, the visible planets also produce energies of a higher frequency that affect humanity on another vibration level. This applies in particular to the three mystery planets.

Every period has its own planetary influences from which a new task inevitably reaches humanity, and which determines the 'spirit of the times'.

During the Age of Pisces, Mars played a major role. *'The energy of the planet Mars belongs to our time and goes together with the sign of the Fishes. We must struggle... In combination with the sign of penetration (Fishes) the issue at hand is a struggle for the truth.'*⁵

The energy of Mars has a dynamic effect and stimulates the vital force of the energy that drives the human being to action. Mars is able to be the helper that transforms the Christ impulse, emanated since the beginning of the Age of Pisces, into liberating action. But how many people have used this help in the way it was intended? When we look back at the last 2000 years, we see above all the negative effects of Mars: conflict, war and destruction; the liberating aspect has been turned into its opposite and only relatively small groups of individuals have taken up a positive development.

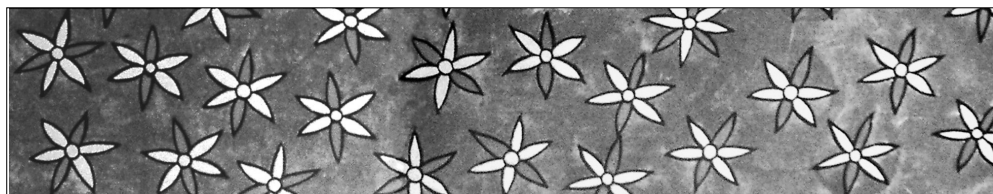
Aside from the Age of Pisces, Aquarius has other helpers. Jupiter, the planet

of goodness and understanding, mitigates the negative aspects of the Mars energy and becomes increasingly dominant at the beginning of the Age of Aquarius. This will lead to far-reaching consequences for society and world peace. Jupiter helps humanity to approach the goal of Aquarius: the development of a new group consciousness, based on 'harmony and understanding' (Hair – The Musical). These are aspects of a conscious soul life. In the last phase of the Age of Aquarius, Venus will play a dominant role and lead the energies of universal love to a still unknown manifestation.

URANUS

Uranus is another helper of Aquarius. This planet is also related to Mars and embodies the higher octaves of the power of Mercury. Mercury influences the intellect and creates mental flexibility. Uranus permeates groups of human beings with its electrifying and dynamic impulses and causes spiritual revolutions that lead to great changes. In the individual human being, Uranus refines perception to inner vision, imagination, and clairvoyance.

Uranus is the first of the three mystery planets, which represent the esoteric *planet regents* in the Age of Aquarius. It is the father of the gods, the creator and beginning of a new path. At the same time, Uranus is, as every researcher of esotericism knows, a high symbol of Christ. In this case, Christ is no longer the lamb



that carries the sins of the world or the fisher of people. He is the universal, shining power of love, the pure cosmic all-vibration.⁶

NEPTUNE

Neptune, the second mystery planet, works with the power of inspiration. Through its creative abilities, the power of Neptune manifests the spiritual form of the new human being: through a conscious link with the spirit-spark, universal ideas are generated. Neptune stimulates spiritual hearing and develops the feeling for collective relationships in the human being. Hence, Neptune emanates the energy for activating group consciousness, based on the new soul.

PLUTO

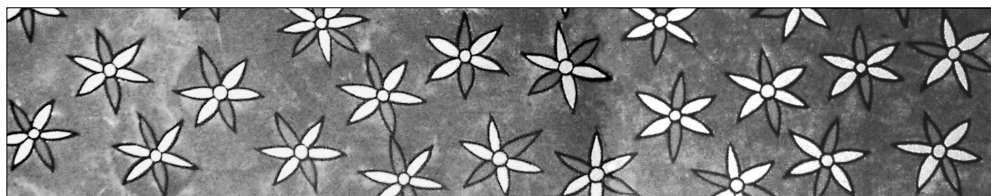
Finally, Pluto, the third mystery planet, embodies the energy of intuition and supports the development of the spiritual will in the human being. It is also connected with the will to act and the ability to intuitively do the right thing at the right time. This is a magical ability that can be attributed to a direct link with the Monad, the spiritual principle in the human being. Pluto can only enter our sphere of perception when we embrace and understand the idea of *transfiguration*. Pluto drives us towards fundamental restructuring. Life and our mode of life come under total review.

Whoever experiences the power of the third mystery planet consciously, already has the new structure *in place*, has in principle realised the liberated spirit-soul human being.

Where Neptune *points out the direction* of our spiritual life and provides the spiritual inspiration for it, Pluto enables us to *give proof* of it. Pluto reigns where we, as personalities, can no longer reach. It is not without reason that he is called the god of the unseen! He is offering humanity the opportunity to realise the unimaginable, namely to rise from the limitations and captivity of the material world, to break through to the resurrection, and to become an inhabitant of the solar system. On the other hand, he is also the destroyer: any impurity existing at this level, is forcefully broken up by this mysterious planet.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MYSTERY PLANETS

Thus, the esoteric planet regents of Aquarius do not bring liberation when their energy is used for earth-directed, I-directed, purposes. Uranus leads human beings who react negatively to its energy, to ecstatic and licentious situations. Negative reactions to Neptune cause illusion and the dissolution of the consciousness in the 'great waters' of the etheric world. Finally, a negative reaction to the energy of Pluto leads to (self-)destruction and sudden radicalism. The unrestrained sexual freedom (Uranus), drug abuse (Nep-



tune) and increasing radicalism (Pluto), that started in the sixties, have reached frightening proportions in countless places and should be seen as negative reactions to the increasing activity of the mystery planets.

true nature of the renewed, divine human soul.

AQUARIUS, THE GREAT SERVANT

From this short exposition of the astrosophical relationships that play a role in the Age of Aquarius, one thing is becoming particularly clear: the efforts of the divine powers to help humanity are borne by infinite love and patience. Enormous energies are being stimulated to guide the fallen human being *and* creation back to the original arc of evolution. The material prison is being forced open and the imprisoned life waves are being liberated. These efforts are also being made for every individual human being. They stimulate each of us to make a decision. The Aquarius consciousness surpasses the personality. The Aquarius radiation is, in a spiritual sense, expressed in group activities and group work. This has a binding effect, on the basis of the soul that breathes in the divine spirit.

The law of the group is *service*. This is the message of Aquarius! We see a man, carrying a pitcher on his shoulder, filled to the brim with water. He pours this water out over everybody and everything, without reservation, in infinite love and without this water ever running dry. This willingness to serve is creative and is the

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Rijckenborgh, J van, *Dei Gloria Intacta*.
 Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, 1962.
 Gorissen, Gisela, *Astrosophie des Tierkreises und der Planeten* (Astrosophy of the Zodiac and the Planets). Urachhaus, Stuttgart 2001.
 For Chiron and Pholus see: astro.com/astrology/in.chiron.e.htm

NOTES

- ¹ Rijckenborgh, J van, *Dei Gloria Intacta*. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem 1962, p.143.
- ² Uranus 1781, Neptune 1846 and Pluto 1930.
- ³ Chiron, discovered in 1977, revolution 50 years.
- ⁴ Pholus, discovered in 1992, revolution 92 years.
- ⁵ Gorissen, Gisela, *Astrosophie* (Astrosophy). Urachhaus 2001, p.43.
- ⁶ *Dei Gloria Intacta*, p.129.

THE SEEKERS

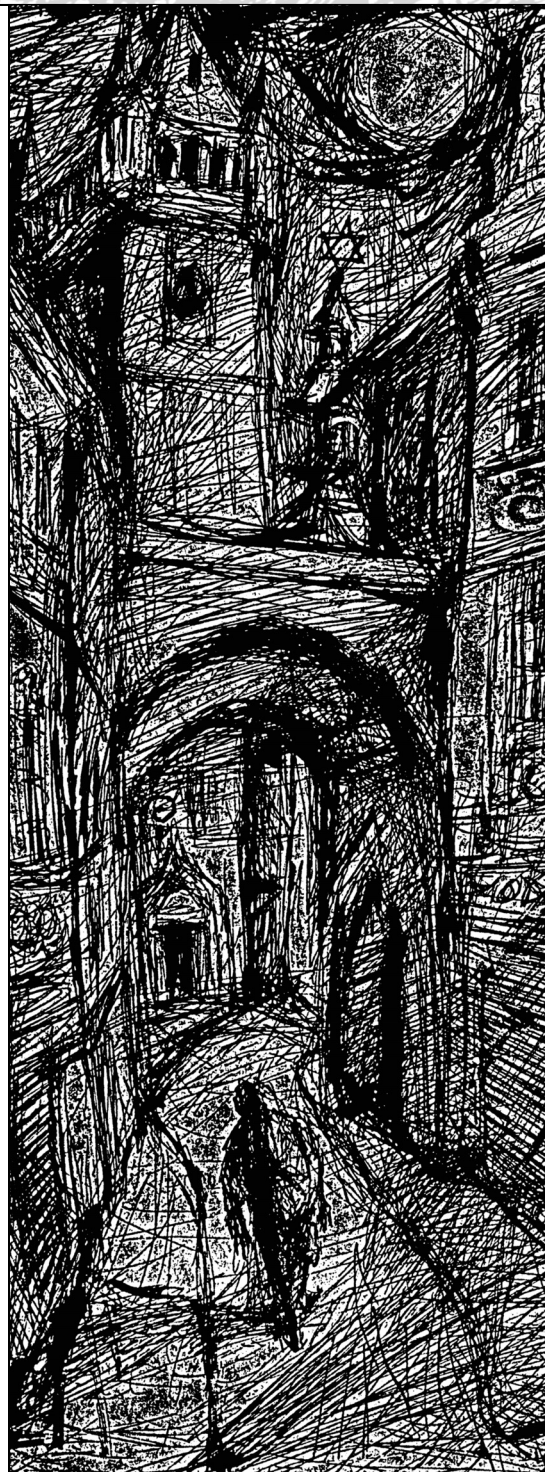
*Sagging mists and night already fallen,
lanterns like pale flowers rising up,
I heard the sound of human steps resounding
silently, invisibly dragging through the nightly mists.*

*And it became an image, darkly vague through dense
vapours
of manifold, overburdening grief,
passing slowly, reappearing at the lights,
grey for one short moment, then swallowed by the mist.*

*They are the seekers. Weary and deserted,
while others sleep in safety of their homes,
they follow restlessly through empty streets
their dream vision of a lost ancestral home.*

*Sombrely their steps resound through the nights,
dull out of the haze, along the darkly gaping window, –
deep in my heart, so full of expectation,
this sound joins my longing in lament.*

From: P.N. van Eyck, *Uitzichten*. (Panoramas) Bussum, 1912.



