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DREAMS AND DISASTERS: PATTERNS OF CULTURAL AND MYTHOLOGICAL EVOLUTION INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Astrology is at least threefold in its purpose and practice. One, we can use it to *describe the characteristics* of a person, event or time period. Two, astrology is *instructive* as to how to play the energies, to perceive the patterns, viewing them as instructions; it reveals how to cooperate with the larger process, remembering that *disaster* means literally "against the stars," and three, it's *celebratory and devotional* as we celebrate the divine order. . . .

In our imaginative travels from present time into the 21st century, we will be playing with all three aspects of this symbolic language in the following way: The late great mythologist, Joseph Campbell, bequeathed to us the task of co-creating with the Magical Transcendent a global mythology. We need a collective dream, a synthesis of multicultural aspiration, to inspire and guide us through the enormous challenges we face. With devotional hearts, we can use astrology as a descriptive and instructive language to delineate that dream.

Astrology's view of free will is that we, individually and collectively, have the free will to follow our instructions, or to blow it. The stakes are high now, nothing short of planetary and species survival. We are entrusted with carrying the sacred burden of the past into a safe and beneficent future.

In astrology we are not dealing with a fixed future

model. The more we collaborate with the future, the greater flexibility we have as individuals and as a culture. *The primary function of astrology is to discern the pattern of Evolutionary Intelligence and cooperate with it.*

Now, in the late 20th century, the alignment of Uranus and Neptune makes it possible for us to break free from the matrix of broken dreams and disappointments, allowing for something which does not merely seem new, but is new. . . .

We are called upon to experiment with time and our concepts of time. Let's talk to ourselves in the future. Let's write history backwards. What year was it when all nuclear weapons were banned? Onward peace wagers. Let's take a testdrive into future possibilities as opposed to indulging ourselves in paralytic nostalgia, animals frozen in the glare of the onrushing future.

In Philip Dick's brilliant novel *Now Wait For Last Year* (DAW Books, 1981), an acutely toxic and addictive drug allows for forward and backward time motion, but without an evolutionary mindset this freedom becomes a prison. One of the characters asks another, "Are you waiting for last year to come by again or something?"

"That's exactly right, I've been waiting a long time for last year. But I guess it's just not coming again."

We can reach back into the past for strength and inspiration from enlightened traditions, but not to live there. We are time travelers into the future, into different possible futures. . . . Our task is one of scouting ahead and taking responsibility for our Vision (Neptune in Capricorn), returning and pulling the switch on the tracks for the Reality Train (Saturn).

We will use the planetary patterns to describe the extraordinary upheavals we have all been experiencing in our personal lives since 1988 as well as their significance and relationship to collective world events. We will also

discern instructions as to how to play the energy in this increasingly wild force field.

The following prophecies are intended as guides to consensus reality, remembering that if we can imagine it we can pull it off. I refer to these offerings as "prophecies" rather than predictions. *Predictions* and *predicament* come from the same Latin root *dicere*, meaning "to say." Prophecy has an aura, a connotation of divine cooperation, and thus expresses a path by which we can avoid predicaments, which are nearly always unpleasant. *Dream* comes from the Old English *drieman*, "to make music or melody, to play on an instrument, rejoice"; "to behold or imagine in sleep or vision"; "to think or believe a thing to be possible."

We can now dream the dream together and form a vessel into which the collaborative creativity of the Magical Transcendant can pour. *Dream* can also mean "to act drowsily or indolently, to procrastinate" . . . and that would be a disaster.

So now, let's take this prophetic testdrive into the middle of the 21st century. How can we imagine a future worth living in which the Earth can be restored and death is not imminent? When we return from this exercise in future dreaming, we will concern ourselves with the shadows we must face in order to get there.

The primary astrological tool for timing and prophecy is the tracking of the movement of the planets from Saturn on out—Uranus, Neptune and Pluto—each representing an evolving form of cultural intelligence.

Neptune represents the Intelligence of Vision—how a culture seeks its Vision, its primary mythology, and how it turns imagination into reality.

