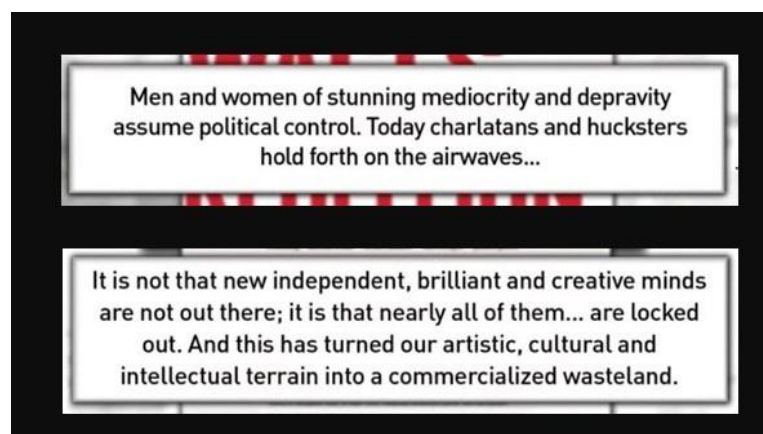


In 1965, Cecil Collins gave a public lecture titled "The Artist in the New Age," and in it he wrote that:

"It is part of our democratic self-deception and sentimentality that we vaguely assume we are without an elite, when in fact it is quite clear that we are ruled today by the elite of scientific technocrats and politicians who are quite clearly spiritually and culturally illiterate. They represent a low level of awareness and consciousness; they have no philosophy of life other than the exploitation of nature and of man, and the making of money. This is the same thing actually." ¹

Andrei Tarkovsky:

"Modern mass culture, aimed at the "consumer", the civilisation of prosthetics, is crippling people's souls, setting up barriers between man and the crucial questions of his existence, his consciousness of himself as a spiritual being. ²



Jeffrey Kirpal:

". . . fake religious arguments are being used to demonise segments of the population – particularly when it comes to migrants and Muslims – and to promote the US as a nation that is blessed by God, without ever taking into account the "bond between capital and profits and arms sales".

Explore Kirpal material -

The Impossible Exists – an interview with Jeffrey Kripal. [[ONLINE HERE](#)]

Edgewalker: An Interview with Jeffrey J. Kripal. [[ONLINE HERE](#)]

Noam Chomsky:

"There are no magic answers, no miraculous methods to overcome the problems we face, just the familiar ones: an honest search for understanding, education, organisation, and action that raises the cost of state violence for its perpetrators, or that lays the basis of institutional change - and the search for the kind of commitment that will persist despite the temptations of disillusionment, despite many failures and only limited successes, inspired by the hope of a brighter future."

Gary Olson:

¹ Cecil Collins, *The Vision of the Fool and Other Writings*, Ipswich: Golgonooza, 1994.

² Andrei Tarkovsky, *Sculpting in Time* 1986, p. 42. [https://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Andrei_Tarkovsky]

“The global capitalist culture with its premium on accumulation and profits not only devalues an empathic disposition but produces a stunted character in which everything is transformed into a commodity, not only things, but individuals themselves. The very capacity to practice empathy (love) is subordinated to our state religion of the market in which each person seeks advantage in an alienating and endless commodity-greedy competition.”³

David Brooks:

“In this worldview, morality has nothing to do with anything. Altruism, trust, cooperation and virtue are unaffordable luxuries in the struggle of all against all. Everything is about self-interest.

People are wired to cooperate. Far from being a flimsy thing, the desire for cooperation is the primary human evolutionary advantage we have over the other animals.

People have a moral sense. They have a set of universal intuitions that help establish harmony between peoples. From their first moments, children are wired to feel each other’s pain. You don’t have to teach a child about what fairness is; they already know. There’s no society on earth where people are admired for running away in battle or for lying to their friends.

Realist leaders like Trump, McMaster and Cohn seek to dismiss this whole moral realm. By behaving with naked selfishness toward others, they poison the common realm and they force others to behave with naked selfishness toward them. By treating the world simply as an arena for competitive advantage, Trump, McMaster and Cohn sever relationships, destroy reciprocity, erode trust and eviscerate the sense of sympathy, friendship and loyalty that all nations need when times get tough.”⁴

Judith Simmer-Brown:

“Trungpa Rinpoche described the acquisitive pursuit that binds humans to suffering as the hallmark of construction of personal identity, or ‘ego.’ To promote this core activity, three allegorical ‘lords of materialism’ pursue three levels of acquisitiveness: the lord of form refers to physical acquisition, the lord of speech to conceptual acquisition, and the lord of mind to acquisition in the spiritual realm. According to these descriptions, materialism must be challenged or it will co-opt our physical lives, our communities, and our spiritual cores. ‘Physical materialism’ refers to the compulsive pursuit of pleasure, comfort, and security as a balm for all our problems and concerns. Culturally, it is expressed in the form of consumerism.”⁵

Judith Simmer-Brown, Ph.D. Religious Studies, Naropa University Boulder, Colorado

Simmer-Brown article – now must go over it again with a Day-Glo highlighter – I do not think we can all be Carthusian monks and retire from the world – but in Timothy Leary’s words: turn on, tune in, drop out - the “drop-out” could mean the Carthusian option or the Buddhist monk or nun’s renunciation of the world – but that is NOT the point – the idea is that we are starting, a mere effort, to free ourselves from the Great Lie – or that enslavement that we talked about. This can take place in countless simple ways. It can be a practical project, but as I always remind myself – somewhere in the background there is a metaphysical dimension that needs to be attended to –

³ Gary Olson, Neuroscience and Moral Politics: Chomsky’s Intellectual Progeny, October 16, 2007

⁴ David Brooks, The NY Times, Donald Trump Poisons the World, June 2, 2017

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/02/opinion/donald-trump-poisons-the-world.html>

⁵ “Cultivating the Wisdom Gaze: A Contemplation on the Outer and Inner Causes of Globalization” Book Chapter, *Hooked!: Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire, and The Urge to Consume* edited by Stephanie Kaza, Shambhala Publications, 2004. [\[ONLINE HERE\]](#)

perhaps only for the few – but at the end of the day – the questions such as Who are we? What is our purpose in Life &c. come into focus. Perhaps attending to these aspects would help those who suffer so much from a lack of meaning and use drugs, [both legal and illegal] to keep Reality at bay. But then again, what is Real? I think it is also crucial to read James Hillman on the psychic numbing – will send it now – these texts, Hillman, Simmer-Brown, Leary, Gary Snyder, are all in essence saying the same thing. Hillman looks at the suffering from the point of view of the therapist.

Perhaps we need to gather these texts as a working prospectus. Print them all out -

Visionaries Joanna Macy and David Korten have popularized the phrase "the Great Turning" as a way to name our collective and diverse efforts to transition from our exploitative and destructive industrial growth society to a truly just and life-sustaining society, a shift that they and a growing number of changemakers believe represents a new and pivotal epoch in our human evolution. The Great Turning is all-encompassing, giving answer to the great array of our current social and ecological concerns -- from racial justice to indigenous sovereignty, from economic imperialism to murderous drones, from factory farming to fracking, and far beyond.

JEAN GEBSER OBSERVED that all transitional ages bear a dangerous, Janus-faced character. Light and darkness, violence and catharsis, crisis and opportunity all mix and intermingle. In our own era of increasing political upheaval and ecological devastation, Gebser's words are as prescient now as they were half a century ago. As our external future becomes increasingly denatured and decultured, the equilibrium we seek may lie less in material solutions, and more in the fundamental question of consciousness. When the extremes of cynicism and optimism fail us, a more discerning investigation of our Janus-faced times is called for. Critical challenges must be navigated as clandestine opportunities for the manifestation of a new consciousness. Only by engaging crisis as a creative death are we able to embrace the potential irruptions of the integral reality hidden in our fragmented world.

