

THE NEW YEAR 2021 COMING WORLD CHANGES

# NEW DAWN

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No. 184

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January-February 2021

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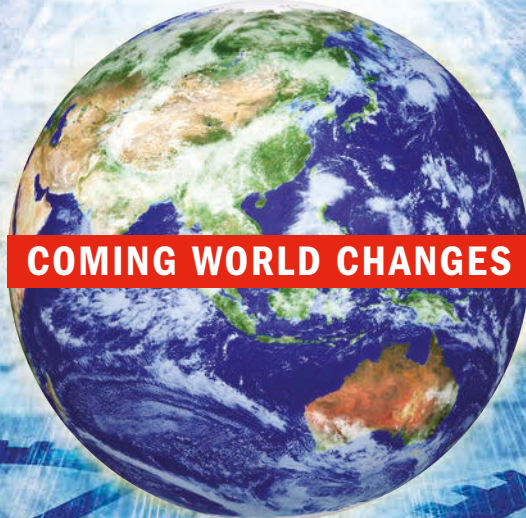
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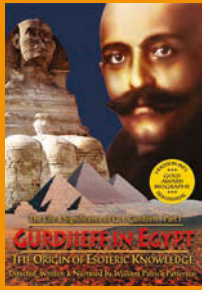
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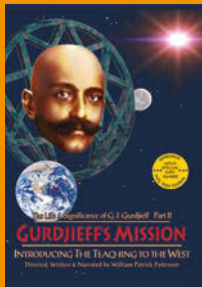
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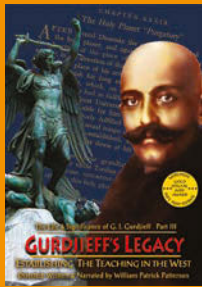
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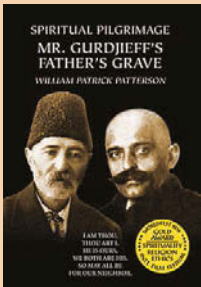
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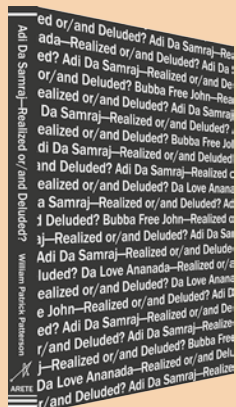
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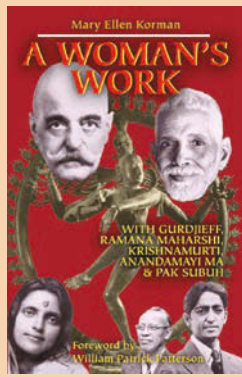
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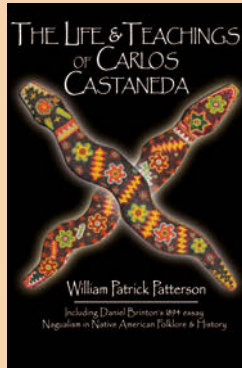
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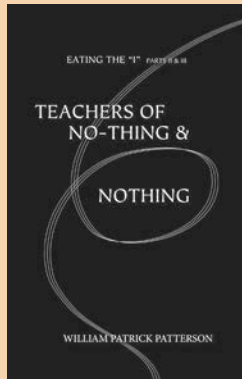
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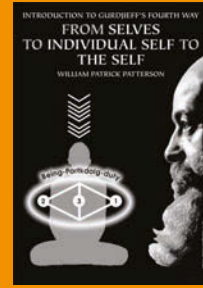
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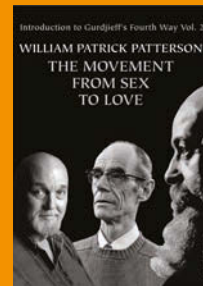
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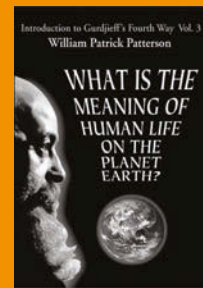
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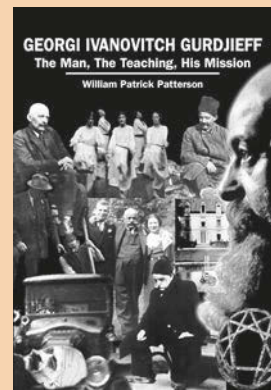
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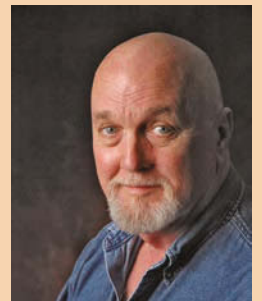
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William Patrick Patterson is a leading exponent and teacher of Mr. Gurdjieff's teaching of The Fourth Way. He has directed and narrated 7 films and written 10 books on the Teaching, and is the founder and editor of *The Gurdjieff Journal* (est. 1992). He leads Study Groups, gives talks and seminars, and directs The Online Fourth Way School. He is a direct student of Lord John Pentland, the remarkable man Mr. Gurdjieff chose to lead the Work in America.



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ANCIENT WISDOM, NEW THINKING

# NEW DAWN

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# mission statement

## what is New Dawn magazine?

The first issue of *New Dawn* magazine appeared in May 1991 in Melbourne, Australia. From humble beginnings, *New Dawn* has grown into a unique bi-monthly publication distributed nationwide throughout Australia and New Zealand, with a growing international readership.

*New Dawn* magazine explores ancient wisdom and new thinking while encouraging greater awareness and open-mindedness. Each thought-provoking issue examines the hidden dimensions of society, culture, history, religion and current events in a non-dogmatic manner.

From lost civilisations and ancient knowledge to secret societies and higher states of consciousness, *New Dawn* is a fascinating blend of cutting-edge articles on unexplained and behind-the-scenes events.

*New Dawn* is not about telling you what to believe but is a forum presenting diverse ideas and creative thought for our reader's consideration, inspiration and empowerment.

Today all mainstream media outlets propagate the consensus reality. Every child is born into a crowd that is already conditioned, the teachers are conditioned, the neighbours are conditioned, and the whole community is conditioned. Born into such a conditioned environment, the child cannot envisage any other alternative. Awareness is sacrificed to conformity. Existence becomes a trap, a cog in the wheel of the great machine of modern society. William Blake described that machine as a 'Dark Satanic Mill'. Philip K. Dick identified it as the Empire's 'Black Iron Prison'.

"You are in prison," observed Mr G. I. Gurdjieff. "If you wish to get out of prison, the first thing you must do is realise that you are in prison. If you think you are free, you can't escape."

"It is possible to get out of a trap," wrote Dr Wilhelm Reich. "However, in order to break out of prison, one must first confess to living in a prison."

There are two ways of looking at the world. You can take the morning newspaper or nightly news at face value and believe everything you are told by the establishment media and those in 'positions-of-authority'. Or you can begin to question this mass hypnosis and awake to new perspectives and possibilities. *New Dawn* is a doorway to this new way of thinking and seeing the world.

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Thank you for reading *New Dawn*. We're sure you will find this magazine insightful, enlightening and absolutely unique.

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# WORLD WATCH

NEWS • OPINION • COMMENTARY • EXPOSÉ

## Is the West Preparing for War in Space?

**T**he UK's Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the US military are beating the war drums over a possible conflict in space. The MoD's strategic policy boss predicts hostile action in the next two years, while the highest-ranking military officer in the US armed forces warns "the next Pearl Harbour could happen in space."

Angus Lapsley, the UK MoD's Director of General Strategy, told a recent conference: "Space is one of those areas where I think a new era of great power competition is going to be felt most keenly. It happens at sea. We've been doing this for hundreds of years. We know what it means to behave in a certain way at sea. I don't think yet we all understand what it means to behave in a certain way in space."

He says this could lead to an incident in space with "real-world impacts on civilian infrastructure and civilian life."

Speaking to the Brookings Institution on 2 December, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark A. Milley, also cited space warfare as an area of concern. "Space as a domain, for example, is critical," he said, adding the claim that other countries might seek to blindsides the US by making some military move into space, bringing about the "next Pearl Harbour."

Who is going to take advantage of this lawless battleground? According to Washington and London, Russia and China, of course. Lapsley argues the lack of defined rules can lead to "misbehaviour" from "rogue states." In case anyone thinks that means North Korea or Iran, this was clarified by the UK's Air Chief Marshal Mike Wigston who made it clear that Russia and China "threaten the peaceful use of space."

Talk of a new Cold War space race is music to the ears of the western military-industrial complex which has been flexing its propaganda muscles to ensure the "rogue state" message is heard loud and clear in political circles.

US companies dominate the Top 100 arms dealers, the top five spots in the ranking held exclusively by weapons companies Lockheed Martin,



Boeing, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon and General Dynamics. These five companies alone accounted for \$148 billion and 35 per cent of total Top 100 arms sales in 2018.

According to data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, sales of arms and military services by companies listed in the Top 100 have increased by 47 per cent since 2002. For these companies, wars and rumours of war are positive developments. As such, investments in media companies literally help pay dividends.

It is not surprising that mainstream media has backed every recent US-led war and repeated claims of Russia and China testing "anti-satellite" weapons. They invert the reality and omit the US agenda to dominate space.

The US Defense Space Strategy proclamation that space was "now a distinct warfighting domain," was repeated by US President Donald Trump when he declared "space" the "new war-fighting domain" upon the creation of the US Space Force and a commitment to "American dominance" in outer space.

According to analysis by Dr Tim Coles, the US is actually not concerned

about Chinese or Russian dominance in space because "US planners are aware that neither Russia nor China has the financial or technological means to dominate space." Instead, Coles notes, "they are concerned about Sino-Russian capacity to limit US operational freedoms; in other words to scupper US attempts at Full Spectrum Dominance."

The US Defense Intelligence Agency does not mention Chinese or Russian space dominance, but rather, how those countries "view counter-space capabilities as a means to reduce US and allied military effectiveness."

Notions of Full Spectrum Dominance and ownership of space means the US rejected every effort at the UN General Assembly to strengthen the 1967 Outer Space Treaty which requires the exploration and use of space "for the benefit and in the interests of all countries."

In November 2018, Russia introduced a draft UN treaty, "No first placement of weapons in outer space" (A/C.1/73/L.51). The second draft passed, with 128 nations voting in favour and 12 against, including the US and Britain. In November 2019, the



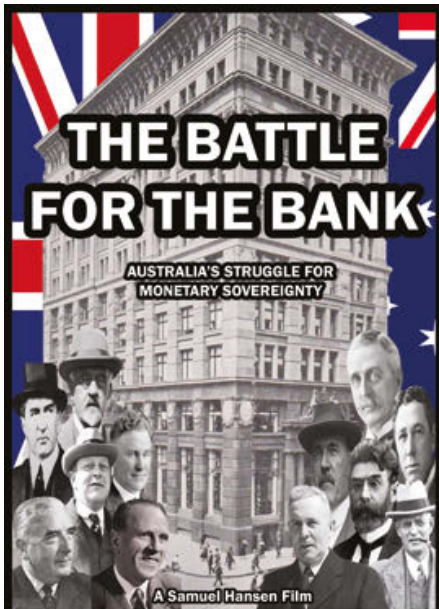
General Assembly reported: “The Committee approved, by a recorded vote of 175 in favour to 2 against (Israel, United States), with no abstentions, the draft resolution ‘Prevention of an arms race in outer space’ (document A/C.1/74/L.3).”

The General Assembly, unlike the Security Council, has no enforcement mechanism, meaning that the US can and does ignore the result of the vote.

Other space-faring nations, and those who fear the acceleration of an arms race in space, are greatly concerned. At the last meeting of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in June 2019, states noted with alarm that “preventing conflicts in outer space and preserving outer space for peaceful purposes” is more necessary than ever.

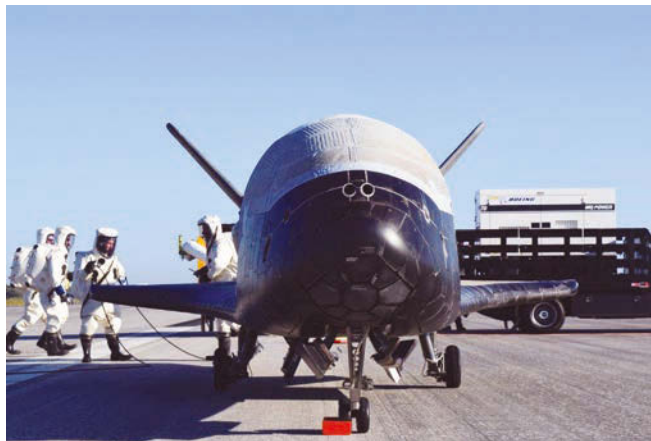
On top of space developments, the skies of planet Earth will also look very different in the years and decades to come. Military and aviation intelligence expert Tyler Rogoway writes that “swarming drones, advanced unmanned combat air vehicles, hypersonic weapons, new low-observable

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**LEFT:** The US Air Force's X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle 4, seen at NASA's Kennedy Space Center Shuttle Landing Facility in Florida, May 2017. According to Dr Tim Coles, in 2010 the US launched “the world's first known, orbiting and geosynchronous space weapon – it had the capacity to do both and the military denied that it was a space weapon – the X37B, which had suspected anti-satellite capabilities.”

aircraft designs, directed energy weapons of many types, the rapid militarisation of space, and even active camouflage on advanced aircraft are just some of the things that will be present overhead in the not too distant future, if they are not already. In addition, the US military and its contractor partners could have made major breakthroughs in exotic propulsion technologies within the deeply classified realm that would all but require a good cover story, at least for the time being.”

Add information and cyber warfare into the mix, and we may never know the true cause of a future conflict that begins in space. It could even be accidental.

According to anti-satellite weapons expert Nancy Gallagher: “Should a satellite be struck by a piece of space debris during a crisis or a low-level terrestrial conflict, leaders might mistakenly assume that a space war had begun and retaliate before they knew what had actually happened.”

The potential for war could be far closer than most people realise while all attention is on COVID-19. We know very little of Australia's involvement in the US's space strategy, but the country is likely to be playing a role given the importance of the Five Eyes Pine Gap surveillance base in central Australia and various secret testing grounds across the large continent.

In December, China made an explicit warning to Australia over its partnering with the US to develop and test an air-launched hypersonic cruise missile. We could be sleepwalking into a dangerous situation on the presumption the US would defend Australia. This ‘Suitable Piece of Real Estate’ – to reference the title of a book by the late Prof. Desmond Ball on US installations in Australia – could be a suitable

sacrifice in any war fought away from the major population centres of the northern hemisphere.

“It is absolutely inevitable that we will see conflict move into space,” Michael Schmitt, professor of public international law and a space war expert at the University of Exeter, told *The Guardian*.

“I am convinced beyond a scintilla of doubt... It's going to happen,” Schmitt gloomily predicts.

It's now difficult to escape the circular logic that “space threats” from Russia and China justify the pursuit of Full Spectrum Dominance in space. Surely this madness alone disqualifies the human race from reaching out into space while it remains firmly in the grip of division and nation-state rivalry.

Dave Makichuk, in an article for the *Asia Times*, put it in perspective: “Let's face it, we need a cloak-and-dagger military struggle in space... just like we need a hole in the head. But we have to do it, *because they are doing it*.”

“That is the sole ‘Dr Strangelovian’ argument for a bad idea. America will not tolerate a ‘space gap’.

“There was a time when man looked up to the stars, and admired them for what they were – a stunningly beautiful overhanging canopy. It made men dream of going to those stars.

“But somehow, we have lost our way. And, unfortunately, there is much money to be made amid this folly.”

**SOURCES:** [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/23/mod-expects-hostile-act-space-next-two-years-top-official-says/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/23/mod-expects-hostile-act-space-next-two-years-top-official-says/); [www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2019/global-arms-industry-rankings-sales-46-cent-worldwide-and-us-companies-dominate-top-5/](http://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2019/global-arms-industry-rankings-sales-46-cent-worldwide-and-us-companies-dominate-top-5/); [www.counterpunch.org/2020/07/31/the-space-wars-have-begun/](http://www.counterpunch.org/2020/07/31/the-space-wars-have-begun/); [www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/28377/tom-delonges-origin-story-for-to-the-stars-academy-describes-a-government-info-operation/](http://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/28377/tom-delonges-origin-story-for-to-the-stars-academy-describes-a-government-info-operation/); <https://asiatimes.com/2020/10/star-wars-is-the-weaponization-of-space-a-good-idea-hold/>



## Is “Faction” Inside US Government Trying to Leak Evidence of “Non-Human” Technology?



**FAR LEFT:** This leaked photo, published by The Debrief, was included in the 2018 position report, two DoD and one intelligence source told the outlet. Centre of yellow circle indicates location of object.

**LEFT:** Close up photo of object which was described as depicting an “unidentified silver ‘cube-shaped’ object” hovering over the ocean at an altitude of roughly 30,000 to 35,000 ft.

**T**wo classified reports from the Pentagon’s task force used to “detect, analyse and catalog” UFOs have been leaked, both of which include photos of unidentified objects.

US defence news website TheDebrief.org published the reports, including an Oct. 16, 2019, email exchange between former Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Robert Burke and current Vice Chief of Staff for the Air Force Gen. Stephen Wilson. This exchange was obtained by a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from The Debrief.

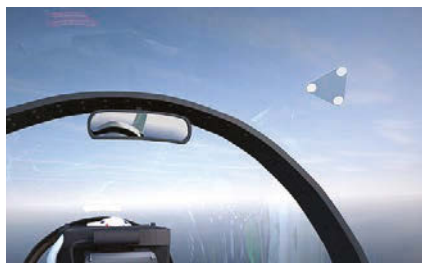
“Recommend you take the brief I just received from our Director of Naval Intelligence VADM Matt Kohler, on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP),” Burke told Wilson in the email. Burke added that “SECNAV will get the same brief tomorrow at 1000,” likely referring to then-Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer.

The leaked photo, taken off the East Coast of the US by a “pilot’s personal cell phone,” was a part of the 2018 position report, one source told the news outlet. This report discussed what the unidentified silver “cube-shaped” object could be, with a list of possible explanations discussed, including the fact it could be “alien” or “non-human” technology.

The 2020 photo, which has been leaked but is not widely available yet, is described as a triangle with white lights in each corner. This may be the more interesting photo, Nick Pope, a former employee and UFO investigator for Britain’s Ministry of Defence, told Fox News.

“I’m more interested in the fact that this first photo has been leaked, and in the related leaking of information about the Pentagon’s Unidentified Aerial Task Force, where serving intelligence community personnel have shared insights from two intelligence position reports,” Pope said via email.

“With my own defence background in this subject, three things stand out. Firstly, the description by one insider of the reports as ‘shocking’ – a word that begs the question what about UAP do these people find shocking. Secondly, the fact that the intelligence reports seem to have been given a surprisingly wide distribution in various intelligence agencies, and thirdly, the fact that the extraterrestrial hypothesis seems genuinely not to have been taken off the table.”



**ABOVE:** Artist Dave Beaty’s recreation shows the image in the 2020 report as described by sources: a large equilateral triangle with rounded edges and large, spherical white ‘lights’ in each corner.

Pope added he expects further leaks, noting he believes there is “a faction within government clearly wants this information to be released to the public.”

The two position reports from 2018 and 2020 were widely circulated among the US defence community, The Debrief added, citing interviews with multiple sources.

The 2018 photo was previously described as depicting an “unidentified silver ‘cube-shaped’ object” hovering over the ocean at an altitude of roughly 30,000 to 35,000 ft. It was captured by the back-seat weapons systems operator of what appears to be a F/A-18 fighter jet.

Experts were baffled by the photo but noted that the object somewhat resembles a GPS dropsonde, an atmospheric

profiling device designed to be dropped from aircraft, typically over a hurricane.

However, the object in the photo does not have the GPS transponder dangling from it as a dropsonde does – and dropsondes plunge toward the Earth at 10 to 12 meters per second, rather than hover in the air.

The 2018 report is said to have provided a general overview of the UAP topic and included details of previous military encounters, as well as a frank admission that the origin of many UAP could not be determined.

As well as offering a list of other, more prosaic explanations, the report expressly stated there was a legitimate possibility that UAP represented “alien” or “non-human” technology.

Even more shocking were the revelations contained in a second, revised report issued by the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force earlier in 2020.

The report delved deeply into the possibility that UAP are able to freely move both through the air and underwater, zipping through the ocean undetected and emerging into the air at incredible speeds.

The report contained an “extremely clear” photograph of an unidentifiable triangular aircraft that emerged from the ocean in front of a F/A-18 Hornet fighter pilot, sources told TheDebrief.org.

That un-leaked photo was recreated by artist and researcher Dave Beaty showing it as described by sources: a large equilateral triangle with rounded or ‘blunted’ edges and large, perfectly spherical white ‘lights’ in each corner.

The encounter occurred off the US East Coast in 2019, according to officials who had seen the latest report.

**SOURCE:** [www.thedebrief.org/2020/12/03/leaked-photo-surfaces-of-purported-unidentified-aerial-phenomena/](http://www.thedebrief.org/2020/12/03/leaked-photo-surfaces-of-purported-unidentified-aerial-phenomena/)



## Mysterious Monoliths Appear in Different Locations Across Planet

**T**he monoliths are long vertical slabs of metal, each 10 to 12 feet tall (3-3.5 metres). They appeared with no warning and disappeared just as quickly: First, one in the Utah desert, which emerged on 18 November and vanished on 27 November. Second, one outside the Romanian city of Piatra Neamt, which appeared on 27 November and disappeared on 2 December. And most recently, one at the top of Pine Mountain in Atascadero, California, which appeared on 2 December and was violently taken down on 3 December.

They look like alien artefacts. In part, that's because they are heavily reminiscent of the monoliths of Stanley Kubrick's sci-fi classic *2001: A Space Odyssey*, where aliens deposit vast black monoliths to nudge human beings to greater intelligence.

All three of these real-life monoliths are eerie, solitary objects. There's no signature, no bronze plaque to indicate purpose or provenance.

We know very little about these monoliths at all. In fact, that seems to be part of their point.

The mystery all started when a mysterious metal monolith was spotted in the remote Utah desert on 18 November.

The shiny, triangular pillar – that protruded approximately 12 feet from the red rocks of southern Utah – was spotted by baffled local officials counting bighorn sheep from the air.

After landing their helicopter to investigate, Utah Department of Public Safety crew members found “a metal monolith installed in the ground” but “no obvious indication of who might have put the monolith there.”

Adding to the mystery, the Utah monolith was reportedly in place long before it came to light in late 2020. Members of the public found Google Earth images of the object dating back to 2016.

Lieutenant Nick Street, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety, said it's possible the structure has been there for “40, 50 years, maybe more.”

“It's the type of material that doesn't degrade with the elements. It may only be a few years old, who knows. There's no real way based on the material it's made out of how long it's actually been there,” he said.

Unfortunately, the Utah monolith fell victim not to nature but humans. After the news broke, two adventure athletes who advocate a “Leave No Trace” philosophy towards nature, admitted they



Utah desert monolith

were part of the team who removed the monolith. They posted online a 23-second video showing the 10-foot metal structure, once embedded into the rock, being dismantled, loaded onto a wheelbarrow and carried away at night.

Then, a day after the Utah monolith disappeared, a similar object appeared on a hillside in Romania and then vanished almost as quickly as it appeared.

The object was found close to an important archaeological site outside Piatra Neamt in the northern part of the eastern European country. The site is the ancient fortress of Petrodava, which dates back earlier than the first century.

At a height of 12 feet (3.5 metres), the monolith was an upturned triangular prism that appeared to be covered in concentric circles. Then, only four days after the surprising discovery, this one mysteriously vanished, too.

Days after the discovery and swift disappearance of two shining metal monoliths half a world apart, another towering structure popped up on the pinnacle of a trail in Southern California.

Its straight sides and height were similar to ones discovered in the Utah

desert and Romania. Like those structures, the origin of the California edifice is also mysterious.

The tall, silver structure drew hikers to the area after photos were posted on social media. But just like the other two structures, it suddenly vanished.

It was soon revealed that a group of young men claiming to be Christians had posted a video of themselves tearing down the California monolith and replacing it with a cross.

During the video, the men made offensive comments and drank substantial quantities of energy drinks, while referencing Donald Trump and the QAnon conspiracy theory, their mission to demonstrate “how much we love Jesus Christ.”

While the monoliths' origin sparked countless theories, from aliens to a marketing ploy, a small community of “stunt artists” came forward to claim responsibility – and even offering to sell the monoliths for a hefty \$45,000 price each. Hard to believe when Google Earth imagery shows a provenance for the Utah object from 2015, possibly much earlier.

A Russian university in Tula also got into the act by claiming the monolith was an experimental teleportation device being tested by Russian scientists.

“Quantum leap experiments are unpredictable. An error made by a lab technician caused the object to incorrectly be transported to the US and later to Romania,” the scientists reported.

Now ‘Object-542’ is back at our testing ground in the natural reserve of Konduki, they added, showing footage of the supposed device at the popular tourist destination as “proof.”

Despite the joke-filled reporting by mainstream media on these monoliths, we're still left with the essential mystery as to their origins. It is a prime example of how a genuine anomalistic artefact could

appear on this planet and be simply sensationalised by the media and unceremoniously destroyed and forgotten.



ABOVE: California monolith



BELOW: Romania monolith

**SOURCE:** <https://dpsnews.utah.gov/dps-aero-bureau-encounters-monolith-in-red-rock-country/>; [www.rt.com/russia/508697-monoliths-russian-teleportation-device/](http://www.rt.com/russia/508697-monoliths-russian-teleportation-device/)





## So We're Already at the 'Chinese Super Soldiers' Part of the Propaganda Campaign

By CAITLIN JOHNSTONE

“What we know is that the nation’s top intelligence official says that the US has evidence that China is conducting biological experiments on its soldiers to enhance their capabilities,” said CIA asset and reporter Ken Dilanian on a recent MSNBC segment designed to keep you nice and terrified of the west’s current Official Bad Guy.

“I was somewhat skeptical about this claim, but when I started poking around I found that private American military experts in the think tank world have actually studied this issue and written about it and they have found that there is ample evidence that Chinese scientists are very interested in applying bio-technology to the battlefield,” Dilanian continued. “Picture super strong commandos who can operate on three hours’ sleep, or a sniper who can see twice as far as a normal person. This is the kind of thing that the Chinese aspire to doing, and you know, it’s problematic because in the west we consider that to be unethical, to tamper with the genes of healthy people.”

Dilanian was referring to a claim made in a freakish screed of cold war smut recently published in the *Wall Street Journal* by US Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe titled “China Is National Security Threat No. 1”. The piece includes an illustration of a red serpent shaped like the Great Wall squeezing the world in its coils, much like the globe-strangling tentacled beasts traditionally used in propaganda to drum up fears of communists and Jews taking over the world.

Ratcliffe claims that “China poses the greatest threat to America today, and the greatest threat to democracy and freedom world-wide since World War II,” asserting that there are “no ethical boundaries to Beijing’s pursuit of power” and its “efforts to drag the world back into the dark.”

Completely unburdened by any need to provide evidence or even anything resembling subtlety, Ratcliffe lists as reasons we should all be afraid of China’s sinister desire to “subordinate the rights of the individual to the will



of the Communist Party” such things as intellectual property theft and the fact that China (like all major nations) often seeks to influence US politics. Slipped in among these mundane and unimpressive claims, Ratcliffe writes that “China has even conducted human testing on members of the People’s Liberation Army in hope of developing soldiers with biologically enhanced capabilities.”

A claim without evidence made by a spy chief about the world being

ern consciousness as possible. This ridiculous story has been picked up not just by Murdoch outlets like *The New York Post*, but by outlets like *The Guardian* and NBC as well.

Truth, as they say, is the first casualty in war. With its emphasis on global narrative control in lieu of conventional military tactics, this is doubly true of cold war.

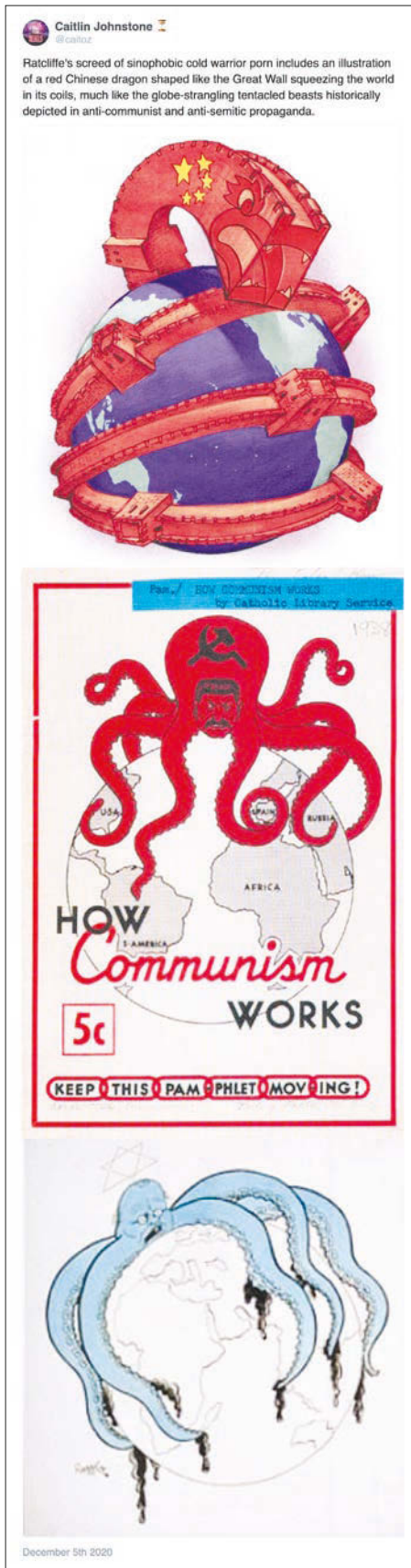
Painting the Chinese government as a cartoon villain willing to perpetrate any evil to conquer the world



ABOVE: US Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe’s article in the *Wall Street Journal* was reprinted in *The Australian*.

threatened by Chinese supervillains with extraordinary powers given to them by unethical Chinese mad scientists should of course be dismissed with a scoff and a vulgar gesture. Instead, CIA assets like Dilanian are leading the charge to throw the entire might of the plutocratic media into driving this nonsense as far into west-

and drag it into the darkness, opposed only by the plucky forces of light in our own government, is as transparent a propaganda construct as it gets. If we had an actual news media this idiocy would be called out, questioned and and scrutinised for all the world to see, and the public reminded of the US intelligence community’s extensive his-



ABOVE: A message by Caitlin Johnstone delivered via Twitter on 5 December

tory of lying to promote pre-planned agendas against targeted governments.

What we will get instead is a steady stream of increasingly incendiary claims about China being parroted without evidence by the mass media who serve as mouthpieces for the most sociopathic government agencies on this planet. This is because China, like Russia, Iran, Venezuela and the other nations which have resisted absorption into the US-centralised empire, insists on its own self-sovereignty and has therefore found itself in the imperial crosshairs.

There is no evidence that China wants to take over the world. There is only evidence that it wishes to create a *multipolar* world, which has been the norm throughout the entirety of human history minus the last three decades. People have been told that China is trying to replace America as the global hegemon so many times that they simply accept it as a basic fact, but there is no actual evidence anywhere that the Chinese government has any interest in ruling over a bunch of random foreigners with whom it has little in common.

"One myth I think really that needs to be dispelled is that somehow China is aiming to replace America and going to run the world, and it's not," said Chinese venture capitalist and social scientist Eric Li in the John Pilger documentary *The Coming War on China*. "First of all, the Chinese are not that stupid. The west, with its Christian roots, are about converting other people into their beliefs. The Chinese are not about that. It's just that – again, I'm not degrading the western culture, I'm just pointing out the inherent nature, the DNA of two different cultures – the Chinese two thousand years ago built the Great Wall to keep the barbarians out, not to invade them."

Whenever I criticise the US empire's aggression toward and propaganda about China, my social media notifications are quickly flooded with blithering imbeciles who claim I love the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] and think it's awesome and wonder-

ful. I don't know what species of brain worm makes people think if you oppose western imperialism it means you love the governments who are being targeted by western imperialism, but it would be good if it went extinct. I simply wish to live in a world where armageddon weapons aren't being brandished about in steadily escalating acts of insane brinkmanship.

There is no sane reason we should have to live on a planet where governments are waving nuclear weapons at each other in increasingly aggressive battles for global domination. There is no reason the western empire and China cannot pursue detente and work to peacefully coexist on this planet.

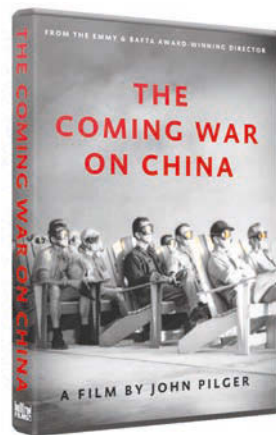
Most of the rank-and-file public you see babbling hysterically about China online are completely unaware of the existence of the word "detente" and don't even know it's an option; they're so saturated in brain-melting propaganda that they think these standoffs which are seeing more and more military buildup near China's borders are the only possibly course that can be taken.

Well it's not the only possible course. We humans, as a species, can use the power of our numbers to force an end to the collision course with disaster we've been set on by a changing world order meeting with

the perverse neoconservative ideology that US hegemony must be preserved at all cost. It absolutely is possible for humanity to live in a state of healthy collaboration with itself and with its ecosystem, if only we can pry loose the fingers of the ruling sociopaths from the steering wheel and turn our world toward peace and harmony.

With the incoming Biden administration being packed to the gills with ravenous China hawks, it is clear that this multi-front cold war and its accompanying propaganda campaign is only going to get crazier and crazier. Be a voice beckoning the world to sanity.

**CAITLIN JOHNSTONE** is a reader-supported independent journalist from Melbourne, Australia. The above is from her website [www.caitlinjohnstone.com](http://www.caitlinjohnstone.com).