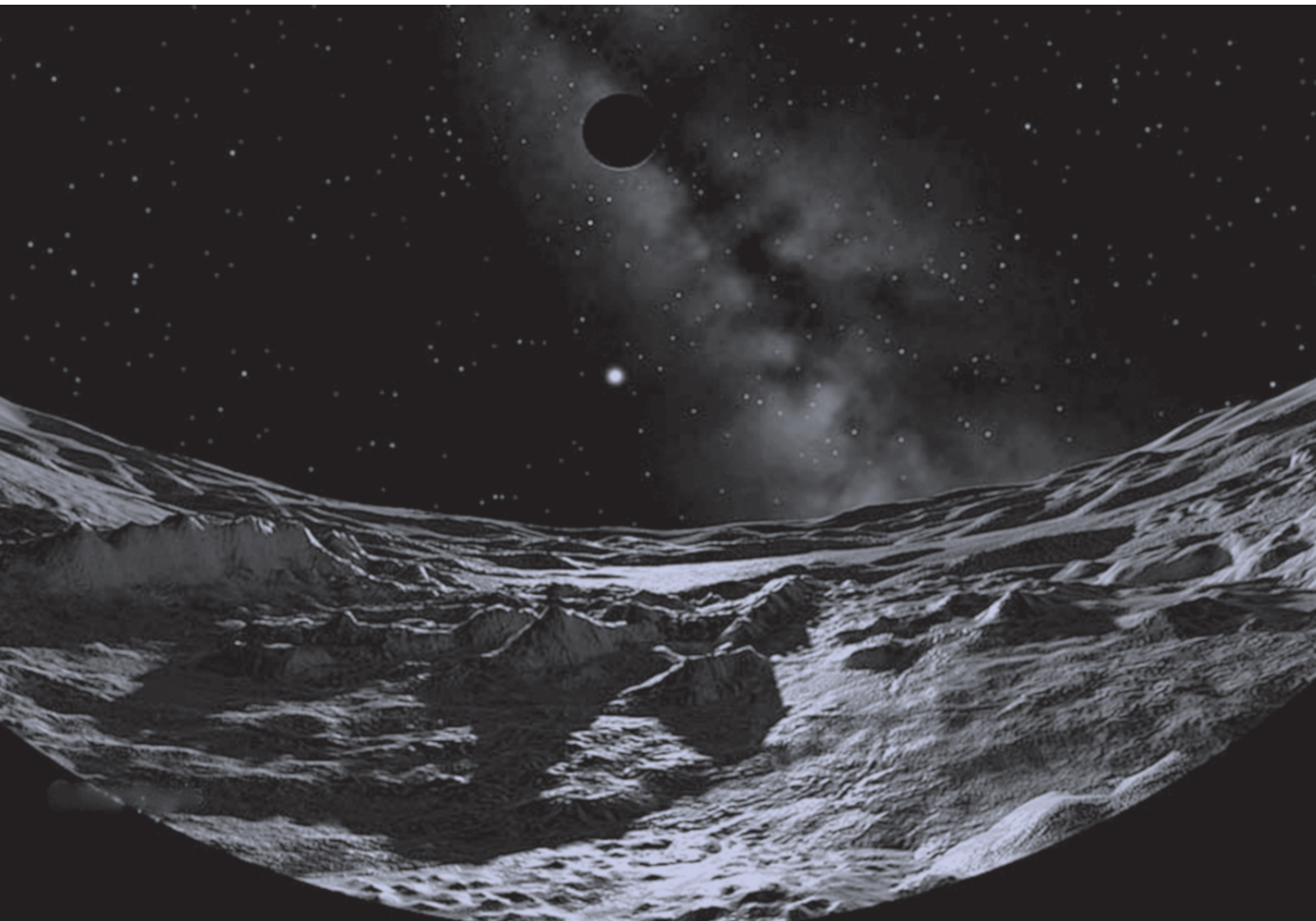
WHEN DOES THE AGE OF AQUARIUS BEGIN?

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, and particularly since 1968, humanity has been receiving strong spiritual impulses that are ascribed to the zodiacal sign of Aquarius. These impulses are manifested as:

- *the dissolution of traditional standards and values*
- *the dissolution of hierarchical and authoritarian structures*
- *becoming conscious of a tenuous, esoteric and spiritual reality*
- *the unmasking of false truths.*

All who are susceptible to these impulses concretely experience the fact that we are living in a time of spiritual revolution. This often leads to the conclusion that we have already left the Age of Pisces behind and have entered the Age of Aquarius. However, if you examine different sources to find an answer to the question of when the Age of Aquarius truly begins or began, the answers differ considerably.

What is the reason for this? Is it not true that a new age starts when the vernal equinox of the sun crosses from one sign into the next in its (apparent) retrograde movement across the ecliptic? Couldn't that be unequivocally stated?



<i>Era</i>	International Astronomical Union (1)	Jan van Rijckenborgh	Sidereal zodiac (2)	Rudolf Steiner (3)
BC				
<i>start Taurus</i>	4490	4572	4105	2907
<i>duration in years</i>	2644	2160	2160	2160
<i>start Aries</i>	1846	2412	1945	747
<i>duration in years</i>	1781	2160	2160	2160
AD				
<i>start Pisces</i>	65	252	215	1414
<i>duration in years</i>	2666	2160	2160	2160
<i>start Aquarius</i>	2601	1909	2375	3574
<i>duration in years</i>	1740	2160	2160	2160

In principle this is true, but when answering this question a lot depends on your point of view, as we will see. The calculations by the IAU of the duration of the various periods of the zodiac are based on a 1928 projection of the physical signs on the ecliptic. The 12 visible signs of the zodiac cover large sectors of the firmament and thus, when they are projected onto the celestial equator, they occupy large areas. The IAU distinguishes the duration of the various periods in this way. From the point of view of this projected zodiac, the Age of Aquarius does not start until 2601 BC. This is not exact either, as the signs of Pisces and Aquarius overlap. Thus, on the celestial equator, we see a range in which both the 'end' of Pisces and the 'beginning' of Aquarius are projected.

THE ASTROLOGICAL ZODIAC

We see another picture based on the sidereal (astrological) signs of the zodiac. According to this approach, the celestial equator is divided into 12 sections of 30

degrees each. Considering that the apex of the activity of a zodiacal period is in the middle of it, the borders of each period are moved to 1080 years earlier and later. The eye of Taurus (Aldebaran – alpha Tauri) is used, according to the old Babylonian system, as a geometric reference. According to this system, the Age of Aquarius lasts 2160 years and starts in 2375 AD.

In astrology, the focus is not on constellations as they appear, but on geometrically determined sectors, each of which is influenced by a particular constellation. In this case, the starting point is the constellations of the year 0, as they were visible at the birth of Christ. The astrological signs of the zodiac are related to the personal soul life of a human being.

It is assumed that the birth of Christ was the essential soul-shaping impulse for the human being of the post-Atlantean period. That is why the constellation of that moment is astrologically valid for the entire post-Atlantean period. The ecliptic refers to the circle across the sky that the sun appears to travel in a year,

Impression of Pluto-Charon, lost at the outer limits of space. Ice crystals and matter form a barren landscape.
Don Davis



the orbit of the earth. The earth's equator is at a 23,5 degrees angle to the ecliptic, the celestial equator.

The zodiac and the signs of the zodiac do not, therefore, correspond with the left and right edges of the sectors. In addition, the position of the constellations is not the same, because the constellations have shifted one sign backward since the birth of Christ. Astrology, however, is still based on the constellation of the year zero. Without delving further into the astronomical and astrological background, we now focus on two statements, by J van Rijckenborgh and Rudolf Steiner.

1666 YEARS LOST?

According to J van Rijckenborgh, the influence of the Age of Aquarius has been noticeable since the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1966 he noted: *'Earlier, we have focused your attention on an obvious psychological change in human behaviour. This change occurs ever faster. [...] This change can be considered a psychological process that does not leave any human being untouched. [...] We think that this change started at the beginning of this century. At first, it was hardly noticeable, but now, especially during the last ten years, it has been spreading more clearly.'*²¹ Rudolf Steiner puts the beginning of the Age of Aquarius at the year 3574. The difference of 1666 years seems strange and contradictory.

To solve this riddle we should not turn our eye to the heavens, but to humanity.

When does a human being begin to exist? Does he begin at conception, or at the first movement in the womb? Or does he begin when the birth certificate is prepared, or during his baptism? Or is he only truly in this world when he, as an adult, has become a 'full' member of society? This depends on your point of view. This also applies to the definition of zodiacal eras.

The human being reacts to cosmic impulses on various levels. The path leads from above (spirit) to below (matter).

According to Rudolf Steiner, the post-Atlantean era started after the ice age of approximately 100,000 years ago and will last until the next ice age. Everything that moves the human being begins in the spirit. A spiritual impulse like the Aquarian impulse is emanated to humanity and is subsequently manifested as an idea in the collective human field.

Initially, a new idea does not fully penetrate into matter. The idea is relatively abstract to start with, has no emotional context yet, and does not yet correspond to human activity. At this stage, an idea is reflected upon, discussed and written about. It is, however, still far removed from reality. In addition, different people have different levels of sensitivity to ideas, depending on the individual's experiences and the structure and polarisation of his subtle bodies. Pioneers receive these new spiritual impulses as ideas and pass them on to others. And there are people who have greatly delayed reactions to ideas, because their thoughts and feelings are still completely tied to the previous era.

The soft light of the mystery planets pierces the limitations, represented by Saturn. The mists of the Age of Pisces are lifted...



THE SOUL BREATHES LIFE INTO THE IDEA

When an idea has gained sufficient strength, because numerous people have thought, spoken and written about it over time, it is expressed on the soul level. This stage of the original spiritual impulse is the next step towards manifestation. The human being makes the idea his own. He ensouls it and fills it with life. The idea is charged with feelings and emotions and thereby gains a certain dynamism. At this stage, a person's soul life is controlled by the idea, and it subsequently becomes the decisive factor of his inner turmoil. On the emotional and soul level it has become a reality, but a corresponding activity is, at best, present only in a rudimentary form.

THE THIRD STEP: DESIRING AND ACTING IN FULL CONSCIOUSNESS

It is only on the third step that an active soul leads the human being to begin to act in accordance with the idea. At this point, he uses his will and begins to act according to the spiritual impulse in full consciousness. In an ideal case, he will, at a certain moment, balance the spiritual impulse, the soul impulse and his acts, thus reaching a kind of harmony. Until a new impulse arrives and upsets this harmony.

It would be very instructive to test yourself, and the society in which you live, regarding these three stages of manifestation. How does the Aquarian impulse

manifest itself personally, socially and globally? Is it still an abstract idea? Has it already been ensouled and emotionally activated? Has it been fully and consciously turned into action? Are the ideas, feelings and actions in harmony? The answers to each of these questions are obviously totally different. It is certain that the path of a spiritual impulse from its initial emanation to its manifestation in matter takes a long time, many centuries.

DAWN IS BEHIND US

This is also the reason there are different spiritual points of view concerning the beginning of the Age of Aquarius. The first impulse was emanated when the first star of Aquarius approached the horizon, just as the light of the sun is visible before the sun itself appears above the horizon. This is the situation J. van Rijckenborgh described regarding the year 1968. At that time, the spiritual dawn of Aquarius began. From then on, people with a strong spiritual sensitivity were able to feel and assimilate the Aquarian impulses.

In 1968, the first groups of people began to react to Aquarius, both emotionally and with their souls. The 1968 hippy movement is an example of this. Humanity as a whole is still predominantly in the Piscean era. It is said that the Age of Aquarius can only begin for a human being when the task set by Pisces – the total sacrifice of the personality in, and through, love – has been accomplished. Until then, all mental images of Aquarius are escapism, or beautiful dreams.

The life of the soul will not be entirely under the control of Aquarius for several



centuries. According to the sidereal zodiac, which concerns personal soul life, this will not be until the year 2375 AD.