This conference invites its participants to examine the liminal space of "Crisis and Mutation" in order to concretize the ever-latent (yet ever-present) origin. In doing this we seek to unveil the integral presence underpinning the complex and conflicting undulations of human evolution. Some of the questions this conference seeks to address include:

How can the symptoms of disintegration that fragment our world be understood as negative indicators of the integral (i.e. what is the solution hidden in the dissolution)?

How can tension be used to liberate ourselves from the extremes that create this very tension?

What is the "alchemy" of consciousness by which we can engage and transmute deficient manifestations into integral concretions?

<http://www.gebser.org/conference>

HUNTING RALPH & Mining Corbin

Henry Corbin:

"The gnostics of Islam, in agreement with the Jewish Kabbalists, have particularly insisted on the idea of a "prophetic philosophy." It is a prophetic philosophy that our world needs. It is to this above all that we must be called. Such was the meaning of the passage written by the philosopher Theodore Roszak that I have quoted elsewhere. It has the force of a program: "Perhaps I am implying," he wrote, "that the resurrection (of gnosis) figures among the most urgent projects of our epoch." ⁶

⁶ Henry Corbin, *Eyes of Flesh and Eyes of Fire*. Science and Gnosis. Opening address, June 1978. l'Université Saint Jean de Jérusalem. Translated from: *Les Yeux de chair et les yeux de feu: la science et la gnose : colloque tenu à Paris les 2,3 et 4*

YOU ARE THE ONE

THE X AMOUNT ⁷

I have always maintained, and mentioned previously in these letters, that according to an old Rosicrucian theory, of Egyptian ancestry, the period up to one's birthday is always fraught with interesting experiences. It is almost as if the dross comes to the surface of being, and there is an intensification of perceptions. I was recalling the nine months I spent in the South African Navy - 1965- 66. I enjoyed being so close to the sea. But during that period, I had a few rather extraordinary experiences. I would wake up in the morning, and not know *who* I was, or *where* I was, or for that matter, *what* I was. It was a complete *annihilation of the ego* - if one can use such words - and slowly everything would fall into place and I would be back, so to speak, in the world.

These experiences may or may not have been connected with an earlier existential crisis, in my early teens, when I also could not work out what the meaning of existence was. Until that is, I encountered Hinduism, and eventually Buddhism, which assisted me in placing the matter into perspective.

In one of Lawrence Durrell's islomain trilogy on Corfu, Rhodes, and Cyprus, *Prospero's Cell*, there is a character who Durrell only identifies as Count D. who pontificates on Philosophy here and there. I particularly liked this piece:

'All speculation that goes at all deep becomes metaphysics by its very nature; we knock up against the invisible wall which bounds the prison of our knowledge. It is only when a man has been round that wall on his hands and knees, when he is certain that there is no way out, that he is driven upon himself for a solution.'" [8]

Of course, in Buddhism, the *self* is the last place to go for a solution, but we get the idea that there are no solutions in the external world - and it is best to commence a search in the internal world for answers to the pressing questions of life. Count D. very much wraps the issue up with this:

"'Philosophy,' he once said, 'is a doubt which lives in one like hookworm, causing pallor and lack of appetite. Suddenly one day you awake and realize with complete certainty that ninety-five per cent of the activities of the human race - to which you supposed you had belonged - have no relevance whatsoever for you. What is to become of you?'" [9]

What indeed?

But I would continue by suggesting that it is the 5% ' . of the activities of the human race . . ' that are deeply relevant. In Biblical Mythology, if one can coin such a term, in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, God promises to spare the cities from his destructive wrath if X amount of *just* people can be found. Of course, even X amount could not be rustled up - and so the Divine retribution rained down, rather like the same Judeo-Christian scientists who unleashed the atomic bombs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a few thousands of years later.

juin 1978. *Cahiers de l'Université Saint Jean de Jérusalem*, 5. Paris: Berg international, 1979. From *Material for Thought*, Number 8, 1980. Far West Institute, San Francisco, CA.

<http://henrycorbinproject.blogspot.com/2009/10/eyes-of-flesh-eyes-of-fire.html>

⁷ 04 November 2009.

⁸ Lawrence Durrell, *Prospero's Cell*, Faber & Faber, London, 1975, p.116.

⁹ p.85

Edward F. Edinger:

“There is no reason to believe that if society is to be redeemed, it will be done through the cumulative effect of such individuals. And when a sufficient number of people carry the consciousness of wholeness, the world itself has a chance to become whole.

You know in the Old Testament, in Genesis,¹⁰ when God is about to destroy Sodom and Gommorrah for its sins, Abraham remonstrates with God and says “What if we’ve got some righteous people in those cities, what if there are fifty?” And Yahweh says, “Well, then I’ll save the city if there are fifty.” And Abraham works him all the way down to ten - “What if there are ten?” And Yahweh says, “I’ll save the city if there are ten.” Abraham doesn’t want to push his luck too far, so he stops there. But it’s not beyond the realm of possibility that just one person might be enough to preserve the world.

I would suggest that you entertain such an idea, and furthermore, consider that perhaps *you* are the one.”¹¹

THE RAIN OF FIRE

Over the past year I have been deeply interested in this story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and give here the version that I have been working on. It was only later, after the basic lines had been gestated that I read this material by Edward Edinger.

Great minds think alike, fools never differ. While undergoing a pessimistic gnostic rave and rant, that strange story in the Bible, came to mind, when God said something to the effect, that if 10 people could be found in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah he would spare the cities. And we know what happened.

YOU ARE THE ONE

The *one* that can preserve, or save the world, the World of Sodom in this case. It was not the entire world that Yahweh destroyed (though He was capable of it) but only two cities. A Tale of Two Cities.

The *one* that can preserve, or save the world, the World of Sodom in this case. It was not the entire world that Yahweh destroyed (though He was capable of it) but only two cities. A Tale of Two Cities.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20:

It is commonly accepted, especially by Christians, that the literal meaning of this passage is that Jesus will be present in the midst of a gathering of two or three people, *in his name*. One can re-

¹⁰. Genesis 18: 23 - 32.

¹¹. Edward F. Edinger, *The Mysterium Lectures: A Journey through C.G. Jung’s Mysterium Coniunctionis*, Inner City Books, 1995. p. 326.

structure this saying of Jesus, in the following manner – If three or more people are gathered together to serve all sentient beings – a very difficult task indeed!

Following this line of thought, but from another view, Herman Hesse wrote:

"The completely well-balanced person will not hit upon the arrogant idea that he must share responsibility for the crimes and sicknesses of the world, for its inertia in peace and its barbarity in war, unless he is important and influential enough to be able to increase or lessen its suffering and guilt." ¹²

Norman O. Brown:

"The way to start a new civilization, is not to introduce some new refinement in high culture but to change the imagination of the masses." ¹³

Olga Kharitidi:

"...spiritual knowledge to be truly alive, it must be continually integrated into the social lives of new, emerging cultures." ¹⁴

Allen Ginsberg

"The media are exactly the places where the deepest and most personal sensitivities and confessions of reality are most prohibited, mocked, suppressed." ¹⁵

Recondite = Henry Corbin – (Of subjects or knowledge) abstruse, out of the way, little known; (of author or style) dealing in – knowledge or allusion, obscure – Latin: *re(conditus) – condere* – hide.

Abstruse - Hard to understand, profound.

Quentin Bell:

"Thus, in Victorian England, we find that the apostles of progress, having swept their churches clean of sacraments, altars, priests and pulpits, leaving nothing save a bare structure of ethical assertions, returned to curtained, cushioned, upholstered homes in which every sort of buried sexual superstition, traditionalist tyranny and emotional cant served as a covering for dirty unswept corners and nameless secular filth." ¹⁶

H.H. the Dalai Lama:

¹² Hermann Hesse, *Events in the Engadine*, p. 286

¹³ Brown, Norman O., "The Apocalypse of Islam," in *Apocalypse &/or Metamorphosis*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1991.