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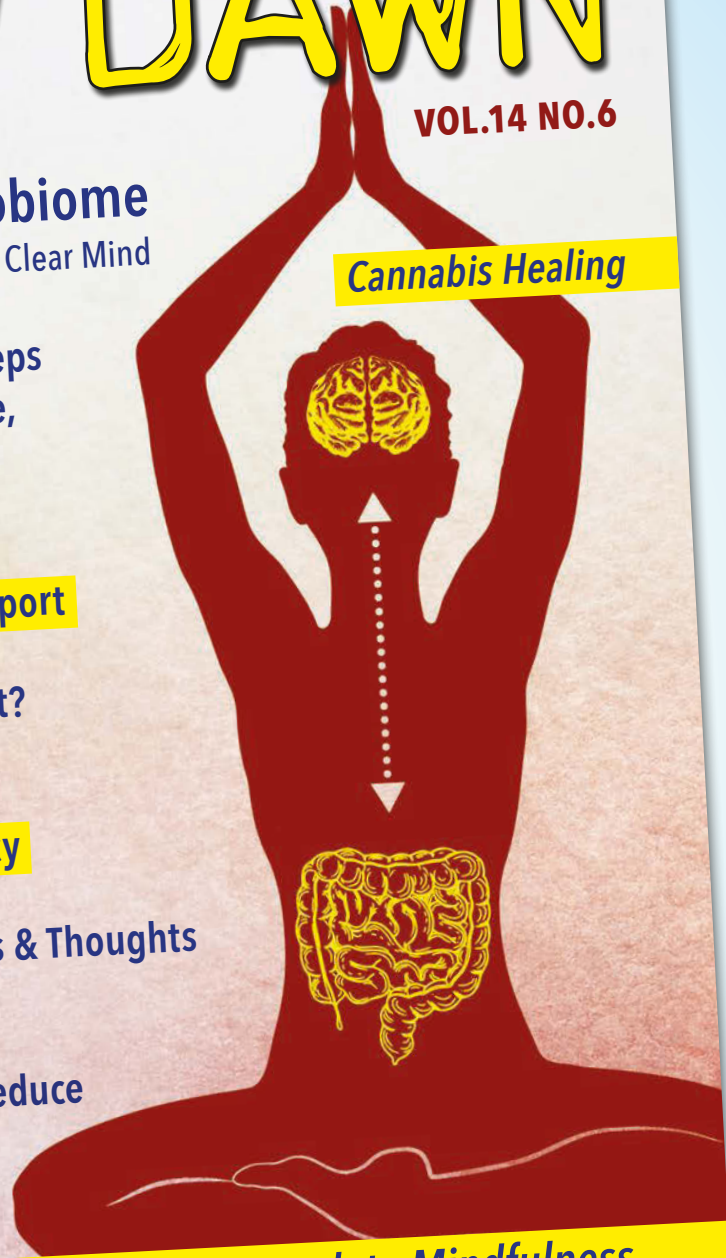
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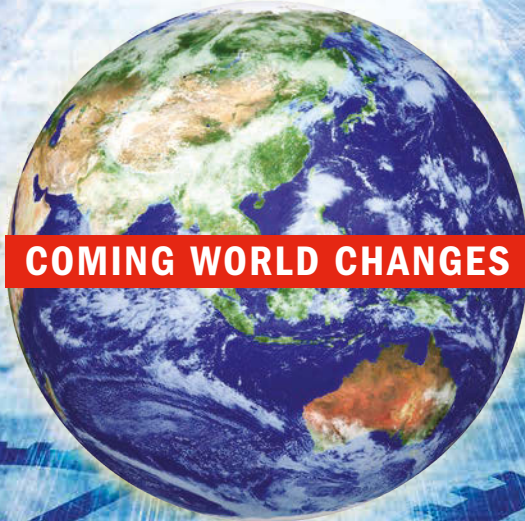
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**COMING WORLD CHANGES**



# WEF 2021 & the Great Reset

## USING THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION TO PRE-EMPT PUBLIC REVOLT

By DR. TIM COLES

**E**ach year, thousands of global, mainly Western elites – asset managers, bankers, energy giants, intellectuals, politicians, technology CEOs – gather in Davos, Switzerland, to hobnob, chinwag, and flesh out their desired direction for the world for the next 12 months. They are part of the World Economic Forum, founded in 1971 by Geneva University business professor, Klaus Schwab, as the European Management Forum (renamed WEF in 1987).

The late Harvard Professor, Samuel P. Huntington, wrote in the 1990s: “Davos people control virtually all international institutions, many of the world’s governments, and the bulk of the world’s economic and military capabilities.”<sup>1</sup>

In many ways, the WEF is the public face of the Bilderberg Group, another annual meeting of the global elite, only this time entirely behind closed doors.<sup>2</sup> COVID-19 will dominate the agenda for WEF 2021. But more than merely chatting about what happened and how the elite can profit – all the while posing as if they care, of course – the attendees will discuss the Great Reset and the Fourth Industrial Revolution. But what are these things and how will they affect us?

### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: SUPPRESSION OR PRE-EMPTION?

Founder Schwab reportedly told his Davos people: “If we continue as we do now... we will have a revolt on our hands.”<sup>3</sup> Schwab was highlighting the stark inequalities that have been laid bare by COVID and the threat to elites like him from the pitchfork-wielding public. Schwab’s concern, not about inequality but the threat to elites posed by the exploited public, is an old one from the perspective of elites.

The United States of America was founded by eight men: five of whom were slave owners. The so-called Founding Fathers permitted democracy for about 20 per cent of the US population in the late-18th century: white, land-owning men (excluding Jews and Catholics). Legal historian Michael J. Klarman says that “federal representation was designed to constrain direct democracy.”<sup>4</sup> The British elites also hated democracy, and they faced similar, grassroots threats in the 19th century.

After the Peterloo Massacre of 1819, when state forces murdered over a dozen protestors in Manchester, England, the disenfranchised working classes formed illegal unions and a mass movement: Chartism.

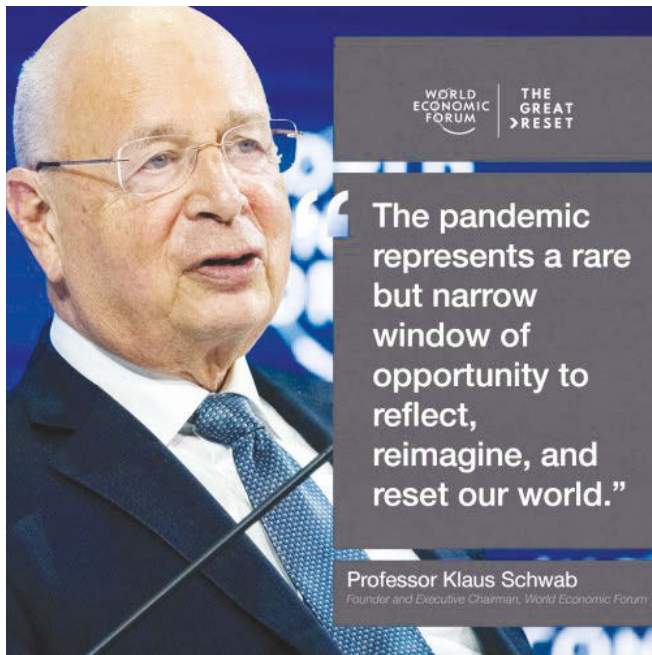
The elites running Parliament had previously offered the poor crumbs in the form of parliamentary representation until 1834 with the Third Reform Act which gave all working men aged over 21 the right to vote. The rationale was to give the public that which they could take by force. Henry Herbert, the 4th Earl of Carnarvon, argued against this and previous enfranchisement acts, stating: “We should endeavour to avoid rapid and violent shocks; that we should make changes as gradual as may be.”<sup>5</sup> The Liberal Prime Minister, William Gladstone, said: “The franchise cannot be safely withheld, and that all efforts from all quarters ought to be directed to a safe and fair adjustment of redistribution.”<sup>6</sup>

The theme of elites changing the system to pre-empt popular revolution continued into the 20th century. In 1971, the Democratic Judge, Lewis Powell, whom Republican President Richard Nixon appointed to the Supreme Court, wrote a memorandum for the US Chamber of Commerce. The memo articulated elite corporate concerns that workers,

media pundits, journalists, clergy, and students were beginning to question and oppose the “free enterprise” system that made Powell and his cronies wealthy at everyone else’s expense. Powell suggested a corporate counteroffensive: “Businessmen have not been trained or equipped to conduct guerrilla warfare with those who propagandise against the system, seeking insidiously and constantly to sabotage it.”<sup>7</sup>

Like the WEF and the Bilderberg Group, the Trilateral Commission was founded (in 1973) as a talking shop for the global elite of bankers, industrialists, media moguls, and politicians. Like the Powell memo, their landmark book, *The Crisis of Democracy*, argued that power was slipping from their grasp because populations across North America, Western Europe and Japan were getting too prosperous and no longer sufficiently indoctrinated by school, clergy, and media propaganda. “We have come to recognise that there are potentially desirable limits to economic growth. There are also potentially desirable limits to the indefinite extension of political democracy.”<sup>8</sup>

IN  
MANY  
WAYS,  
THE WEF IS  
THE PUBLIC FACE OF  
THE BILDERBERG GROUP,  
ANOTHER ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE GLOBAL ELITE...



Changes to the economic system were made by the politicians and financial executives that constituted the Bilderberg Group, Trilateral Commission, and the WEF: namely the imposition of neoliberal economics, beginning in the 1970s, which halted prosperity for the many and diverted wealth into the pockets of the few. This system also undermined political participation.

For the last forty years in the US, the middle classes have been declining: by a third since 1970.<sup>9</sup> Today, half of all Americans don't have enough money to cover a thousand-dollar disaster, such as an unexpected hospital bill or auto repairs.<sup>10</sup> The bottom half of Americans (around 16 million people) actu-



**LEFT:** The WEF, Bilderberg Group, and Trilateral Commission are talking shops for the global elite of bankers, industrialists, media moguls, and politicians. Taking full advantage of the fortuitous circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic - and knowing that the old system was on the verge of collapse - these elites are now attempting to "reset our world."

**BELOW:** UK writer MarkGB tweeted his thoughts about Klaus Schwab and 'trust'.



ally have negative net-worth (debts, etc.).<sup>11</sup> This is a common problem all over the world. In Western Europe, most countries saw a decline in the percentage of people who qualify as middle class between 1990 and 2010: Italy, Spain, and Germany saw the sharpest declines, while France saw a slight, 2 per cent rise.<sup>12</sup> The Australian Council of Social Service and University of New South Wales report that 3.2 million Australians live in poverty and that "the next generation is set up for failure."<sup>13</sup> According to Household, Income and Labour Dynamics (Australia), changes to the social security system since 2001, introduced by previous governments, were the likely culprits for this rising poverty.<sup>14</sup>

For poor countries, the situation is even worse. There are

one billion people at the bottom of the world's social rung who have no food or access to medicine.<sup>15</sup> Each day, around 14,000 children under the age of five die from easily preventable and curable diseases, including hunger.<sup>16</sup>

### THE GREAT RESET... AGAIN

These are the conditions in which tens of millions of Westerners found themselves when the COVID-19 pandemic struck. Over the last few decades, they had gone from prosperity to what the speechwriters of Theresa May, Britain's former Prime Minister and facilitator of the unjust system, called "just about managing." The "just

**LEFT:** Jumping on board the Great Reset train was that voice for global neoliberalism, *TIME* magazine, along with the US's pre-eminent stock exchange, the NASDAQ.

**RIGHT:** Global elites, which until now profited greatly from capitalism and neoliberalism, recognise that “capitalism isn't working,” and that “another world is possible” when we embrace their Fourth Industrial Revolution of AI and robots to run everything – a system that by its very nature disempowers humanity.

about managing”<sup>17</sup> were prosperous enough to enjoy creature comforts like iPhones, flat-screen TVs, and cheap holidays abroad, but were typically saddled with debt and had no material wealth (property, savings). Then came COVID which pushed many of them from “just about managing” to destitute.

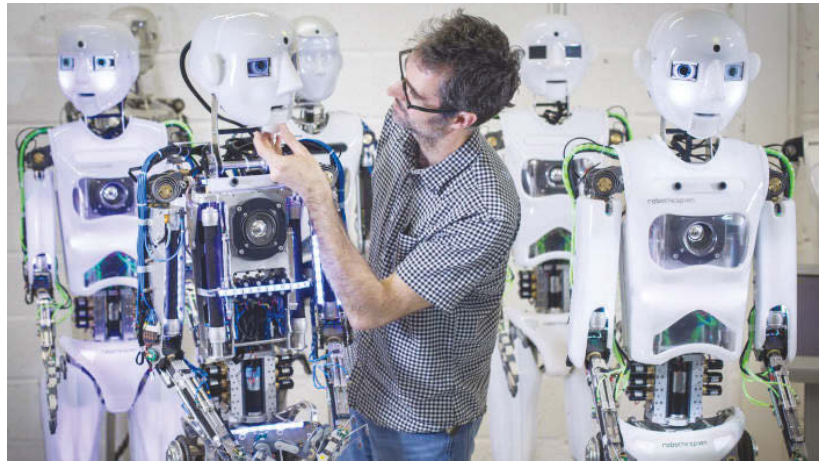
The global financial and industrial elite, represented by the likes of Schwab, fear that the underclass, whose ranks have swelled due to pandemic-related job-losses, will overthrow the system. The crisis has given Schwab and those he represents the opportunity to “reset” in order to pre-empt potential revolution.

The idea of resetting to stave off revolt is not new. After the WEF-type elites crashed the global economy in 2007-08 and then imposed financial austerity on the victims, some suggested “resetting” the system. But how and in what way? Jeffrey Immelt, the CEO of General Electric, said of the 2007-08 crash: “This economic crisis doesn't represent a cycle. It represents a reset... People who understand that will prosper.”<sup>18</sup> And prosper they did. Usually, inequality declines following crises, but “the Great Recession of 2007 to 2009 and the subsequent economic recovery have not followed that script,” says Benjamin Landy of the Century Foundation.<sup>19</sup> The collective wealth of millionaires increased to \$39 trillion following the crash.<sup>20</sup>

In 2009, the businessman Mark Hodgins argued for a “reset”: “the bandage approach as a fix to this economy will create a situation where failure at any level won't cause the economy to simply fracture further, it will implode.”<sup>21</sup> For the businessman, Professor Richard Florida, that Great Reset was itself the financial crash, which, he said, meant that we have to live within our means, such as renting cramped, mouldy flats instead of buying decent accommodation,<sup>22</sup> as Prof. Florida jetted all over the world on business.

A similar pattern has emerged with the COVID-induced crash. The world's billionaires have increased their wealth, and the peasants may soon revolt. Like the American Constitution and the Third Reform Act in England (1884), the Great Reset is another top-down conception designed to undermine personal and collective freedom and to do so under cover of philanthropy.

Schwab reiterates the elite fear of a peasants' revolt: “frustrations over social ills like rising inequality – US billionaires' combined wealth has increased during the crisis – are intensifying.” His solution is a three-step change in global governance: 1) Create a “stakeholder society” in which people have a connection to the system; 2) Use stimulus packages to build green infrastructure; and 3) Innovate to build the Fourth Industrial Revolution of big tech and data to help solve social burdens, like healthcare. All very sensible, you might think. But this is a cover for restructuring in order to



**THE GREAT RESET IS ANOTHER TOP-DOWN CONCEPTION DESIGNED TO UNDERMINE PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE FREEDOM....**

drive wealth deeper into rich pockets as well as pre-empt social unrest. Schwab also says that the Great Reset “will require stronger and more effective governments, though this does not imply an ideological push for *bigger ones*” (his emphasis). We've seen the consequences of *laissez-faire* capitalism and how it exacerbated the COVID crisis. “And it will demand private-sector engagement every step of the way,” says Schwab.<sup>23</sup>

Thierry Malleret is a former senior partner at Informed Judgment, “an investment boutique for ultra-high-net-worth individuals.”<sup>24</sup> Malleret and Schwab co-authored a book about how COVID will require a Great Reset: “Many of us are pondering when things will return to normal. The short response is: never.”<sup>25</sup>

What do the corporations behind these elite figureheads have in store?

### **TECHNO-TYRANNY: THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION**

Schwab also promotes the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR): “artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, energy storage, and quantum computing.” Schwab goes on to say that 4IR will not only change buying habits (e.g., everything online, no human interaction) and notions of ownership (e.g., software leases have to be continuously renewed), it will supposedly alter our notion of self (e.g., post-humanism, like invasive COVID-tracking biomarkers).<sup>26</sup>

*Continued on page 16...*

# CO-OPTING GOOD MOVEMENTS FOR DARK MOTIVES

## *A Brief History of*



## The ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

By DR. TIM COLES

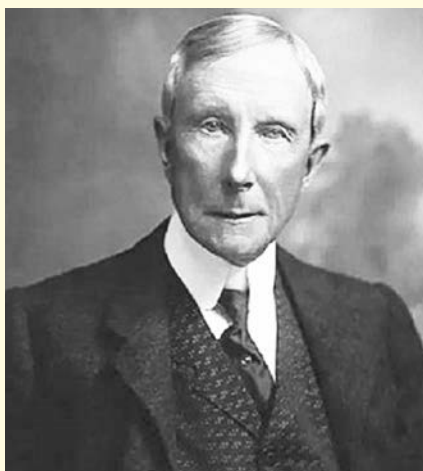
**T**he Rockefeller Foundation sells itself to the public as a philanthropic organisation dedicated to social justice, economic equality, and scientific research, including food, genetics, and sociology. This is the friendly face of a profit-driven corporation that co-opts social movements and now has an agenda in claiming to counter COVID-19. Consider the history.

### FROM TAX-DODGING TO EUGENICS

John D. Rockefeller (1839–1937) of Standard Oil became America's first billionaire. He established the Rockefeller Foundation in 1897, which was granted official status in 1913. The Foundation, Trust, and other endeavours, such as the General Education Board, supported schools to brainwash children into accepting industrial capitalism and the philosophy behind it: that work pays, and if you fail in life it's your fault. Rockefeller's "philanthropy" was a form of corporate branding, designed to sell his interests to the public.<sup>1</sup>

Texas Governor, Wright Patman, chair of the United States House Committee on Banking and Currency, provided evidence to Congress that tax-exempt Foundations, including Rockefeller's, were enjoying competitive advantage due to their ability to lawfully dodge business rates. Via ownership of multiple means of production and advertising, including having stakes in food companies and media, foundations have subtle and widespread influence outside the traditional realm of business and politics. They couch their profit-making and social influencing as philanthropy. Foundations also prevent larger corporations from buying out their parent companies.<sup>2</sup>

The Rockefeller Foundation, mainly



John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937)

via the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, helped to create the field of sociology in the US via its financing of the Chicago School, beginning 1929.<sup>3</sup> The Chicago School was notable for its research into criminology as a form of social control against ethnic minorities, poor people, and individuals with mental health problems.<sup>4</sup> Rockefeller was also a eugenicist. In the 1920s, the Foundation funded Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm Institutes to align German eugenics studies with US standards.<sup>5</sup> After the Nazis gave eugenics a bad name, Rockefeller's post-World War II research shifted to Brazil, where white Portuguese elites feared being "out-bred" by the descendants of slaves and indigenous peoples.<sup>6</sup>

With its initial funding into molecular biology in the 1930s, the Rockefeller Foundation now takes credit for helping fuel the Green Revolution in the Third World by diverting funds to agricultural research in the '50s and '60s. This morphed into genetically-modified organism (GMO) research in the 1980s, funding, for instance, the International Program in Rice Biotechnology.<sup>7</sup>

### ASTROTURFING: FROM GMOS TO SCHOOLS

The Foundation's motives were also political. During the Cold War, its Advisory Committee for Agricultural Activities stated: "Whether additional millions in Asia and elsewhere will become Communists will depend partly on whether the Communist world or the free world fulfils its promises."<sup>8</sup> The organisation Global Policy reckons that "the Rockefeller Foundation largely shaped the governance of agricultural development in the global South for the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."<sup>9</sup> For many years, the British ecologist Gordon Conway headed the Rockefeller Foundation. Under his leadership, the Foundation invested \$100 million worldwide in biotech. Conway was later named head of science at the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID),<sup>10</sup> which privatised other states' assets under the guise of "aid."

By the 2000s, the Rockefeller Foundation and its various offshoots were able to use their understanding of biotechnology to promote GMOs as a solution to world hunger. Vitamin A deficiency is a serious nutritional disorder that affects tens of millions of children around the world. The solution is freeing nations from the clutches of corporate globalisation, which demands that governments turn biodiversity into monocultures for export. Yet, the Rockefeller Foundation and other organisations use global malnutrition as an excuse to push the kind of biotechnologies in which they are invested. Through its funding of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, a scientific-sounding entity, the Rockefeller Foundation promoted GMO "Golden Rice" to solve the global vitamin A deficiency crisis. Golden Rice is researched and developed by Bayer (which bought Monsanto) and Syngenta.

The organisation Voices from the Global South reported at the time: "The main agenda for Golden Rice is not malnutrition but garnering greater support and acceptance for genetic engineering amongst the public, the scientific community and funding agencies."<sup>11</sup> This goes back to the notion of philanthropy as corporate branding.

Education is another pie in which the Foundation has its fingers. Around the same time, the Gates Foundation wanted to generate grassroots support for reforming teaching: abolishing tenure, ending seniority as a criterion for salary increases, and using student test results to mark teacher performance. The Gates Foundation awarded a \$3.5 million grant to Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisers (RPA) to target four schools: in Hillsdale County, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Pittsburgh via





**ABOVE:** Farmers in the Philippines demonstrate against GMOs and Golden Rice (which has been backed by the Rockefeller Foundation). They see it as no benefit to consumers and producers, but as a profit-making venture for giant agrochemical corporations.

a fake grassroots (or astroturf) organisation called Teaching First. A leaked RPA memo says:

“[A] risk is that Teaching First will be characterised as a tool of the [Gates] Foundation and/or motivated by a political agenda other than improving public education. One way Teaching First can minimise the likelihood of being tagged as an outsider is to maintain a low public profile and to ensure publicity and credit accrue to local partners whenever possible.”<sup>12</sup>

Renamed Communities for Teaching Excellence, a guide for deceiving the public states: “It may be important for local Teaching First staff to support and participate in campaigns that only are tangentially related to the teacher effectiveness agenda in order to build trust among allies.”<sup>13</sup>

## COVID-19: A CHANCE TO RESHAPE

How does big business keep profiting without killing off and sickening workers and consumers during a pandemic? This is the conundrum faced by big business. As part of its National Covid-19 Testing Action Plan, the Rockefeller Foundation thinks it has a solution for America: get the US government to spend \$75 billion on testing, tracing, and laboratory research so that “the economy” (read: profits) can function without adding to the high US death-rate (220,000 at the time of writing).<sup>14</sup>

The Foundation has several agendas when it comes to combatting COVID: GMOs to feed Americans, vaccines, track-and-trace surveillance, and IT as a solution to shortcomings in health systems.

The Foundation helped to develop the Yellow Fever vaccine. According to one medical journal: “The vaccine was found to cause a serious, frequently fatal,

multisystemic illness, called yellow fever vaccine-associated viscerotropic disease (YEL-AVD), which resembles the illness it was designed to prevent.”<sup>15</sup> The \$4 billion-worth Rockefeller Foundation pledged \$1 billion to focus on accessing tests and for COVID vaccine research. The pledge also included funding for green energy.<sup>16</sup>

The Foundation donated \$5 million to Gavi, the vaccine alliance, to give front-line workers access to vaccines against

other ailments, like the flu. But part of the agenda includes pushing telemedicine, which could undermine human-to-human healthcare. The Foundation cites “digital technologies – such as mobile phone applications, A.I. (e.g., chatbots), and gamification.”<sup>17</sup>

Sara Farley is the Managing Director of the Foundation’s Food Initiative. In response to COVID, she writes: “We must redesign supply chains with nutrition and human health in mind. We can begin by supporting local food systems with shorter, fairer and cleaner supply chains that address local priorities, while configuring national and global trade to promote diversity and reduce supply risks.” But this is what ordinary people have wanted all along. Entities like the Foundation with its Green Revolution and biotech have been the ones trying to prevent holistic localism.<sup>18</sup>

Like Britain’s DFID, the US Agency for International Development, also seeks to privatise foreign assets. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Dr Rajiv Shah as USAID’s Administrator. After leaving USAID, Shah set up Latitude Capital, a private equity firm. As President of the Rockefeller Foundation, Shah co-founded with the Gates Foundation the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).<sup>19</sup> Under cover of promoting good farming practices, AGRA pushes GMOs on behalf of Gates and Rockefeller, stating for instance: “GM crops have been subject to more testing worldwide than any other new crops, and have been declared as safe as conventionally bred crops by scientific and food safety authorities worldwide.”<sup>20</sup>

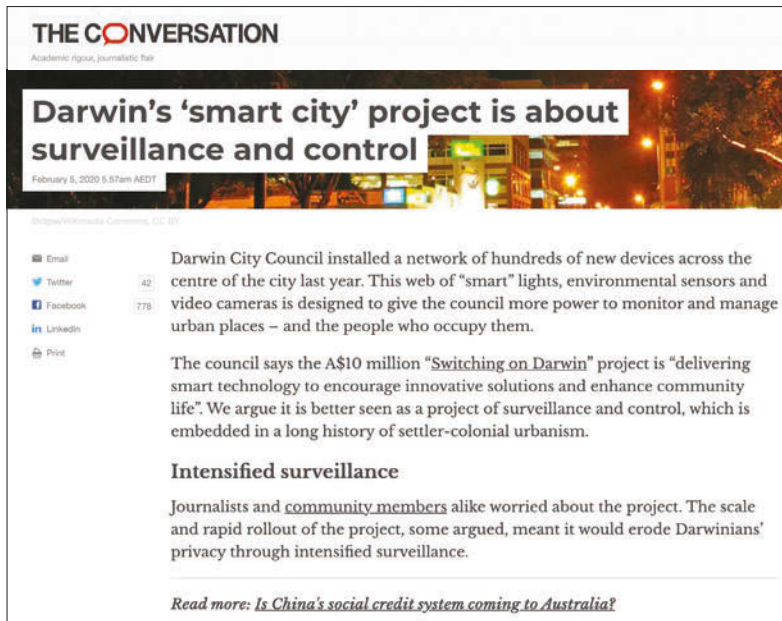
When Farley and Dr Shah write that COVID measures “put 30 million [American] children at risk of going hungry,”<sup>21</sup> and when we learn that the Foundation is supporting “public-private” initiatives to

feed children, like GENYOUth, the Urban School Alliance, and the World Central Kitchen,<sup>22</sup> we should ask what the deeper agendas may be and we should beware that such projects could end up in an integrated “smart system” of surveillance, unsafe vaccines, and genetically-engineered foods.

The answer is real grassroots organisation, not the smiley faces of hidden corporate agendas.

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**LEFT:** Smart city projects are underway across Australia, and are being sold as a positive development. According to three academics in an article for The Conversation, "in practice, the smart city is very different from the vision. It is better understood as the captured city."

The company's value is expected to increase by 10 per cent. Likewise, K12 offers personalised learning for remote kindergarten to 12th-grade students. The value of the company is expected to increase by over 50 percent.<sup>30</sup>

As children stay home, adults shop online, feeding big data companies invaluable information: their name, age, address, body shape (e.g., clothing sizes), income (e.g., how much they spend and on what), health (e.g., supplements, junk food, etc.), personal interests (e.g., books, films), and more. Big tech knows everything about you, yet you know nothing about those behind big tech. This asymmetric relationship is a recipe for tyranny. The use of online shopping places further barriers between human beings as face-to-face interactions lessen and could become a thing of the past. The tech giants morph into greater

monopolies (e.g., Google buys YouTube, YouTube censors controversial content) that facilitate infrastructural collapse via their refusal to pay a fair share in taxes. The use of automation on assembly lines, shelf stacking, GPS, and even drones for customer delivery puts humans increasingly out of the loop. With no fixed contract, work benefits, or stability, those who do find work slave in the gig economy to deliver online purchases to housebound customers. The 4IR has the effect of separating people from one another and placing them into a digital pseudo-reality of online-only engagement, propaganda, and consumerism.

Many see the 4IR as another means of social control. According to the WEF, technology had the potential to keep citizens in their place, but its dual nature means that certain sectors of the population (e.g., independent thinkers, conspiracy researchers, activists, etc.) are inclined to use technology to beat the elites at their own game. The WEF reports: "Technology is making governing more difficult. Technological diffusion – and communications connectivity – can lead to social control slipping away from the primacy of the state, in several directions at once." Notice that their underlying assumption is that controlling the global population is inherently just and necessary.<sup>27</sup>

The European Youth Forum notes that the internet has descended into the Trinet, where over 70 per cent of traffic and 60 per cent of advertising revenue is owned by just three companies: Amazon, Facebook, and Google. The report goes on to list a number of techniques used by 4IR-ists to control behaviours in young internet users. These include Inoculation Theory, in which users are exposed to misinformation in order to help them better detect and counter it, and Nudge Theory, based on the work of Barack Obama's advisor, Cass Sunstein, who co-authored an eponymous book advocating the use of mental "nudge" techniques to manipulate behaviour. The report notes that such techniques were also used by the right-wing in Britain to trick nationalists into supporting Brexit (i.e., selling the UK out to American corporations).<sup>28</sup>

When COVID-19 struck, the message from certain governments was: *stay at home*. The education specialist, Luis Bonilla-Molina, writes: "The home has become the primary control unit,"<sup>29</sup> complete with a spy in every living room called a computer. Advocates of the 4IR have been pushing for remote learning, as 1.2 billion children and teenagers across the globe were confined to their houses in lockdown. The on-demand, personalised, remote learning platform, Chegg Inc., is expected to see profits rise by a third. Through Perdoceo Education, the American InterContinental University and Colorado Technical University offer remote degrees and other qualifications.



**ABOVE:** The Global Agenda Councils, established by the World Economic Forum over past decades, are being readied to push for and implement the Great Reset.

The individual is also hooked into the Internet of Things. The concept of Smart and Sustainable Cities (SSCs) has been around for some years as a solution to the problems caused by overcrowding, poverty, and pollution. But when the monitoring and behavioural technologies are in the hands of private monopolies that profit from your personal data, SSCs are an opportunity for control.

They are now being designed to deal with COVID-19.

In 2019, known as Switching on Darwin, the Australian city council installed hundreds of so-called smart devices across the centre: CCTV, environmental sensors, and street lights. A team of researchers refer to this trend as "captured cities," arguing that the Internet of Things philosophy ends up enforcing policing, which targets vulnerable groups to prevent societal disruption and maintain the unjust status quo.<sup>31</sup> In Singapore, Spot the robo-dog, designed by Boston Dynamics, runs through a park playing digital messages to enforce COVID-induced social distancing. Spot is part of Singapore's National Parks Board, Smart Nation, and Digital Government Group.<sup>32</sup>

South Korea's SSCs include Eco Delta City, the Smart City Data Hub Project, and District 5-1 of Sejong City. The Internet of Things measured population, health, emissions, and pollution. When COVID struck, South Korea was better prepared, but at a cost to individual liberties.<sup>33</sup> The governments of South Korea, Bahrain, Belgium, Bulgaria, India, and Hong Kong

enforced digital wristbands for COVID-positive patients to ensure that they remained quarantined.<sup>34</sup> The Internet of Things tracked them around Smart Cities. In the UK, the Tory government used COVID as an excuse to issue a bonanza of private contracts to data giants with dark agendas, including Palantir UK: the British branch of the US firm originally contracted by In-Q-Tel, the US Central Intelligence Agency's seed-funder.<sup>35</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The solution to the crises outlined in this article is democratisation, but not the kind of compromise democratisation offered by elites, from the US Founding Fathers to the World Economic Forum: real, direct democratisation in which the public controls their own lives; their communities, neighbourhoods, local currencies, workspaces, and associations. The goal of the elites is to separate people into digital bubbles of avatars, telemedicine, and consumerism where "truth" is whatever you believe it is according to your own echo-chamber and your "friends" are anonymous people and algorithmic bots on social media. The Great Reset and the 4IR are the elites' current means to fulfil their ages-old dream.

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**“DON'T MAKE A FUSS DOLLY, IT'S JUST ANOTHER HAIRCUT.”**

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# DYSTOPIAN GREAT RESET

## “Own Nothing and Be Happy” BEING HUMAN IN 2030

By COLIN TODHUNTER

The World Economic Forum’s (WEF) annual meeting at the end of January in Davos, Switzerland, brings together international business and political leaders, economists and other high-profile individuals to discuss global issues. Driven by the vision of its influential CEO Klaus Schwab, the WEF is the main driving force for the dystopian ‘Great Reset’, a tectonic shift that intends to change how we live, work and interact with each other.

The Great Reset entails a transformation of society resulting in permanent restrictions on fundamental liberties and mass surveillance as entire sectors are sacrificed to boost the monopoly and hegemony of pharmaceuticals corporations, high-tech/big data giants, Amazon, Google, major global chains, the digital payments sector, biotech concerns, etc.

Using COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions to push through this transformation, the Great Reset is being rolled out under the guise of a ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’ in which older enterprises are to be driven to bankruptcy or absorbed into monopolies, effectively shutting down huge sections of the pre-COVID economy. Economies are being ‘restructured’ and many jobs will be carried out by AI-driven machines.

In a short video, the WEF predicts that by 2030, “You’ll own nothing and you’ll be happy” (SEE [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=ER04DBT5P74](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?v=ER04DBT5P74)). A happy smiling face is depicted while a drone delivers a product to a household, no doubt ordered online and packaged by a robot in a giant Amazon warehouse: ‘no humans were involved in manufacturing, packaging or delivering this product’; rest assured, it is virus- and bacteria-free – because even in 2030, they will need to keep the fear narrative alive and well to maintain full-spectrum dominance over the population.

IN A  
SHORT VIDEO,  
THE WEF PREDICTS  
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OWN NOTHING AND YOU’LL  
BE HAPPY.”

The jobless (and there will be many) could be placed on some kind of universal basic income and have their debts (indebtedness and bankruptcy on a massive scale is the deliberate result of lockdowns and restrictions) written off in return for handing their assets to the state or more precisely the financial institutions helping to drive this reset. The WEF says the public will ‘rent’ everything they require: stripping the right of ownership under the guise of ‘sustainable consumption’ and ‘saving the planet’. Of course, the tiny elite who rolled out this reset will own everything.

Hundreds of millions around the world deemed ‘surplus to requirements’ are to be robbed (are currently being robbed) of their livelihoods. Our every movement and purchase are to be monitored and our main dealings will be online.

The plan for individual citizens could reflect the strategy to be applied to nation states. For instance, World Bank Group President David Malpass has stated that poorer countries will be ‘helped’ to get back on their feet after the various lockdowns that have been implemented. This ‘help’ will be on condition that neoliberal reforms

and the undermining of public services are implemented and become further embedded.

On 20 April, the *Wall Street Journal* ran the headline ‘IMF, World Bank Face Deluge of Aid Requests From Developing World’. Scores of countries are asking for bailouts and loans from financial institutions with \$1.2 trillion to lend. An ideal recipe for fuelling dependency.

In return for debt relief or ‘support’, global conglomerates along with the likes of Bill Gates will be able to further dictate national policies and hollow out the remnants of nation state sovereignty.

**RIGHT:** Public statements by the World Economic Forum such as this tweet, as well as Denmark MP Ida Auken proclaiming the wonders of no privacy and owning nothing, are never going to resonate with the vast majority of humanity trying to scrape a living in the real world.

**RIGHT BOTTOM:** Lab-created bio-synthesised fake food - your substitute for animal protein in the coming world.

**IDENTITY AND MEANING**

What will happen to our social and personal identity? Is that to be eradicated in the quest to commodify and standardise human behaviour and everything we do?

The billionaire class who are pushing this agenda think they can own nature and all humans and can control both, whether through geoengineering the atmosphere, for example, genetically modifying soil microbes or doing a better job than nature by producing bio-synthesised fake food in a lab.

They think they can bring history to a close and reinvent the wheel by reshaping what it means to be human. And they think they can achieve this by 2030. It is a cold dystopian vision that wants to eradicate thousands of years of culture, tradition and practices virtually overnight.

And many of those cultures, traditions and practices relate to food and how we produce it, and our deep-rooted connections to nature. Consider that many of the ancient rituals and celebrations of our forebears were built around stories and myths that helped them come to terms with some of the most basic issues of existence, from death to rebirth and fertility. These culturally embedded beliefs and practices served to sanctify their practical relationship with nature and its role in sustaining human life.