APEX AND CRYSTALLISATION

Many centuries after that, the *cultural* harvest of this soul development will be manifested as a cultural period in which human actions are inspired by Aquarius. This is the stage that Rudolf Steiner connects with the year 3574. Materially, this period will be the apex of the Aquarian impulse. Spiritually, there will again be the danger of the spiritual impulse of that time crystallising, just as the culture of the

Piscean era has crystallised. Then the dawn of a new impulse will arrive: Capricorn.

All of this largely corresponds with the great cultural periods of humanity. A brief overview shows this.

IT IS ALWAYS A TIME OF CHANGE

The process of the gradual manifestation of a spiritual impulse described above, is both a collective and an individual phenomenon. Humanity as a whole experiences it, but it also touches every human being. Because individual people have totally differing levels of develop-

... and herald the dawn of Aquarius.
Don Davis and
Photo Pentagram.

<i>Start of era BC:</i>		<i>Start of cultural period BC:</i>	
Cancer:	ca. 8 800	Old Indian culture	ca. 7 400
Gemini:	ca. 6 600	Old Persian culture	ca. 5 200
Taurus:	ca. 4 400	Egyptian culture	ca. 3 000
Aries:	ca. 2 200	Minoic-Greek starts	ca. 1 400
<i>Start of era AD:</i>		<i>Start of cultural period AD:</i>	
Pisces:	ca. 0	Europe	ca. 1 400
Aquarius:	ca. 2 200	start of cultural period	ca. 3 600

ment, each person's capacity to assimilate the Aquarian radiations also differs greatly.

Very early on, J van Rijckenborgh pointed out the liberating spiritual possibilities that are able to be much more easily understood and realised because the Age of Aquarius has begun. During the 'Aquarian conferences' in the 1960's, he explained how seeking human beings could particularly utilise the Aquarian radiations to walk the liberating path of Spirit-soul rebirth.

The people who are longing for liberation need not wait for the third century of the new era. Every human being who understands that the material world with its never truly changing cycles is not his true fatherland, is always a pioneer. He can, at any time, begin his spiritual transformation. To this end, Aquarius now pours over him the water that contains totally new possibilities. But, it is he, himself, who must, utilise them.

LITERATURE:

Dühnfort E: *Vom grossen Bilderbuch der Welt* (Of the great picture book of the world), Verlag Freies Geistesleben, Stuttgart 2001.
 Gorissen G: *Astrosophie des Tierkreises und der Planeten* (Astrosophy of the zodiac and the planets). Verlag Freies Geistesleben, Stuttgart 2001.
 J van Rijckenborgh and Catharose de Petri: *The liberating path of the Rosycross*. The Apocalypse of the new era IV. Fourth Aquarius Renewal Conference, Basle 1966. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, 2000.

NOTES, P.II:

¹ International Astronomical Union. Calculations according to Meyers *Handbuch Weltall* (Handbook of the Universe), 1984, pages 40-41.

² Sidereal zodiac after the old Babylonian System, redefined by R Powell in *Hermetika* nr. 6, July 1984.

³ G Gorissen, *Astrosophie* (Astrosophy), chapter 7.

¹ J van Rijckenborgh and Catharose de Petri: *The liberating path of the Rosycross*, p.46. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, 2000.

RETROSPECT. *A few letters*

Dear...

Do you still remember? Back in the 1960's? We were still together 'on the way'. Our way expressed the feelings of an entire generation. Freedom, love, equality, peace; these were our values, our ideals. We were searching for expanded consciousness, for another world. Flower children is what we were called, children of peace.

We rebelled against the establishment. We didn't want to live like our parents, caged in a society based only on profit. We sensed the stuffiness, the crystallisation, we didn't have enough air to breathe!

We let our hair grow, let nature run unimpeded. Hair became a symbol of our way of life: let it happen, naturally, simply, unconstrained, freely! We trusted in Mother Nature and hoped she would lead us to the goal of human destiny.

Something new was in the air. It was like a relief, an urge to inner awakening. Destruction, renewal, spirituality, freedom, love and new thinking would open the human being to a new consciousness. Aquarius! A new age for humanity was dawning, or so we believed.

In responding to this inner urge, many of us made a pilgrimage to India or to Nepal. Self-liberation, ascension into Nirvana! Uplifting thoughts came to our minds, and whizzed around in our heads. We thought that all human beings were brothers and sisters, one large family, connected across continents. We were a move-

ment, a current that was expressed in flower power, and the hippy movement.

But essentially, nothing changed. We fell back on our I, our selfishness, our striving for possessions, power and money. Others became addicted to drugs. And so our dreams were dashed to pieces like thousands of others before us on the rocky crags of this world. Was our quest wrong? Were our dreams worth nothing? Did we react wrongly?

DEAR...

Yes, I still remember just as vividly as you! We tried to change the world. We sought universal love, and because we didn't understand it, found sexual freedom. We sought a soul community, we believed in unity, and because we were unable to understand it, we created communes, and ultimately found only loneliness. We didn't want to be forced, we wanted to do what we liked and wanted to be who we really were. And because we remained unchanged, found only our own I.

'Make love, not war' was one of our slogans. But it didn't work. Our fate was like that of Paul who said, '*I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.*' (Romans 7:18-19)

There is still no peace in this world. What, then, was this peace for which we yearned? Was it the absence of war? There is a saying: be full and satisfied! Is that what people wanted? There may be such people but, in this state of life, a human being quickly begins to crystallise,

just like a river that no longer flows. The water becomes polluted, and turns into a murky pond. What, then, is war? Self-maintenance! How are we supposed to realise a kingdom of peace, when a war of criticism and conflicting thinking rages in the four human vehicles? Anger, fear, and warlike feelings live in the astral body. Exhaustion, sickness and diminishing vitality form the war in the vital body. Micro-organisms, viruses and bacteria constitute the war in matter. And on the basis of this war, we want to be surrounded by peace?

But what is true peace? This is hard to describe: breathing in silence... inner harmony that penetrates all expressions of life... a state of life that no longer knows death! It is the peace that surpasses all understanding; that replaces our world with a totally different world. Aquarius! Is the Age of Aquarius the period in which humanity is granted divine peace? I believe that the possibilities are extended to us more than ever before. We can transform and grasp these possibilities. *'Work out your own salvation in fear and trembling.'* (Phil.2:12) Aquarius is not an automatic process: we have to do something. 'Being on the path', going the path, means leaving the old path behind. It means being awake and prepared to recognise the signs of the time, and act accordingly.

You asked: 'Was our quest false? I don't think so. *'He who seeks finds.'* (Matth.7:8) Were our dreams worthless? Did we react wrongly? Our dreams were sublime images of another state of being. But we forgot one thing: those images did not take into account the reality that

our lives are subject to the law of rising, shining and fading. In the same vein, Jesus' statement *'My kingdom is not of this world'* (John 18:36) was not considered at all. Today, forty years later, we are perhaps standing at the same point: It is still our task to understand Aquarius!

Finally, I would like to tell you how my insight has developed. After I lost the illusions of the 1960's, the restlessness remained and drove me further and further on the quest for 'the path', because it had become clear to me that everything has a purpose. I recognised that all experiences and doubts are intended to jolt man awake and lead him onwards. He can encounter the light somewhere in the darkness, not outwardly, but in his innermost being. This is the beginning of a path that is no longer the path of earthly humanity, but which enables the development of the divine essence within us.

A SIGN

A SIGN ON THE TRAIL OF THE BROTHERHOOD

ON THE TRAIL

If we look back for a moment to the beginning of the work that J van Rijckenborgh and his brother Z W Leene started after they had received their task, it is as if we see how the first seed was sown. This seed has, over the past 80 years, developed into a worldwide work that has achieved a gratifying, colourful, spiritual flowering. The golden flower of the Young-Gnostic Brotherhood has unfolded in a pattern of forty-nine aspects.

When the two brothers held the first service on 24 August 1924, it signified the beginning of a spiritual construction, with which the *House Sancti Spiritus* of the Brotherhood of the Rosycross would link itself. Catharose de Petri joined the brothers in 1930. These three special people started the preparations required by the plan unfolding before their spiritual eyes. The outlines and structure of this plan have always been depicted in the spiritual world, but must, with great effort, be realised in our world.

World War II interrupted the work for a period five years, during which the founders further elaborated on the plan. The work was taken up again with great energy after the liberation in May 1945, and the first service was held in the Haarlem temple on 20 May.

During the war, J van Rijckenborgh wrote *Dei Gloria Intacta*, a book in which the path of liberation by transfig-

uration is explained. It was published in 1946. Soon after, on 27 November 1947, the architectural school, Elckerlyc (Everyman), in Lage Vuursche was acquired, and the first conferences were held there in a tent temple. A start was immediately made on the expansion of the existing buildings and in 1951, on the occasion of the consecration of the Temple, the name Elckerlyc was replaced by Renova. Renova was the first renewal conference centre in Europe. This marked the beginning of a new period, during which the Spiritual School of the Golden Rosycross would realise its sevenfold manifestation. The *living body* developed into a radiant auric field. The new ether forces ensouled and irradiated the whole work, as they continue to do to this day.

The work not only developed in the material world, but also on the non-material planes of pure spiritual being, outside the reflection spheres of this nature. In the past it was called the Vacuum of Shamballa. Nowadays, it is called the resurrection field of the seventh aspect, the supersensory space that is the gate of liberation to the Supernature.

THE MAGNETIC FIELD AS A RADIANT AURA

The full significance of this tremendous development and the broad perspectives connected with it were hardly understood when the Spiritual School, having achieved its sevenfold manifestation, was taken up into the universal chain of gnos-

The border post in the J. van Rijckenborgh Centre. This 'symbol of all times' was discovered during the construction of the Haarlem Main Temple in the 1950's. Photo Pentagram.

*Address held on the occasion of the eightieth anniversary of the
Spiritual School of the Golden Rosycross*

tic brotherhoods. J van Rijckenborgh was twenty-eight when he undertook his task: the age at which the four vehicles of the personality are fully developed. Catharose de Petri was also twenty-eight when she joined the two brothers in 1930. After Z W Leene's death in 1938, the two remaining servants continued the work in matter for many years.

And now, on the eightieth anniversary of the Spiritual School, we may state that a new astral field encompasses all conference centres and temples as a radiant aura. This aura generates the special vibration emanating from the work. This vibration is experienced, consciously or unconsciously, within as well as outside the Spiritual School. It is a power field of radiations manifested *in* the world, but is not *of* the world.

The first weekend conferences were held in Haarlem in 1933. Due to the great flood of participants, it was obvious that a conference centre had to be founded soon. A year later, in 1934, this was realised in De Haere. Today, its name is Noverosa, the international conference centre of the youthwork. The history of the Spiritual School relates that in the 1930s the flood of applicants for the courses was so large that the lecture rooms were too small to accommodate everyone. Hence, the courses had to be held in the Haarlem temple.

To this day, the worldwide work of the Spiritual School has been marked by development and expansion, and many con-



ference centres have been established as focal points of the living body. Thousands of pupils regularly assemble in these focal points, and are linked with the radiations of the gnostic living body.

THE LINK WITH THE Gnostic CHAIN

On this Brotherhood Day 2004, we are aware of being part of a brotherhood, a gnostic community that is linked with, and in the service of, the great world brotherhood. Those who have had the privilege of having witnessed a major part of the development of the Spiritual School, know what a titanic work both grandmasters have accomplished by building the tower of Olympus of the modern Golden Rosycross. More than once, special signs have pointed the way and supplied proof that they were leading the Spiritual School in the track of the Brotherhood, in the direction of a gnostic manifestation.