¹⁴ Olga Kharitidi, *Entering the Circle. Ancient Secrets of Siberian Wisdom Discovered by a Russian Psychiatrist*. Thorsons, London, 1996, p. 213.

¹⁵ Allen Ginsberg, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 29 July 1959.

¹⁶ Quentin Bell, *Bloomsbury*, Omega, London, 1974, p.24.

"It is not enough to make noisy calls to halt moral degeneration; we must do something about it. Since present-day governments do not shoulder such 'religious' responsibilities, humanitarian and religious leaders must strengthen the existing civic, social, cultural, educational, and religious organizations to revive human and spiritual values. Where necessary we must create new organizations to achieve these goals."¹⁷

"The old is discarded and the new is introduced. Both measures accord with the time; therefore no harm results. Societies of people sharing the same views are formed. But since these groups come together in full public knowledge and are in harmony with the time, all selfish separatist tendencies are excluded, and no mistake is made."

The *I Ching* - Fu / Return (The Turning Point)

Teilhard de Chardin:

"There is an almost sensual longing for communion with others who have a larger vision. The immense fulfillment of the friendships between those engaged in furthering the evolution of consciousness has a quality almost impossible to describe."

René Daumal:

"But what could be more comforting than to discover that we are less than nothing? It's only by turning ourselves inside out that we shall become something. Is it not a great comfort to the caterpillar to learn that she is a mere larva, that her time of being a semi-crawling digestive tube will not last, and that after a period of confinement in the mortuary of her chrysalis, she will be born again as a butterfly – not in a nonexistent paradise dreamed up by some caterpillary, consoling philosophy, but here in this very garden, where she is now laboriously munching on her cabbage leaf? We are all caterpillars and it is our misfortune that, in defiance of nature, we cling with all our strength to our condition, to our caterpillar appetites, caterpillar passions, caterpillar metaphysics, and caterpillar societies. Only in our outward physical appearance do we bear to the observer who suffers from psychic short-sightedness any resemblance whatsoever to adults; the rest of us remain stubbornly larval. Well, I have very good reasons for believing (indeed if I didn't there's be nothing for it but to go off and dangle from the end of a rope) that man can reach the adult stage, that a few of us already have, and that those few have not kept the knack to themselves. What could be more comforting?"¹⁸

C. G. Jung:

"I have no judgment about myself and my life. There is nothing I am quite sure about. I have no definite convictions - not about anything, really. I know only that I was born and exist, and it seems that I have been carried along. I exist on the foundation of something I do not know. In spite of all uncertainties, I feel a solidity underlying all existence and a continuity in my mode of being."

VIA POSITIVA

We have to study with our warm heart, not just our brain.

¹⁷ In a small booklet distributed freely at the Kalachakra Initiation, Rikon, Switzerland, August 1985.

¹⁸ René Daumal, *A Night of Serious Drinking*, Shambhala, 1979.

Shunryu Suzuki Roshi

Matthew Fox:

"We have anthropocentrized "falling in love", we think it is something you do to find a mate for the rest of your life. But it is much more than that. We could fall in love with the galaxies. We could fall in love with species of wild flowers. We could fall in love with fishes and plants, trees, animals and birds, and with people. This capacity for being in love has no limit and all of it is about experiencing blessing.

The soul is not in the body but the body is in the soul. The body is an instrument of our passions, of what we really care about. Of our grief, of our wonder." ¹⁹

ourselves?

James Hillman:

"How can we know ourselves by ourselves? We can be known to ourselves through another, but we cannot go it alone. That is the hero's way, perhaps appropriate during a heroic phase. But if we have learned anything from the rituals of the new life-form of the past seventy years, it is just this: we cannot go it alone. The opus of the soul needs intimate connection, not only to individuate but simply to live. For this we need relationships of the profoundest kind through which we can realize ourselves, where self-revelation is possible, where interest in and love for soul is paramount, and where Eros may move freely – whether it be in analysis, in marriage and family, or between lovers or friends." ²⁰

Richard Wilhelm:

"Religious forces are needed to overcome the egotism that divides men. The common celebration of the great sacrificial feasts and sacred rites... was the means employed by the great rulers to unite men. The sacred music and the splendour of the ceremonies aroused a strong tide of emotion that was shared by all hearts in unison, and that awakened a consciousness of the common origin of all creatures. In this way disunity was overcome and rigidity dissolved.... Egotism and cupidity, isolate men. Therefore the hearts of men must be seized by a devout emotion. They must be shaken by a religious awe in face of eternity." ²¹

C. G. Jung:

"We live today in a time of confusion and disintegration. Everything is in the melting pot. As is usual in such circumstances, unconscious contents thrust forward to the very borders of consciousness for the purpose of compensating the crisis in which it finds itself. It is therefore well worth our while to examine all such borderline phenomena with the greatest care, however obscure they seem, with a view to discovering the seeds of new and potential orders." ²²

I love that!

¹⁹ Matthew Fox, *Creation Spirituality*, Extracts from the Schumacher Lectures 1991.

²⁰ James Hillman, *The Myth of Analysis*, p.92.

²¹ Richard Wilhelm, trans. *The I Ching or Book of Changes*, pp. 227ff.

²² C. G. Jung, *The Psychology of the Transference*, p. 160.

"... the seeds of new and potential orders."

Are these "new" "orders" connected to the New World Order? What is Order, when seen from the Hermetic perspective as in:

"Order is the vehicle of the world itself,
and the whole consists of order."

Asclepius [39]

Can we find these "new seeds" by searching the Global Brain phenomenon of the World Wide Web? What is the "melting pot" if not the alchemical vessel.

How do we deal with the "confusion and disintegration" of the Old Order – and assist the "new seeds" to germinate?

Many questions, many answers, an enrichment of the human condition, especially with Pluto in Sagittarius. Divination is a useful function, when removed from asking mundane questions about money, power and position etc. I respect the *Animal Medicine Cards* of Jamie Sams, and this extremely accurate answer came out recently, when enquiring on the nature of my work:

"...you may wish to share your knowledge by writing or lecturing on information that will help others better understand their uniqueness or path in life. It is in the sharing of great truths that the consciousness of humanity will attain new heights." ²³

So we continue, day by day, doing the bit that needs to be done, cleaning up past messes, and preparing new fresh spaces for the future.

SHARING GREAT TRUTH

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J. Sams. *Medicine Cards*.

Banksy:

"It takes a lot of guts to stand up anonymously in a western democracy and call for things that no-one else believes in – like peace and justice and freedom."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer:

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

²³ Wolf, pp. 97-98, J. Sam's. *Medicine Cards*.

²⁴ Jamie Sams, *Medicine Cards*, Wolf, pp. 97-98,

Martin Niemoeller:

"First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists, but I was neither, so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew so I did not speak out. And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me."

So we continue, day by day, doing the bit that needs to be done, cleaning up past messes, and preparing new fresh spaces for the future.

11th November 1999

"God knows, the need for a spiritual revival is greater than it has ever been - with materialism rampant and violence triumphant..." ²⁵

C. G. Jung:

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²⁵ From a letter written by a friend, M.N., in her late 80's who I have known for 35 years.

²⁶ C. G. Jung, *The Psychology of the Transference*, p. 160.

"Religious forces are needed to overcome the egotism that divides men. The common celebration of the great sacrificial feasts and sacred rites... was the means employed by the great rulers to unite men. The sacred music and the splendor of the ceremonies aroused a strong tide of emotion that was shared by all hearts in unison, and that awakened a consciousness of the common origin of all creatures. In this way disunity was overcome and rigidity dissolved.... Egotism and cupidity, isolate men. Therefore the hearts of men must be seized by a devout emotion. They must be shaken by a religious awe in face of eternity."

Wilhelm, trans. *The I Ching or Book of Changes*, pp. 227ff.

So we continue, day by day, doing the bit that needs to be done, cleaning up past messes, and preparing new fresh spaces for the future.