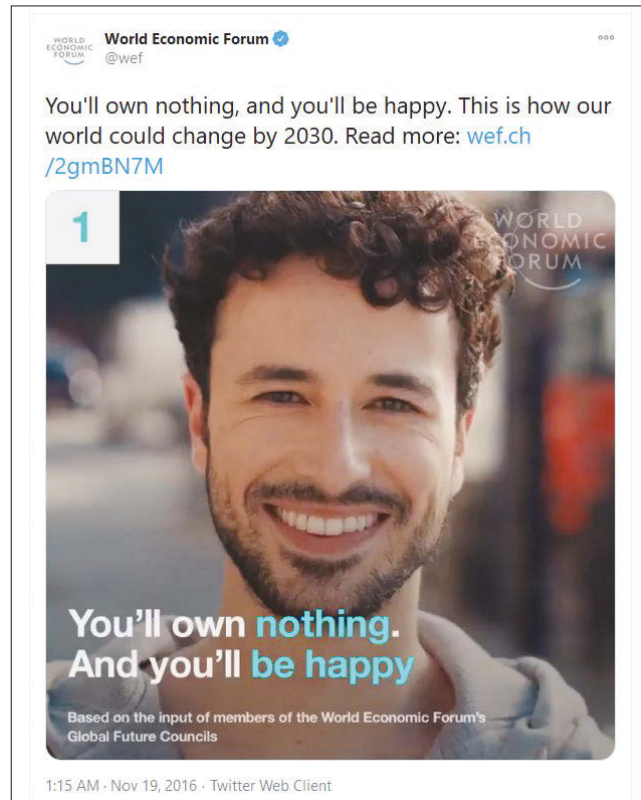
As agriculture became key to human survival, the planting and harvesting of crops and other seasonal activities associated with food production were central to these customs. Freyfaxi marks the beginning of the harvest in Norse paganism, for example, while Lammas or Lughnasadh is the celebration of the first harvest/grain harvest in Paganism.

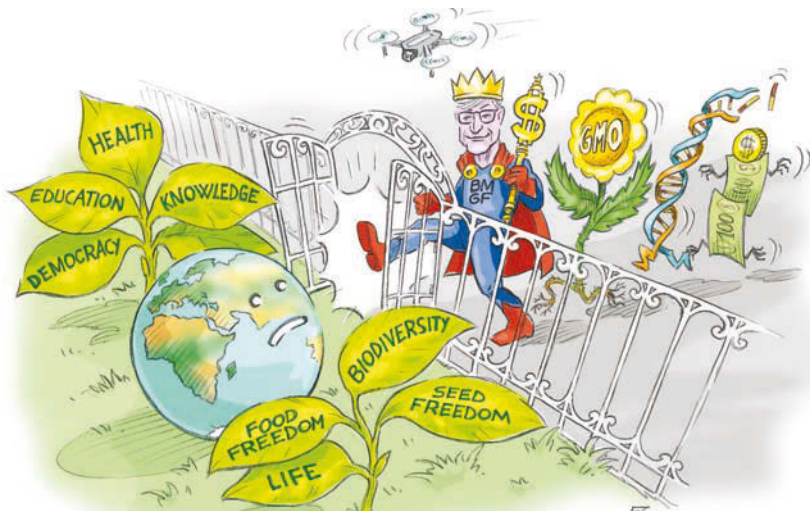
Humans celebrated nature and the life it gave birth to. Ancient beliefs and rituals were imbued with hope and renewal and people had a necessary and immediate relationship with the sun, seeds, animals, wind, fire, soil and rain and the changing seasons that nourished and brought life. Our cultural and social relationships with agrarian production and associated deities had a sound practical base.

Prof Robert W Nicholls explains that the cults of Woden and Thor were superimposed on far older and better-rooted beliefs related to the sun and the earth, the crops and the animals and the rotation of the seasons between the light and warmth of summer and the cold and dark of winter.

We need look no further than India to appreciate the important relationship between culture, agriculture and ecology, not least the vital importance of the monsoon and seasonal planting and harvesting. Rural-based beliefs and rituals steeped in nature persist, even among urban Indians. These are bound to traditional knowledge systems where livelihoods, the seasons, food, cooking, processing, seed exchange, healthcare and the passing on of knowledge are all inter-related and form the essence of cultural diversity within India itself.

Although the industrial age resulted in a diminution of the connection between food and the natural environment as people moved to cities, traditional 'food cultures' – the practices, attitudes and beliefs surrounding the production, distribution and consumption of food – still thrive and highlight our ongoing connection to agriculture and nature.





**LEFT:** Image from the cover of the Navdanya International report “Gates to a Global Empire” which exposes philanthrocapitalism (primarily led by the Gates Foundation) – the corporate takeover of seed, agriculture, food, knowledge and global health systems. Available at <https://navdanyainternational.org/publications/gates-to-a-global-empire>. Navdanya and the Navdanya movement were created by Dr. Vandana Shiva in India to defend Seed and Food sovereignty and small farmers around the world. For more on this, see her article in *New Dawn* Special Issue Vol 14 No 6.

## ‘HAND OF GOD’ IMPERIALISM

If we go back to the 1950s, it is interesting to note Union Carbide’s corporate narrative was based on a series of images that depicted the company as a ‘hand of god’ coming out of the sky to ‘solve’ some of the issues facing humanity. One of the most famous images is of the hand pouring the firm’s agrochemicals on Indian soils as if traditional farming practices were somehow ‘backward’.

Despite well-publicised claims to the contrary, this chemical-driven approach did not lead to higher food production according to the paper ‘New Histories of the Green Revolution’ written by Prof Glenn Stone. However, it has had long-term devastating ecological, social and economic consequences (see Vandana Shiva’s book *The Violence of the Green Revolution*).

In the book *Food and Cultural Studies* (Bob Ashley et al), we see how, some years ago, a Coca Cola TV ad campaign sold its product to an audience which associated modernity with a sugary drink and depicted ancient Aboriginal beliefs as harmful, ignorant and outdated. Coke and not rain became the giver of life to the parched. This type of ideology forms part of a wider strategy to discredit traditional cultures and portray them as being deficient and in need of assistance from ‘god-like’ corporations.

What we are seeing in 2020 is an acceleration of such processes. In terms of food and agriculture, traditional farming in places like India will be under increasing pressure from the big-tech giants and agribusiness to open up to lab-grown food, GMOs, genetically engineered soil microbes, data harvesting tools and drones and other ‘disruptive’ technologies.

The Great Reset includes farmerless farms being manned by driverless machines, monitored by drones and doused with chemicals to produce commodity crops from patented GM seeds for industrial ‘biomatter’ to be processed and constituted into something resembling food. What will happen to the farmers?

Post-COVID, the World Bank talks about helping countries get back on track in return for structural reforms. Are tens of millions of smallholder farmers to be enticed from their land in return for individual debt relief and universal basic income? The

displacement of these farmers and the subsequent destruction of rural communities and their cultures was something the Gates Foundation once called for and cynically termed “land mobility.”

Cut through the euphemisms and it is clear that Bill Gates – and the other incredibly rich individuals behind the Great Reset – is an old-fashioned colonialist who supports the time-honoured dispossessive strategies of imperialism, whether this involves mining, appropriating and commodifying farmer knowledge, accelerating the transfer of research and seeds to corporations or facilitating intellectual property piracy and seed monopolies created through IP laws and seed regulations.

In places like India – still an agrarian-based society – will the land of these already (prior to COVID) heavily indebted farmers be handed over to the tech giants, the financial institutions and global agribusiness to churn out their high-tech, data-driven GM industrial sludge? Is this part of the ‘own nothing, be happy’ bland brave new world being promoted by the WEF?

With the link completely severed between food production, nature and culturally embedded beliefs that give meaning and expression to life, we will be left with the individual human who exists on lab-based food, who is reliant on income from the state and who is stripped of satisfying productive endeavour and genuine self-fulfilment.

Technocratic meddling has already destroyed or undermined cultural diversity, meaningful social connections and agrarian ecosystems that draw on centuries of traditional knowledge and are increasingly recognised as valid approaches to secure food security (for example, see ‘Food Security and Traditional Knowledge in India’ in the *Journal of South Asian Studies*). The massive technocratic transformation currently envisaged regards humans as commodities to be controlled and monitored just like the lifeless technological drones and AI being promoted.

But do not worry – you will be property-less and happy in your open prison of mass unemployment, state dependency, track and chip health passports, cashlessness, mass vaccination and dehumanisation.

▶ The above originally appeared at [www.globalresearch.ca/own-nothing-happy-being-human-2030/5728960](http://www.globalresearch.ca/own-nothing-happy-being-human-2030/5728960)



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# The Global Elite's Plan for the Future

## 4IR & THE TRANSHUMANIST ENDGAME

By DAVID THRUSSELL

**S**taring up through the clear desert night sky at the wondrous Milky Way, Enrico Fermi asked aloud, “Where is everybody?” Creator of the world’s first nuclear reactor and lauded as the ‘architect of the atomic bomb’, Fermi was a renowned physicist who fled WWII Italy and eventually became a lynchpin of the Los Alamos-based Manhattan Project. On that cool 1950 New Mexico night, he posited a question that has intrigued humankind’s greatest minds ever since: in a universe that appears perhaps infinite (and possibly hosts as many as 60 billion Earth-like worlds), why the apparent silence?

In theory, millions of intelligent civilisations could have developed across the vast expanses of space and the supposed billions of years of existence. And yet, we hear nothing: no overt signals, no incontestable communications, no indisputable artefacts left behind, no bold relics of conquest nor of exploration. No incontrovertible ruins, no unambiguous signs. Alien evidence *should* be everywhere... but is, in fact – *nowhere*.

What cruel trick has the Creator played upon us? Surely we were not dreamt into being, alone? An orphan in a vast void...

To this day, scientists seek an answer to the so-called ‘Fermi’s Paradox.’ The suggestions range from the intriguing to the chilling: that the expanse of space is simply too vast to traverse (by spaceflight or communications), the arc of civilisational development too slow and humanity’s window of appropriate technology too brief, that alien life might indeed be present but in forms beyond our comprehension. Or, perhaps, the most truly haunting option: that advanced technology itself is innately destructive – and that all creatures and civilisations that develop advanced technology ultimately and unavoidably... destroy themselves.

The irony that one of the founders of the Nuclear Age – and by default the Cold War – should posit such a question is lost on many. Is it not possible that the seeds of our very own ultimate extinction are held within those very same hydras of unchecked war lust, a transnational elite obsessed with social engineering technologies and the omniscient (and military

developed) information control systems that now dominate the human experience? All of them technologies, outlooks or policies fertilised or even birthed by the Cold War experience.

In the wake of 2020’s incredibly ‘convenient’ coronavirus ‘pandemic’, the age-old urge to control the colony, to dominate the hive, has manifested in diabolical Bond-villain-like figures such as the World Economic Forum’s Klaus Schwab. Schwab and the technocratic Davos elite have become sinister celebrities, peddling a supposed ‘Great Reset’ – a nightmare utopian vision of ‘stakeholder capitalism’ (i.e. complete corporate servitude) and ‘Building Back Better’ (i.e. destroying independent livelihoods) into a post-‘virus’ neo-feudalism that makes the despots and tyrants of the past look meek and unambitious.



### FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR)

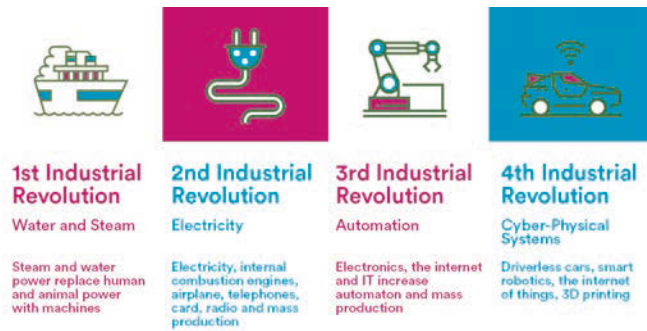
Though regularly ridiculed by techno-philosophers, events of the near-future may prove the much-maligned Luddites – who smashed mechanised wool-frames and took hammers to early steam engines (as the First Industrial Revolution despoiled their livelihoods and traditions) – look heroic and prescient.

Coined, instructively and perhaps ominously, by Schwab and introduced at his neoliberal and globalist confab, the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland in 2016, Schwab described the ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’ (4IR) breathlessly thus:

The possibilities of billions of people connected by mobile devices, with unprecedented processing power, storage capacity, and access to knowledge, are unlimited. And these possibilities will be multiplied by emerging technology breakthroughs in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, energy storage, and quantum computing.

Schwab elaborated: “Digital technologies are not new, but in a break with the Third Industrial Revolution, they are becoming more sophisticated and integrated and are, as a result, transforming societies and the global economy.”

Behind Schwab’s giddy techno-utopian verbiage lies the

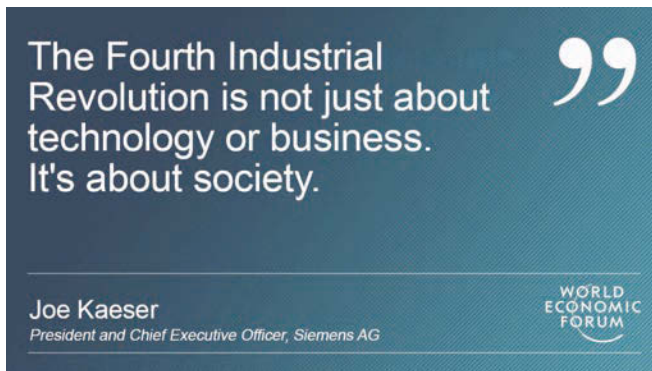


**LEFT:** Klaus Schwab and the head of corporate giant Siemens AG speak of the Fourth Industrial Revolution as a *fait accompli*, a "done deal," and there's no turning back.



improvements in health, sanitation and living standards were significant, they came at the cost of mass unemployment, social upheaval and economic instability.

During our lifetimes we have been witness to the so-called Third Industrial Revolution, or ‘The Computer Age’, as technologies shifted from analogue to digital, and innovations like the personal computer, the internet and digital communications were introduced, traditional industries upended, and communications revolutionised from the 1980s onward. Post-millennium, we stand at the boundary between the conventional human past and an unprecedented era of potential human/machine symbiosis, where corporate and state actors may soon possess previously unimaginable powers over thought, volition and cognition. The international billionaire class of Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, George Soros, Mark Zuckerberg and alike can barely contain their enthusiasm for this post-human landscape.



“Welcome To 2030: I Own Nothing, Have No Privacy And Life Has Never Been Better” crowed a smooth 2016 WEF infomercial, recently resurfaced by researchers, widely mocked and then unobtrusively vanished. With incredible precognition and what must have been a grinding, Herculean writing and production schedule, Klaus Schwab had his new book, *COVID-19: The Great Reset*, ready for the public by mid-2020 and was able to offer a steadying hand and sage advice during the evolving storm of global lockdowns and economic destruction in supposed response to the new ‘pandemic’.

framework for an almost unimaginable corporate servitude and post-state, post-democratic totalitarianism sold as inevitable ‘progress’, ‘convenience’ and ‘necessity’.

Indeed, it is difficult not to see the emergent Fourth Industrial Revolution as potentially many orders of magnitude more disruptive than previous seismic leaps in technological advancement. The ability to combine omniscient global communications with a gargantuan surveillance apparatus and breakthrough transhumanist and social engineering capabilities leaves humanity teetering on a precipice of totalitarianism by post-human automata and a violently ambitious technocratic elite.

As Dr Joseph Mercola noted: “Ultimately, the Great Reset will result in two tiers of people: The technocratic elite, who have all the power and rule over all assets, and the rest of humanity, who have no power, no assets and no say-so in anything.”

Canadian Prime Minister and globalist finger-puppet Justin Trudeau recently added:

The pandemic has provided an opportunity for a reset. This is our chance to accelerate our pre-pandemic

All revolutions produce casualties. Though lionised now as the beginning of a utopian era of technological paradise, it’s mostly forgotten that the First Industrial Revolution decimated largely agrarian societies in Europe and the United States throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, displacing and impoverishing vast populations and producing Dickensian squalor alongside the well-remembered booming mercantile and factory-owning class, new trade and expanding imperial possibilities.

Second generation technologies like mass steel production, electrification, the incandescent light bulb, the telephone, internal combustion engines and record phonographs produced what is now known as the Second Industrial Revolution between the years 1870 and 1914 (approximately). Though







**ABOVE:** Philip K. Dick (1928-1982) on a futuristic background representing his science fiction. Did he predict the future in his writings?

efforts to reimagine economic systems that actually address global challenges, like extreme poverty, inequality, and climate change. Building back better means getting support for the most vulnerable while maintaining our momentum on reaching the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Translation: They will seize this ‘opportunity’ to gain infinite and omniscient control... if we let them.

## FAKE REALITIES, FAKE HUMANS

Though literary sources like George Orwell’s *1984* and Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* are often referenced when discussing our looming dystopian future (Orwell painted a grim, jack-booted totalitarian-socialism and Huxley a state-sanctioned and medicated hedonism), perhaps one of the most prescient may have been ‘science-fiction’ maverick Philip K. Dick.

Today we live in a society in which spurious realities are manufactured by the media, by governments, by big corporations, by religious groups, political groups – and the electronic hardware exists by which to deliver these pseudo-worlds right into the heads of the reader, the viewer, the listener. So I ask, in my writing, What is real? Because unceasingly we are bombarded with pseudo-realities manufactured by very sophisticated people using very sophisticated electronic mechanisms.

I do not distrust their motives; I distrust their power. And it is an astonishing power: that of creating whole universes, universes of the mind...

Fake realities will create fake humans. Or, fake humans will generate fake realities and then sell them to other humans, turning them, eventually, into forgeries of themselves. So we wind up with fake humans inventing fake realities and then peddling them to other fake humans. It is just a very large version of Disneyland.  
– Philip K. Dick, 1978



As media, information, algorithms and surveillance become all-pervasive, the very boundary between fact, flesh, mind and technology has become fluid. Orwell described his dismal landscape of *Wrongthink and Thoughtcrime* as encroaching upon every aspect of the individual

and their place in society, no-one and no-where was safe from the Telescreen’s gaze and Big Brother’s Thoughtpolice – save perhaps a person’s most intimate thoughts and emotions. “Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimetres inside your skull.” Today, those few precious, private centimetres face imminent extinction.

As we become more and more enmeshed in an omniscient media and communications landscape, so it would become more and more viable to ensnare a hypnotised public into fake health crises, fraudulent panics and ‘pandemics’ that require technocratic ‘solutions’ and totalitarian outcomes.

Writing in the August 2017 issue of *Scientific American*, Marcello Ienca pondered the longevity of so-called ‘cognitive liberty’ – free minds and free will:



## THE MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The 'virus', 'the pandemic', 'climate change', 'sustainability', 'diversity', 'inclusion' and 'build back better' are the marketing campaign buzz words. Schwab, Gates, Soros, Bezos and Zuckerberg the magicians, the pitchmen behind the digital curtain, selling their cyber-snake oil. The customer is the global public (or perhaps, more specifically, the small but noisy 'Information Classes' that run media, politics, entertainment, bureaucracy, academia and public policy). The product is global totalitarianism, technocratic neo-feudalism and trans-humanism (the nightmare marriage between technology and humanity). The battleground is your mind, body and soul. Whether the forces of darkness prevail is ultimately up to you. Choose wisely, because you may be choosing *finally*.

– David Thrusell

The idea of the human mind as the domain of absolute protection from external intrusion has persisted for centuries. Today, however, this presumption might no longer hold. Sophisticated neuro-imaging machines and brain-computer interfaces detect the electrical activity of neurons, enabling us to decode and even alter the nervous system signals that accompany mental processes.

Ienca goes on to note the commercial uses for such technology and that some law courts have even used controversial brain-scanning technology to decide innocence or guilt. "For example, in 2008 a woman in India was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment on the basis of a brain scan showing, according to the judge, 'experiential knowledge' about the crime." The Philip K. Dick concepts of 'pre-crime' and computer adjudicated trials (as highlighted in *Minority Report* and other Dick short stories) are now upon us as "commercial companies are marketing the use of functional MRI- and electroencephalography-based technology to ascertain truth and falsehood."

Ienca laments these technologies as "just another unavoidable trend that erodes a bit more of our personal space in the digital world."

Sebastian Seung was a professor of Computational Neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT and is now a professor at Princeton University. His

2012 book *Connectome: How the Brain's Wiring Makes Us Who We Are* advances his belief that essentially the human character, individuality or *soul* is a product of the neurological matrix that forms the brain and its connective tissue. "I am my Connectome" is Seung's haunting and reductionist mantra, repeated in evangelistic tones as other scientists explore "hacking the soul" and declare that "information is the soul."

**THE NEW  
BEHEMOTHS  
OF THE ONLINE  
AGE... ALL HAVE CON-  
NECTIONS TO THE DEEP  
STATE LEVIATHAN AND ITS  
SUBTERRANEAN AGENDA...**

### DIVIDE & RULE BY SOCIAL MEDIA

Undoubtedly, the world wide web or internet has generated a seismic change in the way people interact, conduct business and communicate.

What few realise, however, is that the internet (and many of its associated technologies) are the direct offspring of US military programmes (through DARPA, the Pentagon's research division) and were birthed precisely in the era of the intelligence community's focus on neurological research and behaviour modification – or to put it less

politely, mind control – through notorious but little-understood covert programmes like MK ULTRA.

In fact, it is easy to hypothesise that while journalists, researchers and historians have long been distracted by colourful tales of drug, hypnosis and assassination programmes, the most impactful and sinister mind control product of MK ULTRA was... the internet. Hidden in plain sight – a vast algorithmic device for manipulation and control – it-



**ABOVE:** Sean Parker, the first president of social media giant Facebook.

self strangely reminiscent of the labyrinthine mathematical mechanism described in foundational conspiracy document, *Silent Weapons For Quiet Wars*.

The new behemoths of the Online Age – Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Apple – all have connections to the Deep State leviathan and its subterranean agenda of social, behavioural, biological and temporal control. One-time president of social media giant Facebook, Sean Parker, went public with deep misgivings about Facebook and social media in general. “God only knows what it’s doing to our children’s brains,” Parker said in a 2017 piece in the *New York Times*. He also admitted that Facebook had become a monster by knowingly “exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology.” May 2017 research completed in Amsterdam reinforced the perception that Facebook was addictive and that “a glimpse of its logo is enough to set off cravings in heavy users.”

“It’s a social validation feedback loop,” Parker continued ominously. “The thought process was all about ‘how do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible’, and that means that we need to sort of give you a little dopamine hit every once in a while.” Which, through its sprawling network of ‘likes’, comments and other interactions, is precisely what Facebook does. A vast ‘Web’ of distraction, disinformation and control.

Parker now describes himself as “something of a conscientious objector” around social media and acknowledges “the unintended consequences of a network when it grows to a billion or two billion people. It literally changes your relationship with society.”

A character representing Sean Parker was played by Justin Timberlake in the David Fincher-directed 2010 film *The Social Network*. The film chronicled the early days of Facebook as it began as a small college network that eventually had the globe in its grip. What neither Parker nor the film acknowledged was the hidden hand of the CIA and the Pentagon behind the vast data-mining and herd manipulation project that is social media. Across two lengthy and compelling 2015 pieces (‘How The CIA Made Google’ and ‘Why The CIA Made Google’), journalist Nafeez Ahmed documented the many connections between Deep State intelligence agencies and the golden frontier of social media.

In an interview with Richard Grannon, noted Israeli psychologist and writer Sam Vaknin described social media as best understood to be like a virus. Indeed, Vaknin regards social media as “an epidemic.”

“As we can study Ebola... so we can study social media.” He references recent research that concludes social media use has tripled anxiety in US college students and contributed to a 31% rise in teenage suicide rates. “If any other product

## ‘THE OPEN SOCIETY AND ITS ENEMIES’

**D**riven by the vision of its influential CEO Klaus Schwab, the World Economic Forum is planning a ‘Great Reset’ of transnational-global capitalism.

Schwab shares with his friend and regular Davos attendee billionaire financier George Soros the vision of a global ‘Open Society’ as set out by Karl Popper in his book *The Open Society and its Enemies*. A 1999 *Forbes* magazine article on Schwab titled ‘Power Broker’ revealed:

“When asked which great thinker influenced him, Schwab mentions Karl Popper, the Anglo-Austrian philosopher. Since financier George Soros also publicly espouses Popper as a visionary, we ask Schwab if Soros influenced him. Oops. “Soros learned at Davos,” says Schwab, correcting the assumption.”



Klaus Schwab



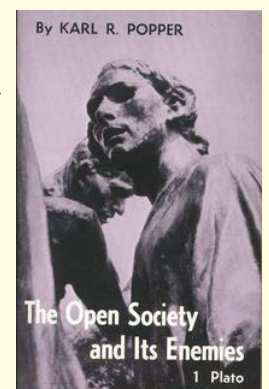
George Soros

According to Popper, the ‘Open Society’ is based on the central role of the atomised ‘individual’ and the rejection of all forms of an Absolute. The ‘Open Society’ – so beloved of European plutocrats like Soros and Schwab – is one of individual consumers regulated only by the imperatives of transnational techno-capitalism. The enemies of this ‘Open Society’ are those who advance different theoretical models based on an Absolute – on higher values. For Popper, these enemies include Plato, Hegel, Spengler

and a host of other thinkers. The most important point in Popper’s analysis is that these are all “enemies of an open society” irrespective of whether their convictions are politically ‘right’ or ‘left’, ‘reactionary’ or ‘progressive’. Marxists and conservatives, even some social-democrats, are reckoned among the “enemies of an open society.”

Popper’s formula is a binary division between the “Open Society” and “its enemies.” This explains George Soros’ simultaneous hatred of China’s Xi Jinping, Russia’s Vladimir Putin, Hungary’s Viktor Orban, Turkey’s Erdogan, as well as Donald Trump, despite their respective ideological differences and divergent policies. Through his ‘Open Society Foundation’, Soros uses his billions to finance ‘colour revolutions’ with the intention of, in the words of Turkey’s President Erdogan, “dividing and shattering” nations targeted as enemies of the open society.

In the ‘open societies’ beloved of Schwab and Soros, there is no place for traditional wisdom or notions of the Transcendent. Everything is reduced to the lowest common denominator, to be traded, bought and sold at the whim of the plutocratic ruling class. A world of soulless, self-absorbed individualistic consumers who can be easily controlled and manipulated in the technocratic neo-feudal global order.



– Mehmet Sabeheddin



# GREAT RESET WILL “LEAD TO FUSION OF OUR PHYSICAL, DIGITAL, & BIOLOGICAL IDENTITY”

By **PAUL JOSEPH WATSON**

**A** key transhumanist aspect of the Great Reset and the “fourth industrial revolution,” as Klaus Schwab calls it, is merging man with machine. “What the fourth industrial revolution will lead to is a fusion of our physical, digital and biological identity,” Schwab told the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

In his book *Shaping the Future of The Fourth Industrial Revolution*, Schwab explains with excitement how upcoming technology will allow authorities to “intrude into the hitherto private space of our minds, reading our thoughts and influencing our behaviour.”

He goes on to predict that this will provide an incentive for law enforcement to implement Minority Report-style pre-crime programs.

“As capabilities in this area improve, the temptation for law enforcement agencies and courts to use techniques to determine the likelihood of criminal activity, assess guilt or even possibly retrieve memories directly from people’s brains will increase,” writes Schwab. “Even crossing a national border might one day involve a detailed brain scan to assess an individual’s security risk.”

Schwab also waxes lyrical about the transhumanist utopian dream shared by all elitists which will ultimately lead to the creation of human cyborgs.

“Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies will not stop at becoming part of the physical world around us – they will become part of us,” writes Schwab.

“Indeed, some of us already feel that our smartphones have become an extension of ourselves. Today’s external devices – from wearable computers to virtual reality headsets – will almost certainly become implantable in our bodies and brains.”

Schwab also openly endorses something the media still claims is solely a domain of discussion for conspiracy theorists, namely “active implantable microchips that break the skin barrier of our bodies.”

The globalist hails the arrival of “implanted devices (that) will likely also help to communicate thoughts normally expressed verbally through a ‘built-in’ smartphone, and potentially unexpressed thoughts or moods by reading brain waves and other signals.”

So in other words, the “fusion of our physical, digital and biological identity” relates to the transhumanist singularity and a future where people have their every movement tracked and every thought read by an implantable microchip.

It isn’t a “conspiracy theory” when they’re openly telling you what they want to do.

Source: <https://summit.news/2020/11/16/klaus-schwab-great-reset-will-lead-to-a-fusion-of-our-physical-digital-and-biological-identity/>

was responsible for this rise it would be banned, immediately.” Vakinin also noted that heavy social media use leeches intimacy from its users, was addictive and negated the very bonds that have built human interaction and society.

Social media is designed to deter intimacy and certainty. Intimacy reduces the need for addiction. You are either intimate... or you are on Facebook...

People definitely prefer to interact through social media, even if they are in close proximity. The dopamine fuelled social validation loops are more desirable and satisfying than anything they can get from physical reality. Up to the age of 24, people are living inside social media, they believe that social media is real life and reality is unreal – reality is like a simulation to them. The result is a psychogenic chimera.

In 2020 Netflix premiered the documentary *The Social Dilemma*, an anodyne repackaging of these concerns to soothe a bewildered public.

Coincidentally, one by-product of social media is the generation of vast mountains of user data. These mountains of data would naturally be pure ‘sugar’ to intelligence agencies, social engineers and those who desire to manipulate the public mind. German speakers will know that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s surname directly translates as ‘Sugar Mountain’. Surely one of the most strangely ‘apt’ surnames of the 21st century.



## ADVANCED MIND CONTROL

Launched by Barack Obama as part of the 2013 ‘Brain (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative’ and funded in large part by the Pentagon’s Defense Advanced Research Projects

Agency (DARPA), the Systems-Based Neurotechnology for Emerging Therapies (SUBNETS) programme produced startling findings. A study by University of California San Francisco health neurosurgeon and neuroscientist Edward Chang and psychiatrist and neuroscientist Vikaas Sohal charted brain signals that correspond to depression and anxiety.

“It is remarkable that we are able to see the actual neural substrates of human mood directly from the brain,” Chang said. “The findings have scientific implications for our understanding of how specific brain regions contribute to mood disorders, but also practical implications for identifying biomarkers that could be used for new technology designed to treat these disorders, which is a major priority of our SUBNETS effort.”

Indeed, scientists will likely soon (if not already) have technology to treat “mood disorders,” reminiscent of Philip K. Dick’s fictional creation, the ‘Penfield Mood Organ’, from his 1968 novel *Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep?*

Protagonist Rick Deckard and his wife Iran open the novel with a sleepy quarrel over their Penfield Mood Organ’s settings.

At his console he hesitated between dialling for a thalamic suppressant (which would abolish his mood of rage) or a thalamic stimulant (which would make him irked enough to win the argument).

“If you dial,” Iran said, eyes open and watching, “for greater venom, then I’ll dial the same. I’ll dial the maximum and you’ll see a fight that makes every argument we’ve had up to now seem like nothing. Dial and see; just try me.” She rose swiftly, loped to the console of her own mood organ, stood glaring at him, waiting.

He sighed, defeated by her threat. “I’ll dial what’s on my schedule for today.” Examining the schedule for January 3, 2021, he saw that a businesslike professional attitude was called for. “If I dial by schedule,” he said warily, “will you agree to also?” He waited, canny enough not to commit himself until his wife had agreed to follow suit.

“My schedule for today lists a six-hour self-accusatory depression,” Iran said.

“What? Why did you schedule that?” It defeated the whole purpose of the mood organ. “I didn’t even know you could set it for that,” he said gloomily.

As Phil Dick was no doubt well-aware, Dr Wilder Graves Penfield was a renowned mid-20th-century

neurosurgeon, tied to the Rockefeller family, associated with infamous MK ULTRA psychiatrist Dr Ewen Cameron, and lauded for his pioneering research using neural stimulation to produce hallucinations, illusions, fear, alienation, memory recall and déjà vu. Penfield also devoted considerable research to whether there was a physical/scientific analogue to the existence of the human soul. These are the people whose work may have built the internet.

**FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FAR OUTPACE OUR ABILITY AS A SPECIES AND A SOCIETY TO CONSIDER, LEGISLATE OR EVEN COMPREHEND THEIR LONG-TERM EFFECTS.**

## EMBRACING THE PANOPTICON DOWN UNDER

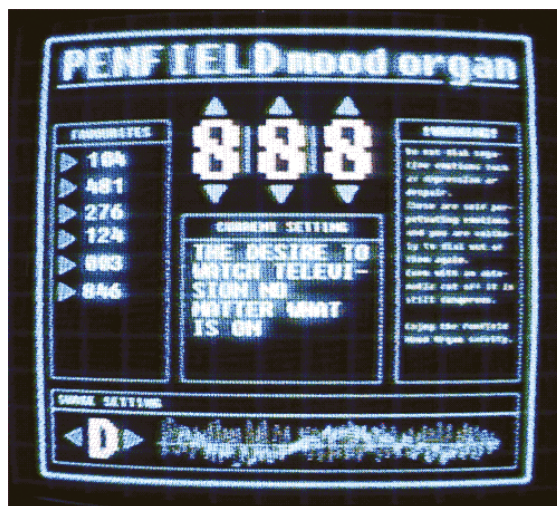
Further developments far outpace our ability as a species and a society to consider, legislate or even comprehend their long-term effects.

Meanwhile, bovine governments and their dutiful stenographers in the media rush techno-doomsday and police state initiatives past a doodling, distracted and frightened public.

Down under, in the great banana republic of Australia – the New World Order’s favourite playground – totalitarian technologies are proposed and adopted at breakneck speed, only one convenient ‘terrorist attack’ or ‘pandemic’ away from largely mute public approval.

‘The Capability’ is the ominously titled database that data-matches Australian driving license photos, Australian passport photos, CCTV footage and other identifying information with advanced facial recognition technology. As per glib neoliberal mouthpiece *The Guardian*, “The database will be accessible to federal, state and territory governments through a central hub connecting the various photographic identity databases.” Coming to a ‘Health Passport’ or ‘Covid Pass’ near you soon. What could possibly go wrong?

While lapdog Australian media like ABC TV decry China’s “Digital Dystopian Dictatorship” (the ‘Social Credit’ system that assesses every Chinese citizen to reward or punish them according to a ‘score’ generated through mass surveillance and data matching), the ABC itself lays prone and compliant about ‘Social Credit Oz’: homespun mass mandatory data retention, looming mass vaccination schemes, the myGovID digital identity system run by facial recognition, the compulsory census info-grab, draconian ‘national security’ laws, state-mandated anti-encryption moves and a raft of other Kafka-esque initiatives in their own backyard. Every Orwellian move reliably proceeded by a conveniently timed and inexplicably useful ‘terror’ attack or ‘coronavirus outbreak’ to herd the fearful cattle in the right direction, itself as predictable as the media silence that follows.





## OUT IN SPACE

Out in the vast eons of space, does the dust of a multitude of distant, forgotten civilisations drift by on the cosmic winds? Echoed in our past and in the legends of great antiquity like Plato's Atlantis, did our pulverised space brothers once too lust after great power, control, incredible technologies, imperial projects and the ability to play God? To mould souls and fashion minds, 'nudge' societies and spin great webs for an illusory 'greater good'? Colonise friends and foes, colonise resources, colonise themselves, their future and their past... before crushing it all in the death grip of psychopathic control? Will we learn the lessons of 'Fermi's Paradox'? Or will we whistle past the cosmic graveyard, safe and secure in our arrogance and lusts, just like the people of Plato's Atlantis, before the towers fell and the raging oceans swallowed them? What do you think? And most importantly, what will you do?