The question has sometimes been asked: why in Haarlem? Why did the work have to start in Haarlem? The answer to this question lies with the brotherhood, but the grandmasters have often received spiritual and material indications. We refer, for example, to the special stone, covered with carved symbols, that was found in 1957, standing on the building site of the new main temple. Antonin Gadal, the patriarch of the preceding Cathar brotherhood, witnessed this event. We quote from an address by Catharose de Petri concerning this find and the ancient place where the stone had been discovered: the place where the

young-gnostic Brotherhood would be manifested.

‘A power is radiating in the Haarlem Temple that cannot be explained from body or soul, nor from the world. It is the power of the first ray of the Holy Spirit. How, then, does this activity come about? For the answer, we should go far back in history to gain some insight into this. The temple complex in Haarlem is a place where the Brotherhood of the Universal Chain has always been active, not only a few hundred years ago. Without exaggeration, we can state that the focal point in Haarlem has existed throughout periods going back to the dawn of the Aryan era, when the morning was as yet hardly shining over Europe.’

And Mrs de Petri continues: ‘We have already told you a number of times about the stone that was found during the construction of the temple, which was sunk vertically in the old Bakenes garden. We clearly discovered the signature of the Brotherhood of the Rosycross on this stone, and at the same time, we received physical evidence that we had found the old focal point again. We did not want to go any further with our interpretation. However, Mr Gadal, when looking at the stone, discovered at a single glance, twelve marks that identified the stone as a symbol of all times. First, he pointed to the presence of the so-called Pentacle of Eden, proving that the stone refers to the beginning of the world work. Secondly, the stone represents the Holy Grail, as the ancients used to call it. Thirdly, fourthly and fifthly, this compact monument further delineates the grail symbols. Sixthly, the stone points to the circle of eternity as proof that the spirit is active at the place where the monument was found. Seventhly, eighthly and ninthly,



Mr Gadai discovered the ancient hermetic mystery signs of the first ray, which are revealed to all who want to walk the Path. The remaining aspects demonstrate that the place indicated by the monument has been a powerful working place of Masonic brotherhoods.

It has been previously explained in the Spiritual School that some points of the surface of the earth are clearly points of contact of spiritual intervention, provided there are individuals and groups who are willing and able to use them. Now we see before us that the holy work of the young Gnosis could not begin anywhere else but in Haarlem.'

And thus, the forces of the ancient focal point were released again 80 years ago. The stone has once again received the place to which it is entitled, the inner garden of the J. van Rijckenborgh Centre.

There have been many special signs marking the development of the Spiritual School. The grandmasters passed on these signs, which were the omens of profound spiritual revelations, as light, power and the word of the Brotherhood. In the 1960's, the grandmasters held the first Aquarius conference. They explained that a new radiation field was developing because of the atmospheric changes that had already been announced in the respiration field of our planet. This concerns

an intercosmic radiation field that will bring about a tremendous spiritual revolution in the dawning Age of Aquarius. This signifies a revolution affecting all forms of life on our planet, a global crisis, in which great changes will profoundly affect human life. In this way, a new seeking

develops in countless people, who will leave their old paths and will begin to desperately seek for the purpose of life in every imaginable direction. It is a human crisis in which the world and humanity will become ever more bogged down.

During the five Aquarius conferences, the grandmasters explained how the new radiation power from the interplanetary system, the original heavenly zodiac, was already touching every human being, to enable them to follow the path of soul liberation. The new radiation power coming from the original field into the planetary respiration field, addresses the pineal gland in the head sanctuary. The pineal gland is the centre of the will and the consciousness.

J van Rijckenborgh explained that all mortals receive the radiations of the spirit, but certainly not all of them react in the right way. Many peoples' consciousness will be affected in the resulting confusion, and they will be confronted with the question: what is the purpose of life, why am I here and where am I going? The Spiritual



Relief with beaker and serpent symbol from Ephesus, Turkey. Photo Pentagram.

School has done nothing but answer this question over and over again; the work is focused on leading everyone linked with it into the new era.

A NEW ETHERIC LIGHT THROUGH OUR MODE OF LIFE

During the five Aquarius conferences, the pupils were directly linked with the radiation field of the Brotherhood. After 1968, after these conferences, the material structure of the Spiritual School was ready. All who react positively, can be taken up into the living body, in which the truth regarding the human being and his ultimate destination is explained. We consider this 80th anniversary of the Spiritual School to be an opportunity to enter a new phase: a phase of deepening spirituality, of being taken up into the *mysterium magnum*, into the living soul. For this can now be experienced through the self-realisation of the monadic flame, which will be manifested in the head sanctuary. All of this has become possible for us because the living body manifested sevenfold, the Spiritual School, has become fully manifest. The intercosmic radiation field to which the living body is attuned, ensures that all who are living from it become increasingly conscious of the state of their light vesture. What matters is that a new etheric light emanates from the light vesture of all participants of the Spiritual School, and this etheric light will, in turn, reinforce the call of the Spiritual School in the world. Thus, the result of 80 years of work irradiates the world. The fire of the inner sanc-

tuary will be spread by our *mode of life*.

When the soul speaks in your heart and your consciousness, you will experience the great soul distress of countless people, and you will see how the world and humanity are, to a large extent, unable to react positively to the intercosmic radiation.

Therefore, enter wholeheartedly into deepening your pupilship with all your vital energy. To their alarm, many people notice that what is negative in the world is reflected in the life of individuals. We see the positive aspect of these developments in the seeking part of humanity. On the other hand we see many, very negative reactions. All the certainties of our existence are systematically undermined. Many negative phenomena that society demonstrates in a grotesque variety of forms, also penetrate the living rooms of individual people. Computer, television and the Internet, which are so dominant in this age of virtual reality, contribute considerably to this.

The Internet appears to have become a dustbin in which many forms of subhuman urges seethe. Unobserved, hidden behind their computers, many adults and children go over the edge of decency, often in an aggressive way, thus reflecting the state of the world. It is not without reason that recently, after a study of this phenomenon, parents were asked: '*Do you know what your children are occupied with?*'

In the same vein, let us also think of the extremely violent computer games that have already led teenagers to murder, and of the evil way in which older people try to drag children and young adults along on their evil paths.



TAKE CARE THAT THE GRAPEVINE IS
THRIVING

As a Spiritual School, we can consider ourselves fortunate that we possess a very prosperous youthwork. Last summer, the members of the youthwork gathered in a large number of conference centres like Noverosa. Not only were there youth conferences in Europe, but also in other working fields, such as Africa and South America.

We sincerely hope that the calling voice of the Gnosis is not lost in the storm of a life in which many dangers threaten the soul. This is why we would like to repeat some wise advice that was once passed on to us: *'Take continual care that the grapevine is thriving, remains thriving and does not wither.'* This is serious advice, which applies to all of us, more than ever before. Every developing soul is in danger. The suction power emanating from our world is greater than ever and the danger of its sweeping violence is a daily reality that appears in countless guises. This is why it is said: *'Take care that the grapevine is thriving.'*

The grapevine refers to the serpent fire in which the forces of the consciousness from the head sanctuary circulate. A soul is manifested in the serpent fire that contains the promise of liberation and resurrection. Every human being is born with the negative, susceptible soul principle that circulates in this serpent fire, and it is from this principle that the positive soul emerges and can be taken up in the Spirit as a new living soul.

We are all taken up in this great process of the transformation of our soul state. With the help of the new ethers at our disposal in the living body, we break through

from a positive soul state, to the state of consciousness of the living soul, which interacts with the Spirit field.

More than ever before, the time has come to enter into our inner space, and link the newborn consciousness with the field of the Brotherhood, to accomplish the true work of healing humanity. The time has come for the Spiritual School to step into the limelight of the world in a new way, with its acquired light power of the original kingdom. We can partake of it, and we can pass it along.

Some people consider the stone, which has now been given its proper place in the inner garden of this temple complex, to be an ancient border post. Let it symbolise the 80th anniversary of the Spiritual School for all of us. Let us step across the border of the last impediments into the realms of pure spirit-soul life.

We would like to conclude with a few words by Catharose de Petri:

'In neighbourly love we embrace the whole of humanity with the love power of the Gnosis; with compassion we link ourselves with it and make the Gnosis radiate into it; with joy we propel it intelligently, without forcing; being aware of our fundamental wickedness, we burn out and fight sin in an impersonal way, and in a state of calm and stillness, we will not be victimised by the turmoil, but we will be steady as a rock. Then the grapevine will thrive abundantly, in joy, in beauty and in truth, in the sunlight of a new dawn.'

A H van den Brul



THE GOTTORF GLOBE

*and the 'Alchemical Wedding of
Christian Rosycross 1459 AD*

In September 2004, a fascinating project was reopened to the public in the Gottorf Castle Museum near Schleswig in the state of Schleswig-Holstein. This concerns the reconstructed, 17th-century 'giant Gottorf globe'. Duke Friedrich III of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorf (1597-1659) had this walk-through globe made by his court scholar Adam Olearius. It is less known that his construction was the globe from 'The Alchemical Wedding of Christian Rosycross'.

The history of the giant globe is one of the most remarkable and original traces the classical Rosicrucians left behind in public life during the 17th century. We will follow this trace and examine the spiritual background of this globe, which combines heaven and earth.

On the third day of the Alchemical Wedding, after Christian Rosycross has successfully passed the test with the balance, he is being taken around the castle by his page. He and his companions are shown a number of beautiful rooms and objects, among them the library and various artisan workshops, which are arranged in a semicircle around a tower with a precious clock. Finally, he is taken to a hall with a huge globe with a diameter of 10 feet. Two men can rotate this globe with the help of a special mechanism. The outside of the globe depicts a map of the earth.