At the end of her book on Shamanism, Joan Halifax writes:

"The primordial mythological age, when men and women awakened to create of their dreams and visions coherent, transmittable reckonings, the time when they gave names and shapes to the energies of nature and the cosmos, when the inexplicable and secretly felt gods were given faces and forms, that epoch of millennia has come to an end. The archaic myths were borne across vast geographical territories and transmitted through numberless generations. Superficially, these traditions transformed in response to history and geography; and in time - in our generation - it appears as though we are witness to the painful demise of the ancient gods. Nietzsche's Zarathustra proclaimed the death of all the gods, and the obituaries of local deities can be read in our daily newspapers as the impact of Western culture is felt around the planet. Even as the old gods are diminishing, the seers and prophets of the ancient times are yet alive; and for a brief period, a decade, perhaps two, we can embrace the entire sacred history of our planet before it dissolves in the powerful presence of the biomechanical, transindustrial age that is now upon us. Tens of thousands of years of history, yet alive, but predictably to die - and this century is the threshold of its passing. And so we turn our heads to regard our living heritage, perhaps for the last time, to explore the lifeways transmitted to us from the healer-priests of the Paleolithic, to know their traditions, and to be introduced to the lineage of primordial visionaries that is perhaps coming to an end - or perhaps to be renewed in a form not yet fully known." ²⁷

Which brings us back to Olga Kharitidi:

"...spiritual knowledge to be truly alive, it must be continually integrated into the social lives of new, emerging cultures." ²⁸

"Out of every debate we should emerge stronger and more united."

Nelson Mandela in his Farewell address to Parliament.

Carl Gustav Jung stated in his Memorial Address, 'In Memory of Richard Wilhelm':

"We have today a Gnostic movement in the anonymous masses which exactly corresponds psychologically with the Gnostic movement nineteen hundreds years ago." [1]

²⁷ Joan Halifax, *Shaman - The wounded healer*, Thames and Hudson, 1994 [1982], p. 31.

²⁸ Kharitidi, Olga, *Entering the Circle. Ancient Secrets of Siberian Wisdom Discovered by a Russian Psychiatrist*. Thorsons, London, 1996.p. 213.

"All things are full of Gods," said Euripides; it is *their* personal belongings that furnish our world. The event is there – though not in a mirror, for if the mirror vanish the event will still be there. Or better: the event is the mirror self-sustaining its own reflection. Have faith in the everlasting indestructible ground of images. They do not need us."

James Hillman [1]

From the '*Mundus Imaginalis*' of Henry Corbin, to the Imaginal Alchemy of James Hillman, from the images of 'The Memory Theatre' to the Sacred Tarot, - it is the images which have survived, in some cases, for millennia, not the ideologies. This is what I have come to realize lately, and it is a comfort to say that one knows what direction ones work must take.

Andy and Larry Wachowski's film, **The Matrix**

The Matrix - can be compared to **Twelve Monkeys** of Terry Gilliam, Luc Besson's **The Fifth Element**

In **The Guardian Weekly**, June 22 1999. Peter Bradshaw writes:

Morpheus reveals the reality about **The Matrix**

"...namely, that our waking lives are a gigantic, baroque dream implanted in our minds by a race of machine-monsters to whom we humans came second in a nuclear war, that are bodies are now being bred in darkness on intergalactic factory farms to provide "bio-energy" for the conqueror, and that we are kept docile with a virtual reality illusion of a rich, busy existence."

I enjoyed the film immensely, though not without admitting that it was a harrowing experience. The theme of 'The Matrix' could not but remind me of '**The Futurology Conference**' by the Russian Science Fiction writer Stanislaw Lem - where the same theme is developed, that we are living in an illusion, controlled, in this case by consciousness altering drugs in the air-conditioning.

In the same issue of The Guardian was an article about exploited Brazilian goldminers who are violated -and live in great suffering - while the massive profits are drawn off by United States and European multinationals. I could not help wondering if this is just another case of human beings being milked for their bio-energy. And what else is Mass Advertising but "...a virtual reality illusion of a rich, busy existence." Makes one think, (hopefully)! Not for the squeamish - The Matrix is a pop classic of its kind and I appreciated its almost Buddhist speculations on the Illusion of Reality. The Oriental techniques for the fight sequences were coached by a master from China.

Trungpa Rinpoche:

"When you walk into this world of reality, the greater or cosmic world, you will find the way to rule your world - but, at the same time, you will also find a deep sense of aloneness. It is possible that this world could become a palace or a kingdom to you, but as its king or queen, you will be a monarch with a broken heart. It is not a bad thing to be, by all means. In fact, it is the way to be a decent human being - and beyond that a glorious human being who can help others." ²⁹

²⁹ Chogyam Trungpa, *Shambhala - The Sacred Path of the Warrior*, Shambhala, Boston & London, 1988, p. 142.

THE SO-CALLED CALL TO ARMS.

"They shall beat their swords into ploughshares..."

Isaiah 2:4.

In front of the United Nations building in New York, stands a somewhat forgotten sculpture by the Soviet artist Vuchetich, which illustrates the following text from Isaiah 2:4.

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore"

This is the opening sentence of '*A Tale of Two Cities*' by Charles Dickens:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way - "

These words, encapsulate some of my own feelings about the situation unfolding in the world at this moment in time, from March 2003 up to this moment.

The Warrior in the Shambhala Tradition.

"The shambhala teachings are founded on the premise that there is a basic human wisdom that can help to solve the world's problems. This wisdom does not belong to any one culture or religion, nor does it come only from the West or the East. Rather, it is a tradition of human warriorship that has existed in many cultures at many times throughout history."

Chogyam Trunpa Rinpoche, '*Shambala*' - *The Sacred Path of the Warrior*.'

The Gathering of The Tribes.

As a young boy, I remember that whenever my late father tested a typewriter, he would type:

"Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of their party."

I used to think that there must have been a reason that there was no call for the bad people to come to the aid of their party. That is probably because the bad people are so well organized already.

An old Tibetan Text, the "*rDzogs chen Kun.bZang.bLa.Ma*" explains the duality of good and bad in this way:

"If good, this body is a boat to liberation;
If bad, it is an anchor in Samsara;
This body is a servant of both good and evil."

As Buddhism points out, even Liberation into a New Spiritual Utopia is a very fragile affair - while the Samsaric equivalent of a Brave New World, furnished with apocalyptic visions of The

Rapture Nuclear Holocaust; or a computerized enslavement of the masses, is also not much of an alternative. What do we have left to consider then?

"Now is the Time!"

One aspect is the sense of TIME that permeates the thinking of many contemporary visionaries. Words such as: change; transition; transformation; metamorphoses are very much in vogue. And the 'End of History'. It is a 'New' Age!

The 'New Scientists' such as Capra, Zirkov, Henderson, Bohm, etc. confirm that Matter, Energy, Space and Time paradigms have shifted and are shedding the 'old skin' of the materialistic world view. A process that is always painful and uncomfortable for vested interests. But the transmutation of ignorance and calcified illusions leads to a rich harvest of uncluttered space, in which to move creatively into the future.

As David Spangler puts it:

"We do not have to create a new consciousness; it has been building within us for ages."

Perhaps at any given time in human history there has always been a transmission of Millenarianism/Utopian thinking. In Factual terms, as in all natural cycles, the fruit only ripens when the conditions are right. The underlying dream is that Humanity will ripen - when the Time is right. Or, with a little help from our friends.

William Irwin Thompson said:

"To cross this threshold, to gain this New Age, is less a matter for action and more a matter of clear perception of who and where we are in an historical and spiritual perspective."

He adds:

"Myth tells us who we are, where we come from, where we are going."

A statement that would make most hard-edged scientific materialist cringe. Thompson asks a very vital question:

"What's going on at the interface between the esoteric world of planetary initiation and the more exoteric world of contemporary affairs?"

What indeed?

Extraordinary measures may need exploration in extraordinary areas of human thought. For example the shocked silence when I suggested using an alchemical process as a paradigm for a socio-political structure (or was it a process?).