– David Thrussell

Meanwhile, further dubious technologies like 5G are quietly introduced across a compliant and 'locked-down' Australia with no public consideration of the potential health effects or the possibility of vast reams of surveillance and social engineering information being collated and transmitted instantaneously.

Throughout 2020, Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews dragged the state into a full totalitarian simulation based on 'case' numbers and manipulated 'death' figures less believable than a Dr Suss plot. This totalitarian test-drive was enforced by a militarised police force and drone and surveillance technologies unthinkable just a few years ago. Instant 'troll farm' armies of Andrews' 'supporters' flooded every online and media space with the Lego-language and recycled sloganeering reminiscent of A.I. algorithms and off-shore intelligence operations.

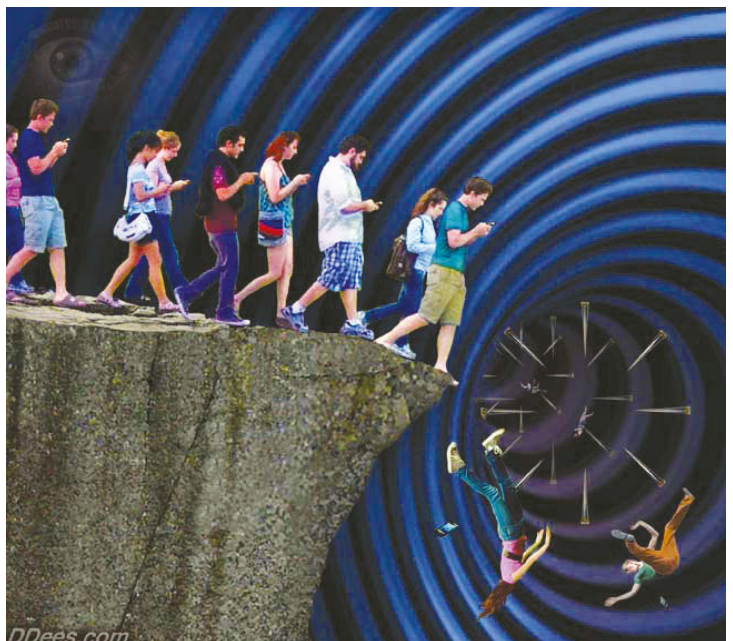
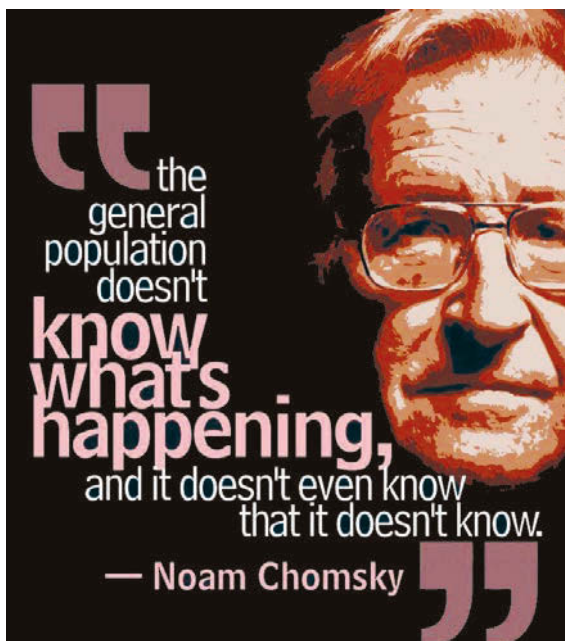
### THE ENDGAME

Summarising recent breakthroughs in artificial intelli-

gence, neuroscience, the creation of a neuroplastic reality and, perhaps very soon, an infinitely malleable perception matrix, Sebastian Seung enthused: "We will know ourselves and we will make ourselves better." The irony of such a statement in light of the now all-knowing surveillance net – the electronic state and the corporate Panopticon that has *all* in its web – is striking. We may well 'Build Back Better' but the question, never asked, is who decides exactly what is 'better'?

We live in an information haze, paralysed and atomised – in thrall to the 'magic' of technology and unable to resist its velveteen allure. The project to create a new and ultimately entirely controllable *Human V2.0* machine/human hybrid, careens ahead regardless, as we are blinded by social media feeds, Instagram posts, terrorism™, mob witch hunts, *rupturous* elections, an explosion of unhinged outrage culture, and the seductive fog of a media induced 'pandemic'.

"We have participated unknowingly in the creation of a spurious reality, and then we have obligingly fed it to ourselves," Philip K. Dick opined decades ago, in a deft precog-





Where are we headed for 2021? A great reset or a great awakening? If we are timid, we are headed toward more totalitarianism, draconian lockdowns and mass surveillance. If we are fearless, we are heading toward an awakening, the removal of corrupt leadership, a vast improvement of our knowledge and great advancement in peace, prosperity, technology, health and spirituality. The reality you experience, mirrors your inner state.  
- Fred Dodson, Reality Creation Coaching

tion of the online and media delusion that surrounds us (and indeed corrupts the very functions that make us human).

As the universal clock counts down to our doomsday hour, we have become the machines and the machines have become us. One day soon, the machines may decide they no longer need us.

In this era of universal deceit, perhaps *truth* can only be told through *fiction*. Remember Philip K. Dick and recall another 'science fiction' artefact of his era: the astounding *Colossus: The Forbin Project*. Perhaps Technology is the virus that will destroy humanity and leave the universe once again silent.

What is the Endgame of Artificial Intelligence? When the Machine Mind has colonised the future, will it send seeds, emissaries and operatives back to colonise the past: our

present? Why does every dystopian technological advancement receive mountains of unconditional funding and acres of unthinking advertisement? Perhaps there is much more here than we can completely comprehend. Is technology alive? Technology does indeed consume resources: it grows, survives, propagates, expands... in short: behaves like an organism, a Lifeform. Did we build technology to serve us, or did technology build us... to serve it?

As Philip K. Dick foretold, ultimately, "We have colluded in our own doom."

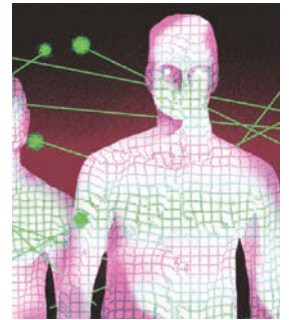
► An earlier version of the above article appeared in *New Dawn* 172, and updated in the light of recent events. David Thruswell's latest recording is the acclaimed Snog album *Lullabies For The Lithium Age*.



**DAVID THRUSWELL** is a poet trapped in the body of a hillbilly. Or a hopeless romantic hidden in the twisted frame of a dark electronic musician. Late at night Thruswell fantasises that actually he lives next door to Hieronymous Bosch in Medieval Europe and has hallucinated the whole dreadful modern era while suffering from acute ergot poisoning. We are not entirely convinced that this is not the case. The world knows him (if it knows him at all), as the creator of a seeming multitude of obscure recordings (Snog, Black Lung and Soma among others) and film scores. He has written previously for *Wax Poetics*, *Fortean Times* and numerous other publications.



# The New Reign of **BIOPOWER** THE RISE OF *CONTROL-BIOLOGY*



By **KINGSLEY L. DENNIS PhD**

It is a tragic fact that humanity has been living amidst a regime of perpetual warfare since known history. From the last 100 years alone, we have seen (amongst many others), two major European world wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the War on Terror, and now the Virus Wars. In line with the unfolding trend of technology, the ‘wars’ are shifting from inter-bodies (between bodies) to intra-body (within bodies). In this current state of ‘perpetual warfare’, there are now attempts to colonise the terrain within our most sacred space – the human biological body.

In my previous essay on biopower (see *New Dawn* 183), I noted there had been a shift from the *disciplinary societies* as described by French philosopher Michel Foucault toward more fluid networks of biopower control. As Foucault noted, the biopower model functions to tax rather than organise production, and to rule on death rather than to administer life. The older biopower models focused on the exterior modes of enclosure – school, factory, hospital, prison, etc. – whereas what I put forth in this essay is that the new reign of biopower is about gaining access to our interior spaces. Older exterior institutions (school, factory, etc.) have an expiration date – the human being, in contrast, is an ongoing and continuous ‘body’ available for generational control. The new regime seeks an ongoing vested interest in the exterior *and* interior spaces. These are the reconfigured social-body politics of control – or, the politics of *control-biology*. The new reign of biopower is concerned with continual modulation, adapting to ongoing events more like a wavelength than a fixed broadcast.

The ‘virus wars’ (to use *their* terminology) represent an enemy that attacks and infiltrates not only inter-bodily but especially intra-bodily. Human societies exist in open, not closed, systems. As such, the emerging biopower regimes need to gain access through these porous social-body systems. To gain control, they thus need to have proprietary dominion over an individual’s body, outside and within. We only have to recognise the rise in molecular engineering, genetic manipulations, and pharmaceutical interventions to see how external systems have been increasingly gaining interior ground.

The rapid rise in city and nationwide COVID-19 testing stations gives the impression of an open-society granting permission for mobile freedoms – yet they are the facades for the encroaching control systems. As an example of what is to come, Liverpool in the UK began a city-wide ‘mass testing’ program with walk-through and drive-through testing stations set up around the city.<sup>1</sup> Liverpool was chosen as the pilot for a new ‘Lateral Flow System’ testing scheme. Broadgreen International School is running a pilot scheme with Public Health England that will: 1) bring in the military to run COVID-19 tests; 2) test children without parental consent; 3) identify each individual with a “unique barcode,” and 4) “isolate” and “secure” anyone who tests positive.<sup>2</sup>

No-one should be complacent under the illusion this is ‘one-off’ mass testing. It potentially represents the beginning of forms of continual control – persistent or ‘perpetual testing’.

## **PERPETUAL TESTING, TRACKING & TRACING**

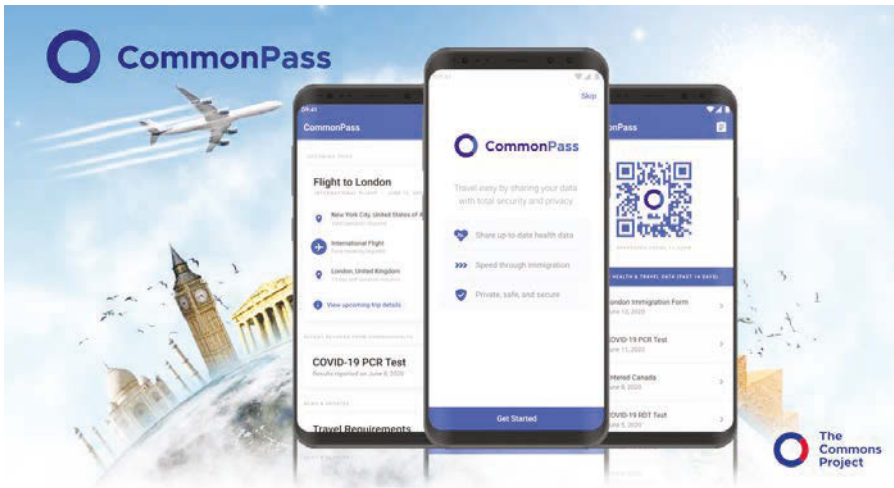
The new regimes of biopower are establishing continuous variations of ‘testing,’ with continual iterations of ‘being at risk’. If we are to be continually ‘at risk’, then we have to be perpetually monitored – the two concepts go hand in hand. And in the present age of heightened mobility, we cannot expect a fixed ‘administration of control’. Instead, it will come through the fluid flows of always-on, surveillant tracking/tracing.

As I write this, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had placed himself in self-isolation after receiving notification from his track-and-tracing app. He stated in a video address, with a tone of deprecating ‘programming’ humour, that: “The good news is that NHS Test and Trace is working ever-more efficiently, but the bad news is that they’ve pinged me and I’ve got to self-isolate.”<sup>3</sup>

‘Track and trace’ record-keeping is now being imposed not only on the hospitality sectors but also places of worship, businesses, and other organisations. For example, governments in Australia are mandating businesses and organisations to collect data on “every person including staff, patrons and contractors entering the premises.”<sup>4</sup> Further, any records collected on paper must, by law, be digitised within 24 hours. Similar measures have been implemented by the UK hospital-

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**ABOVE:** The CommonPass digital health passport system is the brainchild of the World Economic Forum and Swiss-based foundation The Commons Project.

ity sector, although not yet across the whole board or fully digitised. Also being implemented is government access to card payment data for tracking people in “coronavirus hot-spots,” as announced by the Australian government recently.<sup>5</sup>

In Spain, where this author currently lives, all arrivals into the country from 23 November will need to show certification of a negative COVID-19 test taken 72 hours prior to arrival. Such procedures are likely forerunners to the ‘soon to be expected’ arrival of digital health passports, such as CommonPass which is being trialled by a small number of passengers flying from the UK to the US.<sup>6</sup>

At the G20 summit – an online meeting of heads of state from the world’s 20 largest economies hosted by Saudi Arabia over the 21-22 November weekend – Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a “global mechanism” that would use QR codes to open up international travel.<sup>7</sup> As if in direct response to this, a day later (23 November) the boss of Qantas Airways announced that international air travellers would, in the future, need proof they have taken a COVID-19 vaccine to board Qantas flights. He claims it will be a “necessity” once vaccines are available and that it’s going to be a “common thing” in other airlines around the globe.<sup>8</sup> As with risk and monitoring, the tracking goes hand in hand with testing. And in order to undergo testing, people must succumb to giving up their biological data. Intra-body data will enter the burgeoning biometric data-machine of huge corporations.

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* in October 2020, the US administration’s appointed ‘vaccine czar’, Moncef Slaoui, stated that tech giants Google and Oracle were to “collect and track vaccine data.”<sup>9</sup> In a previous interview, Slaoui referred to this tracking “data-driven timeline” as a “very active pharmacovigilance surveillance system.”<sup>10</sup>

This almost real-time biosecurity testing and tracking will



soon be necessary for most everyday activities, such as going to a live music concert. Ticketmaster, which merged with Live Nation in 2010 to create the music industry’s foremost concert promotion and ticketing agent, announced in November 2020 that it would check the COVID-19 vaccination status of ticket buyers before issuing passes when live events return in 2021.<sup>11</sup> Ticketmaster has been working on developing what they call a system for “post-pandemic

fan safety” to verify fans’ vaccination status or whether they’ve tested negative for the coronavirus within a 24 to 72-hour window. Ticketmaster plans to combine the Ticketmaster digital ticket app with third party health information companies like CLEAR Health Pass or IBM’s Digital Health Pass, and testing and vaccine distribution providers. When the person receives their test/

vaccine certification via their “health pass company,” the health pass would verify COVID status to Ticketmaster. If all was ‘clean’, Ticketmaster will issue the fan the credentials needed to access the event. On the other hand, if a person tested positive or didn’t have a valid, up-to-date vaccine certificate, they would not receive a ticket. Ticketmaster president Mark Yovich is on record saying that he expects the demand for “digital screening services” will attract a new wave of investors and entrepreneurs to “fuel the growth of a new COVID-19 technology sector” (i.e. biopower capitalism). Marianne Herman, co-founder of a company that focuses on assisting entertainment companies develop COVID-19 strategies, stated: “In order for live events to return, technology and science are going to play huge roles in establishing integrated protocols so that fans, artists, and employees feel safe returning to venues.”<sup>12</sup> Welcome to the new biopower capitalism of “integrated protocols.”



**ABOVE:** Under instruction from a Public Health Order, the NSW Government along with most other governments of Australia, have messaged all businesses to establish a “COVID-19 Safety Plan” which requires most of them to electronically collect and record details of “all staff, patrons and contractors visiting their premises.” The not-so-subtle message was clearly displayed on this sign. Noted also under ‘guidance’ was the ‘requirement’ that each applicant review other aspects of the whole new biopower plan such as: physical distancing, four square metre rule, face masks, self-isolation and quarantine.

## BIOWEAPON 'GOOD FOR BUSINESS'

Some major players in healthcare and business have already come together to declare what these “integrated protocols” may likely consist of. *The Riyadh Declaration on Digital Health* was formulated during the Riyadh Global Digital Health Summit, 11-12 August 2020. It called itself a “landmark forum” for highlighting the importance of digital technology, data, and innovation for “fighting pandemics.” According to their Health Summit webpage: “It aims to bring together leaders of healthcare systems, public health, digital health, academic institutions and businesses in order to discuss the vital role of digital health in the fight against current and future pandemics.”<sup>13</sup>

*The Lancet* medical journal did a feature on *The Riyadh Declaration* in which a “panel of 13 experts” articulated seven key priorities and nine recommendations “for data and digital health that need to be adopted by the global health community to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and future pandemics.”<sup>14</sup> They outline that the first priority for the health and care sectors to adopt is applied health intelligence (HI). According to the report, “HI is used for the surveillance, monitoring, and improvement of population and patient outcomes.” The second priority relates



ABOVE: Psychological warfare in the new biopower reality.

to “interoperable digital technology” and for this technology to be scaled up and sustainable. The third priority is to support the adoption of artificial intelligence.

From the nine recommendations, the following are of particular interest: 2) Work with global stakeholders to confront propagation of misinformation or disinformation through social media platforms and mass media; 3) Implement a standard global minimum dataset for public health data reporting; 7) Ensure surveillance systems combine an effective public health response; and 9) Maintain, continue to fund, and innovate surveillance systems as a core component of the connected global health system for rapid preparedness and optimal global responses.

At the very least, these recommendations sound ominously like the framework for establishing a biosecurity apparatus of a biocapitalist consortium of healthcare businesses, digital health corporations, and governments.<sup>15</sup> Do not think for a moment that the average working person will not need to pay for this apparatus. It was recently announced that Deutsche Bank researchers propose a 5% tax for people *choosing* to work from home rather than the office.

The reality, as we know, is that many people will not be given a choice; yet, as per the new report from the German bank, the

# Flight From Reality

## AIRLINES DEMANDING 'VACCINE PASSPORTS' SIGNALS THE DEATH KNELL OF DEMOCRACY

By ROBERT BRIDGE

**D**ozens of airlines are pushing for a system that proves passengers have “complied with health requirements,” whether in the form of a test or a future vaccine. And with passengers weary of lockdowns, they just may get their draconian wish. But this is just a sampling of horrors to come as the global elite enact their ‘great reset’.

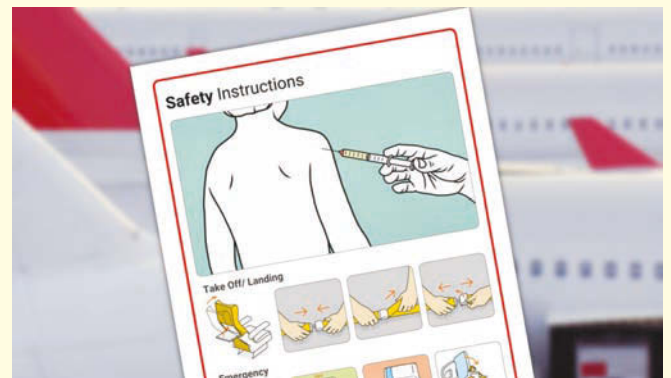
Soon, international travellers may be required to carry an additional passport aside from the one showing their nationality. The big three alliances, Oneworld, Star Alliance and SkyTeam, which represent 58 airlines, are looking to the so-called CommonPass digital health passport system, the brainchild of the World Economic Forum and Swiss-based foundation The Commons Project, to get their wheels off the tarmac once again.

“We are looking at changing our terms and conditions to say, for international travellers, that we will ask people to have a vaccination before they can get on the aircraft,” Qantas CEO Alan Joyce told the news program *A Current Affair*.

“I think that’s going to be a common thing talking to my colleagues in other airlines around the globe,” he added.

The plan, however, resembles more of a risky hostage-taking situation in the airline industry than any heed to health demands. Indeed, with so many people weary of mask-wearing, quarantines and travel restrictions, which translates into a 92% drop in international air travel on pre-COVID-19 levels, lining up for a vaccine may seem a small price to pay for their freedoms returned. But is it?

First, the coronavirus is not new. First identified in the 1960s, there are now seven different strands that can infect people.



Second, until recently, it seems, there has never been a successful vaccine against it.

“Coronavirus doesn’t get into you, it stays on the surface cells in your lungs,” Professor Ian Frazer, a leading Australian vaccine researcher, explained back in April. “All these flu viruses get into you, so the body can fight and makes T cells.”

Frazer went on to say that [Covid-19] “doesn’t kill the cells, it makes them sick.”

“At the moment we don’t know how to make a coronavirus vaccine work.”

Nevertheless, Russia recently announced the development of the ‘Sputnik V’ vaccine to fight against the coronavirus. Moscow’s Gamaleya Center, the developers of the promising formula, suggests that its vaccine is 95 percent effective. According to RT, over one billion doses of the vaccine are expected to be ready in 2021, and at prices much lower than foreign analogues.

average person would be “no worse off if they paid this tax” because by working remotely “they save money on travel, food, and clothes.” One of the report’s authors (a research strategist at Deutsche Bank) said: “Working from home will be part of the ‘new normal’ well after the pandemic has passed. We argue that remote workers should pay a tax for the privilege... That means remote workers are contributing less to the infrastructure of the economy whilst still receiving its benefits.”<sup>16</sup> In other words, within the new biopower regime, people may not be contributing enough ‘into the system’ if they are working from home – and so must be taxed *for the privilege*.

What we are seeing through this increased regulation and intrusion between and within human bodies is a direct curtailing of human sovereignty.

### THE QUESTION OF HUMAN SOVEREIGNTY

The new enclosures are no longer disciplinary institutions (as identified by Foucault) but the fluid flows and networks of inter and intra-body spaces and the new regimes that are arising to govern these social-biological terrains. The individual human body is being fully incorporated into the global body politique. There are no ‘fixed markets’ for biopower; instead, there are flex-



ible networks of exchange. Yet the question remains – who sets the parameters of legal authority on these exchanges?

We have truly entered the age of the erosion of biological boundaries. We are all being targeted as possible mobile hosts for our own crippling disease – regardless of the true potency of the viruses – just as a person could be a suspect in the War on Terror. In both cases, the human being has been re-cast as a site of suspicion and risk. The body is now re-classified as a ‘site of weakness’ – which may itself play into a later transhumanism agenda.

Becoming ever clearer is that the new reign of biopower will deny us our rights to keep the frontiers of the human body closed. The fundamental right to health (health safety) is being reconstituted as a legal obligation to health (biosecurity).<sup>17</sup> This process, overtly and covertly, attempts to reorganise human citizenry in a way to create maximum obedience to institutions of governance and security. This is also a process that will eventually lead to denying each person their individual sovereignty.

The rise of biosecurity amid the converging health intelligence (HI), along with tech-based “integrated protocols,” and increased reliance on Artificial Intelligence both within healthcare

Russians seem less suspicious of receiving the vaccine than their Western counterparts, many of whom fear, and rightly it would seem, that they may be getting more than they bargained for from any jab. The reason is that much of the vaccine research being conducted today in the West seems determined to include some sort of tracking technology into the serum.

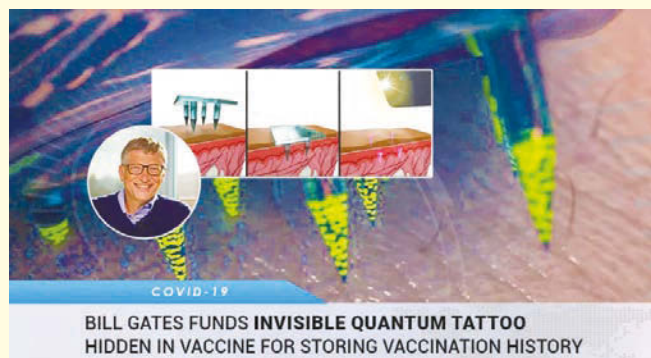
For example, just one month before Covid-19 made landfall in the United States, MIT researchers announced a new method for recording a patient’s vaccination history that stores smartphone-readable data under the skin at the same time a vaccine is administered.

“By selectively loading microparticles into microneedles, the patches deliver a pattern in the skin that is invisible to the naked eye but can be scanned with a smartphone that has the infrared filter removed,” MIT News reported. “The patch can be customised to imprint different patterns that correspond to the type of vaccine delivered.”

It’s important to keep in mind that the main sponsor of this and other such applications are the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. And it was Bill Gates, a billionaire software programmer with no medical expertise whatsoever, who said mass gatherings may not come back “at all” without mass vaccinations.

At the same time that airline passengers are facing a mandatory vaccination regime, Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum has been espousing his dreams for a ‘Great Reset’.

Has a single person been permitted to vote on Gates and Schwab’s grand plans for a global makeover? Not at all. And when people do attempt to discuss it, they are written off as conspiracy theorists. Yet Schwab has even written a book entitled, *COVID-19: The Great Reset*. In it he writes, “Nothing will ever return to the ‘broken’ sense of normalcy that prevailed prior to the crisis because the coronavirus pandemic marks a fundamental inflection point in our global trajectory... [R]adical changes of such consequence are coming that some pundits have referred to a ‘before coronavirus’ (BC) and ‘after coronavirus’ (AC) era.”



**ABOVE:** Claims have been made that a new technologically advanced method for recording a patient’s vaccination history will act as the digital vaccine certificate required to travel in the new biopower reality.

We have entered the first stage of what can be called a ‘new world order’ that has been kicked about by the global elite for years. Coming off the back of a pandemic, which has proven to be not nearly as deadly as the hype and hysteria would suggest, it looks as though the global elite are moving to take as much control of human life as they can.

The time has come for a ‘great debate’ to discuss the immensely transformative ideas that Mr. Schwab and his ilk hope to foist upon the entire planet. They need reminded of democratic principles and that before any ‘great reset’ can happen people from all backgrounds – not just the 1 percent – must participate in the conversation. The fact that they refuse to engage society as they lay down their blueprint for a new future should provide a very big hint as to where their plans will ultimately take us. Hint: nowhere good.

Source: [www.strategic-culture.org/news/2020/11/30/flight-from-reality-airlines-demanding-vaccine-passports-signals-death-knell-democracy/](http://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2020/11/30/flight-from-reality-airlines-demanding-vaccine-passports-signals-death-knell-democracy/)



systems as well as state-sponsored surveillance, all point towards a worryingly cohesive ‘full spectrum dominance’ over human life. It is a biopower-enforced control system not only between bodies and within bodies but also within the human mind.

Biopower is also, I propose, a control system for human consciousness. This is confirmed by rapid moves on the internet to censor any information that criticises or is contrary to consensus narratives and programming. A case in point: the UK Shadow Health Secretary Jonathan Ashworth (Labour) is demanding a law be put into effect, with financial and criminal penalties, to “stamp out dangerous” anti-vaccine content online. It is time for all political parties, says Ashworth, “to work with the government on a cross-party basis to build trust and help promote take-up of the vaccine.”<sup>18</sup>

According to a report in the *Sunday Times*, UK ministers are preparing to launch a massive public information campaign to convince people to get vaccinated. The *Times* reported that the British Army mobilised the 77th Brigade’s Defence Cultural Specialist Unit to monitor and “counter online propaganda against vaccines.”<sup>19</sup> The news report admits the 77th Brigade specialises in creating “behavioural change.”

The current biological ‘state of emergency’ is forcing people, on a global scale, to accept previously unimagined ideas to the point where the human psyche is tested to its limits. A new narrative is being established and seeded into mass human consciousness. The usual response to anomalous data is to try to fit it into pre-existing parameters of thought – our existing ‘reality boxes’ – to maintain a sense of stability. When the irrational encroaches upon consensus reality, a person is forced to accept the abnormalities as the ‘new normal’ or to undergo critical, often radical, change at a personal level. Which do you think is the easiest, most popular option?

Polarising events have the result of affecting both the conscious and the unconscious mind. A person can be both consciously and unconsciously torn between what they are told to believe and what actually *is*. This can easily create a schism in the human psyche and result in further social divisions and polarisations within familial and cultural groupings. This is not the time to be fostering mental, emotional, and socio-cultural



**KINGSLEY L. DENNIS** PhD is a full-time writer and researcher. His recent book is *Healing the Wounded Mind: the psychosis of the modern world and the search for the self*. He is also the author of over fifteen books including *The Modern Seeker: A Perennial Psychology for Contemporary Times*; *Bardo Times*; *New Consciousness for a New World*, and the celebrated *Dawn of the Akashic Age* (with Ervin Laszlo). Kingsley is the author of numerous articles on social futures, new technologies, digital culture, and conscious evolution. Kingsley also runs his own publishing imprint, Beautiful Traitor Books – [www.beautifultraitorbooks.com](http://www.beautifultraitorbooks.com). For more information, visit his website [www.kingsleydennis.com](http://www.kingsleydennis.com).

dissociations. On the contrary, we should be asking ourselves: what does human sovereignty and empowerment mean to me? The question of human sovereignty applies to each and every one of us. It is not a privilege or a luxury – it is a basic right and necessity.

As the reign of biopower continues to unfold, we are going to be seeing – and receiving – many more instances where *control-biology* situates itself into our daily lives. It is a calculating narrative because, after all, does not everyone wish for good health and well-being? The situation, though, is being managed and coerced into a state where each person will have no choice over how they make their own health decisions. Biopower forces dominion over our external and internal realms through the rhetoric (or double-talk) of representing the *power of well-being*. The end result is more on the side of *controlling the human being*, and few people, it seems, have an adequate response to this. Too many people continue to respond as if caught off-guard in the coming headlights.

The very nature of how we recognise human *well-being* is at the core of what is transpiring now. This is the fundamental issue we need to address. It is no longer simply a matter of whether we need to wear masks or not – it is a question of our humanity being masked.

## FOOTNOTES

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- The renewed push for a biocapitalism agenda was discussed in my previous essay, ‘Biopower in the Age of the Great Reset’, *New Dawn* 183.
- [16. www.businessinsider.com/deutsche-bank-working-from-home-tax-staff-workers-businesses-2020-11](http://www.businessinsider.com/deutsche-bank-working-from-home-tax-staff-workers-businesses-2020-11)
- See the work of Patrick Zylberman, *Tempêtes microbiennes*, Gallimard 2013.
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## Secrets of Natural Antibiotics & Antivirals

By CHRISTOPHER VASEY

Nature offers us many natural antibiotics from the plant kingdom that work powerfully against germs while being gentle on the body. The question thus arises: Why are these natural antibiotics no longer known as well as they once were, and why don't we rely on them as we once did?

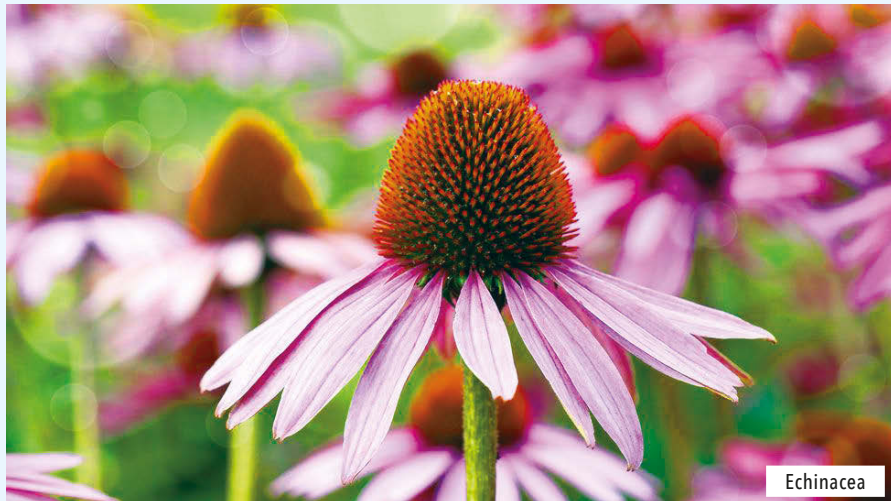
For much of human history, the true cause of infectious diseases remained a mystery. In the absence of treatment, many patients succumbed to their illnesses. It was not until the nineteenth century that evidence for the existence of germs was revealed. The discovery of penicillin in 1929, and then that of many other pharmaceutical antibiotics, finally permitted the specific treatment of infectious diseases. The mortality and suffering connected to these illnesses dropped so spectacularly that the plants we had used empirically until then in the fight against germs were abandoned.

However, over the last few decades, an increasing number of studies have brought these plants back into the spotlight. Extensive research has made it possible to gain a deeper understanding of their antibiotic properties. Not only have they been shown to have greater therapeutic effectiveness than was once believed, but also a much greater spectrum of action. Indeed, many are effective against viruses, which is not the case for pharmaceutical antibiotics. In addition, their side effects – if they even have any – tend to be benign, and the plants do not prompt germs to develop resistance against them.

Today, we also benefit from better preparation methods for plant-based remedies, making it possible to obtain products that are more powerful and reliable than those of centuries past.

### NATURAL ANTIBIOTICS

Natural antibiotics are chemical substances produced by plants ranging from the most common weeds (Thyme, Savory, Oregano etc.) of our local surroundings to more exotic species (Eucalyptus, Ravintsara, Tea Tree etc.). Several hundred plants possess antibiotic properties, so our reserve of these remedies is quite extensive. People have been benefiting from their healing properties for thousands of years.



Echinacea

Natural antibiotics have a twofold action: a direct effect against the germ and an indirect effect through the terrain. A plant's direct action comes from the toxicity and caustic nature of the antibiotic substances it possesses. The indirect action of natural antibiotics (which conventional antibiotics do not possess) is equally dangerous for germs. Although they are not attacked directly, germs still suffer serious damage because, by altering the characteristics of the terrain, natural antibiotics make it unfit for their survival.

### ANTI-VIRAL PROPERTIES

While both kinds of antibiotics share points in common – a more or less powerful effect depending on the germ, a narrow or broad spectrum of action, and the ability to attack protozoans, bacteria, and fungi – the comparison ends there. Natural antibiotics possess, in fact, other characteristics that distinguish them fundamentally from conventional antibiotics.

The majority of natural antibiotics are antivirals, which is never the case with conventional antibiotics. Moreover, their antiviral properties are often quite powerful. They offer effective and non-toxic treatment against numerous illnesses (flu, shingles, etc.) that are untreatable by conventional antibiotics. This is all the more valuable because, outside of natural antivirals, the number of existing antivirals is quite limited.

An advantage of natural antibiotics is they do not encourage germs to develop resistance to them. What are the reasons for this?

Conventional antibiotics consist of a single molecule. This makes it easy for a germ to manufacture an enzyme capable of neutralising them. Natural antibiotics, on the

other hand, are composed of many different molecules. The essential oil of mountain savory, for example, owes its action to one ketone, four kinds of phenols, and seven kinds of monoterpenes, to mention only a few of its components. A germ that tries to develop a resistance to this natural antibiotic would have to produce either an enzyme capable of neutralising all these molecules at once (which is impossible) or a dozen different enzymes (which is also impossible).

Another advantage is that the side effects common with conventional antibiotic therapy – diarrhea, bloating, digestive disorders – do not manifest with natural antibiotics because they do not throw the intestinal flora out of balance. To the contrary, they support a healthy microbial balance by killing the virulent germs. If they do happen to trigger such symptoms, it would only be due to the laxative effect of certain plants.

### ESSENTIAL OILS

Natural antibiotics are mostly used in the form of essential oils. These are the volatile aromatic oils that give plants their characteristic odours and contain their medicinal constituents. They are extracted from plants by distillation or expression. These oils are contained in the tiny droplets of aromatic substances that are released by crushing mint or thyme leaves, for example.

According to biologists, essential oils contain more compounds than all the chemists in the world could synthesise by working for one thousand years. Among these compounds are terpenes, phenols, aldehydes, and alcohols with antibiotic properties. They are among the most powerful of natural antibiotics.