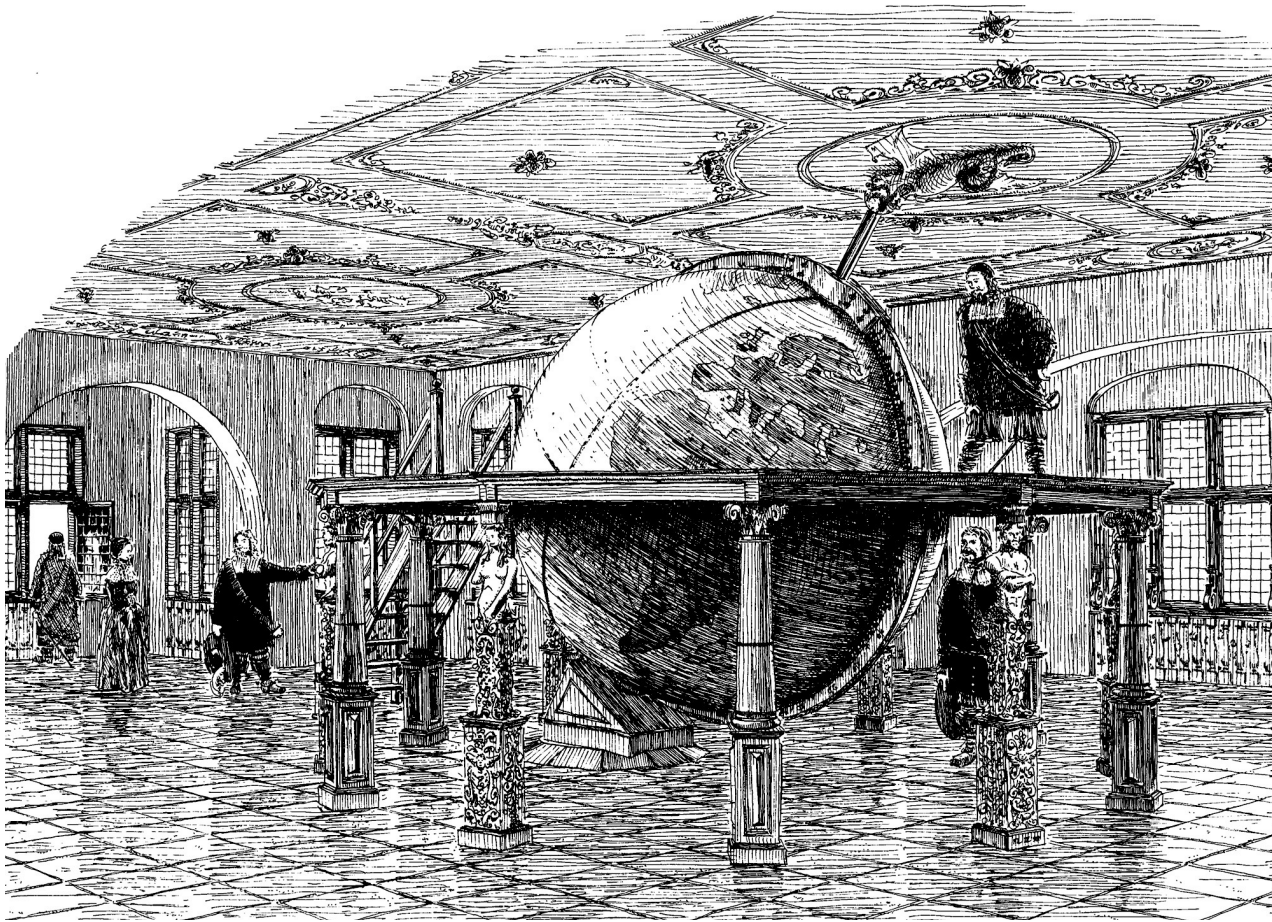
The countries from which the candidates for the Alchemical Wedding came, are marked by small golden dots. These dots are connected by mysterious lines. In the sea depicted on the globe, there is a plate engraved with three dedications and the name of the author. The page lifts the plate, thus disclosing the entrance to the globe, which has room for four persons. They sit on a wooden bench and see the image of the firmament on the inside of the globe.

*'It was just a circular board on which we could sit and observe the stars, even in full daylight (at that moment it was already dark). They seemed to me like pure carbuncles which shone so beautifully in the right order and course that I almost did not want to go out again.'*¹

THE GLOBE AS A SYMBOL OF THE MICROCOSM AND MACROCOSM

The early 17th century heralded the beginning of a new era and a new vision in European spiritual history. This also included a new understanding of the universe. Until then, a geocentric worldview had prevailed in accordance with the established theories of Ptolemy and Tycho Brahe. During the 17th century, the Copernican heliocentric system was gradually accepted.

At the time, the scientific world was divided into two extremely hostile camps. The question was, 'Does it (the earth)



move, or does it not?' Tycho Brahe's assistant, Johannes Kepler, finally discovered the true laws of the planetary orbits and published them in his 'Tabulae Rudolphinae' in 1627. The debates about the earth, the sun and the planets heavily shook the mediaeval worldview and profoundly influenced the minds of the ruling heads of Europe. What ultimately matters is the question regarding what place the human being occupies in God's creation: does he stand in the centre or is he just a fringe figure?

With this in mind, it is easy to understand that the manufacturers of globes were experiencing an economic boom in 17th-century Europe. Every noble family, every notable library owned at least one globe of the earth, as well as a celestial globe. The fact that Andreae described a

globe as a symbol in the *Alchemical Wedding* may also have been inspired by the spirit of the times. However, the combination of a celestial and an earthly globe as a huge, walk-in sphere, as Andreae describes it in his book, is a unique literary idea.

ALCHEMISTS AND ASTRONOMERS IN THE 17TH CENTURY

The natural sciences like chemistry, physics and astronomy, were not regarded as independent scientific disciplines in the 17th century as they are today. The great scholars of the times were usually alchemists, astronomers and physicians, who combined these disciplines. Just as the alchemists experienced the chemical processes occurring in the outside world as

The place of the first globe, based on an etching by Lühning. The platform makes it possible to study both hemispheres, and in this way it was also possible to reach the inside of the sphere. Lühning, Vorsatzblatt.



The entrance to the inside of the globe.

inner changes, astronomical observations were also reflected as occurring in their own inner being. Therefore, we can assume that this globe was, in the tradition of the time, an object of alchemical initiation.

The combination of the earthly and celestial spheres in this globe is the perfect symbol of the human being as a microcosm. Viewed from the outside, the sphere resembles the earthly body with its familiar features. But for the candidate who walks the path of initiation and has passed the test of the balance, this body opens forth in a place 'where the sea is', or in other words, at the level of the soul, because water, or the sea, has always been a symbol of the soul world. Here the candidate can enter the inner world of the

sphere – the inner world of his own being – and he can then see the 'stars in the sky' of his microcosm.

This event is described as 'consulting the rota' in the Fama Fraternitatis. After having discovered the burial vault of Christian Rosycross, the brothers *'thanked God for this discovery and left everything else aside for the evening, as we wanted first to consult our Rotae.'*²² And they did not enter the burial vault until the next day. The 'rotae' or the 'starry sky' shows the structural lines of force of the candidate's astral sphere (literally: the sphere of the stars). What this means is that the brothers first wanted to know their astrosophical condition at the supreme moment, so that they could behave according to it. These stars follow their orbits like shining carbuncles, so that each brother beholds his own inner being in a specific way. It is a new perception that marks a certain level of soul development, which, at a certain moment, every candidate experiences on his path of initiation.

However, the globe has a macrocosmic aspect as well. We can read in the text that each country from which a candidate for the Alchemical Wedding came, is marked by a little golden dot on the outside of the globe. These dots are connected by lines.

From the point of view of the Brotherhood of the Light, our transient world is a dark place. But wherever human souls are awakened and people are seeking their path to the spirit-soul, lights begin to shine in the darkness and form a worldwide web of light. These are the golden dots and lines that Christian Rosycross sees on the map.

What has all of this to do with the giant Gottorf globe?

THE GIANT GOTTORF GLOBE

In the first half of the 17th century, the Gottorf Castle in Schleswig-Holstein was the most important cultural and spiritual centre in Northern Germany. Friedrich III, Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorf, was a man of broad interests and general education. He was well versed not only in astronomy, astrology, chronology and geography, but also in optics, acoustics, and civil and military architecture. Moreover, he ran an alchemical laboratory, an art collection and an important library containing thousands of volumes documenting the knowledge of that time. Together with the Wolfenbüttel Library, it was regarded as the most important collection in Germany. Gottorf was also famous during the 17th century for its clockmakers. These clockmakers had mastered an engineering technology that experienced a Golden Age, in particular in Germany, in the late 16th century.

However, Gottorf, the flourishing residence and stronghold of the sciences, was not only famous because of its art collection and library. An even more admired object was the baroque Neuwerk Garden, which extended over five terraces north of the castle. At its centre, the garden housed the famous Gottorf globe.

There is historic proof that the Rosicrucian manifestoes published between 1614 and 1616, caused great excitement both in Germany and the rest of Europe. Printed copies of the manifestoes were available in many royal court libraries. For example, they could be found in the Dresden court library where Friedrich III had grown up. We may safely assume that he was familiar with the Rosicrucian manifestoes. Unfortunately, there is no

proof as to whether the library in Gottorf had a copy of the Alchemical Wedding. The similarity between the giant Gottorf globe and its counterpart described in the Alchemical Wedding is quite remarkable, however. Hans Sievert, too, points to this fact in his description of the History of the Rosicrucians in Northern Germany.

BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

Friedrich's architect, Adam Olearius, was in charge of the construction of the globe between 1650 and 1664. Both the structure and the location of the globe in the Neuwerk Garden are as in obvious and direct parallel with Andreae's description. The Gottorf globe was located in a hall of the specially built globe house, the Friedrichsburg. The Friedrichsburg stood on the top of a semicircular garden enclosure containing twelve statuary recesses. In front of it, there was a rectangular pond with a huge statue of Hercules. In addition, 'art' objects were distributed over the site: sculptures, waterworks, an optics collection, an orangery, a collection of exotic animals and, in all probability, an astronomical observatory on the roof terrace of the globe house.

The globe's exterior depicted a faithful representation of the earth's surface, based on the extent of their knowledge of the earth at that time. At the place of the Pacific Ocean, a plate covered a hatch. The interior of the globe depicted the firmament using faceted metal pins to represent the stars in painted constellations. The interior was lit by candles. Up to twelve persons could be seated on a wooden bench. A metal sphere representing the earth was fixed to the central axis of the globe. The spectator found himself lit-



erally 'between heaven and earth'. Before and below him, he saw the terrestrial globe, and above him the starry sky.

The globe moved by means of a complicated mechanism, similar to a clockwork. It turned around its axis once every 24 hours, and its speed could be increased to show different constellations. A miniature, wooden model of the globe house can be found in the Schleswig-Holstein State Museum in Gottorf.

This giant globe, which can be regarded as one of the oldest planetariums in Europe, contributed to the reputation of the dukes of Gottorf. The loss of the globe in 1713 also marked the end of Gottorf's prime. After the House of Gottorf was defeated in the war against Denmark, the globe was presented as a 'gift' to the Russian Tsar, Peter the Great. Since then, the globe has served as a showpiece in the

art collection of the tsarist residence in Saint Petersburg.

The globe was brought back to Germany as looted art in 1945, and resided for a short time in Lübeck, but the British occupation authorities soon returned it to the Soviet Union. For a long time it was unable to be viewed, as it was heavily damaged and partially burned. After an extensive restoration, financed by the Goethe Institute it has been accessible to viewers, under certain restrictions, since July 2003. Its new location in the Lomonossov Museum is reminiscent of the 'Tower of Olympus' in the *Alchemical Wedding*: The globe can be found in the topmost chamber of a tower. The chamber is flooded with light and can only be reached by a very narrow, winding staircase.

A view of
Serpentarius and
Cygnus on the
inside of the
globe. They were
painted in Russia
during the 18th-
century
reconstruction of
the globe.

THE GOTTORF GLOBE REPLICA

In September 2004, a reasonably faithful copy of the historic globe, albeit with a modern drive mechanism, was opened to the public in Gottorf. The project became possible through donations and is part of the reconstruction of the historic Newwerk Garden, which was sponsored by the 'Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt' (German Federal Foundation for Environmental Projects). At the historic site, a new, modern globe house was built, in which the new globe was placed in March 2004. The Danish queen, Margrethe II, was the first to view a very special sky on 27 July 2004. When she took her seat as a guest in the Gottorf globe, 1,050 stars revolved around her. This replica of the original globe of 1650 is now also open to the general public. A group of nine visitors at the time can enter the historic planetarium through a hatch where the Pacific Ocean lies. As the *Fama Fraternitatis* reports, 2004 was an important year for the Rosicrucians, because the burial vault of Christian Rosycross was discovered exactly 400 years earlier, in 1604. Johannes Kepler observed the occurrence of a supernova in the constellation of the Swan in 1604. This event is explained as a sign of God's counsel in the *Confessio Fraternitatis*, a sign that a new spiritual era was beginning. In the same year, an extremely rare planetary constellation announced the foundation of the 'House Sancti Spiritus'.