The pathetic aspect is that many answers that may lie in the wealth of what is termed 'spiritual' is automatically shouted down, shot down, and yet no solutions can be offered from those self-same critics. The search for solutions does not penetrate deeply enough into the roots of human experience. Taking each problem in its private context as if it did not belong to the same universe as the other - is self-defeating. In South Africa we called this dualism 'apartheid' - a word when used in

wider contexts than the racial, will expose many 'divide-and-rule' tactics of our materialistic masters.

Undifferentiated intake; processed holistically will produce purer sensations and feelings from which to compute the solutions. The social transformation at best cannot be cut away from more ancient strata of transformation.

Now that we are seeing the unitary field of Gaia, this statement by Lama Anagarika Govinda does not seem so far away:

"From the beginning of human thought, the investigation into the nature of the world started from two opposite ends; one was the exploration of matter, the other the exploration of the human soul. Apparently these were two absolutely different things; but they were not so different as they may sound to us. It was not man alone who was thought of as being gifted with soul forces, but matter as well, (not to speak of plants and animals.) The belief in psychic influences of precious and semi-precious stones and metals survives to the present day." ³⁰

SEE Plants FILE FOR FURTHER BITS ON ECOSYSTEMS.

And those who are firm believers in the ecocyclic view, including the Green Party - would harvest much from an alchemical text called 'The Golden Chain of Homer' - while in "ONEARTH" - David Spangler says:

"This is the world of the human spirit. Ancient and modern mystics and seers have spoken eloquently of the richness and limitless scope of this world, creative persons have long demonstrated its resources, and current research into parapsychology, neuropsychology and human potential indicates that 95% of our being remains unexplored and untapped. This world is subjective and subtle; nevertheless, it exerts an unceasing pressure of creativity, excellence, emergence and achievement upon us. The vastness of our inner being seeks to unfold, and that urging has been the mainspring of human history. Yet it remains so little recognized, explored or affirmed."

Rather than recognize any evolutionary drive, the media cunningly distorts and twists this into anti-social patterns.

"Each of us has a choice to make and may do so freely. The choice is this: we can, if we wish, live after the manner of the animal species, which ceased to advance in the scale of evolution and continued to live within the limits of their inherited automatisms, confined to strictly limited forms. Most of the time, we limit our conception of what we are by the patterns with which we fill our minds: our culture, our way of life, our traditions, our morals, our imitations, our ways of thinking inherited from the past, with which we seek to carry into the future. By maintaining all these attitudes - with the help of our environment, our churches and our schools - we are actually stifling and killing the human-to-be which waits within us."

Carlo Suares.

"We are apparently settling down into a prehuman sub-species."

³⁰ Lama Govinda, p. 52.

Carlo Suares.

As we say in English, one can always sweep the dust under the carpet. But this is not the way I go about my life. In fact just the opposite - I lift up the carpet and look for the dust. And this does not make me one of the world's most popular people, for no one, generally speaking, wants to have their carpets lifted and their dust exposed.

But, at the expense of isolating myself from my fellow humans, I do not think that the dust will go away. There comes a time in both our personal and social evolutionary bursts, when what has to be attended to, must be attended to. This always brings me back to a great problem - and this is the relationship, or interface between the so-called person, or private spheres and the so-called public, or social spheres. There is often an unspoken Law that these two must never, under any circumstances be mixed up together. This presumes a kind of 'apartheid' - and iron bar in the prison of duality which our so-called society imprisons itself.

But I think there is plenty of evidence, especially under the carpet, that the two spheres do interact.

Can I say that my depression and my frustration is merely a personal problem, or could I project my own problems onto the screen of the society in which I live, and lay the blame there? Here, I think, there is plenty of empirical evidence, that our materialistic society is not exactly a flourishing environment for sensitive souls. In fact most creative people that I have met, are suffering from some sort of repression. For this, read James Hillman on the repression of Beauty.

I think the aim of our investigation into these subjects, is to Read the Writing on the Wall. The Voice Crying in the Wilderness will never be heard.

I think the so-called Triumph of Capitalism, actually should be read as the Defeat of Humanity. A society that is totally controlled and run according to Monetary principles has ceased to be a society in the true sense of the word. We can forget too, about making statements of concern about the increase of violence - this violence is already entrenched into the fabric of the Total Market Strategy, which reads as the violence of the Few, who have and want more, against the Many who have less, and will certainly have even lesser. As Frank Sinatra sang, 'The Rich get Richer, and the Poor get Poorer'.

Alienation and fragmentation are the logical fruits of capitalism, and the ultimate manifestations of the TMS.

I am not a man. I am not a South African. I am not a Buddhist. I am even, not a human Being. Somewhere, amongst the conditions of what I am, these factors are present, as relatively conditioned labels, existing often side by side, in time and space.

We must ask them, "Why so many people should suffer in order for you to have so much?" And the dreadful fact, is that those who are infinitely wealthy are sometimes deeply unhappy as well. We think of Christina Onassis, Howard Hughes, the Getty Family, the Opal Family, the Kennedy's, and so on. Often, they are all in analysis, or hooked on heroin or similar addictions that the gutter press likes to advertise. The human tragedy of the wealthy has been well documented. So, the

suffering is on both sides of the fence, and for what purpose? Is it because, as a culture, we are only happy when we are miserable? What factors explain the rise of Sado-masochistic culture in the so-called developed world? Is sadism the final outpouring of a rotting civilization? And yet this extraordinary juggernaut continues to gather momentum, the IMF, the World Bank, G7, NATO, the EEC, all totally dedicated to a systems theory that has long since ceased to be valid. Perhaps in a great cosmic biological sense, this is a route to self-destruction that has an inevitability. Perhaps this explains the Jurassic Park phenomena of a few years ago. The Multi-National Corporations are doomed to extinction, just like the dinosaurs. As James Hillman said, Huge is Ugly.

Bata and Reebok and Adidas.

TRUTH BEFORE PEACE

"There will be no peace without Dharma."

Why should we fear speaking the truth?

Is not Truth the fruit of the human condition? Our actions must follow our intuitions and if this upsets the balance of power, then this must be seen as both necessary and an evolutionary step in the right direction.

There is only one, great, central revolutionary Principle, as far as I am concerned, and that is TRUTH. Our society is fascist in structure, because we bind our groups together, using lies as the glue, and set them against each other. There are worse penalties than detention and torture for breaking the rules. Ostracization Exclusion, name-effacing, media Blackouts and Being-Effacing - structural absences, re-writing the history books, ancient lies, chthonic taboos nurtured and kept intact, even by the most progressive of so-called activists.

Everyone is talking about Peace. I for one, think that Peace is only reached through Truth. As they say: 'The Truth sets you Free.' 'Certainly, our age will go down in history as the "Age of Hypocrisy." And Truth and Hypocrisy make strange bedfellows. There will be no Peace without Truth.

Instead of Peace Movements let us start up Truth Movements. And the greatest Liar on the planet at present is the so-called Media. The Gulf War showed us clearly just who was in control of the Information flows.

This takes us back to a classic observation. It is not what the Media says that is of any concern to us. It is what it ignores - that will go down as one of the most tragic monuments in the History of Humanity. Recently, CNN brought up the fact that there are complaints that TV does not show any "religion". How can it? It is dedicated to one Religion only - the God of Money.

TRUTH

As painful as it seems on the surface, there will be no evolutionary growth without the Truth. That means, that all those individuals who subscribe to the Great Lie, must accept the fact that they are collaborators, indirectly, they are managers of the concentration camp of the human imagination. And that includes, unfortunately, people who work in the Advertisement Industry. They are

collaborators, and they are wasting their the potential of their precious social creativity on selling a product, for the profit of the few.

Only inhabitants of Darkness are afraid of the Truth.