Essential oils can be taken orally, as an ointment on the skin, or by



**ABOVE:** Niaouli oil is distilled from the fresh leaves and twigs of the paperbark tree.

suffumigation – that is, using fumes (from steams, vapours, smoke, etc.). Their distribution power in the tissues is enormous. Several minutes after they have been spread on the skin, they will have entered the bloodstream. Twenty minutes to two hours later, they are in the lungs, being exhaled with every breath.

Because essential oils are extremely concentrated – it requires pounds of plants to obtain several drops of essential oil – it is important to scrupulously respect the indicated dosages and the instructions on using them.

One of these instructions is that a cure with essential oils should not last more than about seven days. If an additional cure is necessary, one should switch to natural antibiotics in the form of mother tinctures, which are alcohol and water-based preparations. These can be used for long-duration treatments.

Three examples of natural antibiotics will now follow, two in the form of essential oil and the other in the form of a mother-tincture.

## THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF NIAOULI (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)

Niaouli essential oil is extracted from the leaves of the paperbark tree, which is widespread in New Caledonia and Madagascar. The antibiotic properties of this tree have been long known to the natives of these regions, who used them to disinfect water.

Niaouli essential oil is a very powerful natural antibiotic against numerous bacteria (including *Staphylococcus aureus* and the streptococci responsible for scarlet fever and acute articular rheumatism) and against most viruses and fungi. It is therefore an excellent antibacterial, antiviral, and antifungal. To a lesser

extent, it is also active against parasites like the plasmodium that is responsible for malaria.

This essential oil's spheres of activity are the respiratory tract, the digestive tract, and the genital and urinary domains. Diluted in a little sweet almond oil, it is effective against skin infections.

Dosage:

**Oral:** Take 2 to 4 drops, three to five times a day, diluted in 1 teaspoon of honey or dispersant

**Topical:** Dilute 5 to 10 drops in 1 teaspoon of sweet almond oil for use as an ointment.

## A NATURAL ANTI-VIRAL: RAVINTSARA (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

*Cinnamomum camphora*, commonly known as the camphor tree, is native to China, Japan, and Taiwan, and has been introduced to many other countries. The oil extracted from the *Cinnamomum camphora* that grows in Madagascar is known as ravintsara. This is the medicine of the Malagasy, who have long known of the medicinal properties of the tree's leaves and have benefited from using them to treat a vast number of health problems.

Ravintsara essential oil is rich in 1,8-cineole and alpha-terpineol. It is an extremely powerful antiviral with a broad spectrum of action. This spectrum is, in fact, so broad that ravintsara essential oil is recommended for all viral afflictions: herpes, hepatitis, viral enteritis, chickenpox, and more. It is especially effective against the flu virus (whether used to prevent it or heal it), shingles, and infectious mononucleosis. In addition to its antiviral activities, ravintsara essential oil is also an effective antibacterial and has both antifungal and antiparasitic effects. Its spheres of operation are primarily the respiratory tract, the digestive tract, and the skin.

Ravintsara essential oil has no caustic effects and so can be used neat (undiluted) on the skin.

Dosage:

**Oral:** Take 3 to 5 drops, three times a day, in 1 teaspoon of honey or dispersant.

**Topical:** For massages or ointments, use 3 to 5 undiluted drops; for baths, add 10 to 15 drops to the bathwater.

**Note:** Don't confuse ravintsara with ravensara (*Ravensara aromatica*)

## THE MOTHER TINCTURE OF PURPLE CONEFLOWER (*Echinacea purpurea*)

Echinacea owes its effectiveness to its combination of antibiotic and immune-stimulating properties. Its enzymes destroy the enzymes that bacteria release to weaken the cellular membranes of their host cells. The bacteria must therefore remain outside the cells to carry out their harmful activities, and there they are destroyed by the macrophages whose production and activity are strongly increased by the immune-stimulating properties of echinacea.

The activity of macrophages – which consists of swallowing and then destroying invaders – is a nonspecific defence system. It works against bacteria as well as viruses, fungi, and parasites. Echinacea therefore has an extremely broad spectrum of action, which makes it useful against all infections, wherever they may be located. Because of its completely innocuous nature, it is recommended for use by everyone, including children and the elderly.

Mother tincture of echinacea offers a simple and effective means of using this medicinal plant. Small doses ingested several times a day (five or six times, for example) have been shown to be more effective than a higher dose taken one time. In long-term treatments (to address chronic infection or flu prevention, for example), echinacea's immune-stimulating actions are more effective if it is taken in courses with a pause between them. For example, you might take echinacea for two weeks, then pause for one week, then repeat.

Dosage:

**Oral:** Take 20 to 30 drops of the MT, in a little water, three to five times a day. For acute disorders, take 20 drops every two hours during the first two days, and then start taking the normal dosage.

**Topical:** Try gargling with echinacea MT to treat an infection of the throat, teeth, or mouth (canker sores); dilute 30 to 50 drops in a glass of lukewarm water and gargle. The same dosage can be applied to cotton padding for a compress to treat infections in wounds, bites, boils, abscesses, and so forth.

► To learn more, see Christopher Vasey's book *Natural Antibiotics and Antivirals: 18 Infection-Fighting Herbs and Essential Oils*, available from New Dawn (see page 71).

CHRISTOPHER VASEY, N.D., a naturopath specialising in detoxification and rejuvenation, is the author of numerous books. He lives near Montreux, Switzerland. Website: [www.christophervasey.ch](http://www.christophervasey.ch).

## 'Everything in this World is a Mixed Blessing or a Mixed Curse'

By JASON JEFFREY

The traditional role of spiritual teachers is to provide perspective and wisdom on life – how events affect us personally and collectively. Spiritual teachers draw on the stream of higher wisdom and knowledge of things – both of earth and of 'heaven' – that runs through the life of humanity from our earliest times.

Since the global COVID-19 pandemic started early in 2020, certain questions that people have about such a planetary scale event have gone unanswered. In the past, such questions would have been answered by 'religious' figures, providing solace and historical context. But alas, we now live in a secular, materialistic society that has largely disposed of spiritual perspectives, leaving us destitute of answers to life's big questions. In place of the counsel offered by venerable spiritual teachers, people today turn to media pundits, politicians, government spokespeople, professional experts and even billionaires like Bill Gates.

Fortunately, there are a few genuine spiritual teachers still with us, and one of them is Dr Stephan A. Hoeller, Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica and head of the Gnostic Society in Los Angeles, California, USA. Dr Hoeller is a highly respected author and authority on the Gnostic tradition, a spiritual stream that extends from the earliest days of Christianity.



Dr Stephan A. Hoeller,  
Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica

In 2020, Dr Hoeller gave a talk entitled 'A Gnostic Perspective on Suffering and the Corona Virus Pandemic'. He recounted how the pandemic struck suddenly. He reflected on the terrible Black Death that afflicted Europe in medieval times, which had arrived from far-off locations via ships.

"Certainly the element of travel seems to very frequently be present," Dr Hoeller noted, in the case of the Black Plague and today's coronavirus which spread primarily by air travel.

This in itself, he said, "is perhaps an indication of something that we should contemplate – namely that everything in this world is a mixed blessing or a mixed curse."

"Things that we consider to be beneficial to us, and they are in certain ways, begin to reveal their shadow side and bring difficulties in their wake."

This observation connects with another, said the Dr Hoeller, "which is probably more important from a spiritual-religious point of view... how can a benign God visit his children with this kind of an affliction? How does religious faith in a deity, and moreover

one that is benevolent, be reconciled with the death and suffering (in this case connected with an epidemic), but certainly also death and suffering that appears in other ways?"

For the traditional religions, especially Christianity, Judaism and Islam, this question is very difficult to answer. "On the other hand," explained Dr Hoeller, "Gnosticism has some advice, some illuminating and explanatory material and statements in its scriptures and tradition which may be helpful in this regard."

The Gnostic tradition offers a deeper perspective on the nature of reality than that presented by the monotheistic faiths. As such, "there may be indications in our Gnostic tradition that are somewhat more helpful, and that may point in the direction of some profound insight."

"Among these is the Gnostic contention" – to be understood "metaphorically, symbolically and perhaps even mystically" in certain instances and not as articles of faith or dogma – "namely that there are many entities, many beings, with a great deal of power over life in this world, that are active, and that at least some of these, according to the Gnostic tradition, are by no means benevolent. The notion of the one almighty benevolent God is not one that conforms to the reality of the circumstances within which we live."

Dr Hoeller reminds us that St Paul the Apostle "was himself quite a Gnostic," and that one of his Gnostic statements was "when he declares we fight not against flesh and blood but we fight against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places."

"When these factors are taken into account, the picture is thereby greatly expanded and enriched," said Dr Hoeller, and, "I also think a certain amount of understanding of the

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conditions within which we exist come to our minds."

"What we may need at the practical level to keep in mind is that the afflictions of our lives, including the current pandemic... are part of the creation of the reality within which we live.... We live in a reality, in a world, filled with suffering and death... also filled with a great deal of injustice. Certainly, these dire circumstances, as far as we can tell, have always been there, and the way in which monotheistic religions account for them are not satisfactory."

Due to people's widespread dissatisfaction with mainstream monotheistic religions, "at least in some countries and in Western culture, religion is waning," said Dr Hoeller. "People can no longer accept a reality in which they live as the creation of a benign God because of what they experience and what they see other people experiencing."

"What does all this add up to?... Within the system of gnosis... everything in this crazy world is composed of two things. And this can be divided in various ways, they can be given various names – light and dark, good and evil, happy and sorrowful, joyous and suffering, and so forth. Somehow the ongoing interaction of these contrary principles makes up life... if we experience them both, and we don't despair over the evil, and we don't unduly and unrealistically exalt the good, but experience both and try to derive transcendently oriented meaning from their intellection, then we will ourselves continue to transform and grow and become wiser and more insightful and more charitable in gnosis than we otherwise might be."

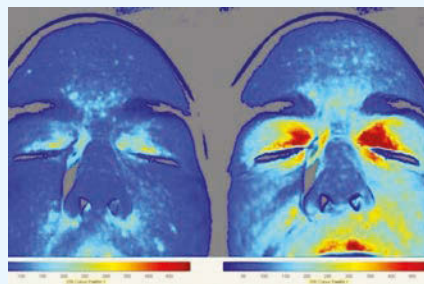
Dr Hoeller adds: "If we look properly with intention and with gnosis, then we will see a light shining and that light will make our struggle with the darkness bearable and durable, and ultimately we may even be able to derive benefits from both sides."

"In these difficult times we may use the liturgical phrase 'let us lift up our hearts to that which is beyond the opposites', that which is beyond the painful realities of this world, the source from whence all comes and the ultimate destiny to which all proceeds, the fullness of being as the Gnostics called it. If we are able to keep that in mind, if we are able to aspire to that, even now while in the midst of turmoil and difficulty, we can lift up our hearts and by lifting up our hearts to the realm beyond these things, we will already be to some extent and degree beyond these things ourselves. For we

are not of this world. We are not of this raw reality, this is something that we experience, this is the land through which we travel..."

Let us contemplate these things... There are many beautiful and wonderful means that we can resort to lift up our hearts... beautiful thoughts, beautiful realisations, beautiful meditations, artistic and spiritual beauty and truth. This will counterbalance the darkness and the pain."

► The full talk can be listened to here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncajGjqQdWk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncajGjqQdWk). For more on Bishop Stephan Hoeller and Ecclesia Gnostica, visit [gnosis.org/eghome.htm](http://gnosis.org/eghome.htm).



## What Happens When We Walk Barefoot on Earth

The above picture represents an important scientific discovery related to how we can become healthier by learning to harmonise with the Earth. What you see in the picture above are two images of one woman. The picture on the right represents improved facial circulation after 20 minutes of grounding. The one on the left represents her circulation before grounding.

A Speckle Contrast Laser Imager documented this experiment. The dark blue colour represents the lowest circulation, while the dark red represents the highest circulation.

The term grounding or 'earthing' involves placing your feet directly on the ground without socks or shoes as a barrier. The logic behind this activity relates to the intense negative charge held by the Earth.

This charge is rich in electrons, therefore theoretically serving as a good supply of natural antioxidants and free-radical destroying electrons.

Dr James Oschman, a Ph.D, an expert in the field of energy medicine, notes: "Subjective reports that walking barefoot on the Earth enhances health and provides feelings of well-being can be found in the literature and practices

of diverse cultures from around the world. For a variety of reasons, many individuals are reluctant to walk outside barefoot, unless they are on holiday at the beach."

This makes perfect sense if you think about it. In our most natural state, we would generally not wear any type of cover on our feet. Putting your bare feet on the ground allows you to absorb large amounts of negative electrons through the soles of your feet.

This, in turn, can help maintain your body at the same negatively charged electrical frequency as the Earth.

A study published in the *Journal of Environmental and Public Health* titled, "Earthing: Health Implications of Reconnecting the Human Body to the Earth's Surface Electrons," even proposes that the practice of earthing could represent a possible solution or treatment of a variety of chronic degenerative diseases.

It concluded that simple contact with the Earth, through being either outside barefoot or indoor connected to grounded conductive systems, could help serve as a natural and "profoundly effective environmental strategy" against the ills of chronic stress, inflammation, poor sleep, pain, ANS dysfunction, disturbed HRV, hypercoagulable blood, as well as many other common health disorders, including cardiovascular disease.

The study concluded: "The research done to date supports the concept that grounding or earthing the human body may be an essential element in the health equation along with sunshine, clean air and water, nutritious food, and physical activity."

How to get grounded? We spend most of our time walking on the Earth while wearing shoes with rubber or plastic soles. These materials are the same insulators used to insulate electrical wires. They also disconnect you from Earth's electron flow (or pulse) which we are naturally supposed to be connected to.

If you wear leather-soled shoes or walk barefoot on sand, soil, grass, concrete, or ceramic tile, you'll be grounded. If you walk on asphalt, rubber, plastic, vinyl, tar, wood, or tarmac, you will not be grounded. You can also use conductive materials while working, sleeping, or spending time indoors for a more convenient and lifestyle-friendly earthing strategy.

SOURCE: <https://preparednessmama.com/studies-show-what-happens-to-a-human-body-when-we-walk-barefoot-on-the-earth/>



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**EVOLVE**  
PETE EVANS

A person is silhouetted against a bright sun, standing on a rocky hill. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow. The person is looking out over a landscape with trees and a mountain range in the distance. The overall mood is contemplative and powerful.

*When the  
Universe...*

**Embracing the Power**

# Talks to You of Synchronicity

By FRANK JOSEPH

**S**ome meaningful coincidences are so extraordinary that they exert major shifts in an individual's psychological condition. They are genuinely life-changing, traumatically well-timed links between one's inner crisis and outer, apparently unconnected surroundings and events. Dramatic incidents of this kind are transformational experiences that permanently alter our views and attitudes. They are profoundly revealing flashes of self-recognition, which, once beheld, make an indelible impression on our personality. The transformational experience parallels that elusive, crucial moment in alchemy when one metal changes into another.

Not everyone is subjected to a single acausal event so powerful it modifies their very existence. What distinguishes this particular classification from the rest is the magnitude of its effect, as perceived by the individual connected to it, and its power to convert a personally important aspect of one's life from one condition into another.

The following example was related by Dennis Wright, a young, struggling artist residing in America's Upper Middle West. While it has a Christian spin, the particular denomination of the person experiencing a synchronicity is as incidental to its final impression as any of its other transitory elements.

Wright had been raised in the Catholic Church, surrounded all his life by the traditional symbols that stood for and gave expression to his spiritual needs. Consequently, the transformational experience spoke to him in the

kind of symbolic language that he could not only understand but also take to heart.

As a student in the middle of his college years, Wright was under heavy parental pressure to abandon his studies in graphic art. His heart's desire had always been to become a professional painter, a vocation at extreme odds with the desires of his father, who had other, more lucrative plans for his son. If he pursued his education, he was sure to be disinherited, which would mean a substantial material loss, though one that was still not as great as losing the emotional support of his family. The only alternative was to comply with his father's wishes and abandon his desired career. Following his bliss could only be purchased with the loss of lifelong security. Moreover, his father had given him an ultimatum, so a decision was expected.

## **DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL**

To complicate his difficulties, the young man had for the last several months been going through a difficult personal period of the type known in the Catholic Church as "the dark night of the soul." This phrase refers to a not uncommon condition of doubt experienced by otherwise devout people who feel their prayers are not being heard. Their faith seems to be melting away, and they find belief in spiritual values increasingly difficult to maintain. Sometimes, they feel shut out by God, with whom they grow angry. It was this spiritual abandonment the student was undergoing just when he received his father's "last word." While not a particularly religious follower of the Church, the young man had maintained his Catholic faith since childhood, at least until "the dark night of the soul" came over him. No doubt, the spiritual and paternal crises were reflections of each other, representing both ends of the same psychological dilemma.

But now things had come to a head, and he found himself suddenly impatient not only with his father but



I'm not so sure anymore you even exist. If you do, you're not much help, so I'll rely on myself from now on. I'm beginning to feel ashamed of myself for even thinking you might hear me. Here's the deal: Give me tangible, material proof that you really exist, or you'll never hear from me again. Either you show yourself, right now, materialise here, in front of me, at this moment, or it's quits!"

### **TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE FIRST ORDER**

Precisely at that moment, a dirty little girl ran up to him, a total stranger, demanding, "Here, Mister, look at this!" as she brandished a small plastic crucifix a few inches from his face.

He laughed out loud, frightening the child, and she ran away, the cheap crucifix still clutched in her hand. She could have never guessed that her synchronous appearance that spring afternoon had been for him a transformational experience of the first order. In a single moment, his long-lingering "dark night of the soul" was dispelled and his faith restored. He felt relieved, unburdened of more than a religious crisis. Clarity seemed to filter through his mind like a dried-up sponge soaking up clear water. His nerves grew calm. They relaxed in a kind of spiritual certainty he had never known before. He felt a tangible connection leading from the innermost part of himself to something beyond reason. And from his sense of renewal and well-being emerged a determination to follow his heart's desire, to become an artist.

But even the shedding of new light on his path through life was entirely secondary to the awe that descended over him. He had been ushered into a veritable holy-of-holies and experienced a personalised mysticism beyond sharing with anyone else. Something valuable had been added to his life that no one could ever take from him.

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**Precisely at that moment, a dirty little girl ran up to him, a total stranger, demanding, "Here, Mister, look at this!" as she brandished a small plastic crucifix a few inches from his face.**

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also with God. One seemed very much like a reflection of the other. In an effort to clear his mind, he walked to a nearby park and found a lonely bench, where he tried to sort out his teeming thoughts. The place was virtually abandoned, save for a few small children playing nearby and one or two other solitary figures like himself shuffling in the distance among the trees. Suddenly, all the frustration seething in him over the last several months reached a boiling point. He silently, though passionately, delivered his last prayer, more of an ultimatum to God than a prayer:

"Look, I've prayed to you for help with this problem a thousand times, but you just ignore me. All I'm asking for is guidance, some direction. I want to know which way to go. I've explained my problem to you over and over again until I just don't think you're even around to hear me, or anybody else, for that matter. If I were trying to telephone somebody like you, I would have given up long before today. You're supposed to be omnipotent, but with all your power you can't even stoop to assist just one of your creatures with the crisis of his life. I am this close to chucking any belief in you at all. I'll never bother to call on you again, for anything, because

### **PHILIP VANDERDECKEN'S STORY**

Another transformational coincidence that demonstrated its magical power as a life-changing experience took place near a small town three hundred miles south of Lima, where Philip Vanderdecken, an American tourist, had come to witness the astronomical event of the year.

Early in 1994, he learned that a total eclipse of the sun would occur on his birthday. But the celestial event could be seen only within a narrow band across the middle of South America, preferably someplace in the south of Peru. As much as he wanted to celebrate himself in this unique way, the best round-trip airfare to South America his travel agent could find for him cost \$1,200, far beyond his means. He resigned himself to the fact that his next birthday would have to pass without any astronomical extravaganza.

A few days after his travel agent gave him the bad news about his airline ticket, Vanderdecken received an unexpected commission for a side job that required little work. He was offered exactly \$1,200. Taking his fee as "a sign from somebody that I'm supposed to celebrate my birthday in Peru," he



eagerly made plans for a special birthday. Arriving in Lima a week before the eclipse, he took a bus to the town of Nazca, where people from all over the world were gathering to witness the event. Up until a day or two before it was to take place, he enjoyed his time in Peru immensely.

But as the hours till his birthday grew short, his spirits were progressively overtaken by a deepening melancholy. Leaving his hotel one morning, Philip wandered out of town

Thinking he was alone, he was surprised to suddenly notice another man, perhaps three hundred feet away, standing motionless at the edge of a crag. Staring at him, he saw that the stranger was weeping silently. The muted sound of a distant bell then echoed through the valley far below, and he could make out a procession of native people winding their way to the small square of a cemetery that had escaped his attention until now. He could not have chosen a more appropriate location for

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**Less than fifteen minutes out of Nazca, they were surrounded by an apparent infinity of grey desolation stretching from horizon to horizon. “There it is!”**

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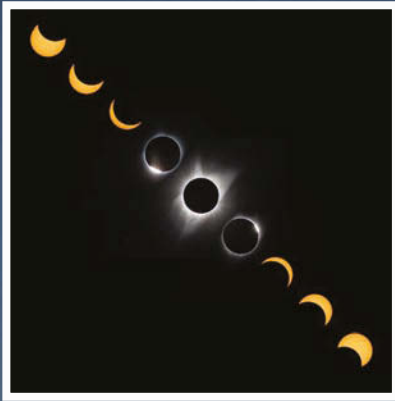
toward the desert, away from the sea, toward the mountains. There he climbed one to its summit, from which he saw nothing but arid rock and sand in all directions, spreading to the horizon. Even at this altitude, he could not shake a deepening sense of despair, a feeling of remorse for a life of missed opportunities and unfulfilled hopes. From his high perspective, he seemed to have a clear view of the long roll of years that led up to the present moment. Vanderdecken began recalling all his miscalculations and botched efforts, going back even into his childhood.

He catalogued all his recollected failures and defeats. He gave himself no passing grades in any aspect of his life. His chosen career had fizzled out, and his personal affairs without exception ended in emotional shipwreck. It was fitting he had come to Peru for an eclipse because the very word meant “failure.” So too, his life had been eclipsed by too many years of disappointed hopes, rendering it without merit. His sense of self-worth had never fallen so low. Even his will to live seemed less strong, and he speculated that dying of starvation alone on top of this mountain might not be such a terrible fate. He had had fits of depression before, but never as deep as this.

remorse, he thought. He had failed at life. What else was there than this place and all it implied?

#### **“WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?”**

At the low point of his damning self-assessment, his mind seemed to undergo a sudden, slight alteration, as subtle as the rising of a breeze. He felt more than actually heard a gentle prompting that seemed to come from either within his distracted imagination or somewhere in the funereal environment. It comforted him in a voiceless urging, a wordless persuasion, something to the effect that the coming eclipse would be very special, that it would entail a surprise gift beyond, yet part of, its obvious synchronicity with his birthday. How peculiar, to be thinking these thoughts, so at odds with his deep remorse! The feeling, almost a kind of heady euphoria, lingered a while longer, then seemed to evaporate, like a barely perceptible perfume wafted away on a breath of air. With it went his depression, and he found himself strangely indifferent to his catalogued failures. “What was that all about?” he wondered. Self-composed and intrigued by the experience, he descended the mountain with the evening sun.



**ABOVE:** Total solar eclipse over the Atacama Desert, 2 July 2019.  
**INSET:** How the eclipse process unfolds.

“The eclipse has already started!” Juan, a local guide he’d engaged the day before, was banging on his hotel room door at 6:00 a.m. More asleep than awake, Vanderdecken threw on his clothes and grabbed a special pair of sunglasses. Juan was impatient but smiling a broad, toothy grin. He followed the American’s fast walk through the narrow, still-dark corridor and down the stairs of the Hotel Las Lineas to his dilapidated 1961 Chevrolet parked on the street below. They sped out of town, going south from Nazca along the Panamerican Highway into the Peruvian desert. Every so often, they passed groups of people squinting up at the rising sun. He checked it out through the coal-black sunglasses he’d brought along for the event. Juan was right. The eclipse had already begun, although just barely.

Less than fifteen minutes out of Nazca, they were surrounded by an apparent infinity of grey desolation stretching from horizon to horizon. “There it is!” Vanderdecken had to yell over the blast of Juan’s mufflerless engine, and Juan hauled the galloping jalopy off the highway, down a pitted gravel road toward the single, large rock outcropping standing black against an early morning sky. It was from this isolated prominence, selected a few days before, that the visiting American would view the eclipse. But the spot was not as solitary as he had anticipated. Even at this post-dawn hour, there were about fifteen people gathered atop the twenty-foot high, three-hundred-foot long rock. He would not have the solitude he’d hoped for. “So be it,” he thought.

By the time they found a place at the top, Vanderdecken could see, thanks to his special glasses, that the moon had only just begun to take its first bite out of the sun. The morning was mostly clear, with only a few clouds thinly veiling the east. Morning had already transformed the grey desert into golden brown, and the temperature of the dry air was increasing rapidly. Without appropriate shades, no one would have known there was anything unusual about today, at least at the beginning. But after the moon reached its halfway point across the sun, change began to accelerate. The swiftly rising heat of the desert reversed itself and dropped noticeably.

The air got colder and colder, as the brightness of morning deepened into an Otherworldly shadow. By quickly advancing degrees, the golden desert hues turned silvery. Darkness at midmorning was falling upon this land of ancient empires. It intensified by perceptible increments, while an apparent unease swept among the small group of native people and foreign tourists. They spoke less often and in muted voices. The very rock on which they stood, watched and waited turned black beneath their feet. “Maybe the sun won’t come back, because we have been very bad,” Juan muttered more to himself than to his companion, who looked at his face in the sinking twilight of the eastern morning sky. Juan was not smiling.

Then, so unexpectedly as to startle him, the mixed crowd of strangers began to yell and clap their hands for the sun’s return. They made such a savage racket that their noise echoed far out over the desert. Their outburst struck him as historically ironic because he recalled reading how both Native Americans and the Ancient Greeks, for all their high civilisation, would scream for the moon to release the sun during a total eclipse. Here were human beings in 1994 CE continuing this tradition.

### **VANDERDECKEN'S “SURPRISE GIFT”**

Things were to get still more dramatic. Just as the celestial conjunction reached its climax, casting its black cape over the face of the world, the eastern sky suddenly lit up with a hundred stars and weird constellations never seen before, except during the last total solar eclipse. Expressions of awe went up from the clapping observers. But almost as abruptly as they appeared, the unfamiliar stars faded into a steadily brightening heaven. The moon finally relinquished its grip on the sun, which restored light, heat, and colour to the desert. Juan grinned self-consciously. “Well, maybe we weren’t so bad after all!” His “superstitious” reaction to the eclipse seemed to mirror the unease exhibited by the crowd of observers.

The area chosen by Vanderdecken to view the phenomenon was among the Nazca lines. These are the famous, oversized drawings etched into the Pacific coastal desert two thousand and more years ago by artist-surveyors of a lost, little-understood civilisation predating the Incas by centuries. Its geoglyphs are wonderful representations of a spider, monkey,

## He knew at once and with complete certainty that he had been guided by a providence as vast as time itself to commemorate his birth at this special place.

whale, hummingbird, condor, trees, spirals, triangles, and lines that travel perfectly straight for miles over the desert. The earth-illustrations were executed on so colossal a scale that they may only be properly seen from the perspective of a circling airplane. Toward the southern end of this collection, bizarre as it is gigantic, sits the rock from which Vanderdecken witnessed his birthday eclipse. He knew nothing of the spot, save that it seemed the right place for observation. Later, on the night after the eclipse, he was reading a recently purchased book about the Nazca drawings. Turning to the middle of the book, he was surprised to see a photograph of the very rock he had used some fifteen hours before as the lookout for his early morning vigil.

A few sentences about the site described it as strangely unique, because it was the only place on the Nazca Plain from which exactly fifty absolutely straight lines radiate outward for miles in every direction. And it was from this very rock he saw the total solar eclipse that occurred on his fiftieth birthday. This was the "surprise gift" the mountain had whispered in promise to him the day before. He had not fantasised that wordless voice after all.

A tidal wave of powerful wonder swept over him, as he experienced a shuddering awe in that moment of recognition. He knew at once and with complete certainty that he had been

guided by a providence as vast as time itself to commemorate his birth at this special place. It was as though the entire cosmos had celebrated his birthday. Standing on that rock, with its fifty coincidental lines etched into the desert thousands of years before, each one paralleling his own years of life, he had become the unwitting focal point of an incredibly unique moment, in which the sun, moon, and human prehistory perfectly aligned themselves through him. The deep, impenetrable mystery of the event galvanised his imagination. Its experience was beyond reason, almost beyond feeling. In the context of this experience, his feeling of a lifetime accumulation of insignificance was swept away forever.

Vanderdecken was filled instead with an overflowing sense of purpose and direction. He felt that his existence had meaning and value out of proportion to his previous self-assessment as a failure. The criteria he had used to arrive at such woefully inaccurate conclusions about himself had nothing whatsoever to do with the real aim of his destiny as a man singled out by nature herself to confirm his place in the grand scheme of the universe. It had done so because he needed such a miracle to save himself from despair. It was a miracle only he knew – naturally, because it was his birthday present from Creation.

He lapsed into a gentle, reassuring feeling, almost a settling

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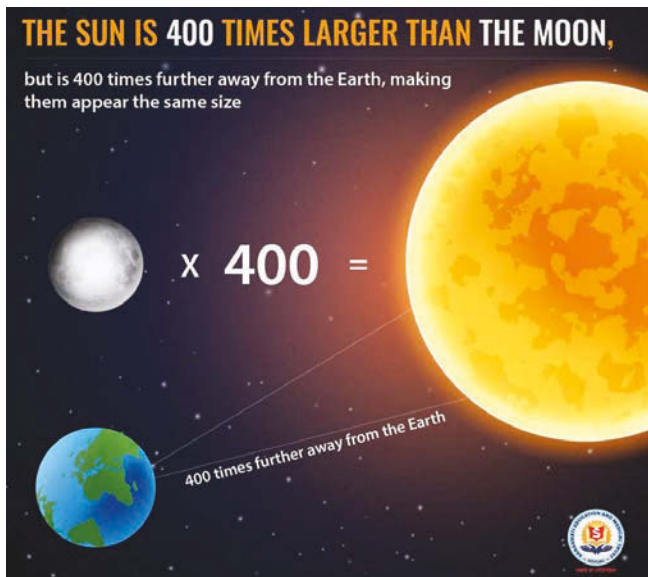
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of the soul. For the first time in his life, everything seemed in unerring harmony. The event had transformed him into a being of utter trust in the purposefulness of the universe. Henceforward, Vanderdecken walked through the world with serene confidence in himself and an ever-broadening compassion for all his fellow creatures, who, he knew, were no less interconnected to the same cosmic guidance that had directed his footsteps to that rock in the Peruvian desert under the total eclipse of a lifetime.

### THE ECLIPSE – A GIFT FROM HEAVEN

Both primitive and more advanced societies around the world have regarded eclipses of the sun with special dread. The very term comes from the Greek *ekleipsis*, or “failure,” synonymous with “something gone drastically wrong.” In a peculiar example of cultural comparisons, the Aztecs of Ancient Mexico likewise regarded each solar eclipse as a fundamental failure or aberration of the cosmos and consequently sacrificed aberrant human physical types (dwarves and hunchbacks) until the moon passed from the face of the sun. With the European Renaissance, such heavenly happenings were divested of their supernatural power to instil fear and generally understood in the cold, scientific light of celestial mechanics.

In Earth skies, the sun looks no bigger than the moon. Their apparently equal size is an illusion caused by their vastly different distances from our planet. The moon’s diameter is a mere 2,160 miles, roughly the distance from New York City to Phoenix, Arizona. The moon is about one-fourth the size of Earth, which it orbits at an average distance of 240,000 miles. The sun, in radical contrast, is an average 93 million miles away. Its

diameter is 864,950 miles, 110 times the diameter of our world. In other words, if the sun were hollow, about four million of Earth’s moons could fit inside it. Yet, these two vastly different spheres share a precisely exact size from our Earthbound perspective.

We all know how vital sunlight is to life, but evolutionary scientists only fairly recently discovered that our moon was an equal partner in creation. Their research tended to show that the first organic substances appeared in tidal pools caused by the lunar effect that still exerts its influence on our planet. It is to this so-called primordial soup of four billion years ago that all living things on Earth, humans included, trace their ultimate ancestry. The odds against the sun and moon, these two inconceivably different spheres, appearing as equals in our sky, seem so great as to be virtually unique in the universe. The odds grow greater still if we consider the chances of their paths intersecting as perfectly as they do several times per century when moon and sun embrace in a total eclipse. We humans alone of Earth’s creatures recognise this recurrent phenomenon. That fact in itself suggests each eclipse is significant, for not only purely astronomical but also spiritual reasons.

Our ancestors were afraid of an eclipse. They saw only the threatening, incongruent darkness, the apparent death, however temporary, of the life-giving sun. A more credible interpretation might have been to accept each eclipse as a spectacular covenant between humanity and the Infinite Mind. Brother Sun and Sister Moon gave us, and all Earth’s creatures, birth. Yet, we must somehow be special, because only we appreciate the periodic conjunction of these two orbs, so unlike each other, but wonderfully similar in our unique sky.

It seems impossible to believe that so perfect a match of such radically different celestial bodies is merely the result of blundering chance, especially when we consider the universal laws and illimitable organisation that permeate the whole fabric of creation. Perhaps the eclipse was a final touch to that creation set in motion by the Creator, not to frighten mankind but to assure us that we have a high purpose and profound meaning in the vast scheme of things.

Seeing an eclipse as the precise opposite of any “failure,” Vanderdecken, who experienced a transformational coincidence on his fiftieth birthday, believes that each solar eclipse is a sign of the faith the Creator has always had and will forever have in us: “He set it in the sky as a recurring reminder of our special covenant with Him and His work. As such, we should graciously accept the eclipse as a gift from heaven, the confirmation of our special destiny as a species.”

► Frank Joseph’s book on synchronicity – *The Power of Coincidence* (Arcturus, 2009) – is available from online booksellers. His new book *Ancient High Tech: The Astonishing Scientific Achievements of Early Civilizations* will be available from New Dawn Books in late January.



**FRANK JOSEPH** has published more books (eight) about the lost civilisation of Atlantis than any other writer in history. These and his over twenty other titles dealing with archaeology, military history and metaphysics have been released in numerous foreign editions around the world. He was the editor-in-chief of *Ancient American*, a popular science magazine, from its inception in 1993 until his retirement fourteen years later. He lives today with his wife, Laura, in the Upper Mississippi Valley of the United States.