Neptune was in Scorpio from 1957-1970, and the culture sought its Vision through drugs, the occult and ways relating to Scorpio's intensity of investigation. Neptune

was in Sagittarius from 1970-1984, seeking its vision through Sagittarian means: endless enlightenment trainings, the age of the guru, exploration of philosophies from other cultures. Neptune was in Capricorn from 1984-1998, foreshadowing the dissolution of the economic structure and its culture of narrow self-interest and greed, as well as the movement of visionaries into the corporate global structures.

As we remember, it was the great financial restructuring of the 1990s which drove most of the polluting industries (especially chemical and nuclear power) into bankruptcy, giving the Earth and its inhabitants some literal breathing space in which to implement the solution-oriented visions of the Neptune in Aquarius period (1998-2011). In the 1990s, all of the world's ecological, political, economic, and spiritual bills came due. The collapse of the global economy gave rise to the necessary development of micro-economies. These fostered privately sponsored breeding grounds for scientists, artists, and visionaries to collaborate on the solutions to the myriad irreverent problems created by a world suffering under the influence of a narrow form of "scientific" superstition, which believed the universe to be dead. This belief had allowed unspeakable insensitivities to be committed.

The year 1992 was pivotal on so many levels. Not only was it the year of the coming together of the European Common Market, it was also the 500-year celebration of the so-called "discovery" of the "New World" by the "Old World." And it heralded the beginning of the Neptune/Uranus conjunction (which actually occurred in 1993), a time of the building of bridges and the forming of significant alliances and workable prototypes—the matrixes of collaboration which would prove to be the making of the real New World from the Old. The 500-year-old promise of New and Old World cross-fertilization and

creative symbiosis flowered at last—economically, spiritually, metaphysically and even (the last sphere of human activity to register any interesting change of consciousness) politically.

Loa is the Voudoun term for the force of invisible spirit, the gods. It is said that the loa ride on the visible; they piggyback on apparently mundane forms of human exchange, especially cross-cultural exchange. The invisible rides on the visible. Spirit is smuggled across borders under the guise of "business." This is a description and an instruction of the Neptune in Capricorn era. It is definitely something to celebrate. Until 1992, 1492 had been the most extravagant encounter of foreign cultural interaction on Earth. In 1992, under the guise of business ventures, all borders were flung open, all markets became common markets. And mythologically, all the gods were dancing.

On an individual level, the '90s were a time of each person finding his/her unique contribution and cultural work, ritually offering talent to the Evolutionary Conspiracy. The heartening principle was understood; it really takes only one-tenth of one per cent of the population to change history, to act as a fulcrum, if that percent has a focused Vision and a willingness to collaborate with the loa, the gods, the planetary Intelligences of the Best that wants to take place.

Many individuals felt a sense of mission, that (metaphorically) they had parachuted down to this planet in its time of crucial need to collaborate with the Magical. Those who could wake up did wake up in 1992-93, and by concentrating on their aspirations they polished their emanations, allowing them to be drawn into place through the principle of creative affinity. Like was drawn to like, deep called unto deep, and so the teams were formed, comprised of individuals with non-redundant, symbiotic capacities. It was only retroactively that the turbulent indi-

vidual and collective changes from 1986-1988 (Saturn/Uranus effect) made sense as people were being jockeyed and bumped into their correct places for the dance of the '90s to begin. These Visionary Activists formed projects, often disguised as business ventures, which served as vessels or event designs into which the loa could incarnate. The Loa-Visionary Activist Alliance was unbeatable. All the gods were invited. Those who embodied principles of imaginative and pragmatic compassion, so long relegated to the fringe of the culture, moved into the centers of power and the creation of policy, propelled by their own aspiration and the backing of the loa of that specialized domain.

With the revelations of intelligent extraterrestrial life, brought about in the early period of the 21st century (Neptune in Aquarius, 1998-2011), through the Earth's deep-space listening programs came an end to Earth's isolation from larger galactic community. Life and patterns of life were found everywhere. Conscious participation, cooperating with life throughout space, became necessary. The advances in physics and the proof of the unified field theory (and Guts, the Grand Unified Theory System) revealed the universe as an organic, unfolding and continually evolving Intelligence. We humans serve this larger order by becoming increasingly conscious, increasingly cooperative and respectful of all of creation, having at last understood that everything is conscious, everything is alive, and everything is related and deserves respect.