Today this psychic Darkness is clothed in the Dazzling Laser light of high-tech advertising. Computer Technology, which could be used to serve the extension of the imagination, is enslaved to the purposes of the Total Market Strategy. If you wish to demonstrate the full ..of democracy, try and get access to this hardware. It is only accessible to Commercial and Military interests, Banks, Advertising Agencies and Intelligence. Margaret Thatcher had her image engineered by Saatchi and Saatchi. And she sold her soul to Philip Morris. Serving the interests of the multinational tobacco Industry. Especially in Asia.

The London-based advertising agency, Saatchi and Saatchi, also had two election wins in Central America, in 1993 April." Arena is an extreme right neo-fascist party..."of El Salvador. "Arena is the party of the death squads..."

The Guardian, Tuesday May 10 1994.

1988.Feb.2nd.

Because we have substituted fear for faith, we can therefore accept living with fear as a basis of our society. From here, it is a short step to justify aggression as a necessary Christian duty. You know, the "Kill a Commie for Christ" sort of mentality. Some of the most barbaric and subhuman actions are being done in the name of Christ. ³¹

I think that any love built between friends, cannot be true if it is founded on assumptions, or even partly constructed thereupon. Often, we merely dovetail our mutual assumptions into convenient fabrications, which we call friendship, and from which both parties can profit.

What, then, exactly can we call 'friendship'. I feel friendship is the most democratic process. 'Newness' = 'cliché'?

relative truth & ultimate truth

so much suffering is caused by likes and dislikes

We should think on these things, and look at their interconnections.

From another perspective, all our likes and dislikes, are based on the senses. That is, what we taste, what we see, what we hear, what we smell, what we touch, what we feel, and so on.

WHAT WE SEE

Paintings and Films, visual mediums. Art. Perception. Beauty & ugliness. Fashion & Glamour. Attraction & Repulsion in sexuality.

WHAT WE HEAR

Music.

WHAT WE TASTE

Food.

³¹ 1988.Feb.2nd.

sometimes we cannot help suffering, for example in the case of allergies.

For a personal example, I do not dislike citrus fruit, pineapples, etc. but if I eat a fruit salad, my mouth explodes with very painful blisters. These likes & dislikes, can cause havoc when organizing a diner party.

But, what also should be taken into consideration, is that likes and dislikes seem to proliferate according to the economic status of the parties involved. Human beings, and there are millions of them, who are starving due to drought, or war, certainly do not display the same sensitivity to what they will eat or not eat, as a billionaire New York socialite. Paris poodle, caviar, Benares curs, starving to death.

If you think that I spend my life enshrouded in rarefied esoteric studies, think again. In fact, my esoteric studies enrich my political vision. And that is a story that would bear analysis.

Michael Moore, *Bowling for Columbine*

Video Games

heightened neurological activity activates violent behaviour

trains them to relate aggressively & react violently

view of world is distorted

they don't care about the difference between right & wrong....

games are marked with an age restriction - never enforced

TV Testosterone

Boys and Guns, toys for boys . . .

Dominator Patriarchal Culture . . .

What can we do? March for Peace?

You may surround yourself with a bunch of sycophantic friends, but this you will not get from me anymore.

If you really look at it carefully, you will see that you have insulated yourself from criticism, most likely for your whole life, not very good for growth. You yourself say it, calling me haughty and ignorant. You of course, are not ignorant. You Know All. Your opinions reign supreme, and any other music others like, is immediately trashed.

Then there is something very Freudian in the bleeps from alimentary canals' which you take to mean farts/shit - perhaps we are both anal retentive?

A Note on the Virtual Reality Film, "The Lawnmower Man."

Virtual Reality is not yet, and may never be, an essentially democratic process. One could complain that strapped into a VR Headset there is no room for human communication anymore. But the same applies to a linear print experience when we are reading a book, or even more mundane, when we are having a crap. Likewise, the act of meditation, is not a social event, and Tibetan sages in retreat in their mountain caves in the Himalayas, are also not renowned for accepting invitations to the latest social outings.

Sadly, 'The Lawnmower Man' only led to a negative and pessimistic view of this power. The final scene in the 'Lawnmower Man' where all the telephones in the world ring simultaneously. Oddly

enough, certain telephones do ring at that level of World Power and the result is that we have A Gulf War, or similar such displays of brute technology and economic might.

CREATIVITY. Fresh ideas. We need them - and Space to put these ideas into action. And in this creative action, we may have to give up some of our Egos' Territory.

The old 'Art has NOTHING to do with Politics' scam.

NETWORKS AND CULTURAL DATABASES.

NETWORK

Paul Davis, Professor of theoretical physics at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Author of *The Cosmic Blueprint*, Heinemann, London, 1987, about the complexity in nature.

"Another rapidly expanding field of study is network theory. We can model certain complex systems as an array of interconnected sites or nodes. This may represent, for example, a brain, with the nodes being neurones."

"Clearly, the activity of a network is holistic. It is the pattern that is of interest, not the state of any specific node. We cannot reduce the network, or a pattern of activity therein, to the activity of individual nodes. It is the collective behaviour of the whole array that defines the phenomena we are investigating. Network phenomena are, I maintain, irreducible and fundamental."

Prof. Paul Davis, *The Creative Cosmos*, *New Scientist*, 17th December 1987.

CULTURAL DATABASE

An open-access Cultural Information Data Base should be established as soon as possible. Such data bases already exist and are available on tap in Johannesburg.

We are fortunate to be able to formulate a cultural policy without being subservient to any past structures or any political restrictions. This in itself is an historic opportunity - and should not be lost to more parochial attitudes. This is precisely a time when vision is called for.

Part VI

UNIVERSAL STATES.

"When a society is in disintegration, each of the three factions into which it splits produces an institution. The dominant minority tries to preserve its threatened power by uniting the warring nations into a universal state. I use this name because these empires, though not literally worldwide, embrace the whole territory of a single civilization. But the universal states have sometimes been the work of alien empire builders, just as the higher religions and the barbarian cultures have been alien in inspiration, and these facts lead me to re-examine my proposition that a civilization is self-contained and is therefore an intelligible field of study. I begin by asking whether universal states are ends in themselves or means to something beyond them. By looking at some of their institutions, I discover that they unintentionally benefit both the higher religions and the barbarians, though it is the religions that profit most. At the same time, although the historic universal states have so far always been local and ephemeral, they seem to be foretastes of a future

regime in which the whole of Mankind will live in political unity, and so I conclude by assessing the prospects for this. "

Sir Arnold Toynbee.

DUAL STRESS IN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Two tendencies within a social movement.

Another view of the dynamic quality of the opposites is expressed in the words:

CENTRIPETAL and CENTRIFUGAL, of which Lama Anagarika Govinda writes:

Lama Anagarika Govinda:

"Life has two fundamental tendencies: the one contraction (centralization), the other expansion. The former one acts in a centripetal way, the latter in a centrifugal way. The one means unification, the other differentiation of growth. If growth prevails over unity it results in disorganization, disintegration, chaos, decay. In organic life hypertrophy leads to the final destruction of the organism ("cancer"). In mental life growth without unity (centralization) leads to insanity, mental dissolution. If centralization prevails over growth it results in atrophy and finally in the complete stagnation of life, whether physical or spiritual." ³²

Is that all that you have left to do - is to dress up in black leather and whip one another? Or watch banal TV games with naked women running with oranges under their chins?

AMSTERDAM BLUES

After a period of living in Amsterdam, I ask myself, if in a city such as Amsterdam, with its history of 'alternative' culture, there exists what Rocker calls, "..the precious urge towards solidarity which is the ethical basis of every healthy human grouping." And I answer myself, yes and no.

What, if any, cultural identity, does Amsterdam lay claim to? Perhaps to the dreadful, pretentious 'KREMLIN MOLE' from the MAZZO cultural Mafia on Rozenstraat and its second-hand prostitution of New York Avant gardism, where one is clubbed to death with the fact that Rob Malash is a friend of Philip Glass.