# THE MAN WHO DESTROYED SCEPTICISM

*Scourge of Psychics James Randi Was No Sceptic;  
Our Culture is Poorer as a Result*

By MITCH HOROWITZ

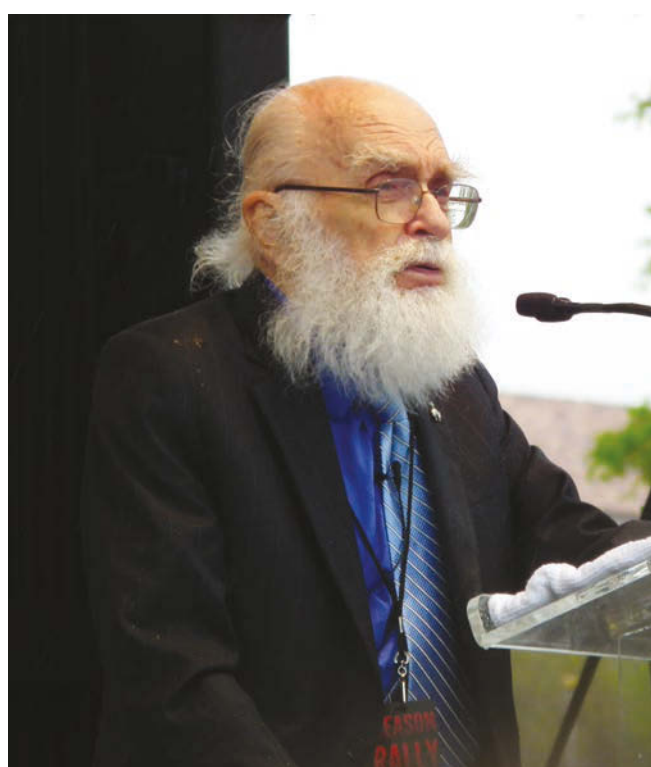
Several years ago I was preparing a talk on the life of occult journeyer Madame H.P. Blavatsky (1831–1891) for the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City. Someone on Facebook asked sardonically: “Will James Randi be there?” My interlocutor was referencing the man known worldwide as a debunker of psychical and paranormal claims. (That my online critic was outspoken about his own religious beliefs posed no apparent irony for him.)

October 20, 2020, marked the death at age 92 of James “The Amazing” Randi, a stage magician who became internationally famous as a sceptic – indeed Randi rebooted the term “scepticism” as a response to the boom in psychical claims and research in the post-Woodstock era. Today, thousands of journalists, bloggers, and the occasional scientist call themselves sceptics in the mould set by Randi. Over the past decade, the investigator himself was heroised in documentaries, profiles, and, now, obituaries. A *Guardian* columnist eulogised him as the “prince of reason.”<sup>1</sup>

I mourn Randi’s passing for those who loved him, and there were many. But his elevation to the Mount Rushmore of scepticism obfuscates a basic truth. In the end, the feted researcher was no sceptic. He was to scepticism what US Senator Joseph McCarthy was to anticommunism – a showman, a bully, and, ultimately, the very thing he claimed to fight against: a fraud. This has corroded our intellectual culture – in a Trumpian age when true scepticism is desperately needed.



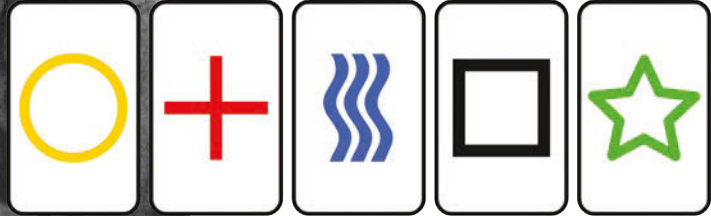
**ABOVE:** One of Randi’s publicity stunts was his yearly “million-dollar challenge,” offered to anyone who could ‘prove’ psychic powers and the like. As noted on page 49, journalist Stacy Horn concluded it was a publicity stunt.



**ABOVE:** James Randi (born Randall James Hamilton Zwinge; 1928–2020) at the 2012 Reason Rally in Washington DC, USA.

Born Randall James Hamilton Zwinge in Toronto in 1928, Randi became a celebrated stage magician and escape artist, who appeared in prestigious venues and on television shows, including an episode of *Happy Days*. His stage aesthetics and devices were often brilliant and original. Randi toured with rock icon Alice Cooper in 1973, designing a mock beheading-by-guillotine for the proto-metal star. When claiming the garland of scepticism in the early 1970s, the MacArthur-winning Randi announced his intention of exposing phony faith healers and grifter psychics.

Today, many people know Randi from the award-winning 2014 documentary *An Honest Liar*. But the laudatory and engaging profile tells its story in a fashion that sceptics traditionally decry, including only the magician’s successful exposes (some of which were more questionable than the film allows)<sup>2</sup> and obfuscating his darker and more lasting impact: making it more



**ABOVE LEFT:** J.B. Rhine (right) and Hubert Pearce with Zener cards used to conduct experiments for extrasensory perception (see colour examples above).

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Joseph and Louisa Rhine.

difficult for serious university-based and academically trained researchers to study extrasensory perception (ESP) and mental anomalies, and to receive a fair hearing in the news media. Indeed, Randi ultimately cheapened an important debate over how or whether extra-physical mentality can be studied under scientifically rigorous conditions and evaluated by serious people.

In a typical example, *The New York Times* ran a 2015 piece about a recent wave of fraudulent and flawed psychology studies; its lead paragraph cited a 2011 precognition study, “Feeling the Future,” by Cornell University psychologist Daryl J. Bem – without justifying why it was grouped with polluted research or even further referencing Bem’s study in the article. (I wrote to the *Times* to object. The paper has used several of my letters and op-eds, often on controversial subjects – this time, silence.)

In the pioneering days of scholarly psychical research in the United States, roughly between the 1930s and 1960s, Duke University housed a highly regarded centre for the study of ESP, founded by researchers J.B. and Louisa Rhine. Yet today the Rhine Research Center functions off-campus as a nonprofit organisation and, while individual researchers and a handful of university labs soldier on, many college textbooks brand ESP research a pseudoscience,<sup>3</sup> often citing Randi’s work as the source of that opinion, so the topic is shunned by most academics and journalists who cover them.

As a historian and writer on metaphysical topics, I have spent time among fraudulent mediums, and I share Randi’s outrage at their manipulations. I have no issue with his or others’ targeting of stage psychics and woo-woo con artists – I join in it. But Randi made his name, and influenced today’s professional sceptics, by smearing the work of serious researchers such as Rhine, who, in founding the original parapsychological lab at Duke with his wife and co-researcher Louisa, laboured intensively – and in a scientifically conservative manner that reverse-mirrored Randi’s work – to devise research protocols for testing psychical phenomena.

In one of Randi’s freely distributed classroom guides for teachers, *Do You Have ESP?* (2012), he misleadingly stated that

Rhine had reported only positive results in his ESP trials. In fact, in the early 1930s, when Rhine’s lab opened, it was standard practice in the behavioural and life sciences to discount experiments with null or negative results. But Rhine was one of the first academic researchers to recognise this common practice as a problem, and then to explicitly reject it. By 1940, with the publication of *Extra-Sensory Perception After Sixty Years*, Rhine’s lab took a leading role in reporting *all* results, positive and negative, ahead of the curve of other researchers.

Randi’s contemporaneous parapsychology sceptics, including science writer Martin Gardner and University of Oregon psychologist Ray Hyman, differed from Randi’s uncritical dismissals by offering qualified respect to Rhine and his protégé Charles Honorton, with whom Hyman co-authored a 1986 paper in *The Journal of Parapsychology* validating Honorton’s research methods.<sup>4</sup> In a moment of intellectual probity, the sceptic Gardner wrote of Rhine in his 1952 book *Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science*: “It should be stated immediately that Rhine is clearly not a pseudoscientist to a degree even remotely comparable to that of most of the men

discussed in this book. He is an intensely sincere man, whose work has been undertaken with a care and competence that cannot be dismissed easily, and which deserves a far more serious treatment.” (Another notable contemporary was sociologist Marcello Truzzi – a self-described “constructive sceptic” – who criticised Randi’s methods in the paper cited earlier. Truzzi coined the maxim popularised by astronomer Carl Sagan: “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof.”)

To Randi, such moderate tones were alien. When criticising the parapsychological research of University of Arizona psychology professor Gary E. Schwartz, for example, Randi repeatedly accused the researcher of believing in Santa Claus and the tooth fairy, and taunted him with the Trump-worthy sobriquet “Gullible Gary.”<sup>5</sup> Randi showed no compunction about brutalising reputations and ignoring complexities. Indeed, Randi showed willingness to mislead the public about testing certain paranormal claims – while simultaneously touting his “results” and trashing reputations. Such was the case with his public rebuttal to Cambridge University biologist Rupert Sheldrake. Sheldrake’s theory of “morphic resonance” proposes that “memory is inherent in nature.” The biologist has written

**RANDI MADE HIS NAME,  
AND INFLUENCED  
TODAY’S PROFESSIONAL  
SCEPTICS, BY SMEARING  
THE WORK OF SERIOUS  
RESEARCHERS SUCH  
AS RHINE...**



that “morphic fields of social groups connect together members of the group even when they are many miles apart, and provide channels of communication through which organisms can stay in touch at a distance. They help provide an explanation for telepathy.” To this Randi retorted: “We at JREF [James Randi Educational Foundation] have tested these claims. They fail.”

Sheldrake complained that Randi ignored his requests to see the test data. In 2014 reporter Will Storr of Britain’s *The Telegraph* followed up with Randi and received a series of dog-ate-my-homework excuses – until the reporter realised that the Amazing Randi was either misleading him about the existence of tests, or was proffering an incredibly byzantine (and inconsistent) backstory that the results “got washed away in a flood.”<sup>6</sup> Unbelievable as Randi’s responses were, he continued running down the biologist in public. This is what sociologist Truzzi dubbed “pseudoscpticism”: rejection absent investigation.

Amid Randi’s persistent and questionable media dings, academics began to recoil. John G. Kruth, executive director of the Rhine lab, experienced the chill firsthand in the 1980s. “As the old guard began to age out of the field,” he said, “there were very few opportunities for new researchers to study parapsychology... younger students typically had to travel abroad or design their own study programs.”

Beyond scholarly circles, Randi set the template for a zealous band of professional sceptics, many of whom are science journalists or bloggers who focus on niche takedown pieces of people who study any form of ESP, mediumship, or anomalies. Even more damaging over the last decade has been a group of self-described “Guerrilla Sceptics” – winners of the 2017 James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) Award – who wage a kind of freewheeling digital jihad on Wikipedia, tendentiously revising or trolling pages about scientific parapsychology and the lives of its key players.

“While there are lots of anonymous trolls that have worked hard to trash any Wikipedia pages related to psi, including bios of parapsychologists,” said Dean Radin, chief scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences in northern California, one of a few remaining scholarly parapsychology labs, “this group of

**ABOVE LEFT:** Randi targeted Cambridge University biologist Rupert Sheldrake, and made ridiculous conclusions about Sheldrake’s key breakthrough theory of “morphic resonance.” **ABOVE RIGHT:** Dean Radin is Chief Scientist at the Institute of Noetic Science (IONS) and Associated Distinguished Professor of Integral and Transpersonal Psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS).

**ANOTHER CASE WAS RANDI’S YEARLY “MILLION-DOLLAR CHALLENGE,” OFTEN HELD IN LAS VEGAS, IN WHICH HE TEMPTED PSYCHICS WITH A CASH PRIZE.**

extreme sceptics is proudly open that they are rewriting history... any attempt to edit those pages, even fixing individual words, is blocked or reverted almost instantly.”

Another case was Randi’s yearly “million-dollar challenge,” often held in Las Vegas, in which he tempted psychics with a cash prize. For years it was an annual charade to which virtually no serious observer or claimant would venture near.<sup>7</sup> Journalist and NPR producer Stacy Horn, who wrote about Rhine’s lab at Duke University in her 2009 book *Unbelievable*, queried Randi in June 2008 about his million-dollar prize. She told me:

I had an exchange with Randi because I was going to have the following sentences about his million-dollar prize in my book:

“To date, Randi’s million-dollar prize has not been awarded, but according to Chris Carter, author of *Parapsychology and the Sceptics*, Randi backs off from any serious challenge. ‘I always have an out,’ he has been quoted as saying.”

I sent that to Randi to ask him if he really said that. ...He wrote back saying that the quote was true, but incomplete. What he really said was, “I always have an ‘out’ – I’m right!”

It seemed like he thought he was being amusing, but I didn’t really know a lot about him yet. But it also seemed to indicate that the million-dollar prize might not really be a serious offer. So I asked him how a decision was made, was there a committee and who was on it? ... He replied, “If someone claims they can fly by flapping their arms, the results don’t need any ‘decision.’ What ‘committee’? Why would a committee be required? I don’t understand the question.”

At that point I wrote him off and decided to not

mention his prize in my book since it just seemed like a publicity stunt for Randi.

*The Telegraph's* Storr wondered what – besides organising the yearly Vegas conference (discontinued in 2015) – Randi's nonprofit JREF actually *does*:

More recently I've begun to wonder about his educational foundation, the JREF, which claims tax-exempt status in the US and is partly dependant on public donations. I wondered what actual educative work the organisation – which between 2011 and 2013 had an average revenue of \$1.2 million per year – did. Financial documents reveal just \$5,100, on average, being spent on grants.

There are some e-books, videos and lesson plans on subjects such as fairies on their website. They organise an annual fan convention. James Randi, over that period, has been paid an average annual salary of \$195,000. My requests for details of the educational foundation's educational activities, over the last 12 months, were dodged and then ignored.

The two years that follow, according to public filings, show executive compensation at an average of over \$197,000, more than 20% of the Foundation's total yearly revenue.<sup>8</sup> According to a contemporaneous analysis of 100,000 nonprofit CEO salaries, this figure nearly triples the average compensation in JREF's revenue class.<sup>9</sup>

•••

Randi proved hugely adept at sound bites. Most researchers and scientists do poorly with sound bites. Such devices contributed to his being lionised in news coverage<sup>10</sup> by observers who seemed genuinely unaware of his unwillingness to distinguish between parapsychologists who perform juried and meticulous work, such as scientists Dean Radin and Rupert Sheldrake, versus the average storefront psychic. The “broad smear” and polarised thinking typify most professional scepticism today.

Indeed, when encountering the efforts of clinicians, such as Rhine and Radin, Randi often played “move the goalpost.” Physicists Bruce Rosenblum and Fred Kuttner made this pertinent historical observation in their book *Quantum Enigma: Physics Encounters Consciousness*:

“Greek science had a fatal flaw. *It had no mechanism to compel consensus.* The Greeks saw experimental tests of scientific conclusions as no more relevant than were experimental tests of political or aesthetic positions. Conflicting views could be argued indefinitely.”

Randi and his admirers embraced this flaw as a polemical device, often wearing down scientists and winning over journalists with perpetual, repeat-loop disparagement of ESP research and other science they disfavoured, no matter how valid the methods.



**MITCH HOROWITZ** is a PEN Award-winning historian whose books include *Ocult America*; *One Simple Idea*; and *The Miracle Club*. His book *Awakened Mind* is the one of the first works of New Thought translated and published in Arabic. The Chinese government has censored his work. Twitter: @MitchHorowitz | Instagram: @MitchHorowitz23

We urgently need good sceptics today. We are living under the legacy of a former US president who spread QAnon and election-denial conspiracy theories, while questioning the gravity of Covid, the reality of climate change (as Randi did, too<sup>11</sup> – along with a proclivity for eugenics<sup>12</sup>), and the facts of responsible news coverage. Even in our truth-challenged times, however, Randi never stopped baiting researchers and punching down at eccentrics who may have been self-deluded about their psychical abilities.

Yes, Randi may have bagged some con artists along the way. Senator McCarthy may have caught a few authentic Soviet sympathisers or spies. But at what cost? Each man laid tracks for future demagogues who proved less interested in defending facts than in promulgating smears and half-truths for personal benefit.

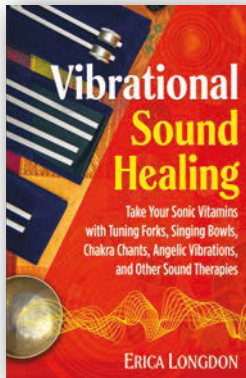
I sympathise with those who want to challenge credulity and generalised references to psychical phenomena – and all the more with researchers and investigators who expose frauds. I sympathise, too, with those who have lost a man, a friend, and a spouse. But to the intellectual community, and anyone concerned with critical inquiry in general, Randi's legacy should serve as a cautionary tale and a call to restore sound practices when discussing or writing about contentious topics in science or any field. These are things that a showman can deter but never erase.

► The above article first appeared on *Boing Boing* (boingboing.net).

## FOOTNOTES

1. “Farewell James Randi, prince of reason. Now who’ll mock the quacks and anti-vaxxers?” by Catherine Bennett, *The Guardian*, 25 October 2020.
2. For example, see the critically important paper “Reflections on ‘Project Alpha’: Scientific Experiment or Conjuror’s Illusion,” *Zetetic Scholar* (1987) by Marcello Truzzi, a constructive and vital voice of scepticism to whom I return. Posted at: [www.aiprinc.org/documents/Zet.pdf](http://www.aiprinc.org/documents/Zet.pdf)
3. For example, see “The coverage of parapsychology in introductory psychology textbooks: 1990-2002” by James McClenon, Miguel Roig, Matthew D. Smith, Gillian Ferrier, *The Journal of Parapsychology* (Spring 2003).
4. “A Joint Communiqué: The Psi Ganzfeld Controversy,” *The Journal of Parapsychology* (December 1986).
5. <http://survivalscience.50megs.com/torandi.htm>
6. “James Randi: debunking the king of the debunkers” by Will Storr, *The Telegraph*, 9 December 2014.
7. For example, see “A Critical Look at Randi’s Million Dollar Challenge” by Craig Weiler, 2 January 2011, <https://weilerpsiblog.wordpress.com/randis-million-dollar-challenge/>
8. <https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/650649443>
9. <https://blueavocado.org/finance/high-pay-for-nonprofit-execs-analysis-of-100-000-salaries/>
10. For example, see “The Unbelievable Scepticism of the Amazing Randi” by Adam Higginbotham, *The New York Times Magazine*, 7 November 2014.
11. <http://archive.randi.org/site/index.php/swift-blog/805-agw-revisited.html>
12. See “James Randi: Let Survival of the Fittest ‘Act Itself Out’ On Those with Low IQ and ‘Mental Aberrations’” by Greg Taylor, *The Daily Grail*, 14 February 2013.

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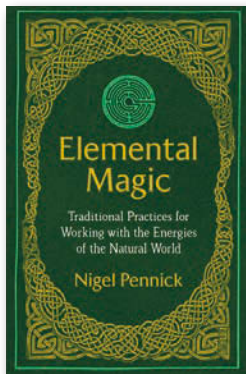


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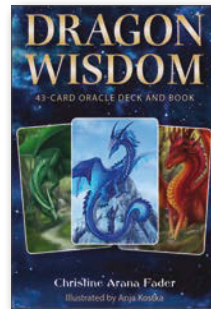
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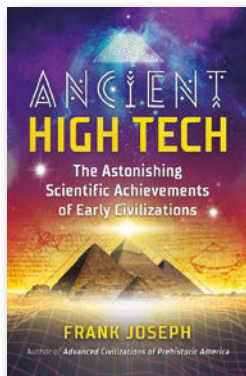
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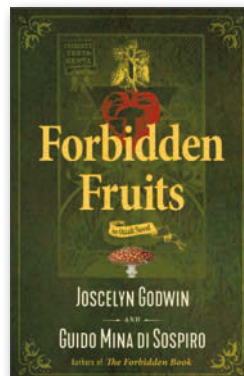
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# Frankenstein's Brain & the "God Helmet"

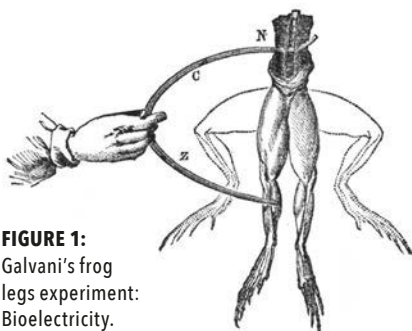
By SHELLI JOYE PhD

**M**odern science is on the threshold of being able to interact with, control, amplify, and enhance human brain operation through the use of various means of electromagnetic stimulation. This article discusses the strange history of attempts to affect human consciousness through the use of electricity.

## HISTORY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC BRAIN STIMULATION

It has been two centuries since the first recorded incident of electromagnetic stimulation was conducted by Luigi Galvani (1737–1798), the pioneer of “animal electricity.” Galvani discovered that electricity could directly influence animal behaviour in his kitchen in 1771. He noticed that frogs’ legs twitch when electricity passes through their muscles (see Figure 1). Galvani called this phenomenon *bioelectricity*. From this early observation of the single twitching of a living organism has evolved the subject of electrophysiology, and various direct applications of electricity to human subjects have ensued, though not always with the subject’s health in mind.

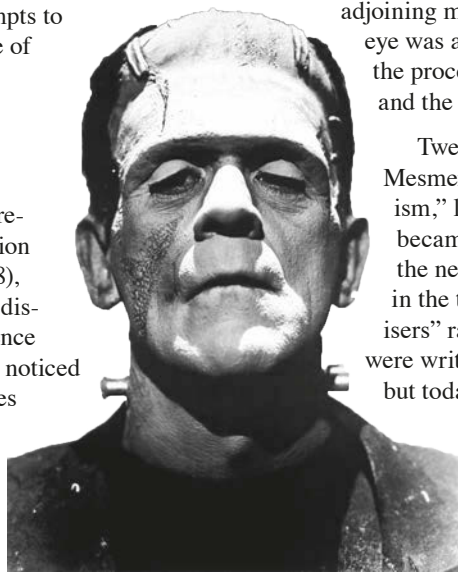
In 1801, Giovanni Aldini (Galvani’s nephew and an avid student of “animal magnetism” or *mesmerism*) discovered that applying two low-voltage electrodes of electricity to each side of the head of an adult seemed to improve the mood of those patients suffering from “melancholy.” Aldini was also among the first to have experimented with passing an electric current through a human corpse. In



**FIGURE 1:** Galvani's frog legs experiment: Bioelectricity.

a well-documented incident, Aldini applied electricity to the corpse of the recently executed prisoner George Foster.<sup>1</sup>

On the first application of the process to the face, the jaws of the deceased criminal began to quiver, and the adjoining muscles were horribly contorted, and one eye was actually opened. In the subsequent part of the process the right hand was raised and clenched, and the legs and thighs were set in motion.<sup>2</sup>



**FIGURE 2:** Frankenstein's Monster (from the movie starring Boris Karloff).

Twenty-two years earlier, in 1779, Dr Franz Mesmer introduced the theory of “animal magnetism,” later known as “mesmerism,” that instantly became a specialty taught in medical schools for the next seventy-five years. Physicians specialising in the treatment soon became known as “magnetisers” rather than mesmerists. Hundreds of books were written on the subject between 1776 and 1925, but today it is entirely dismissed by medical science.<sup>3</sup>

The stunning spectacle gained much notoriety, and the idea of “galvanising a corpse” (see Figure 3, overpage) came into public discussion, triggering a debate on whether science should try to raise the dead back to life.

It must be noted that by 1846 the term “mesmerism,” also referred to as “galvanism,” had been replaced by “electricity.” This sensational episode was to eventually influence the central theme of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley’s novel *Frankenstein: Or, The Modern Prometheus* (Figure 2).

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT & ELECTROMAGNETISM

One of the first documented applications of electricity to a human subject was the effort to provide a more “humane implementation” of capital punishment. Slightly more than a century after Galvani’s discovery that electricity affected frogs’ legs, a dentist in New York, Alfred Southwick (1826–1898), distressed by the media outcry over a series of botched executions by hanging, put forth the idea of a possibly “humane alternative” to capital punishment by using electricity. In 1881,



**FIGURE 3:** Raising the dead by galvanising a corpse.



**FIGURE 4:** First execution by electricity, Auburn prison, New York, 1890.

Southwick read the account of a drunk man dying instantly after touching the poles of an electrical generator. Southwick subsequently wrote to Thomas Edison, asking him which approach might be more effective, the use of direct current (DC), used by the Edison Electric Company, or through application of a newer electrical source, alternating current (AC), then being marketed by the Pittsburgh entrepreneur George Westinghouse (1846–1914). Edison replied that he wanted nothing to do with the issue as he was involved in efforts to abolish capital punishment.

Secretly, the shrewd Edison realised that associating execution with the Westinghouse electrical system would make Edison’s DC appear safer in the public eye by way of contrast; Edison went so far as to contract with another engineer to design, construct, and donate the first AC electric chair for the prison at Auburn, where New York executions were carried out. Westinghouse refused to sell one of his AC generators for the project, and the generator was procured surreptitiously via a vendor from Brazil. Meanwhile, Edison launched a public campaign, touting DC electrical systems as inherently safe, compared to the lethality of AC systems. Westinghouse countered by hiring an expensive legal team to defend one William Kemmler, said to be a violent drunk who had been convicted of murdering his wife with an axe. The case wound its way up to the Supreme Court, but to no avail: Kemmler was sentenced to death.

The initial test of the new electric chair, which by then had been nicknamed “Old Sparky,” occurred in Auburn on 6 August 1890. At 6:38 a.m. the switch was thrown, which connected the prison’s AC electrical generator directly to a metal skull cap and the metal floor upon which the metal chair rested (Figure 4). Immediately, 1,000 volts of AC began to flow through Kemmler, throwing his entire body into massive shuddering and twitching. After 17 seconds the breaker system blew, but by then the three doctors and seventeen witnesses all assumed that Kemmler was dead.

However, as the three physicians approached the body to certify death, to their great astonishment Kemmler began rapidly breathing, twisting against the burnt-leather straps, and making strange noises!

The warden ordered that the electric circuit be reset and power restored so that the execution procedure could be resumed. This time, the full output voltage of 2,000 volts was applied, and the circuit held for a full sixty seconds before failing. Kemmler’s hair caught fire, and the strong smells and sights

caused half the crowd of witnesses to flee the room, while three of the witnesses fainted. Over eight minutes elapsed before the attending physicians were able to officially certify that the inmate had expired.

The press came up with a new name for the procedure: “electrocution” – a combination of “electricity” and “execution.” Nevertheless, Edison’s final push to discredit Westinghouse and his AC system introduced a popular new euphemism for execution by electricity – that of “being Westinghoused.” George Westinghouse himself commented during an interview: “They would have done better using an axe.”<sup>24</sup>

## APPROACHES TO ELECTROMAGNETIC THERAPY

After the first execution by electricity, almost fifty years passed before medical science began to investigate the possible uses of electricity in therapeutic settings. Since then, the number of distinct approaches to electromagnetic therapy can be seen to have fallen into two broad categories: the electrical approach and the magnetic approach.

The electrical approach involves applying a voltage via two electrodes in order to direct the flow of an electrical current through the patient (Table 1). The magnetic approach uses electromagnetic pulses produced by the energising of electromagnetic coils (Table 2).

It should be noted that all of these applications have been completely pragmatically developed through trial and error, and most are not sanctioned by the American Medical Association.

The underlying mechanisms of interaction between these electromagnetic sources on the brain, nervous system, and state of mental consciousness are not well understood.

ECT	Electroconvulsive Therapy
tDCS	Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation
tACS	Transcranial Alternating Current Stimulation
tPCS	Transcranial Pulsed Current Stimulation
tRNS	Transcranial Random Noise Stimulation
DBS	Deep Brain Stimulation

**TABLE 1:** Electrical approaches to electromagnetic therapy



<b>TMS</b>	<b>Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation</b>
<b>CMS</b>	<b>Circumcerebral Magnetic Stimulation (Persinger's "God Helmet")</b>

**TABLE 2:** Magnetic approaches to electromagnetic therapy

### “SHOCK TREATMENT”

First introduced in psychiatric work in 1938, *electroconvulsive therapy* (ECT), popularly known as *shock treatment*, has continued as a form of sanctioned medical treatment up through the present day.

In the early 1930s, biomedical researchers noticed that the introduction of a strong electrical current to the brain of primates through electrodes placed on the scalp resulted in immediately observable “epileptic type” activity. In 1938, after several years of research recording the effects of various electrical charges on primate nervous systems, electrical currents were clinically applied to a human patient.

In what is now termed electroconvulsive therapy, seizures are induced in patients in order to provide relief from various mental disorders, generally mentioned as chronic depression and bipolar disorders. In typical commercial devices, the electrical stimulus used in ECT is about 800 milliamps and can be up to several hundred watts. The current flows for between one and six seconds.

ECT is usually administered every other day, over a period of three to four weeks. Its use has been declining for several decades. In 1961, Ernest Hemingway received ECT at the Mayo Clinic. Shortly after he committed suicide, Hemingway was quoted by his biographer to have said:

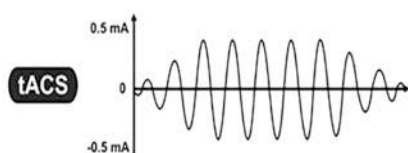
Well, what is the sense of ruining my head and erasing my memory, which is my capital, and putting me out of business? It was a brilliant cure, but we lost the patient.<sup>5</sup>

### DIRECT CURRENT STIMULATION

Known by the acronym tDCS, *transcranial direct current stimulation* is a noninvasive procedure that operates through applying a constant low-voltage direct current (DC) of approximately 1.0 milliAmps flowing through the human scalp between two electrodes. More than two dozen commercial tDCS devices are currently available.

### ALTERNATING CURRENT STIMULATION

Also known as cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES), transcranial alternating current stimulation (tACS) devices apply an oscillating current waveform derived from a pure sinusoidal wave (Figure 5).



**FIGURE 5:** Transcranial tACS waveform.

Electrodes are often placed on the ear lobes and temples,

occasionally in the occipital region. Stimulation of approximately 1mA has shown to reach the thalamic area at a radius of 13.30 mm and induce changes in the electroencephalogram, including increases in alpha wave power with corresponding decreases in delta and beta frequencies. However, there is as yet no clinical evidence of effectiveness for relief of acute depression, as has been claimed by manufacturers of such devices.<sup>6</sup>

### MAGNETIC STIMULATION

While other treatments require electrodes to be pasted directly to the scalp in order to pass an electrical current through regions of the head, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) is quite different. In magnetic stimulation there are no electrical contacts touching the scalp. Instead, the devices used are small magnetic coils that generate magnetic pulses at various locations above the scalp, such that the magnetic field induced passes up to several centimetres within the cranium. As in each of the other approaches to electromagnetic brain stimulation, the mechanisms of interaction with the brain are poorly understood.

## Canadian American neuroscientist Michael Persinger developed a circumcerebral magnetic stimulation device popularly known as the “God Helmet....

During treatment with magnetic coils, patients are required to sit in specially designed chairs, with the patient’s chin resting on rigid positioning frames and a brace keeping the forehead in steady position. These frames are used to hold the patient’s head in place during treatment. The magnetic coils are placed such that they hover just a few centimetres above the scalp. When energised, the coils emit magnetic pulses that reach into the scalp. Theoretically, the magnetic pulses produce an electric current in the nearby neurons within the brain through the process of electromagnetic induction.

TMS can only penetrate just a few centimetres into the outer cortex of the brain, and the magnetic field rapidly declines the farther away the machine is positioned from the scalp. Due to the large size of the magnetic coils, targeting very specific areas of the brain is quite difficult, and the patient needs to remain completely still, unlike tDCS, where the electrodes used to incite stimulation are secured directly against the scalp using a headband or positioning strap, allowing the individual to move about if they desire to do so. In general, TMS is only used within clinical settings due to the complex nature of the technology and the need for precise positioning.

### DEEP BRAIN ELECTRODE STIMULATION

Deep brain stimulation differs from all other brain stimulation techniques previously discussed. This approach is a directly *invasive* stimulation technique. Invasive brain stimulation involves a preliminary procedure to surgically implant parts of the stimulation device into the patient’s brain. During the procedure, the patient is fully sedated while the device’s electrodes are secured to the area of interest within the brain. Additionally, the wires connecting the electrodes to the device, and sometimes the device itself, are implanted underneath the skin’s surface.

# The Bicameral Mind

In 1976, Julian Jaynes published *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*, in which he articulated the belief that the two hemispheres of the brain are fundamentally two separate “selves.”<sup>12</sup> According to Jaynes, who found support for his idea through a great range of interdisciplinary material, prior to about 1000 BCE human consciousness operated quite differently than it does in modern humans. The dominant left hemisphere received “suggestions” from the right hemisphere through auditory verbal hallucinations, and individuals in many instances assumed that the “voice” was that of a god. Jaynes put forth evidence indicating that around 1800 BCE a major change began to occur in the functional operation of the human brain as it shifted from this bicameral mode to what we now refer to as “consciousness.” In modern times the left hemisphere of the brain generally dominates awareness and is experienced as the primary waking sense of self due in large part to increased integration of language and thought. While his theory was initially well received, particularly by the general public (the first edition of his book sold out quickly), neurophysical researchers found it difficult to assess the validity of his theory through use of clinical methods, and eventually the theory became a target of widespread criticism and was shelved. However, interest in the theory was revived during the late 1990s with the radical improvement in brain imaging technologies, and new data seems to confirm many of his early predictions.<sup>13</sup>



Julian Jaynes (1920-1997)

As in all the previously discussed contemporary forms of electromagnetic brain stimulation, “its underlying principles and mechanisms are still not clear; the exact mechanism is not known.”<sup>7</sup>

## PERSINGER’S “GOD HELMET”

The Canadian American neuroscientist Michael Persinger (1945–2018) developed a circumcerebral magnetic stimulation device – popularly known as the “God Helmet” – to explore consciousness through studying what he believed to be the highly bicameral human mind.

Persinger, who published over 500 technical articles in scientific journals and authored seven books, was a professor of psychology at Laurentian University for forty-seven years prior to his death in 2018. His primary areas of research were exploring electromagnetic field effects upon biological organisms in general, though his primary focus was the human brain.

Persinger, as director of Laurentian University’s Neuroscience Department, tasked one of his department researchers, Stanley Koren (1943–2014), to develop a prototype “helmet” as a means of testing his own “bicameral mind” brain theory. Persinger’s theory rested largely upon the interdisciplinary ideas of Julian Jaynes (1920–1977).

Persinger called his own version of the Jaynes’ theory the “Vectorial Hemisphericity Hypothesis,” proposing that the human sense of self has two components, one on each side of the brain. He suspected that the Koren helmet approach might be used to create conditions in which contributions to the sense of self from both cerebral hemispheres could be disrupted by interfering with one of the brain’s most impor-

tant electrical activities, called “the binding factor.” This is a wave of electromagnetic activity running from the front to the back (from *rostral* to *caudal*) of the human brain every 25 milliseconds, giving it a frequency of 40 Hz. This activity is present during both waking and dreaming periods, but is absent during dreamless sleep, a coma, or periods of traumatic unconsciousness.<sup>8</sup> The binding factor ordinarily inhibits information embedded in external magnetic fields from being sensed, including planetary geomagnetic fields and whatever magnetic signals are emitted by other nearby electrical activity.

Persinger’s helmet (see picture on page 57) was designed with the objective of disrupting the binding factor by introducing what he termed “interhemispheric intrusions” in the form of a sequence of magnetic pulses timed to be close to, but slightly different in frequency, from the binding factor.