Is it mere chance that this giant globe, described in the *Alchemical Wedding*, has experienced a revival in 2004?

REFERENCES:

- Lühning, F., *Gottorf im Glanz des Barock*, volume IV: *Der Gottorfer Globus und das Globushaus im Neuen Werck* (Gottorf in the shine of the Baroque, vol. IV: The Gottorf globe and the globe house in the new work); Schleswig-Holsteinisches Landesmuseum, Schleswig 1997.
- Merckens, W., *Die Kataloge der Gottorfer Hofbibliothek und die Sammlung von Wowern*, in: *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Schleswig-Holsteinische Geschichte*, volume 107 (The catalogue of the Gottorf court library; in: Magazine of the Schleswig-Holstein Historical Society); Karl Wachholtz Verlag, Neumünster 1982.
- Rijckenborgh, J. van, *The Alchemical Wedding of Christian Rosycross*, volumes I and II. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 1991 and 1992.
- Rijckenborgh, J. van, *The Call of the Brotherhood of the Rosycross*. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 1988.
- Ritman, J.R., *Die Geburt der Rosenkreutzerbruderschaft in Tübingen*, in: *Rosenkreutz als europäisches Phänomen im 17. Jahrhundert* (The birth of the Brotherhood of the Rosycross in Tübingen, in: The Rosycross as a European phenomenon in the 17th century). Amsterdam, In de Pelikaan, 2002.
- Schlee, E., *Der Gottorfer Globus Herzog Friedrichs III* (The Gottorf globe of Duke Friedrich III). Westholsteinische Verlagsanstalt Boyens Co., Heide/Holstein 1991. In 1749, the Gottorf library was transferred as war booty to Copenhagen by the Danish King Christian IV and no longer exists.
- Sievert, H.H., *Im Zeichen von Kreuz und Rose. Zur Geschichte der Rosenkreutzer*, volume I (In the sign of the cross and the rose. Of the history of the Rosicrucians). Verlag Clemens Zierling, Berlin 1996.
- Yates, Francis A., *Aufklärung im Zeichen des Rosenkreutzes* (Enlightenment in the context of the Rosicrucians). Stuttgart 1975.



OF THE GREAT AWAKENING

The whole of humanity is standing at the outset of a great cosmic event, a 'cosmic spring', in which humanity will be able to develop in a totally new way. The first requirement for this is to bid farewell to the old structures and approach a new ensoulment with an open mind.

We who have suffered the 'loss of the divine centre' and have become aware of the hopelessness resulting from this loss, simultaneously behold the macrocosm and the microcosm, and for the first time, glimpse a light beyond the grief, despair and hopelessness. We glimpse an infinitely subtle, yet clear and unassailable light. It is the light of the eternal spirit. It touches our deepest nucleus, which has been lying hidden within us as a lost, but precious pearl for so long.

And we have become aware that this is the one link with God, the eternal covenant of the human child with the divine spirit.

All distress, agony, fear, darkness and desolation, all thorns of the dense hedge around the dilapidated palace yield, dissolve, melt and disappear in the light of the spiritual sun. Nothing can withstand this light. This is the reason that we can acknowledge that all appearances, fear, doubts and death are unreal in a holy universe. Thus, it can happen that true life opens forth in the heart as an eternal spring. This breath of love is the 'kiss of life' of the spiritual king – the universal Christ – who awakens the soul.

WHAT MATTERS IS INNER CHANGE

The first careful attempts are taking shape, certainly in Europe with its increasingly closer community of nations. Thus, the initial contours of a new ensoulment that concentrates on a spiritually understood Christ, are appearing in many places. Ever more people will demonstrate this ensoulment in the first stages of the Age of Aquarius,. Change is in the

Ruins are the only things left of this once majestic temple. Photo Pentagram.





air. Many sensitive people have been waiting a long time for the new possibilities now presenting themselves. In this context, it is irrelevant as to whether they even know the word 'Christ'. What matters is a new soul quality; this is the decisive factor. It is the awakening of the inner human being that has been predicted by teachers, seers and prophets for thousands of years. It is the result of countless life experiences of those who have been striving for a Christian experience, with their soul and their whole consciousness focused on the inner requirements.

What does this awakening mean to us? How can we perceive it? What are its characteristics? What kind of process of becoming conscious is it?

The possibilities of the divine spirit are unlimited. In the process of becoming conscious, an abundance of possibilities and forces can be manifested, just as the exuberant, abundant wealth of flowers can blossom in a spring meadow. Every

awakening human child carries a three-fold seal, the seal of the spiritual law: the trinity of light, love and life in heart, head and hands. This trinity is the primordial spiritual formula for freedom, and it is found wherever freedom rules.

As soon as we understand that this formula is the highest human task and destiny, and we begin to strive and act according to it, we approach the cosmic aspect of the Christ. Then our thinking, feeling and acting are no longer powerlessly at the mercy of the vagaries of external circumstances, or the blows of fate. No, thinking, feeling and acting concentrate around the rediscovered eternal centre, a central, universal, spiritual power, which is light, love and life.

THE PURE STIMULUS

As long as people remain under the spell of their old patterns of feeling, thinking and acting, due to their blood state,

Nikè, the goddess of victory. The palm branch and laurel wreath symbolise the joy of the human being, who has found the centre of original life again. Photo Pentagram.



karma and external influences and circumstances, this spiritual power will not come any closer. Many people's emotional nucleus has been turned into a frightened, unbalanced emotional life that lacks a pure, spiritual stimulus. When this is the case, our thinking can only be confused and I-centred. And in our society, without a pure stimulus emanating from a sincere unity of the heart and head, this inevitably leads to a succession of absurd actions and automatic reactions.

A RAY OF LIGHT FROM THE ETERNAL BEING

Every human being, who still has at his disposal the last radiant spark in his heart, is experiencing the influence of the spiritual sun of the current time period and is able to wake up. The rigid thinking, feeling and acting is broken up and old mechanisms are affected from within. Then, in this 'ruin', a radiant new shoot can germinate. The new thinking, feeling and acting will, from then on, be concentrated around, and vivified by, the eternal, radiating nucleus. Heart, head and hands

will then be liberated from confusion, and the human being will be able to develop towards his true destiny – light, love and life.

The soul is touched by a ray of light from the eternal being right through its suffering. And it is only in this light, that the soul can gain insight into the limited usefulness of its bipolar thinking, the absurdity and fragmentation of the old I, and the deep chasm that separates it from life in the spirit. And the human being will recognise the miracle of this mercy, and be able to surrender his very soul to this ray of light from eternity. For it is in this very surrender, in this ascent into the spiritual light, that the divine gift of freedom will come over him. From then on, his thoughts and feelings will be linked with the nucleus of eternal being, the beneficent principle that we call 'the Christ'. Everything wilful, blind and powerless, which was at the mercy of the arbitrariness of matter, will yield. In the surrender to the universal spirit nucleus a totally new soul is vivified, right through the process of 'dying', right through the extinction of egocentric life. From then on, our intellect, emotional life and actions will

Among the ruins of the old life, the new life is welcomed. Photo Pentagram.



also be purified, because the ceaseless surrender to the spirit of *the pure life* is always accompanied by purification, by becoming simple and clear. The old consciousness progressively disappears and is taken up into a new spirit-soul consciousness, and nothing of it will ever be found again. A new human being is born through the vivifying powers of the spirit.

GRAIL BEARER

This is a total renewal. We might ask whether a human being notices this change. Certainly, because he experiences this renewal as inwardly being young again. The impulses and suggestions from another dimension, from another field of consciousness, are now projected into thinking, feeling and acting faculties that are balanced and tranquil.

And the person's whole state of being rises into a higher vibration that is in subtle harmony and attuned to the universal laws of the Christ: light, love, and life. The immortal consciousness structures and light creations can continue to be formed. And the old human being becomes a 'grail bearer', in which the spiri-

tual sun is reflected. He is: the *coming new man*.

THE ROSE OF THE COSMIC LIGHT

When Dante writes about the rose of the cosmic light in his '*Divina Commedia*', he envisions the concentric all-manifestation with its immeasurable wealth of light. He creates a representation of the macrocosmic, cosmic and microcosmic solar life in the Spirit, as a pure idea, just as the earthly human being perceives it with his new soul consciousness. He calls this mighty image the 'grail'. He strives for this pure, divine idea, and his consciousness is completely assimilated by its love, even though it takes thousands of years. Then, like Jesus, he is able to testify from his inner, central rose of Light: '*I am one with you, Father; thanks be to you for this mercy.*'

400 YEARS OF THE ROSYCROSS

The language of Aquarius

In all its statements, the modern Rosycross points to the demand made of human beings at the dawn of the Age of Aquarius. The familiar image of the man emptying a pitcher of water – the Waterbearer – has, since ancient times, been used as a symbol of the living water, the new energy being poured out into the atmosphere. This living water stimulates a process of change and renewal. Since the 17th-century Rosicrucians went public, each period has the appropriate priorities placed at the outset of this process.

Aquarius is the spirit that makes everything transparent. The content of old values is examined. There is an urge for lib-

eration from conservative structures. The pitcher is charged with a dynamic energy intended for an inner revolution. This power of manifestation, which is poured out over everyone, always has an effect, and we must make a choice.

Aquarius guarantees free choice. We cannot do anything but react, *that* is not free. But we can choose how to do it. Reacting with the I results in an expansion of the ego. We can see how this leads to narcissism, hedonism and an unrelenting drive for consumption.

If we listen to the calling voice of the spiritual essence, we will walk the path of the rose and the cross. In both cases, all the old standards and values become unsettled. But while the I-being turns to ever lower 'liberties', his brother or sister makes another choice and is striving for a higher level of existence. Aquarius then inspires an awareness of the Other, and when this happens, higher ideals like brotherhood, social justice, solidarity, reasonableness, understanding and public spirit, which are always associated with Aquarius, take on a totally different perspective.

As the sign of Aquarius is controlled by the spirit of freedom, the I-consciousness might at any moment run away with these ideals. Moreover, such ideals can become fixed in systems, dogmas, totalitarian structures and imposed new standards and values. Seen astrologically, this renewal then falls back to Saturnian values; it crystallises in fixed structures and comes to nothing.

Although, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto are now known, and their orbits described, it appears that only a very few are able to read and understand the Book of Nature, even though, in truth, it lies open for all to see. Uranus, Neptune and Pluto, those three divine forces, are not simply lofty ideas, to which mankind will gradually be raised, but powerful laws, fundamental principles, which will be fulfilled, which will break right through what is degenerate, barbarian and criminal so that, as the Confessio says: '...as soon as the world has slept off the stupor of its cup filled with poisons and intoxicants, and merrily and joyfully, with open heart, bare head, and unshod feet, steps forth early in the morning to meet the rising sun.'

J van Rijckenborgh, The Confession of the Brotherhood of the Rosycross, p.14. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 1989.




WHAT IS THE FREEDOM OF THE WATERBEARER?