'KREMLIN MOLE' has about as much social conscience as a Cartier advertisement. Then, one can range in publications, from the Diary (HET DAGBOEK) of Fabiola, exquisitely hand-crafted in a titanic edition of 20 copies. to the 'PSI_LIST' magazine from the Amsterdam Balloon Company and Ruigoord community; the one and only (we think) 'ATOM CLUB' magazine, which carried some excellent creative/co-operative ideas and good listings and juicy cultural thoughts from Bill Levy; the 'esoteric' New Age magazine BRES; the Radio magazine 'ZENDER' also beautifully produced, and 'BLUFF' a dynamic vehicle for the Kraker (Squatter) Movement, and then the various Dutch clones of 'The Face', which say little, but pose a lot.

³² Lama Anagarika Govinda, *The Psychological Attitude of Early Buddhist Philosophy*.

The impression one has from these various publications, is that they all need to maintain their respective ego-territory, the divisions amongst the various Amsterdam cultural groupings indicates that no common front has yet been achieved, by way of a participatory democracy. Perhaps a lesson may be learnt) before it is too late) from the now destroyed GLC in London, where many groups with similar social objectives managed to converge under the "GLC Working for London" banner. Talk is in the air that cultural subsidies are being cut in Amsterdam (e.g. the closing of "The Kosmos Centre).

A day browsing around the magazine shops in Amsterdam can be a traumatic experience. The full spectrum of social, cultural, political, scientific, anti-nuclear, Third World, feminist, lesbian and gay, etc. publications are enough to nourish any need. One cannot help feel, that if this multitude of threads were woven together, then we would have the "...precious urge towards solidarity.." bearing fruit, and certainly pushing the Netherlands into the forefront of coming developments.

One of the most positive projects was 'The International Youth Media Festival' of November last year, and its ongoing projects. It is sad that the word 'youth' has to be used, when actually the issues at stake have much broader application. But in the fine-tuning of the project, the broader sweep of recent history has not been swept out of sight. Whatever victories were achieved over the past few decades, whatever ground has been gained and lost again to Rambo Mania and the Hegemony, the 'International Youth Media Festival Report' does fill one with hope, because it talks of a practical strategy and especially in terms of the vital issue of the moment: INFORMATION AND THE MEDIA.

If there were specific historic conditions that made Amsterdam a focal point over the past few decades, then here in the International Youth Media Festival we can see one direction in which the continuity has not been lost. But the vitality of the project would be enhanced if the base was broadened - and a solidarity achieved with parallel strategies.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

THE LADY IN THE Q

If you remember, years ago, SABC TV screened a series called 'The World at War'. In South Africa, the South African Broadcasting Corporation banned one of the episodes, but after a general outcry, it was eventually screened. There was one scene in particular that had a powerful effect on me. It was an interview with an elderly woman, who had lived in a village near a concentration camp. She was standing in a Q, perhaps waiting for bread, and started to ask some of the other women, if they did not realize what was going on in the camps, i.e. the gas ovens. Their response was immediate. She was actually attacked by the other women, and called a traitor and a liar. I think she was physically beaten up as well.

These details may not be correct, but the principle is the point. Another example is to be found in '*The Futurology Congress*' by Stanislaw Lem, the brilliant science-fiction writer. He describes a society drugged by mass-medication into believing they live in a paradise. With an antidote drug, dispensed surreptitiously by an underground resistance movement, the social reality is seen for the first time for what it really is - a filthy, impoverished hell. This novel, and the other works of Lem, are well worth reading.

I could not help seeing the parallels between the shattering sufferings, for example in the refugee camps in Rwanda, with the luxury images of the Perfect Home and the Perfect Family on European Television Commercials.

In fact, let us look at a few other IMAGES - In an Italian magazine, on the same page is a bloody series on men having their ears cut off - in a West African country - contrasted to a man in Luxury Bubble Bath.

The starving children in Sudan - their legs and arms like black twigs, eyes festering, huge clouds of flies - cut to - adverts - luxury cars, etc.

Endless luxury food items immediately followed by rows of bodies of little children - close up of a little blond boy of about 6 years in a pale blue anorak - the eyes still open in death - Sarajevo.

Do we really care? Are we totally desensitized to this flood of violence? How much further can this process of dehumanization go?

30th April 1994

1. Increase in violence amongst adolescents.
 2. Bacchae, p. 28: ". the disease which produced them is not yet dead."
 3. SM in gay circles, Robert Maplethorpe.
- Creating an Enlightened Society. What exactly, do we mean by these words.
Cruelty - intentional cruelty - like the M. de Sade and Gilles de Rais.

Virtual Reality, S.M. Billions of dollars spent on a technology to inflict pain.

Swan Lake and the knife slashing breast open at supper time.

10,000 books and articles written about Hitler and the Reich.

The Fascist salute bursting OUT of the TV screen.

CLEANING OUT DEAD VOLCANOES



Antoine de saint Exupery. The Little Prince on his Grand Volcano

“On the morning of his departure he put his planet in perfect order. He carefully cleaned out his active volcanoes. He possessed two active volcanoes; and they were very convenient for heating his

breakfast in the morning. He also had one volcano that was extinct. But, as he said, "One never knows!" So he cleaned out the extinct volcano, too. If they are well cleaned out, volcanoes burn slowly and steadily, without any eruptions. Volcanic eruptions are like fires in a chimney. On our earth we are obviously much too small to clean out our volcanoes. That is why they bring no end of trouble upon us."

A survey of life in the fast lane, life in the "in-crowd", in fact a hard-core look at this strata of social reality - has convinced me that all is not well in the corridors of the rich and famous.

COINAGE

My mother was in the habit of telephoning all her friends whenever a new ailment was diagnosed, and yacking to them for hours about the treatment prescribed. She would even make mileage of my father's ailments.

(A) gets sick and is in pain with piles.

Exchange.

His wife (B) uses this for rapid hysterical conversation to all her friends. How sad that we cash in on such negative nonsense.

spectrum of awareness/spectrum in futurity/survival stabilization, introspection, purpose, matter, energy, space, time, theta, universe/ all thought, Supreme Entity, The Energy Universe.

Orthodox acting as a weight, Saturn prohibiting intellectual speculation as rank heresy.

Plucking the Divine Nectar from the depths of my Soul (if I had one), unfolding frail paper flowers from the dust encrusted strata of time.

memories are made of this.

DEDICATED TO THE UPLIFTMENT OF MAN.

They have cast dark ashes over the robe of history, smeared each page of time with the leftovers of Sunday dinner, burnt the corn and blown the sculptures to smithereens. But it does not matter, for today I am catching a bus to never-never land, where I shall paint a new picture of the canvas of the future. Walking through the fields and past the fountains when the earth suddenly turned to writhing serpents, and I flew up over them, above the trees, gentle over the singing leaves, the lemon blossoms that turned to serpents, and the branches and the bellows of my heart and the roots too - all SERPENTS, not snakes. So I flew into the glorious golden orb of the sun and found myself wrapped among golden serpents and walking through fields of snakes, not serpents. Within the vortex of energy a voice spoke out, clear as the Rays of light, and said:

These are the Fields of Wisdom.

Then my cup ran over and the carpets flew up into the clouds and the Queen of Baghdad burst in through the portico and blew the French windows flat with her laughter. And I cracked my teeth and broke my bottle of jasmine over the ruby mantelpiece Winds that brought weeping and Old Age Homes that collapsed under the Fountain of Light.

It should come as no surprise, to our Government, that students in Soweto use the blackboards in their schools for drawing the plans of Molotov cocktails. The State, with its 3,000 Million Rand Defence Budget and the International Arms Race - sets an example. Neither can we ignore our children playing with toy machine guns. This real situation is known as civilization. Jawahar Nehru, in an address to the United Nations, asked why all the conflicts and wars were emphasized but nothing was said about global co-operation. From the centre quarters, the message is coming loud and clear: We need inter-dependence, and not in-dependence.