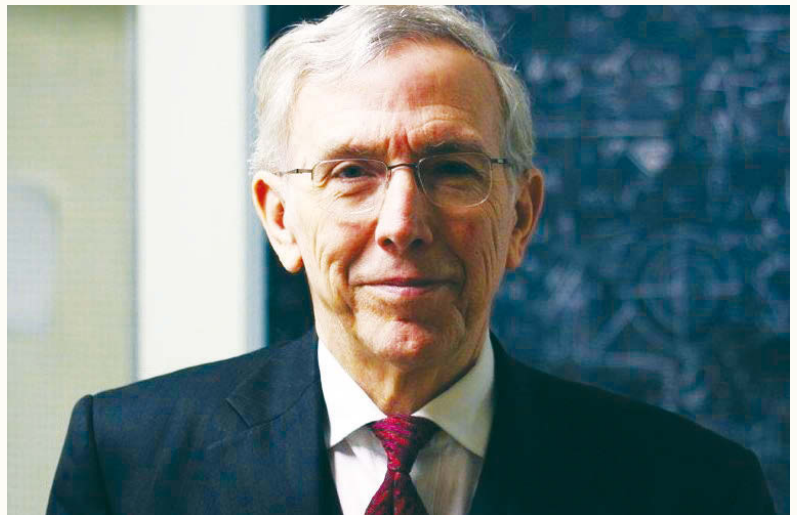
Formally known as a circumcerebral magnetic stimulation (CMS) device, the so-called “helmet” (the original design was built using a modified snowmobile helmet) is composed of eight solenoids (electromagnetic coils) set at intervals on a headband fitted around a person’s cranium. The solenoids are timed and controlled by a computer program that enables them to rotate precisely configured weak magnetic pulses around the cranium, generating a weak magnetic field that reaches well into the cerebral cortex. This sequence of magnetic pulses partially disrupts the 40 Hz so-called “binding factor” of the brain that is thought to assist in pulling numerous sensory inputs together into one smooth, seamless perception of the world (i.e., the sensation of self-identity).

Persinger and Koren designed the God Helmet in an attempt to create conditions in which contributions to the sense

# The God Helmet Experience

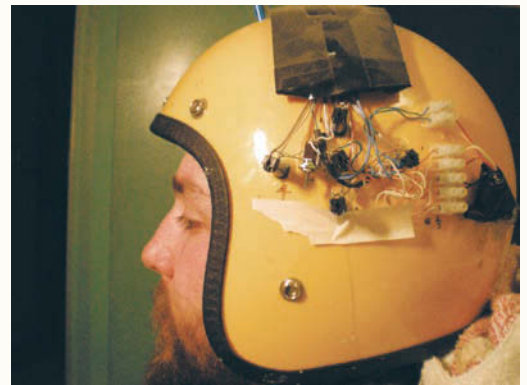
**D**r Michael Persinger reported that about 20 or so people (out of approximately 2,000) reported feeling the “presence of Christ” or even seeing him visually during their experience of the God Helmet within the acoustic chamber where the experimental sessions took place. It should be noted that the predominant religion within the community surrounding Laurentian University is Roman Catholic, and most of the test subjects used the term “Christ” and “God” interchangeably. Test subjects were 30 years or older. One male, age 35 years old, stated that though he was an atheist who had been brought up as a Roman Catholic, he saw a clear apparition (shoulders and head) of Christ staring him in the face. He was quite “shaken” by the experience. By far, most presences were attributed to dead relatives, or some type of “Great Spirit,” or something equivalent. Persinger hypothesised that experiences of those who came face-to-face with God might be due to rare brain activity triggered by the God Helmet.

**Note:** One of Dr Persinger’s co-workers currently manufactures a faithful reproduction of the laboratory apparatus used by Dr Persinger under the name “Shiva Neural Stimulation System.” Those interested in obtaining a “God Helmet” either for research or private use should contact Todd Murphy at brainsci@jps.net.



**ABOVE RIGHT:** Canadian American neuroscientist Dr Michael Persinger (1945–2018).

**RIGHT:** Photo of experimental subject wearing the “God Helmet.”



of self from both cerebral hemispheres are disrupted. Put in nontechnical language, this disruption allows normally curtailed or masked information from various operations of the brain-mind system, and in particular the sense of identity from the left cerebral hemisphere, to rise in one’s perceptual awareness.

Neither the God Helmet, nor technologies derived from it, are examples of what is considered to be transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), which apply magnetic fields on the order of one million times stronger than those used in Persinger’s lab (Persinger’s helmet produces magnetic fields of approximately 1 microTesla). However, effects have been reported to appear that are similar to those described during TMS.

The pattern of fluctuation generated by the magnetic fields of the God Helmet is derived from previously recorded physiological sources, primarily from patterns that appear in EEG traces taken from limbic structures. The purpose of exposing magnetic fields patterned after neurophysiological sources (e.g., the burst-firing profile of the amygdala), is to enhance the probability of interaction with the field structure of the brain and thus affect consciousness in some perceivable or therapeutic manner, perhaps by disrupting the normal masking function from which the signal was derived.

In Persinger’s laboratory experiments, the subject wore the helmet device within an anechoic (soundproof) chamber, constructed to act as a Faraday cage shielding the subject from spurious EMF emissions and radiation other than the Earth’s

magnetic field. Persinger himself, in summarising the results from numerous experiments, stated the following:

At least 80% of participants experienced a presence beside themselves in the room, while others report less evocative experiences of another consciousness or sentient being.<sup>9</sup>

**At least 80% of participants experienced a presence beside themselves in the room, while others report less evocative experiences of another consciousness or sentient being.**

If true, these results would support the Jaynes theory of the “bicameral mind” as well as Persinger’s hypothesis that external electromagnetic fields can be made to interact with the brain/mind systems (in some not-currently-understood manner).

## THE PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO BRAIN STIMULATION

Lacking a consensual theory describing the linkage between consciousness, mind, and brain function, the progress in contemporary brain stimulation devices is entirely pragmatic, driven by trial and error. Such approaches to brain stimulation can be compared to the geographically widespread Neolithic

practice of trepanation (Figure 6), the oldest surgical procedure for which there is archaeological evidence.<sup>10</sup>

More than 1,500 Neolithic skulls have been found with trepanation holes showing clear ingrowth of bone tissue around the edges, indicating these individuals continued to live well after the procedure. Cave paintings are thought to express the Neolithic belief that carving a hole in the skull could release interior malignant spiritual entities that were thought to be the cause of mental dysfunction.<sup>11</sup> Is the trepanation approach to curing mental ailment terribly different than modern era attempts to alleviate mental symptoms by passing electromagnetic fields through human skulls? Both approaches are based upon nothing but speculative guesswork performed while hoping for a positive outcome.

Such “trial and error” approaches for affecting the brain and consciousness may be useful in the past and even at the current stage of exploration, but as scientific knowledge of the brain and consciousness increases, we can expect major breakthroughs in technological approaches that use computer-driven electronic devices to interact with the human brain to affect consciousness. The integration of computer silicon with human brain function via the electromagnetic field may soon allow us to amplify and enhance intelligence, memory, and sensory capabilities far beyond current organic brain capabilities.

Such breakthroughs will likely be driven at first by financial considerations such as investments in electronic “gaming” systems, “hands-free” controls systems, and perhaps direct stimulation of pleasure centres within the brain via manipulation of electromagnetism fields. More esoteric applications might involve psychonautical exploration of higher dimensions of consciousness, perhaps even what might be called telepathic interaction among human individuals and groups, an emerging “innernet,” without the need of a keyboard, mouse, or video screen. We live in exciting times!

► The above subject matter is examined in Dr Shelli Joye's new book *The Electromagnetic Brain: EM Field Theories on the Nature of Consciousness* (with a foreword by Dean Radin). Inside she explores 12 credible theories, each published by prominent professionals with extensive scientific credentials, that describe how electricity in the form of electromagnetic fields is the living consciousness that runs through the brain. *The Electromagnetic Brain* is available from all good bookstores and from *New Dawn* in February.



**SHELLI RENEE JOYE** is the author of books exploring the practical links between the physics of consciousness and Perennial philosophy. Dr Joye attended Rice University on a physics scholarship and after graduating with a BS in Electrical Engineering, she met John Lilly and joined him in his work to explore interspecies communication. While living in New York, Dr Joye was a student of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, and after moving to San Francisco to do graduate work for an M.A. in Asian philosophies where she studied Patanjali's Sutras in the original Sanskrit with Dr Ramamurti Mishra. She recently completed her doctorate at the California Institute of Integral Studies in the interdisciplinary Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness program. Shelli has two books published by Inner Traditions: *Developing Supersensible Perception: Knowledge of the Higher Worlds through Entheogens, Prayer, and Nondual Awareness* (2019) and her most recent title *The Electromagnetic Brain: EM Field Theories on the Nature of Consciousness* (2020). Website: [www.shellijoye.net](http://www.shellijoye.net).



**FIGURE 6:** Trepanated skull of a Neolithic woman.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Foster had been found guilty of murdering his wife and child by drowning; he was hanged at Newgate prison in 1803 and shortly afterward his body was taken to the laboratory run by Galvani's nephew, Giovanni Aldini.

2. André Parent, “Giovanni Aldini: From Animal Electricity to Human Brain Stimulation.” *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences*, Volume 31, Issue 4, November 2004.

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10. Don Brothwell, *Digging Up Bones* (Cornell University Press, 1981), 126.

11. Ibid.

12. Julian Jaynes, *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1976).

13. L. Sher, “Neuroimaging, Auditory Hallucinations, and the Bicameral Mind.” *J Psychiatry Neurosci*. 2000 May; 25(3): 239–240.



# MEDITATIONS ON VALENTIN TOMBERG

## Tarot, Spirituality, Mysticism, Hermeticism & the Occult

By **GARY LACHMAN**

**T**he twentieth-century esoteric philosopher Valentin Tomberg was born in 1900 in St. Petersburg to a Russian father and an Estonian mother. Little is known about his early life; indeed, Tomberg seems to have gone out of his way to draw as little attention to his life as possible. As his editor and translator Robert Powell remarked, Tomberg himself “attached no significance whatever to the biographical details concerning him.”<sup>1</sup> In fact, the main reason he is known today is that he is recognised as the author of a remarkable book, *Meditations on the Tarot*, that was and still is published anonymously. Ironically, the very steps Tomberg took to obscure his identity led to a great deal of interest in it.

What we do know about him is that by his late teens he had become deeply interested in Theosophy and the spiritual philosophy of Vladimir Soloviev, as well as in the more mystical aspects of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Russia in the early twentieth century was a remarkable time for a young man with spiritual interests to come of age. Soloviev, Russia’s first philosopher, who has found a new reader in Vladimir Putin, was one of the major philosophical and religious figures of a period in Russian history known as the Silver Age. This stretched from around 1890 to 1917, the year of the Bolshevik revolution, a historical eruption that devastated Tomberg’s family, as it did many others.

As I show in my book *The Return of Holy Russia*, the Silver Age was a time of deep interest in and almost obsession with religion, spirituality, mysticism and the occult, and it produced a powerful surge of creativity in literature, music, philosophy, and art. For a young man of Tomberg’s inclinations, having his spiritual awakening at this time no doubt made an impression on him that remained for the rest of his life.

### A NEW CULTURAL EPOCH

Although Madame Blavatsky, one of the founders of the

Theosophical Society, was Russian, her focus on Eastern sources of wisdom, continued by her successors, alienated many Russians, who were deeply Christian. Tomberg was one of them, and soon after joining the Theosophical Society he left, turning his allegiance to the work of Rudolf Steiner.

Steiner was immensely popular in Russia in the years leading up to the revolution, his highly Christianised version of Theosophy – which he would soon rechristen Anthroposophy – appealing to the generation of “God Seekers” that characterised the Silver Age. As I show in my book, both Steiner and the God Seekers had great hopes for a new “cultural epoch” to emerge from Russia at this time. In the view of Steiner and others, including Soloviev, Russia was charged with the mission of uniting the scientific knowledge of the west with the mystic intuition of the east, their integration giving birth, it was hoped, to a new creative consciousness that would transcend the limits of its parents.

Sadly, this marriage between east and west was precluded by the revolution and, as we know, something radically different emerged from Russia. Lenin’s adamantly

anti-spiritual ideology put paid to any notion of a new “cultural epoch,” and the chaos of the revolution cost Tomberg dearly. His family’s fortunes were lost, as were his father – who had a position in the czar’s government – mother, and brother. One story has it that during the chaos, Tomberg’s mother ventured into the streets. She never returned, and Tomberg later found her and their dog, both shot dead and tied to a tree. Like many who escaped the terror, Tomberg was unquestioningly anti-communist for the rest of his life.

### UPSTART ANTHROPOSOPHIST

In 1920, Tomberg made his way to Tallinn, Estonia. From there, he wrote several letters to Rudolf Steiner, asking if he could become his student. His letters went unanswered; it is unclear if Steiner ever read them or simply ignored them. Steiner’s silence evidently did not put Tomberg off Anthroposophy; in 1925, the year of Steiner’s death, Tomberg joined the Estonian

For a young man of Tomberg’s inclinations, having his spiritual awakening at this time no doubt made an impression on him that remained for the rest of his life.



Valentin Arnoldevitch Tomberg (1900-1973)  
Photo: National Archives of Estonia

branch of the Anthroposophical Society, eventually becoming its secretary-general. But friction soon appeared between Tomberg and the society; he was too individual a mind to remain merely a good anthroposophist.

Throughout the 1930s he wrote many articles for Anthroposophical journals, on a variety of subjects; many had to do with what Steiner called “the return of Christ in the etheric,” and the “mission” of different nationalities. Tomberg claimed that these articles were informed by an experience he had in 1931 when he was put in contact with the “angelic world.” This, no doubt, set him further apart from his fellows, and eventually he was asked to leave the society. At around this time he had also tried to find a place for himself at the Goetheanum, the society’s headquarters in Switzerland, but was denied this by Steiner’s widow.

In 1938, Tomberg moved to Holland; after the Nazis invaded in 1940, he joined the resistance. His relations with the Anthroposophical Society in Holland ran into the same problems as before. It seems the essence of the trouble was that Tomberg’s esotericism was even more Christocentric than Steiner’s; if you know Steiner’s work, you’ll know this is no easy feat. After the war, Tomberg moved to Cologne where he earned a degree in jurisprudence and became deeply engaged with Catholicism. It is unclear if he actually converted, but he became alienated from the Russian Orthodox Church because its leadership had seemed sympathetic to Hitler.

In 1948, Tomberg moved again, this time to England, where

friends found him work with the BBC as a translator; he was a polyglot and would later monitor Soviet broadcasts. In 1960 he retired, devoting himself to study and writing. He died in 1973, from a heart attack while on holiday with his wife and their son in Majorca. Aside from his early essays, practically all his work appeared only after his death, and one work in particular was designed by Tomberg himself to appear in precisely that way.

The work in question is Tomberg’s magnum opus, *Meditations on the Tarot*, subtitled “A Journey into Christian Hermeticism.” This was first published in French – the language in which it was written – in 1980, seven years after Tomberg’s death and nearly twice that long after the work’s completion, which Tomberg noted as 21 May 1967, the “Festival of the Holy Trinity.” German and English translations soon followed, but it was not until 2002 that a full English edition appeared through a mainstream American publisher, bringing Tomberg’s work to a wider reading public, albeit still a marginal one with a taste for the arcane and esoteric. It was also at this point that it became known Tomberg was the author of this work. And although by now his authorship is well known, as mentioned the book is still published anonymously, as was Tomberg’s wish.

## LETTERS FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE

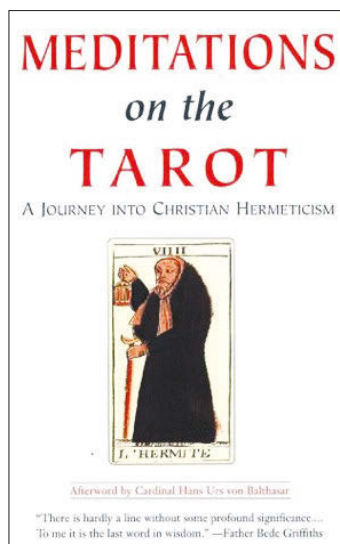
*Meditations on the Tarot* consists of twenty-two “letters to the Unknown Friend,” sent “from beyond the grave,” dispatched, that is, well after Tomberg’s death. The reason for these tardy communiques is that Tomberg wanted to mute any personal element in them, to have the reader of these letters focus on their message, not on the messenger. Tomberg himself insists that he has “said more about himself” in these letters than he “would have been able to in any other way.”<sup>2</sup> The unknown friend to whom Tomberg is writing is the reader, and Tomberg’s letters are long, discursive, deeply pondered and occasionally meandering essays on the twenty-two trumps of the Tarot, filled with references to Steiner, Teilhard de Chardin, Bergson, Nietzsche, Gurdjieff, the *Corpus Hermeticum*,

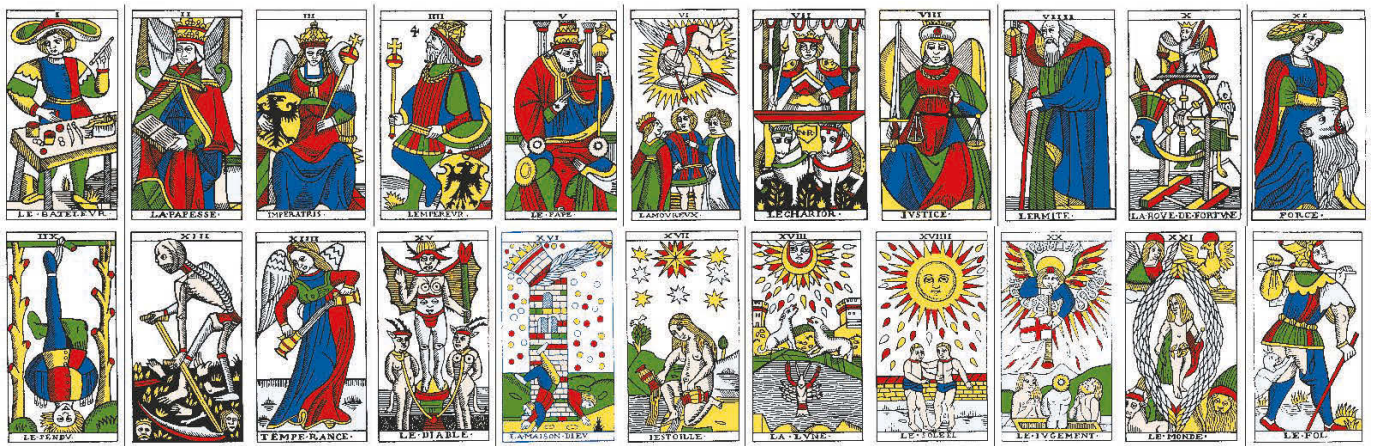
Catholic dogma, and many other writers, philosophers, mystics, and saints. (I should point out that the *Meditations* run to more than 600 pages.) Tomberg’s letters do not touch upon the divinatory character of the Tarot. Nor does he relate the trumps to the usual astrological or cabbalistic correspondences, as do most books on the Tarot, although both Cabbala and astrology make appearances.<sup>3</sup> Instead, the *Meditations* are illuminating, insightful, and not infrequently baffling excursions into the meaning of the symbols presented in the trumps, which Tomberg tells his unknown friends are *arcana*.

## ARCANA

Arcana, Tomberg tells us, are more than secrets, which are merely facts that are hidden from us, or allegories, which are figurative representations of abstract ideas. Arcana are “authentic symbols,” “magic, mental, psychic, and moral operations” that can awaken “new notions, ideas, sentiments and aspirations,” and which require more than an intellectual understanding for their power to be felt.<sup>4</sup>

One way of recognising authentic symbols, and of differentiating them from mere signs, Tomberg tells us, is that they





**ABOVE:** Valentin Tomberg used the Tarot de Marseilles, a pattern from which many subsequent tarot decks derive.

have the power to “conceal and reveal their sense at one and the same time according to the depth of meditation” one reaches in their contemplation.<sup>5</sup> A sign is nothing more than an indicator of what it points to. An arrow pointing to a door shows you the way out, but it does not share in you taking it. A symbol *participates* in the reality it presents, and its meaning, when grasped, should have an almost visceral effect on us. That is, it should *affect* us in such a way that it *effects* a change in our consciousness, our awareness, adding not only an intellectual knowledge but offering an existential encounter with hitherto unknown dimensions of Being. It introduces us to a bit of reality of which we were unaware.

This “transformational” power of symbols lead Tomberg to speak of the trumps as “enzymes” that enable us to be “fruitful in a given spiritual domain.” The trumps “ferment” the knowledge necessary for spiritual experience. This is why Tomberg speaks of them as “spiritual exercises,” whose aim is “to awaken from sleep... deeper layers of consciousness.”<sup>6</sup> They are definite encounters with esoteric realities, through which we, the unknown friends, are changed.

In this way, the trumps are similar to great works of art. According to Tomberg, the symbols of the Tarot should have the same effect on us as the “archaic torso of Apollo” had on the poet Rilke when he saw it while living in Paris. In its presence, Rilke knew that he “must change his life.”<sup>7</sup> A true encounter with the Tarot’s symbolism, Tomberg tells us, should make us feel the same. His aim is to get us to think Hermetically, to allow the rich symbolism of the trumps to reach into our imagination and trigger our faculty for seeing connections between things which we would otherwise ignore. For Tomberg, the essence of Hermeticism is the ability to perceive “the totality of things,” “the One, the All,” as the ancient alchemists called it, the deep, underlying unity at the heart of the multiplicity of Being.

## THE FRENCH CONNECTION

I should point out that Tomberg is writing in the French tradition of the Tarot – he bases his letters on the Tarot de Marseilles – and that this connection brings in the central theme of the book: to show how Roman Catholicism is an indubitable repository of Hermetic wisdom. Hence the subtitle, “A Journey into Christian Hermeticism.” Understandably, this may be sufficient reason for some unknown friends to forgo that journey. Yet we need not accept Tomberg’s thesis in order to profit from his book.

I can respect the high regard Tomberg has for Catholicism, without agreeing with him that “the more one advances on the way of free research... the more one approaches the Church.”<sup>8</sup> After much spiritual searching, the author of these meditations found a home in the Catholic church, but that does not mean that for us to learn from him we must take up residency there too. What strikes me as most important about the *Meditations* is not the arguments Tomberg makes for, say, the Ten Commandments as instructions in Hermetic philosophy or his belief that the fundamental virtues of the Christian faith – obedience, poverty and chastity – are the *sine qua non* of any esoteric pursuit, ingenious and thought-provoking as they are. We can embrace these dicta, take them with as many grains of salt as needed, or simply reject them. What strikes me as important about Tomberg’s *Meditations* for the non-Christian reader is the way Tomberg approaches the Tarot, his understanding of what we can call a Hermetic “way of knowledge.”

## CHRIST AND HERMES

Having said this, a look at history shows that Christ and Hermes are not such strange bedfellows as we may think. For a time during the Renaissance, Hermes Trismegistus, the legendary founder of the tradition which bears his name, was seen as a figure of equal importance with Christ, and vigorous attempts were made to incorporate the Hermetic teachings, found in the *Corpus Hermeticum*, into Catholic dogma.<sup>9</sup> In France there is a long tradition of a kind of “Catholic occultism,” reaching back to the nineteenth-century French mage Eliphas Levi, and leading on to characters like the eccentric Saint-Yves d’Alveydre and his disciple Gérard Encausse, who wrote under the pseudonym Papus; all three turn up in the *Meditations*. It is also true that there is a long tradition of literature on the Tarot in French. Indeed, it was Levi himself who first hit on the idea of linking the twenty-two trumps with the twenty-two “paths” on the Cabbalistic Tree of Life, a correspondence that is at the heart of practically all modern magic.

## HERMETIC SYNCRETISM

This linkage has subsequently been discredited, and most modern historians of the Tarot accept that there is no historical connection between the Tarot and the Cabbala.<sup>10</sup> Nor, for that matter, does there seem to be one with Egypt, which many occultists regarded as the Tarot’s source, seeing it as the so-called “Book of Thoth,” the Egyptian god of magic with whom Hermes Trismegistus is associated.

Yet for all his historical inaccuracy, Levi’s inspired howler has proved remarkably effective for the many occultists who have worked with his ideas. These include the members of the

Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and its most notorious associate, Aleister Crowley, as well as their many epigone. This seems to suggest that purists, who eschew such “romantic” notions as Levi’s and reject much that has accreted around the Tarot as nonsense, ignore the syncretic, *synthesising* character of Hermeticism. This was with it from the start, ages ago, when Thoth met the Greek god Hermes in ancient Alexandria, their fusion creating the “thrice great” one. This syncretic approach continued during the Renaissance when figures like Pico della Mirandola and others developed the notion of a “perennial philosophy,” which allowed for a Christian Cabbala – “culturally appropriating” a radically Jewish tradition – and, as mentioned, even a Christian Hermeticism. In this light, Levi seems merely to have done what Hermetic thinkers had been doing all along.

## ANALOGY

Although Tomberg is aware of the historical appearance of the Tarot in the late Middle Ages – he does argue, though, for a kind of “archetypal” link to an Egyptian source; Jung makes many appearances throughout the book – a similar syncretic approach is taken in his *Meditations*. This makes perfect sense. For Tomberg, Hermeticism itself is a synthesis of magic, gnosis, mysticism, and philosophy, and its aim is not to supplant science or to uncover new facts, but to perceive the facts we already possess from a different perspective, and to infuse them with an additional *depth*, the kind of depth we discover through our encounter with the arcana of the Tarot.

For Tomberg, *analogy* is the fundamental mode of acquiring knowledge in the Hermetic tradition, which proceeds through a process of synthesising the known and the unknown. The “open recognition of the relationship of all things and beings has engendered an exactly corresponding method of knowledge,” he writes.<sup>11</sup> That method is analogy, through which the “sympathy of all things” becomes apparent, not as a concept, or an idea or belief, but through a perception of it “in action” as it were, through the “fermenting” effect of the symbolic “enzymes” produced by our meditations on the trumps.<sup>12</sup>

This transformative effect is perhaps best seen in the Magician, the trump that Tomberg says is “the key to all the other Major Arcana.”<sup>13</sup> By understanding and performing the “spiritual exercise” the Magician presents, Tomberg tells us that we will be able to work our way through to the knowledge and experience contained in the arcana that follow. As I do not have space to more than touch on some of the insights that the Magician presents, I trust the unknown friends that read this article will be encouraged to accept Tomberg’s invitation to journey with him and perform some of these spiritual exercises themselves.

## CONCENTRATION WITHOUT EFFORT

The spiritual exercise of the Magician, Tomberg tells us, is aimed at developing two essential abilities, necessary for any successful Hermetic work. They are “concentration without effort” and “turning work into play.”<sup>14</sup>

“Concentration without effort” – what he also calls “active relaxation” – is achieved, Tomberg tells us, when we can direct our attention to whatever occupies us, without the constant chatter of the care-ridden ego leading our minds elsewhere.

When we can achieve an inner silence, free from the distractions of thought – the basic requirement of any inner work – the kind of concentration that would usually cost strenuous efforts can be reached “effortlessly.”

As an example, Tomberg suggests a tightrope walker – an aptly symbolic choice. He is certainly concentrating on his actions; if he wasn’t, he would fall. But Tomberg asks: “Do you believe that his thought and his imagination are occupied with what he is doing?”<sup>15</sup> The tightrope walker does not “calculate” or “plan” his next step because he has shifted his consciousness from his head – the worrying ego – to what Tomberg calls his “rhythmic system,” which possesses an intelligence of its own, the “intelligence of the heart” I have written about elsewhere.<sup>16</sup>

This shift from head to heart, Tomberg says, is symbolised by the lemniscate, or horizontal 8, that is formed by the Magician’s hat. This is the symbol of infinity, but, Tomberg tells us, it is also the symbol of “*eternal rhythm*,” the natural “flow” – as the psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi calls it – that our ever-worrying mind interferes with. When we have quieted our inner monologue, we can enter this flow. If we think of the “concentration without effort” we achieve when we are deeply “into” a book we are reading, we can get an idea of what Tomberg means. Our concentration is so focused we forget our

surroundings. Yet it requires no effort at all; in fact, we enjoy it.

This is the arcanum of “transforming work into play,” which is a result of achieving this kind of concentration.<sup>17</sup> When we enter the “zone of perpetual silence,” we can not only concentrate our consciousness “effortlessly;” any task we may be obliged to perform can become a source of delight.<sup>18</sup> Because we can draw from a “secret and intimate respiration,” he “who finds silence in the solitude of concentration without effort, *is never alone*.”<sup>19</sup>

He or she is never alone, because the Magician who has achieved this has “attained harmony and equilibrium between the spontaneity of the unconscious... and the deliberate action of the conscious,” the “I” or ego.<sup>20</sup> The Magician symbolises a state that is the “*synthesis* of the conscious and the unconscious,” or, as I have suggested, between our left and right brains.<sup>21</sup> Tomberg says this is equivalent to what Jung speaks of as “individuation,” which can result in what Marie-Louise von Franz calls “conscious spontaneity,” a paradoxical state in which one is “consciously active and still spontaneous,” in which the conscious and unconscious minds have an equal say.<sup>22</sup>

## TULPAS AND EGREGORES

This brief account of Tomberg’s interpretation of the Magician should give the reader an idea of what he may find if he dips into the *Meditations*. One other trump that I should at least mention is the Devil, the theme of Letter XV. This trump, Tomberg tells us, introduces us to the secrets and dangers of what he calls “counter-inspiration.” It presents a warning about the “intoxication” we experience when we become aware of our own power to “engender demons.”<sup>23</sup> The demon before whom the man and the woman stand enchained, Tomberg tells us, is one of their own making. It is a result of their misuse of the powers of will and imagination, the Magician’s tools in trade.

*Continued on page 64...*



The Magician, Tarot of Marseilles



# AUSTRALIA'S ESOTERIC HERITAGE

*'Do, Dare, Keep Silent'*

Unbeknownst to the vast majority of its citizens, Australia has a rich heritage of non-mainstream spiritual beliefs. In terms of history, Theosophy, Anthroposophy, Rosicrucianism and Spiritualism are today the better known 'alternative' spiritual movements established in the Great South-land during the past century and a half.

Traditionally, teachings and practices deemed 'occult' were just that – 'hidden', 'concealed' – and those involved were hesitant about publicly acknowledging their associations to outsiders. Presenting an 'alternative' to the prevailing culture, they were held to be 'esoteric' that is 'intended for only a small number of people.' Viewed with suspicion and disapproval by the dominant religion, the occult was relegated to the fringe of society. However, with the decline of mainstream Christianity in the last fifty years, we have witnessed a popularisation of occult teachings. Astrology, the Tarot, divination, clairvoyance, ceremonial magic, gematria... these occult sciences are now widely discussed, if not fully understood or appreciated.

Theosophical stalwart Charles Webster Leadbeater, Spiritualist preacher Vyvyan Deacon (1895–1938), New Thought pioneer Sister Veni Cooper-Mathieson (1867–1943), Gnostic bishop Richard Duc de Palatine (1916–1977), Dutch-born seer and Christian mystic Rev. Mario Schoenmaker (1929–1997), the Austral-Aquaria Rosicrucian leader William Long and his erstwhile disciple, the long-lived 'New Age' prophet Brother Fred Robinson (1891–1983)... These are a few of the more prominent 20th-century Australian spiritual visionaries.

Less known are the Eastern European occultists who came to Australia in the aftermath of World War II, many born in lands once part of the vast Russian Empire. Fleeing



Mouni Sadhu (1897-1971)

the upheavals of revolution and war, they had seen and suffered much. Steeped in the traditional European approach to esoteric studies, they deeply distrusted the popular image of the occult that arose in the late 60s and 1970s. For them, the occult was precisely that, *secret wisdom, the hidden teachings of the ages*. Unlike the wide-eyed Australian-born New Agers eager to publicise their activities, they were deeply committed to an Ancient Secret Tradition and understandably wary of divulging this to the uninitiated and the unprepared.

## MOUNI SADHU

Prominent among those who migrated to Australia in the post-war years was the Polish-born mystic Mieczyslaw Sudowski (1897–1971). After a period of involvement with occult groups in Eastern Europe, France and South America, he settled in Australia and established a study circle in Melbourne.

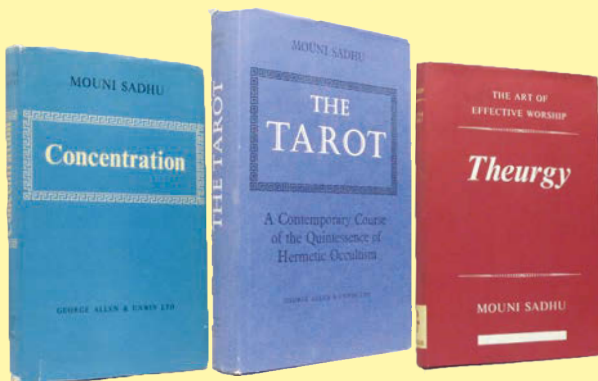
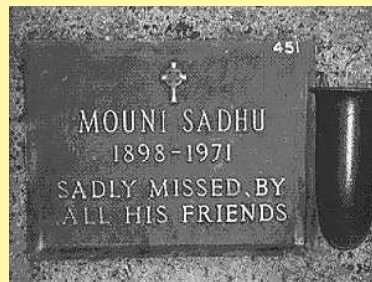
After a time in India, he changed his name to 'Mouni Sadhu', the name under which he wrote several books on mystical and esoteric themes. Sadhu has been described as "one of the most elusive and mysterious figures of Australian occultism [and] one of its most prolific authors," who "represented, essentially, a traditional occultism, concerned with secrecy and the heritage of the past." (*Other Temples, Other Gods* by Nevill Drury & Greg Tillett).

Mouni Sadhu's writings draw on a pure esoteric stream untainted by contemporary corruptions and New Age pretensions. His books include *Concentration: A Guide to Mental Mastery*; *Ways to Self-Realization: A Modern Evaluation of Occultism and Spiritual Paths*; *Samadhi: The Superconsciousness of the Future*; *The Tarot: A Contemporary Course on the Quintessence of Hermetic Occultism*; and *Theurgy: The Art of Effective Worship*.

Little is known about Mouni Sadhu's life prior to his coming to Australia. He was associated with other Eastern European adepts in this country, with whom he shared a special connection to a powerful underground current of Eurasian esotericism that had discretely emerged in imperial Russia in the years prior to the 1917 revolution.

Noteworthy is the influence of Valentin Tomberg on Mouni Sadhu's writing, particularly *The Tarot* and *Concentration*. And like Tomberg, he has also been linked to the mysterious Russian Martinist Gregory Ottonovitch Mebes (1868–1930), author of *The Course of Encyclopaedia of Occultism*. Mouni Sadhu stated that his own book *The Tarot* was based on that of Mebes.

– Mehmet Sabeheddin



The specific demons Tomberg speaks of are *tulpas* and *egregores*. *Tulpas* are part of the esoteric psychology of Tibetan Buddhism. They are thought-forms created by a single individual, through prolonged efforts of visualisation. Eventually, after much mental work, the *tulpa* can take on a life of its own, much to the dismay of its creator. As I point out in my book, *Dark Star Rising: Magick and Power in the Age of Trump*, both the traveller Alexandra David-Neel and the occultist Dion Fortune had experiences creating *tulpas*, and both write of their difficulties in regaining control of and eventually dissolving them.<sup>24</sup>

An *egregore* – which means “watcher” in ancient Greek – is a thought-form brought into existence by a group. As Tomberg tells us, there are no “good” *egregores*, only “evil” ones.<sup>25</sup> They can be “engendered by the collective will and imagination of nations,” Tomberg writes, but the aims of an *egregore* are always selfish, centred exclusively on gaining power and growing stronger at the expense of its creators. Once brought into existence, an *egregore* is harder to “dissolve” than a *tulpa*, given that it is the work of a group. This can be a cabal of occultists, or a political party – hence their inclusion in *Dark Star Rising*, which looks at the resurgence of a kind of “occult politics” in recent times. This seems to have raised its head during the run-up to the 2016 US presidential election and has remained on the scene since. It has also been at work in Russia.