From the perspective of the I, freedom entails uncertainty and chaos in the sense of a lack of order. But from the perspective of renewal, freedom is connected with creativity and responsibility. Aquarius is connected with the planet Uranus, and in Greek mythology, the god Uranus is represented as freedom and chaos. The new human being needs this combination of freedom, creativity and responsibility, to be able to be autonomous and self-realis-

ing. What matters is a completely new responsibility that can only be realised in absolute freedom, just like the pilgrim in Flammarion's well-known illustration is able to break through the limits of the existing cosmos and perceive a new one.

If the human being does not go this path, if he clings to old patterns and inclinations, the fiery power of Aquarius will constantly cause crises. He may then try to shield himself from this uncertainty by falling back on standards and values that are no longer valid, but which can protect him from slipping further down.

Observed from the earth, a comet in the sky offers a fascinating sight.



Then he locks the door for which the dynamism of Aquarius is intended, the door to renewal. This development will then have to be passed through at a later stage. Whoever seeks negative freedom, unlimited freedom for the I, will notice that this only gives rise to the greatest danger for the ego. In his craving for stimuli, the I-human being becomes a danger to himself and his surroundings. The Aquarian energy drives us to a renewal that ultimately demands the total dissociation from the culture of the I.

In the 1960's, the Aquarian radiation was expressed in revolutionary movements and ideals. They pounded against the limits of the existing standards and values and destroyed them. There was a cry for peace, love and solidarity. The tension in the atmosphere was critical and discharged into the atmosphere like a flash of lightning. As an air sign, the domain of Aquarius is the atmosphere.

The Spiritual School of the Golden Rosycross organised five powerful Aquarian Conferences in different places in Europe between 1963 and 1967. These special conferences emphasised that being aware of the need for a revolution is the condition for true human genesis, wholly in the spirit of *The Alchemical Wedding of Christian Rosycross*, a manuscript from the 17th-century Rosicrucians. In this profound short story, Christian Rosycross is the prototype of the new human being, the Aquarian human being.

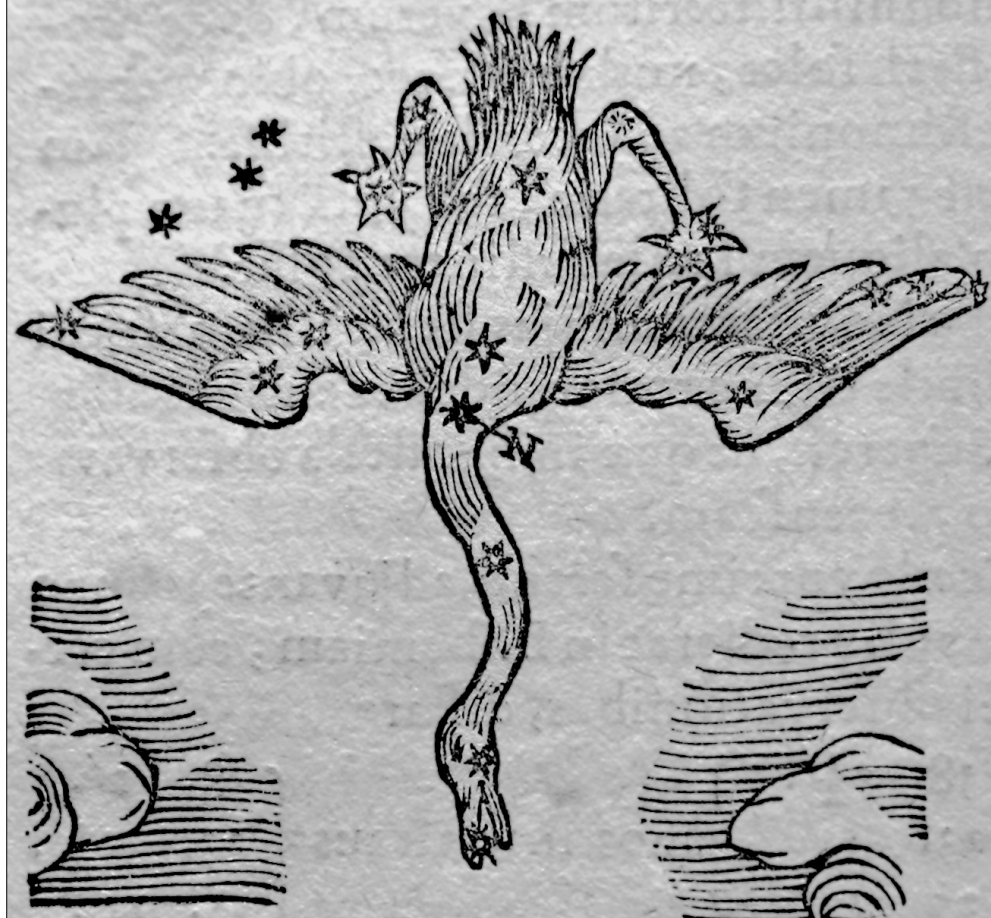
Nowadays, it is generally acknowledged that the revolutionary changes, initiated in the second half of the last century, have been decisive for today's society. Today's politicians ascribe the current upheaval, lawlessness and amorality directly to these changes, primarily to the tendency toward individual freedom. But this impulse did not concern politics:

it was a pure consciousness impulse, which developed the flavour of hedonism and egotism during the so-called I-period of the 1980's. The striving for solidarity, adopted by politics, was a positive result of this impulse.

We can see the influences of the Aquarian impulse on society. Yet, human beings often react unconsciously, superficially. And this is logical, as the impulse is not intended to be 'cosmetic', but to be profound, for the inner human being, and hence for the microcosm. If we try to implement these values outwardly, without any inner change, the laws of nature will come into effect ensuring that all worldly values ultimately turn into their opposite. The ruin of what is best then produces the worst: lawlessness and amorality; the lowest form of violence, such as suicide commandoes and using children as hostage.

This is counterbalanced by improvements like the unmasking of many pretences: the human being is not good by nature, as has been believed for quite a long time, nor is he bad. Good and evil are aspects of the human being. There are many people who are striving for the high Aquarian ideals in their own lives. It is said that the Aquarian influence, a period of approximately 2160 years, heralds a time of brotherhood, freedom, harmony, mutual understanding, unselfishness and creativity. Whoever looks around him, will not see much of this as yet, but gradually all illusions will be unmasked. In the end, the truth catches up with all the lies, and how many scandals and secrets have not already been uncovered?

What is the significance of 400 years of the Rosycross in the light of Aquarius? At the beginning of the 17th century, the Brotherhood of the Rosycross went public in Europe with manifestoes and pro-



clamations. The astronomer/astrologer Kepler had discovered a supernova in the constellations of Serpentarius and Cygnus, and the Rosicrucians considered this to be a sign of 'God's Counsel', as they mentioned in the *Confessio* (1615). It was an impulse to renewal, manifested in the sky, that would affect both the world and our small world, the microcosm.

GUIDED BY REASON

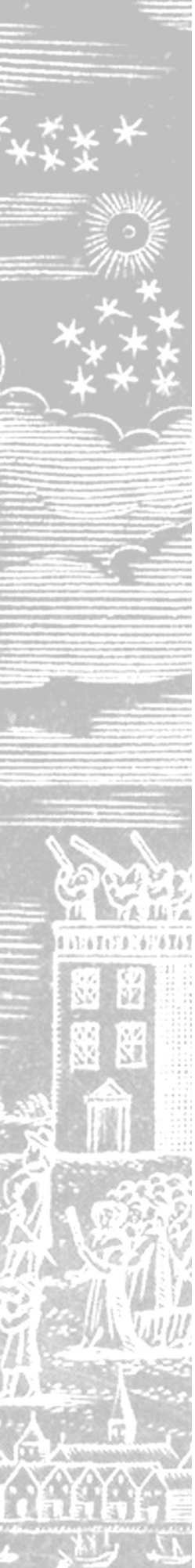
During the same period, possibilities for an inner renewal and for the renewal of the general spiritual climate in Europe were released. The Brotherhood of the Rosycross advanced the possibilities for renewal despite the inherent risk of doing so. They did this, because in their opinion it was necessary for the further development of humanity and human culture on a purely Christian basis. The possibilities presented themselves. At the time, the circumstances in Europe were such that the

risk of chaos remained limited. The tendency to order was strong in those days and formed a solid bedrock for the stream of living water. A new impulse can develop in any direction, but if it is received by conscious souls, it will form a strong bedrock to lead the stream in the right direction.

European culture had also reached a level at which it was able to assimilate the universal insights. People were guided by the awakening Reason, expressed by the philosopher Bruno, a precursor of Spinoza and Descartes. If this impulse had not been received, both the human and cultural developments would have become stuck in an adolescent phase. Europe would not have reached maturity.

The formation of a new human being with true spiritual faculties and the inspiration of a culture with universal values had become necessary. The promise of freedom and the promise of creation, which the Bible heralded, so full of hope,

By N, Kepler marked the place in the sign of the Swan, where, in 1604, he saw a 'new star' (novam). In: *De stella nova in pede serpentarii*. Prague, 1606. Amsterdam, Ritman Library.



would be fulfilled. So the appearance of a new light in the constellations of Serpentarius and Cygnus not only proclaimed this renewal in Europe, but at the same time introduced the signature of the Aquarian human being: Christian Rosycross. He is the human being who is standing in a dynamic process of change. Aquarius makes the manas possible, the Spirit-Soul human being with the higher thinking faculty, the androgyne, true man. Characteristics like unselfishness, solidarity, friendship, reasonableness, integrity, openness and creativity will begin to develop on a new basis. But the most important aspect of the process of new human genesis is the birth of a new soul: an entirely new directedness. It is the foundation for the alchemical wedding, the synthesis of the Spirit and the soul, from which a new body can arise.

THREE SIGNIFICANT PHASES SINCE 1604

This element, which remained underexposed or was even absent in European culture until then, is now highly relevant for all of us. The development of a higher type of human being is not an automatic aspect of a culture, but a dynamic process of becoming conscious; it is not an evolution led by secular or church authorities, but a revolution in our own microcosm: a step toward another starting point.

This new synthesis cannot take place on the basis of reward or punishment, but only on the basis of a positive decision to work on true enlightenment, because of a deeply felt invitation to the royal wedding, and without knowing in advance where this process will ultimately lead to. This uncertainty and tension belong to the process of growth to the maturity of the soul.

Aquarius signifies a great new possibility for the spiritual seeker. Not until now,

has the seeker been able to work on himself in a meaningful way, as the Piscean influence wanes, and then only if he has realised the requirements of the Age of Pisces, as it offers the right starting point. A period of cleansing and purification of the heart precedes this new phase, during which he learns to listen humbly to the higher reason.

This first renewing impulse of the seventeenth century came to a dead end during the bloody religious wars in Germany, between Protestants and Roman Catholics (the Thirty Years' War). Only after a comprehensive European peace, signed in Münster in 1648, was it possible to pick up the impulse again. The French Revolution, which aroused Europe in 1789 with its declaration of human rights and the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity, formed an important transition in this context: it was the first clear foreshadowing of the influence of Aquarius. It is no coincidence that Uranus, the planet that controls the sign of Aquarius, was discovered in 1781. This foreshadowed influence is also marked with Mozart's 1791 composition *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*), in which the process of the Alchemical Wedding of Christian Rosycross is set to music. Mozart considered the dawn of the Age of Aquarius to be a sunrise: symbolism, magic and spirit-soul consciousness musically represent a wedding feast that has lost none of its power of expression to this day.