We forget the idea of holism that General Smuts bequeathed our nation. Our politicians have forgotten the motto 'Unity is strength'. There is enough potential amongst all the people of this Southern portion of Africa to create a stable and creative society. The alternative is too dreadful to contemplate.

The schools are empty, possibly because the system of education is empty - and it is time to consider a holistic approach to our problems.

'DIE STEM' - A SOUTH AFRICAN MAGAZINE.

Amsterdam - 1986.

You will not smell the teargas in the pages of 'Die Stem'. Only the chlorine of luxury swimming pools inhabits its pages. The 'angst' of an intellectual clique that has no real right to angst. Yet they afford the luxury of "expressing the paranoia and paralysis", even, it must be noted, in limited, hand-numbered editions.

In these pages you will not find a Michael K. planting the symbolic pumpkin of hope., No the bright young contributors of 'Die Stem' are too busy killing the Katzensteins, vomiting, burning plastic dollies, being raped, murdering the domestic worker, or wading through the afterbirth of Roland Barthes. Is this truly an interior portrait of the young white South African intellectual psyche?

What is being said, is that it is only through eating shit, and feeding other people with shit, that we are going to get pure food. A perverse logic. And yet, in an alchemical sense, and thereby, a Jungian approach - it is working with the blackness, the PUTREFACTION that begins The Process. Admittedly, such products belong more in the realm of social psychology, or pathology, than they do to literature. In this 'Die Stem' remains a valuable document.

"Die Stem' is not alone in its dark weavings. The American magazine 'UN SOUND' has an article on the group 'CONTROLLED BLEEDING', where we read:

"I suppose I have always been frustrated by the bland routines of daily life - sleeping, eating, paying bills, shitting, sleeping and so on...It just stems from not having enough time, money, and courage to devote to the things that make life potentially fulfilling. I think the anger emanates from the fact that I'm so very helpless, as we all are, in changing the course of our lives."

The lyrics of controlled Bleeding continue this view, with intense adjectives to describe the process of rot. One is reminded of 'A Z and Two Noughts' by Peter Greenaway, but here putrefaction as an image of social and psychological decay is enriched with a dense fabric of interwoven archetypal themes.

What is beneficial about this cultural nihilism, is that in effect it embodies a mining operation of the depths of life itself. And it is therefore Plutonic. As F.W.Ronan says:

"The resultant value of this process of research is culture."

It is not enough to merely ride these dark waves of despair and hope that the phase will organically blow over. Work from within must also proceed outwards, towards the healing of both the society and the individual. Hard core analysis will reveal the exact mechanisms of the putrefaction, the precise technique by which:

"...the inventive spirit is strangled and every creative impulse smothered at its birth." -----

Notes on Religion and Unity-in-Diversity.

Does Unity ensure group security in terms of the Transmission of the Dharma?

For example - The Unity-in-Diversity Council. What is this?

Answer: 'A worldwide coordinating body of individuals and groups -
What are they coordinating?

Answer: The emergence of a new universal person and civilization based on Unity-in-Diversity among all peoples.

One can understand the particular coloration of the above in the light of the political situation in South Africa, Certainly, we have the diversity - which has been placed in the Underworld of Crimes Against Humanity - and it is known as 'Apartheid', an Afrikaans word which means 'apart-ness'. That there is a deeper esoteric side to this question, can be confirmed in the 'Voice of the Silence' where we read of 'The Great Heresy of Separateness.'

As a Buddhist (an already separatist statement) I will take the plunge and say, without doubt (though this is a personal opinion) that the meta-political aim of Buddhism is the ultimate unification and liberation of Humanity, All Sentient Beings as a planetary whole - into a transcendent form.

There is a great difference between Unity and Uniformity. There is no diversity in uniformity. So, we agree, that the forms - or in other words, the Paths to Human Liberation and parallel clusters of enlightened activity - differ, or are diverse - and we also have a basic existential outlook, or overview, that in the long run, all Paths lead to Rome, so to speak - or, share a common goal.

All Paths could also be seen as leading to Lhasa, or Mecca or Jerusalem etc.

This now opens up a vast perspective of questions on why it should be necessary for us to cohabit in any way; when we share in solidarity, the view that the Goal is the same, in an absolute sense.

Seeing that, as an example, I am totally nourished and spiritually enriched by my 'path' and creatively inspired, continuously by my 'teachers' - which in itself fills a lifetime - why should I want to snoop through the teachings and techniques of hundreds of other groups, or even waste evenings in dialogue with them?

This, is known as an 'I'm all right, Jack' attitude, i.e. being psychologically satisfied that 'I have found the or an answer, 'I am not prepared to indulge in curiosity.

Many groups are actually frightened on interface because they sense that their little mean truths which are sold to the foolish - will be exposed in the light of an all embracing Brotherhood and Sisterhood.

It is only IGNORANCE as a foundation that generates a continual failure to establish scientifically a view of reality - resulting in bewilderment and division -

The Cape Town Shitty Council, complaints about Library, the Space & the Space for working creatively, the return of the exiles, and venues being necessary for culture. Time is of the essence, and a certainly diplomacy, with the generous dash of clout. Kick arse time.

The greatest crime will be to `think'. We are not that far from the `Thought Police.'

When the SADF published against `Liberation Theology".

When the Forces of indoctrination of the masses are reaching a new hysteria - it becomes an urgent task to sort the wheat from the chaff. This material on Nicaragua came together in a synchronicity of events. It is hoped that both subjective and objective perspectives will open from a reading.

DISTRIBUTION AND SHARING RESOURCES.

45% of SA doctors are serving in private clinics and medical Centres. 55% are in the Public Sector. 13% of patients are in Private Hospitals and 87% of patients in the Public Sector.

Sri Lanka, South Africa, Chile, Turkey.

Editorial from an issue of PAX CULTURA,

21st November 1983.

In August of this year, Helen Joseph, patron of the United Democratic Front, gave the T. B. Davie Academic Freedom Lecture, entitled 'The Door of Learning and Culture Shall be Open.' As a listed person, she may not be quoted. But the title of her lecture is inspiration enough - and embodies one of the main aims of the Pax Cultura Project. But of what use is the word 'peace' when the so-called "peace-keeping forces" commit acts of violence and aggression? And as for the value of 'culture' - to stop history and re-define the very roots of our society would be necessary. 1984 is upon us, and it will most likely mean another year of silence for Helen Joseph. George Orwell, father of the '1984' myth, wrote:

"If liberty means anything at all it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear."

Joseph Beuys (in the last issue) says: "...the liberation of creativity has begun, and its present state, art cannot participate."

This 'liberation of creativity' is no different from "...the right to tell people what they do not want to hear." It is an essential HUMAN right, a creative act, an act of cultural liberation.

We watch the growth of militarism; struggle with racism; get well crushed under bureaucratized governments; totally brainwashed by the controlled media; and view (albeit from an impotent distance) entire nations being robbed and plundered by the multinational corporations.

Can the artist, poet and playwright, etc - provide any voice to tell people what they do not want to hear? The inspiring Chilean Poet Pablo Neruda (who died in the wake of the coup that destroyed the socialist government of Chile) describing the Italian poet Quasimodo:

"Quasimodo is a perfect example of the universal man, who does not get up in arms to split the world into East and West; instead he considers it his obligation, as a man of his time, to knock down cultural barriers and show that poetry, truth, freedom, peace, and happiness are gifts that belong to all alike."

No well, fine, very nice words. But what about the 'cultural barriers' between those who have the wealth and the guns and are not prepared to move an inch - even if it means blowing up the whole planet rather than share the grotesque wealth concentrated in the hands of a few? What about the economic barriers? But Pablo Neruda is the poet and his vision is born of experience.

"There is no insurmountable solitude. All paths lead to the same goal: to convey to others what we are. And we must pass through solitude and difficulty, isolation and silence, in order to reach forth to the enchanted place where we can dance our clumsy dance and sing our sorrowful song - but in this dance or in this song there are fulfilled the most ancient rites of our conscience in the awareness of being human and of believing in a common destiny."