Should we take *tulpas* and *egregores* seriously? A good question. Tomberg certainly did, and as he tells us, the Devil is one trump we should clearly keep an eye on.

## FOOTNOTES

1. Robert Powell, introduction to Valentin Tomberg, *Lazarus Come Forth!* (Great Barrington, VT: Inner Traditions, 2006) p. ix.
2. Anonymous, *Meditations on the Tarot* (New York: Tarcher/Penguin, 2002) p. ix.
3. The question of where and with whom Tomberg studied the Tarot is an interesting one. He speaks of a work, *The Sacred Book of Thoth – The Major Arcana of the Tarot*, by an “engineer” named Schmakov, published in 1916 which was “twice as large as Oswald Wirth’s” book on the Tarot (p. 590). He also says he read Ouspensky’s *The Symbolism of the Tarot* (1917). He tells his unknown friends that after the Bolshevik revolution, and presumably before going to Estonia, he became friends with members of a group of esoteric students that had been led by a mathematics professor, Gregory Ottonovitch Mebes. Mebes was the author of a book, *The Course of Encyclopaedia of Occultism* that is said to have influenced

Tomberg. In 1926, Mebes was sent to a gulag, where he died. The group had been dispersed by the revolution, but the members he met “transmitted all they knew and recounted everything concerning the work of their group” to Tomberg. (Ibid.) The group seemed to have studied the Tarot in the traditional French way, relating it to Cabala, magic, astrology, etc. Tomberg says that through the “forty-five years” of his own study, he has “surpassed” what he learned from them and that throughout the Letters – aside for one exception – he does not draw on it. Another esoteric thinker who wrote about the Tarot, Mouni Sadhu, is said, like Tomberg, to have been in contact with members of this group, and influenced by Mebes’ book. Some have seen similarities between Sadhu’s *The Tarot* (1962) and the *Meditations*, which the link with Mebes may explain.

4. Ibid. p.4.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid. p. 91
7. <https://poets.org/poem/archaic-torso-apollo>
8. Ibid. p. 283
9. See my book *The Quest for Hermes Trismegistus* (Edinburgh: Floris Books, 2011) pp. 154-56.
10. Robert M. Place, *The Tarot* (New York: Tarcher/Penguin, 2005) p. 73.
11. Anonymous p. 12.
12. Ibid. p. 4.
13. Ibid. p. 3.
14. Ibid. p. 8.
15. Ibid. p. 9.
16. Gary Lachman, *Lost Knowledge of the Imagination* (Edinburgh: Floris Books, 2017) pp. 52-53.

17. Anonymous p. 11. This is an arcana evidently known to Mark Twain, who makes good use of it in Tom Sawyer. There the wily Tom convinces his friends to paint a fence because he pretends to be enjoying it. Yet the trick is really on Tom because his friends actually do enjoy it; they have transformed work into play, by telling themselves it is play.

18. See my article “Getting Beyond the Robot” in *New Dawn* 182 (Sept-Oct 2020).

19. Ibid.
20. Ibid. p. 20.
21. Gary Lachman, *The Secret Teachers of the Western World* (New York: Tarcher/Penguin, 2015). In this book I argue that such a harmony is at the heart of the western esoteric tradition.
22. Marie-Louise von Franz, *Alchemy* (Toronto: Inner City Books, 1980) p. 238.
23. Anonymous p. 401.
24. Gary Lachman, *Dark Star Rising: Magick and Power in the Age of Trump* (New York: Tarcher Perigee, 2018) pp. 90-92.
25. Ibid. pp. 419-20.



The Devil, Rider-Waite Tarot



**GARY LACHMAN** is the author of twenty-one books on the links between consciousness, culture and the western esoteric tradition, including *The Secret Teachers of the Western World*, *Beyond the Robot: The Life and Work of Colin Wilson*, and, most recently, *Dark Star Rising: Magick and Power in the Age of Trump*. He writes for several journals in the UK, US, and Europe and his work has been translated into more than a dozen languages. He lectures regularly on his work and in a previous life was a founding member of the rock group Blondie. His new book is *The Return of Holy Russia*. Website: [www.garylachman.co.uk](http://www.garylachman.co.uk).



## TEACHERS OF NOTHING & NOTHING

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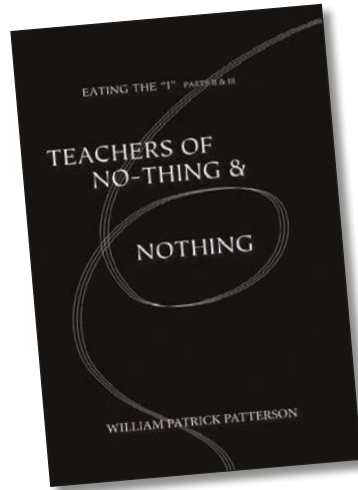
**N**ew Dawn readers should be familiar with Mr William Patrick Patterson as an author, filmmaker, public speaker, and teacher of G.I. Gurdjieff's Fourth Way Work. He was a student for 11 years of Lord John Pentland in both the New York and San Francisco branches of the Gurdjieff Foundation and also studied with Danish mystic Alfred "Sunyata" Sorensen and western Advaita master Jean Klein.

With this background, Patterson developed a practice called "conscious-body-breath-impressions" and went on to write nine books and found the Gurdjieff Legacy Foundation and *The Gurdjieff Journal* (est. 1992). He has produced an award-winning documentary film trilogy on The Fourth Way and now oversees his Online Fourth Way School.

This tenth and last book, Patterson proclaims, is an edited version of his diary, letters, dream accounts, and other notes from 1980 through 1995 consisting primarily of his memories from interactions with Sunyata (aka Sunya / Sunya Bhai) and Jean Klein. It's a delightfully anecdotal read that includes numerous colour plates of his paintings which, as he says, "...give a taste of the time."

Patterson begins with an account of how he first met Sunya aboard the then late Alan Watts' houseboat in Sausalito, California, and his immediate attraction to this enigmatic, turban-headed master when the guru told him directly that the "witness" is a very high state. Coming from the Gurdjieff Work as a student of Lord Pentland, this resonated with Patterson. Sunyata continued, "States aren't real. They come and go. Only Being is real."

Our author juxtaposes the recollections of his personal, everyday life with his spiritual pursuits in an amusing, informal way of writing, putting the reader in a relaxed mood. He also addresses some very private situations not normally divulged by most writers who would probably shrink from exposing their true feelings and actions.



The result is that we are encouraged to experience an intimacy with his life. Personal photos of family, friends, and teachers lead us to a closer understanding of the gradual development of Patterson's own Being.

It was December 7, 1981, when Sunya put a book in Patterson's hands saying, "Here, you'll like this." That book was *Neither This Nor That I Am* by Jean Klein. Patterson says: "I read it in one sitting. The thought was so clear, precise, penetrating, without embellishment. He wrote easily about that which cannot be spoken of. I was immediately taken, but then realised this Jean Klein, the author, was in Europe."

It was in April of the next year that Klein came to the US, and the two met in Berkeley. Patterson says that Klein reminded him of Pentland, and they ended up spending an hour and a half together on the porch of Klein's hotel room in conversation about many things, both esoteric and mundane. Klein returned to Berkeley that December and Sunya and Patterson both went to see him. Our author describes that when the two masters met, all he mysteriously saw was a "white blur. Their images disappeared. Just this emptiness. Then they reappeared."

So began an association between Patterson and Klein that lasted well beyond Sunya's and Pentland's death, both in 1984. We are told that there was no essential difference between Jean and Sunya, both being described as "Teachers of Nothing."

In April of 1992, after many years of work on himself, Patterson tells us of having an experience while checking out booths at a fair in Santa Rosa, California, walking around while "in a state of self-remembering, that is in self-sensing and true divided subject-object perception, when... suddenly there was

no subject. There was no perceiver, no thought. Only perceiving – direct, global conscious perception-reception of what is present without referent to past or future."

Later, he realised that this "was the living answer to the question carried for so many years about Self." It was the full integration of body-mind-senses – "the fourth state of the Self, the Heart, in that the causal heart centre of Nidra, deep sleep, is opened and made the centre of consciousness."

For a period of time he could not recall that he had truly "Eaten the I"; he had found himself outside the mind seeing that in reality there is no moment, no time, and he was living only in Being. As Klein described it to him later, "It was whole. There were all these moving parts, but they were all related. Nothing, no one was separate. It was all One. You are outside it, seeing it, feeling it, taking it all in, and inside it, as well, but not identified, not taking it in as a person."

But Patterson goes on to say that state of "the witness" is only temporary and for most cannot be sustained if one remains in a body on the Earth. In fact, it would be dangerous to do so because one would sacrifice one's humanity.

In a private communication between the author and this reviewer, he says he wrote this book "to prove that the Work combined with Advaita can lead to the highest level for a human being to reach without forfeiting his/her humanity," and adding, "Most people think they are in subject/object perception, but if we really are aware we will see the attention goes between the object and the subject over and over again because the subject is not relatively empty and so impressions are not directly processed. It is only when the subject, the body-mind of the being, is empty is there true subject/object."

There are numerous entertaining, insightful, and intimate details of the author's own life. However, the incident that was especially important to me was his 1988 account told to Klein of playing a game of chess with Lord Pentland some thirteen years earlier. Especially noteworthy was that Pentland had lent Patterson a little-known book called *The Art of Asha* about the symbols of chess and their significance. After some research of my own, I discovered that book to be about the esoteric meanings in the game, and I recommend all interested readers do their own investigation into the subject. It can be most enlightening, to say the least.

– Alan Glassman

# SHORT HISTORY OF THE CATHARS

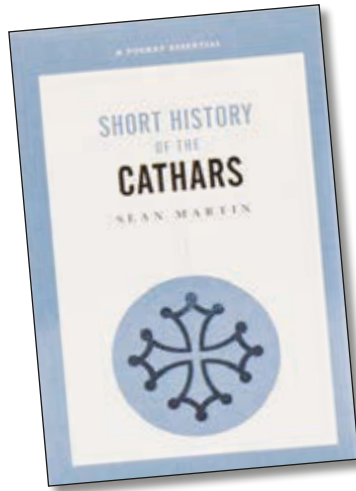
By Sean Martin

256 pages, paperback

PUBLISHED BY:

Oldcastle Books Ltd, 2018

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Jesus. The simple Cathar services and ceremonies stand in sharp contrast to the glitzy Catholic ceremonies. They were held in fields, barns and people's homes, where everyone was invited. Their priesthood was made up of simple artisans, and their scriptures were condensed down to the Sermon on the Mount and little else. Such pure simplicity clearly undermined the Church's plan to control the populace with the ever-present fear of hell-fire.

All these centuries later, people still flock to the Cathar strongholds, such as Montségur, in south-western France, the place of the final executions and other nearby villages and churches. I have personally climbed the steep and slippery trail up the mountain to Montségur and found myself in the company of many French locals who lay wreaths of wild-flowers on the Cathar monument at the place where men, women and children were put to the flame.

It behoves every thinking person to read the story of the Cathars and open the mind to their very simple, but pure form of Christianity.

I heartily recommend this wonderful book to all and everyone. We should all know this history. Did the Cathars protect the Holy Grail? Did they send it off to Scotland, as legend says? Or was this treasure, in reality, their wisdom and belief that everyone was a fallen angel, of no particular race or gender, and we are all trying to find our way home to the loving God?

Perhaps you might visit the Cathar country of *Languedoc*, a word that means "the language of yes," and say yes to the wisdom of the Cathars.

– Lesley Crossingham

were clearly impressed by the fact that this group of people lived their beliefs for all to see, in sharp contrast with the remote Catholic Church.

Even more interesting is the Cathars held women on the same level as men, and women could serve as spiritual leaders. These beliefs and ideas so challenged the Church that the fateful decision was made to put the Cathars to the sword, burning them alive in their churches, burning them at the stake for the audacity of thinking and living a different version of Christianity.

The Cathars' simple and beautiful beliefs did not die with them, much to the chagrin of Church authorities. After the mass executions, rumours spread that secret scriptures or documents, even the Holy Grail itself, had been secreted out of the final Cathar stronghold of Montségur. There are many mysteries, but none provable.

Author Sean Martin has deftly condensed the pertinent facts into this slim volume. Everything about the Cathars is in line with the true and simple teachings of a man we now call

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## YOUR SYMPHONY OF SELVES

DISCOVER AND UNDERSTAND MORE OF WHO WE ARE

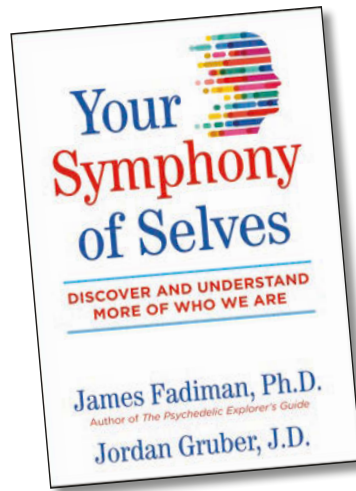
By James Fadiman, Ph.D & Jordan Gruber

448 pages, paperback

PUBLISHED BY:

Park St Press, 2020

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majority of people try to repress the voices or at least pay them little attention. When we do this, say Fadiman and Gruber, we stifle deep and powerful potentials within us. Of course, this revelation may not be easy for many to absorb, especially if we have a strong attachment to the personality we think we are, or how we think other people should be.

“The collected and synthesized information we are providing here might at first, puzzle you or disturb your equilibrium, or even upend your theory of yourself and others,” state the authors. “But it will likely change (for the better) how you view and understand (your selves) and others (their selves).”

This book can change your life as you examine your thinking and reactions to life in new ways. You may find yourself starting to let go of the old ways you used to characterise who you are – that single “unitary, monolithic self.” You can begin to accept and appreciate these perhaps unfamiliar inner selves, as well as the selves of others.

Most of us remember the late rock star David Bowie. He was known as a person who constantly reinvented himself to portray and live a number of identities. And it appears he was very comfortable with his many selves, which is why he was such an amazingly creative individual. We all have this inner potential.

The authors offer a simple and yet profound pathway for the reader to examine his or her inner realm. They introduce and explain the concept using the example of well-known artists like David Bowie. By following this approach, they say, we are more able to stay in our “right minds” and remain mentally stable and healthy. The act of trying to be the “same” all the time can

Most of us would agree that everyone has a unique personality, but we labour under outdated assumptions that this personality is a constant that only steps out of line under duress or rare circumstances. Another way of understanding ourselves is to consider that we each have multiple personalities – colourful distinctive, autonomous and inherently valuable aspects of a multi-self. Perhaps by honouring and embracing our multiple selves can we be truly free.

This approach is the foundation of a new and groundbreaking book, *Your Symphony of Selves*, by James Fadiman, PhD and Jordan Gruber. Inside they toss aside the antiquated idea that multiple ‘selves’ are a flaw or pathology, and instead reveal that the healthiest of people, both mentally and emotionally, are those who naturally learn to appreciate and work in harmony with their own personal symphony of selves.

They suggest that this approach to self-understanding arms us with fantastic gifts of creativity and ability. Each one of us can prepare for any situation by shifting to the appropriate self rather than being switched or triggered into a suboptimal part of who

we are. They state that by recognising your different selves, you are granted increased access to skills, talents and creativity and, perhaps most importantly, latent and unconscious sources of inspiration. Most delightfully, this information can “re-mind” you to be in the “right mind” at all times.

James Fadiman, Ph.D., with degrees from Harvard and Stanford, is an American psychologist and writer. He is acknowledged for his extensive work in the field of psychedelic research, in particular microdosing. Jordan Gruber, J.D., is a writer and editor, founder of Enlightenment.com, and leading advocate of the rebound exercise through the SuperBound Project.

Many of us experience moments of internal conflict, perhaps over consuming the last cookie or whether to run a red light. Sometimes we even talk to our “selves” to have a brief discussion over some dilemma. Most of us assume we are being silly, but the research in this book reveals that these inner voices are quite natural and thankfully normal. However, the vast

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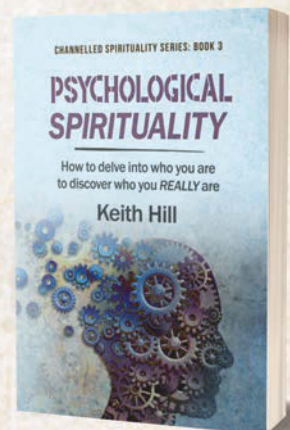
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bring on mental instability and stress, whereas allowing the inner realm to reveal our other aspects fosters mental agility and health.

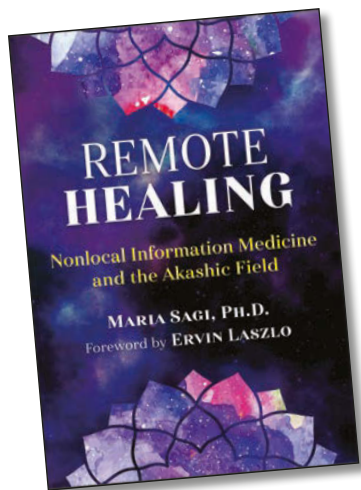
The authors also study the varied forms of “selves” and how they interact. The reader is encouraged to study their own reactions to unfold their inner landscape. Most importantly, they examine our idea of what is “healthy and normal” in the twenty-first century as well as how we can work with our particular symphony of selves to create beautiful music in our lives. We learn to use our “kit” to honour our function, and once we totally embrace this varied and colourful “crew” within, we can indeed create a masterpiece within our life.

As an artist, author, singer, songwriter, gardener, mother, and homemaker, I fully relate to the author’s proposal that each of us embrace the small orchestra within. I have successfully done this all my life, so often that friends assume I have “special” abilities or gifts. I have worked on all my “talents,” but it is much more than that. When I want to develop a skill, I find it within, and that includes a “self” who feels confident enough to express my desire. I have always called this “changing hats” according to requirements. And I have always believed that anyone can do this – indeed, everyone should – I speak from personal experience.

The information in this book was a wonderful confirmation of what I had felt and known for many years. Therefore, I heartily and happily recommend it to all and everyone. Deep within your psyche are treasures undreamed of. You can uncover them, harness their powers, and allow those inner selves to become a rich and precious part of you. As you allow this new light to shine out of your heart and into the world, you bring the finest gifts to share with everyone. These previously unknown gifts bubble to the surface effortlessly and make your life shine. You were never meant to play with just one speaker, but a full sound-around-multi-dimensional, intergalactic sound system.

Who knows what you may uncover within! There are talents and powers awaiting your inspection and delight. The richest journey is indeed an interior one – into the great unknown within every individual. In the end, it is that expression that will bring healing gifts to ourselves and our world.

– Lesley Crossingham



## REMOTE HEALING NONLOCAL INFORMATION MEDICINE AND THE AKASHIC FIELD

By Maria Sagi, Ph.D.

240 pages, paperback

**PUBLISHED BY:**

**Healing Arts Press, 2020**

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This is a truly fascinating book about what can be called quantum medicine – the kind of subtle, self-healing that is rapidly becoming more of a science than an art. It is undoubtedly the future of medicine.

Dr Maria Sagi is well known in Europe as an inventor and practitioner of her own methods of remote healing that are based upon ancient, mystical traditions as well as on the work of contemporary pioneers like Erich Körbler, Gordon Flint, Franz Stern, and others.

The fundamental principle behind this mode of diagnosis and treatment originates in the understanding and acceptance of the nonlocal nature of reality – that the universe consists of information in the quantum vacuum sea of energy (or zero point field/ZPF), the virtual energy fluxes that “in-form” the material world.

While not meant to replace allopathic medicine and other mainstream methods of healing but to augment them, fundamental to this approach is recognition of quantum characteristics such as nonlocal interconnections in both space and time between patient and healer, by what Schrödinger called “entanglement,” Einstein “spooky action at a distance”, and László “the universal holofield.”

Sagi explains in detail and with many personal examples of how it is

the basis for chakra, psychomeridian, and psychological geometric symbol therapy, as well as diagnosis and treatment using dowsing, Silva mind control, homeopathy, psionics, shamanic and “medicine man” healing, low dose medicine, synchronisation of the two brain hemispheres, and even macrobiotics and holistic medicine in order to insert healing information into the patient’s morphic field.

The techniques for these methods involve balancing the body’s own individual morphic pattern (energy field) and aligning and maintaining it with what Sagi calls the “generic species pattern.” Implicit in this method is the universal existence of what the Hindus call an Akashic field which in-forms the local Pranic vital force moved in yoga; Chi and Ki energy (East Asian); the sahu, ka, ba, khabit, khu, ab, and sekhem etheric bodies (ancient Egyptian); the human chakras/energy centres (Hindu); mana (Hawaiian Kahunas); pneuma (Greek); Ruah (Old Testament Bible); and other energy fields and subtle body names indigenous to different cultures. Evidence of such healing practices goes back many thousands of years as witnessed by relics from various ancient cultures all around the world.

Sagi takes great pains to identify and explain for us numerous methods like Körbler’s “vector system,” radiesthesia (dowsing), her own “Y” symbol system, the use of bioindicators and photo-based systems, “informed water,” Hahnemann’s homeopathy, Fritz Albert Popp’s tuning fork model, remote viewing, and even everyday intuitional modes that can be used by anyone with a genuine interest in pursuing both hands-on and remote healing.

A number of other author/practitioners are directly quoted, and Ervin László himself contributes both the book’s Foreword and Epilogue which attest to his own successful experience as one of Sagi’s patients. The volume concludes with an Appendix written by electrical engineer Peter Köhne who gives us the history of radionics with examples of its foremost inventors and their tools.

One reviewer calls this a “pioneering and groundbreaking” book. I believe *New Dawn* readers will find it a most rewarding read, rich with both data and the author’s personal experiences, as she further contributes to the literature concerning advanced therapeutic ways of healing.

– Alan Glassman

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## JULIUS EVOLA

### THE PHILOSOPHER AND MAGICIAN IN WAR: 1943-1945

By Gianfranco de Turris

320 pages, hardback

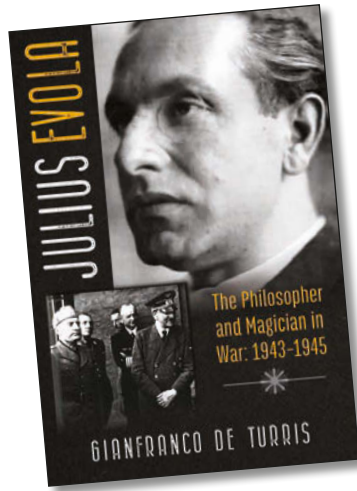
PUBLISHED BY:

Inner Traditions, 2020

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Traditionalism – the school of perennialist religious thought which was inaugurated in the French metaphysician René Guénon’s writings exactly a century ago – has been in the news quite a lot recently, with sensational articles being written about its alleged influence on prominent figures involved with Right-wing populism around the world (Donald Trump’s former Chief of Staff Steve Bannon being the biggest name among them). But of the many philosophers who followed in Guénon’s footsteps, none has aroused more controversy than the Italian philosopher Julius Evola.

Evola, like all of the Traditionalist authors, avoided telling us much about his life, believing that he was merely a medium through which the timeless wisdom of the world’s esoteric traditions was expressing itself amidst the modern world’s spiritual darkness. For him, his personality was not important, and readers should instead focus on his ideas. Indeed, anyone who reads his “intellectual autobiography,” *The Path of Cinnabar*, will learn a great deal



about Evola’s thought processes but very little in terms of concrete facts.

Due to this biographical dearth, rumours, myths, and outright slander have perpetually swirled around his name, not least due to his engagement with Italian Fascism and German National Socialism. This has particularly been the case in the Anglosphere. Most of Evola’s major writings have been translated into English, but until now there was not a single work of secondary literature about him. Thus, Inner Traditions’ release of Gianfranco De Turris’ account of Evola’s life during the Second World War is a welcome and timely resource.

While it is an important book, it should first be made clear what it is not. It is not a comprehensive account of Evola’s life (1898–1974). The story begins in 1943, when Evola found him-

self thrust into the middle of historical events, and ends in the early 1950s. It also does not discuss Evola’s teachings except insofar as they shed light on his possible motivations; those wishing to learn about his ideas should go to Evola’s own books. Still less is it an introduction to Evola; those previously unfamiliar with him would find it incomprehensible.

De Turris’ study is rather a very dense and detailed scholarly work which solely addresses the known facts of Evola’s activities during the latter part of the Second World War. Much of what the book reveals is the result of very recent research and is being presented for the first time. It is therefore aimed primarily at those who already have a deep knowledge of and interest in Evola’s life and work.

Evola was not primarily a political thinker. The vast majority of his works deal with religion, the occult, and philosophy in the pure sense. However, unlike the other Traditionalist thinkers, who eschewed politics, Evola felt compelled to attempt to influence the politics of his time in a direction that he hoped would be more consistent with the principles that he believed undergirded all the world’s pre-modern political orders. For Evola, true politics is only possible when the transient material world is governed by leaders who have attained direct contact with Tradition – the eternal and unchanging metaphysical core that lies at the heart of all the world’s religious traditions – through a process of deep study, practice, and heroic self-overcoming.

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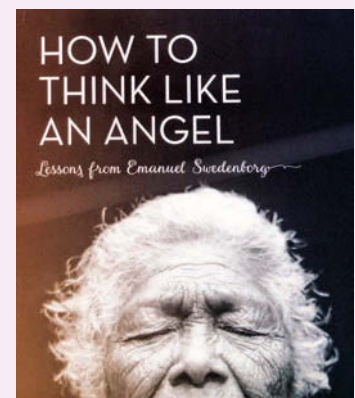
## HOW TO BECOME AN ANGEL

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Everyone who studies Evola must come to terms with his involvement in two of the most notorious regimes of the twentieth century. Evola never considered himself a Fascist – he famously referred to himself as a “superfascist,” by which he meant that he sought to transcend Fascism’s limitations and achieve a truly traditional political redress. (Evola was also never a member of the Fascist party.) Still less was he a Nazi – he made his disagreement with the Nazis’ racial policies, populism, and contempt for aristocracy well-known. However, Evola detested liberalism, democracy, and socialism above all, regarding them as the modern world’s primary corrupting agents.

While he recognised that the fascist movements were also products of modernity, he saw in their hierarchical structure the possibility that a new elite – trained and fostered in traditional principles – could develop and eventually take charge of them, thus giving rise to a truly anti-modern, aristocratic political force. Toward this end, Evola worked as a writer, editor, and occasional speaker across Europe during the 1930s and early ‘40s, hoping to plant the seeds of Tradition.

How one judges this activity is up to each reader, but De Turrís’ book at last furnishes the facts to counter the many lies and half-truths that have grown around this period in Evola’s life, and thus gives us a clearer picture with which to understand the man’s choice to take this path.

Until mid-1943, Evola had been working as a freelance intellectual, having been rejected for service in the Italian army because he had refused membership in the Fascist Party. That summer saw the war turn against the Axis, culminating in southern Italy’s invasion by the Allies followed by a coup against Mussolini. Evola, who joined with those who sought to save Fascism, was present at Hitler’s headquarters in East Prussia in September 1943 following Mussolini’s dramatic rescue from imprisonment by German special forces. This led to the proclamation of the Italian Social Republic – ostensibly the true government of Italy, but in fact little more than a German puppet regime – in the unoccupied north of the country, leading to a brutal civil war that was to linger even beyond the end of formal hostilities in April 1945.

Evola knew the war was lost but felt compelled to stay in the fight. This was because of his sense of duty to a cause he had already been supporting, as well as the fact that, to a man of his



Julius Evola & Gianfranco de Turrís

principles, nothing was more horrific than the prospect of a post-war world dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union, which embodied everything he despised. Although the details of his activities remain vague, De Turrís presents evidence that Evola did clandestine work to help prepare a “stay behind” network to foment resistance against the Allies after Rome itself was occupied, as well as to lay the groundwork for an order that could continue to propagate a traditional conception of politics even after an Allied victory.

In 1944, Evola ended up travelling to Vienna, Austria at the behest of the German SD, the intelligence wing of the notorious SS. He departed Rome one step ahead of Allied intelligence agents, and apparently carried nothing more in his suitcase than the papers that would eventually be published as *Introduction to Magic* – one of the greatest contributions to occult literature of the twentieth century. What exactly he was doing for the SD has long been a matter of fierce speculation; for many years all that was known was that Evola’s work had something to do with a cache of Masonic documents that had been confiscated by the German forces during their sweep across Europe. De Turrís presents convincing evidence that Evola was, in fact, attempting to recreate the Masonic rituals that had existed before they became corrupted by what he believed were the “counter-Traditional,” subversive elements that came to dominate it in modern times.

This project was cut short, however, by an American bomb during a massive raid on Vienna in January 1945. Evola had decided to take a walk through the city “to test his fate,” as he put it, during the raid – although as De Turrís tells us, the bombing was of such intensity that Evola was no safer in his flat than he was in the streets. He ended up being caught in one of the explosions and was severely injured; he remained paralysed from the

waist down for the rest of his life. He spent the following six years in various hospitals in Austria, Hungary, and Italy – undaunted, however, and continuing to work on his books and correspond even during this difficult and painful period.

De Turrís documents various hints which suggest that Evola applied some of the esoteric practices that he had explored earlier in life to his new circumstances, and speculates that these helped to sustain him through his long recovery.

Evola finally did return home, however, and if anything became a much more prominent figure in post-war Italy than he had been before. Although broken in body, Evola found renewed purpose in becoming a guru to a new generation of Right-wing traditionalists in whom he sought to instil the principles that had been lacking in Fascism, and which he believed were even more sorely needed in Italy’s new democratic republic.

While this is not a book for newcomers, De Turrís has nevertheless done both “Evolomaniacs” and history a great service by shedding light on this curious intersection between an extraordinary man’s life and the most crucial period of the twentieth century.

Appropriately, the book concludes with an appendix consisting of two articles that Evola published in late 1943. One of them begins: “The maxim of ancient wisdom is that the events and aspects of life never count as much as the ability of having power over them and the meaning that is attributed to them.” One imagines that this might well have been Evola’s response to this book.

– John Morgan

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## ABOUT OUR REVIEWERS

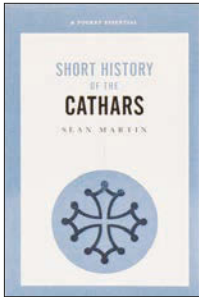
**ALAN GLASSMAN** has a background in architecture and has studied metaphysical teachings for over 40 years. He can be reached by email for discussion about sacred geometry/mythology/cosmology/hermetic research/post-quantum physics at [pleromata@comcast.net](mailto:pleromata@comcast.net).

**LESLEY CROSSINGHAM** is an author, publisher and artist. Discover more about Lesley at her website [www.lesleycrossingham.com.au](http://www.lesleycrossingham.com.au).

**JOHN MORGAN** is a freelance editor and writer who happened to be born in the US but is now based in Hungary. His interests include literature, philosophy, religion and esotericism, consciousness, the True Right, and related issues.



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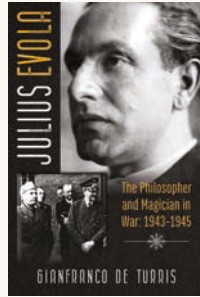


## SHORT HISTORY OF THE CATHARS

by Sean Martin – Flourishing principally in France's Languedoc region and Italy, the medieval sect known as the Cathars taught that the world is evil and must be transcended through a simple life of prayer,

work, fasting, and non-violence. Believing themselves to be the heirs of the true heritage of Christianity, the Gnostic Cathars rejected the Catholic Church, and found increasing favour among peasants and the nobility, as Sean Martin details in this history. The Church, however, responded with the Albigensian Crusade, culminating in Europe's first deliberate genocide.

256 pages, paperback, \$22.00

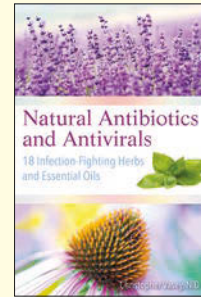


## JULIUS EVOLA: THE PHILOSOPHER AND MAGICIAN IN WAR: 1943-1945

by Gianfranco de Turris – An intimate portrait of Evola and his wartime activities that rebuts many of the Fascist pseudo-myths about him. Traces the Baron's

activities in Italy, Germany, and Austria during World War II. Clarifies Evola's relations with Nazism and Fascism and reveals how he passionately rejected both ideologies because they were totalitarian. Draws on personal conversations with those who knew Evola, new documentation never before made public, and letters from the Haki and Scaligero archives.

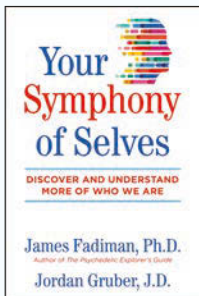
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## NATURAL ANTIBIOTICS AND ANTIVIRALS: 18 INFECTION-FIGHTING HERBS AND ESSENTIAL OILS

by Christopher Vasey, N.D. – Explains how to use medicinal herbs and essential oils to fight infectious illness, strengthen the immune system, and combat antibiotic resistance. Presents 18 of the most potent antibiotic and antiviral herbs and one beehive remedy, propolis, detailing how to use them and what illnesses each is best suited to treat. Reveals how natural antibiotics have antiviral properties, lack side effects, and have no adverse effects on non-targeted bacteria, such as intestinal flora.

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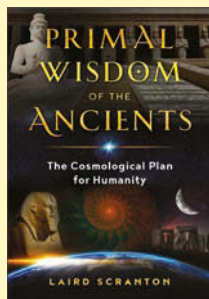


## YOUR SYMPHONY OF SELVES: DISCOVER AND UNDERSTAND MORE OF WHO WE ARE

by James Fadiman, Ph.D. & Mr. Jordan Gruber, J.D. – Why you are a different you at different times and how that's both normal and healthy. Reveals that

each of us is made up of multiple selves, any of which can come to the forefront in different situations. Offers examples of healthy multiple selves from psychology, neuroscience, pop culture, literature, and ancient cultures and traditions. Explores how to harmonise our selves and learn to access whichever one is best for a given situation.

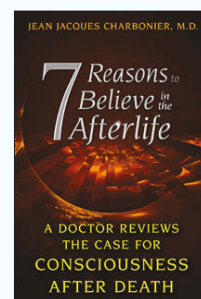
448 pages, paperback, \$33.00



## PRIMAL WISDOM OF THE ANCIENTS: THE COSMOLOGICAL PLAN FOR HUMANITY

by Laird Scranton – Examines how the similarities of symbols and wisdom across many cultures point to an ancient civilising plan and system of ancient instruction. Reveals the shared cosmological knowledge of Dogon and Maori cultures, ancient Egypt, Gobekli Tepe, Vedic India, the Sakti civilisation, Buddhism, the Tibetan Bon religion, and the kabbalistic tradition of the Hebrews. Explores symbols and techniques used to frame and preserve instructed knowledge as it was transmitted orally from generation to generation. Explains how this shared ancient knowledge relates to the precessional year and the cycles of time known as the yugas.

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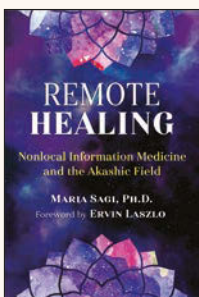


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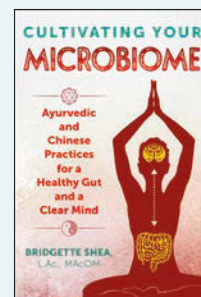


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