During the 18th century, many impulses stimulated alchemical self-realisation, through freemasonry, among other things. But counterforces also arose, such as the bloodbath that accompanied the French Revolution, which tainted and bartered away the Aquarian values of liberty, equality and fraternity.

The period between 1787 and 1966 was marked by numerous revolutions



and renewals, which began with high ideals, but ended in totalitarian systems that claimed countless victims.

However, there were also joyful Aquarian renewals. On the spiritual plane for instance, theosophy developed with the motto 'there is no religion higher than the truth', a true Aquarian motto. Also, Max Heindel's movement, the Rosicrucian Fellowship, at the beginning of the 20th century, had, as its motto: 'A clear intellect, a loving heart, a healthy body'.

In the last phase of the Age of Pisces – during which the Aquarius energy becomes noticeable – there is a strong focus on the truth again. Seen astrophysically, the Age of Pisces has entered its last phase, the phase of the Fishes, the Two Fishes. Pisces (Fishes) is controlled by the mystery planet Neptune, which J van Rijckenborgh called *the renewer of the head sanctuary*.

The truth that becomes visible by unmasking is often not a truth that human beings appreciate. What is uncovered confronts, and it brings our crisis of consciousness fully to light.

The truth is that the world cannot in any way be made acceptable in the light of eternity, and that untruthfulness and hypocrisy rule supreme. We often take part in it whether from economic motives or for the 'sake of peace'. This 'peace' corresponds exactly with the swooning context of 'our good Lord' in which the Son of God is often placed: it is appearances and untruthful.

THE GLOW OF THE MONAD

Although we know that I-culture is a dead end, we often take part in it. Another way of thinking becomes then impossible. We learn to live with the 'obesity' of the I. We suppress the idea of the need for spiritual change. We shrink from the change it requires and think that there is an immeasurable distance between us and the true human being. The I has taken us prisoner.

Long before the 1960's, yet still in the Aquarian phase of the Age of the Fishes, these wise words resounded: the development of the I, the nature ego, should be replaced by the development of the monad.

Impression of the planet Pluto.



The monad is a much deeper nucleus than our ego and is not open to the temptations that bind us to matter, habits and addictions. The monad corresponds with the original field, with the Love that is perfect. This is not the love we know. Love, which is the spirit of freedom, cannot be dealt with by our I. The love emanating from the I is of a much lower vibration. The Love that the Letter to the Corinthians speaks of, is of a different realm, and only the monad has affinity with it and, via it, can begin to 'radiate'.

The nucleus radiation of the monad envelops its surroundings – that is us – with an unearthly glow. Through it, we experience an alienation from this world and we feel like strangers here.

This spirit-spark, which experiences perfect love and freedom, drives the human being to intense activity. The driven human being knows that this energy is not intended to be enlightening for a short while, but that it imposes an obligation. The spirit of love demands that the person give and spread the new energy. Through this, the inner construction continues. In this way, the human being is confronted with the wisdom of Hermes: receiving everything, relinquishing everything and in this way renewing everything.

If the striving person falls back into the actions of the I, he will arrive in no man's land. The limits have been wiped out, and he no longer has anything to hold on to. If he tries to revivify the old values in a forced way, he gradually lapses into the realm of fundamentalism. Then a cultural degeneration begins and the attendant phenomena of fear, suppression and terror are profoundly upsetting and far from uplifting.

The Aquarian impulse is not free from obligation. What matters in the sphere of Aquarius is to form such a strong magnetic system or power field that it be-

comes unassailable from the inevitable degeneration of cultures in the world. The Aquarian idea of 'brotherhood' plays a decisive role in this. Aquarius demands the courage to engage in the group process – but now on a new level, on the level of the soul. The requirement is absolute, but can be realised in the spirit of perfect love and freedom. The power of the whole group will benefit all of its members, according to the adage: liberty, equality and fraternity. The true human being has then risen from the earth. He is an inhabitant of the original solar body, the cosmos.

AQUARIUS — THE WATERBEARER

The period that we are entering is related to the sign of Aquarius. This word comes from Latin and means 'belonging to water'.¹ In astrology, however, the 'Waterbearer' is associated with the element air, not water. How can we explain this contradiction, and what is its significance for our time?

This sign of the zodiac is depicted as a man pouring out the contents of an amphora, or pitcher. This image is common to many cultures. In the cabala, it is depicted as a bucket. According to Friedrich Weinreb, pure spring water was brought in for the Feast of the Tabernacles, to be poured out in the Temple: 'The allegory of pouring out belongs to the eleventh sign of the zodiac [...] which is symbolized by the bucket. When Gog and Magog, the peoples of this world, destroy each other, the water, time, is poured out. A new world approaches, the time of the end is here.'²

The Gospel of Luke states that in preparation for the Passover meal, Jesus gave orders to his disciples to follow 'a man carrying a jar of water'.³ Referring to the custom of offering pure water during the Feast of the Tabernacles, Jesus says:

*'If any one thirsts, let him come to me, and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said: Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'*⁴ The 'living water' is also mentioned in the Revelation of John: 'Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the lamb.'⁵ In this reference, the water is equated with

the healing spiritual energy, flowing from heaven.

If the sign of Aquarius is not associated with the element water but with air, this perhaps refers to the heavenly, spiritual energy. Martin Sorge writes: '*The pouring out signifies the unveiling of something new that was hidden until then. If the pitcher represents the body, it is the spiritual contents that are revealed in this sign.*'⁶

AQUARIUS IN THE MUSICAL HAIR

The musical Hair, produced in 1967, also elaborated this idea. Conceived particularly as a protest against the Vietnam war, it owed its success mainly to the fact that it expressed the spirit of a time epitomized by the hippy movement, and thereby made a connection with the approaching Age of Aquarius. The favourite song for the people who were grasped by the spirit of this period was:

*'When the moon is in the Seventh House
And Jupiter aligns with Mars
Then peace will guide the planets
And love will steer the stars.'*

*This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius
The Age of Aquarius
Aquarius! — Aquarius!*

*Harmony and understanding
Sympathy and trust abounding
No more falsehoods or derisions
Golden living dreams of visions
Mystic crystal revelation
And the mind's true liberation
Aquarius! — Aquarius! Etc.'*



The musical *Hair* is a protest against weapons of mass destruction and an establishment that prepares for their use. The song 'Aquarius' expresses the longing projected into heaven and its planetary energies.

Remarkably, there are more wars than ever before. Gog and Magog are still destroying each other, as Weinreb wrote. As long as there is no peace within man, the Waterbearer does not bring peace. Instead, he reveals what is hidden. Thoughts and feelings become visible. In this context, the Waterbearer creates no specific quality, and does not take away human responsibility, but forces people to make a choice. According to the musical, the spiritual message is 'Let the sun shine in.' Or: There is a strong feeling, or at least a sense of hope that something or someone will appear to lead us out of the jungle. In the meantime, the best solution is that we follow our own lead.⁷

THE AQUARIUS CONFERENCES

Around the time that *Hair* was being produced, the Lectorium Rosicrucianum organized five Aquarius conferences between 1963 and 1967. During these conferences, a spiritual response was given to the question of what should be changed and realised in order to be able to react positively to the influence of the approaching Age of Aquarius.

In 1935, Z W Leene, one of the founders of the Spiritual School of the Golden Rosycross, had already said: *'Aquarius is the era of expansion, freedom and enlightenment. If we could only appreciate the true meaning of the word Aquarius, we would greet it with infinite enthusiasm! Many people, especially those interested in the spiritual aspect of life, have focused on the objective of Aquarius, this ideal, which has been anticipated and sought after for so long. [...] If we are beings who are striving for the spirit, we join head and heart.*

*The Water of Life then flows from our heart into the Holy Fire in our thinking.*⁸

The Aquarius conferences were dedicated to this goal. During the first Aquarius renewal conference in 1963, this possibility and task was expressed as follows: *'So now you have received the central message of the Aquarius Renewal Conference: the manifestation of the spirit; the descent into man of the word of God, of the spirit of God; participation in the Sonship; the return of Christ; the initiation into the mysteries of the Universal Rosycross. [...] The situation we are now experiencing has arisen many times in human history, whenever a harvest had to be gathered and brought into the barns. In connection with this process, we can therefore literally speak of the return of the Christ. [...] In the near future, a Spiritual School will have to become a community of men and women who are really turning the new way of life into a fact. Only then will they form a helping, constructive force in our world that is changing so much.'*⁹

The image of the end times and the time of the harvest has always been connected with the Waterbearer. In such a period, the Messiah comes *'with the clouds of heaven, like a son of man.'*¹⁰ The first Christians thought that the return of the Christ would take place *on earth*; they were disappointed.¹¹ The 'clouds of heaven' indicate that the encounter takes place on another plane. The spiritual wedding between the bride and bridegroom is celebrated in the etheric realm, the realm of the living soul. This process is also symbolically represented by the link of the soul with the spirit. The path leading to this plane is a spiritual one, but is prepared on earth.

The Aquarius conferences of 1963-1967 were impulses from the Brotherhood of the Rosycross. They have opened the way to a new era of spiritual insight and of elevation beyond space and time.

Left: Aquarius, screen print, 1972. Photo Pentagram. Page 44: The liberating impulse of the spirit of life is closely linked with the three mystery streams. Hand of Christ, sculpture from the vestibule of Vézelay cathedral, around 1140 AD.



NOTES

¹ Sorge, J Martin, *Transzendente Astrologie* (Transcendent Astrology). Ariston Verlag, Geneva, 1981, p. 245.

² Weinreb, Friedrich, *Die Symbolik der Bibelsprache* (The Symbolism of the Language of the Bible), Origoverlag, Zurich, 1969, p. 60 ff.

³ Luke 22:10.

⁴ John 7:37-38.

⁵ Revelation 22:1.

⁶ Sorge, J Martin, op.cit.

⁷ Miller, Scott, *Let the Sun shine in the Genius of Hair*, Heinemann, 1 Portsmouth, 2003, p. 125.

⁸ *The Leaven of Aquarius*, Pentagram, October 1997, pp. 6, 8.

⁹ Jan van Rijckenborgh and Catharose de Petri, *The Light Vesture of the New Man*, 1st Aquarius Conference. Rozekruis Pers, Haarlem, The Netherlands, 1989, pp. 43-44 and 47-48.

¹⁰ Daniel 7:13.

¹¹ Taubes, Jacob, *Abendländische Eschatalogie* (Eschatology of the Occident), Matthez Seits Verlag, Munich, 1991, p. 67. 'The original community awaits the coming of the Kingdom, its situation becoming more and more desperate to the extent that it is made to wait.'

THE MUSICAL HAIR

The musical was written in 1967 by James Rando and Jerome Ragni, two unemployed actors. Despite some initial difficulties in producing the musical, they succeeded with the support of the founder of the New York Shakespeare Festival. The premiere took place on October 17th, 1967, expressing a view of life shared by countless people in the 1960's. Claude, a young country boy, goes to New York to sign up for the Army. In a park he meets three hippies: Berger, Hope and Jeanie, who help him discover a life of free love, and the rejection of bourgeois conventions and hate. Claude falls in love with a girl named Sheila. But then his regiment must leave for Vietnam. In order to allow a last meeting with Sheila, Berger dresses up in Claude's military uniform and takes his place for a few hours. But then the signal to depart is given. Berger dies in Vietnam. At the end of the musical, the four friends stand at Berger's grave and sing: 'Let the Sun shine in ...'