Once physics had produced the unified field theory (everything is in communication with everything else) and there was meaning to the patterns, the argument between ancient metaphysics and modern physics was over. The wedding of ancient metaphysics (of which astrology is a primary surviving system) and modern physics produced a child—Reverent Science.

In the fall of 1989, Jupiter (the Intelligence of Interdisciplinary Synthesis) in Cancer (the Intelligence of Appropriate Response) had opposed the lineup of Uranus, Saturn and Neptune in Capricorn. The kind of solution-oriented structures that would have to be implemented by the millennia had become devastatingly clear to enough people at that time. And they were aware that time was short. Relaxed urgency became the tone. It was becoming apparent that certain environmental global changes set in motion by human greed and folly were irrevocable (like global warming and species devastation), while some could be reversed with swift, appropriate response. Organizational seed structures were planted then that would not fully take root or be visible until the end of the century.

On December 23, 2012, the Great Mayan Calendar came to its completion, signaling the end of human history as we had known it. This date written in Mayan as 13.0.0.0.0 is the completion of the cycle of 13 Baktuns, each of which is 144,000 days. The above date is the culmination of their calendar, which began with their calculation of the beginning of time—August 13, 3,114 B.C. In astrological terms, this represented the end of human history confined solely to the planet Earth as Earth released its human seeds out into the galaxy.

With the pragmatic development of superconductors and antigravity as a source of transport, travel (both global and space) became near instantaneous. (This rendered fascism and totalitarian control impossible as no one had to stay in one place long enough to be arrested.) *Pluto is the Intelligence of Death, Rebirth and Renewal.* With its passage through Capricorn from 2008-2024, we see the increasing irrelevance and death of the State as the preferred model of social organization. Clans (modern tribes by choice) develop without any spatial boundaries.

In the fall of 2012 with Neptune at the threshold of its

own sign Pisces trine Saturn in Scorpio, music and the arts are increasingly potent magical vessels for positive catalytic change. We remember that the word *dream* originally meant to play music. The clue is that the making of music is an instrumental part of dreaming the world into existence, a way of aligning with the harmony of the spheres. Neptune in Pisces is a furthering of the alliance between the scientific and the mystical, the aboriginal and the ultra-modern, as what was previously relegated to the realm of esoterica—the power of tones, chords and colors to heal and create—is increasingly embraced by science.

In the late 19th century it was the dream of such composers as Scriabin to write the symphony that would bring harmony and invoke universal peace. The early 21st century may well be the time for the realization of such dreams, and not a moment too soon. At the same time, Uranus is square Pluto in early Cardinal degrees, triggering a violent release of energy that needs the wise guidance of these magical arts. In fact, Uranus, the Promethean Intelligence, is square its station point of 1989, opposing its station point of 1970. The integration of the intuitive arts, which began in 1970 and was further stabilized and integrated in 1989, is urgently needed in 2012. Those who began their training in 1970 and deepened it in 1989 are the necessary leaders during this wild time. This year reminds us of the saying that riding the wild tiger is easy enough; it's mounting and dismounting that are the tricky parts. Meanwhile, Pluto stations at Saturn's station point of 1989, further testing the structural decisions and assumptions of the late 20th century, especially in regard to the State, power elites and economic and class structures. Whatever stood in the way of massive change in 1989 is blasted into oblivion. As class structures fall and we see the end of the hegemony of the white race, the atmospheric quality of this transition is in the hands of the artist-scientist-

musician-magicians. Their work before (starting in 1989), during, and after determines whether this is a time of literalized or ritualized violence.

It brings us to Pluto in Aquarius (2024-2044) and the widespread beginnings of global families developing through creative affinity. All of the above helps to create consensus reality. However, this transition was staged—everyone who is still around has really gone through something together from which true global community, true participatory democracy, was/will be forged. This is the fulfillment of the Dream which blossomed in 1989 when, as in the time of the French Revolution, the Goddess of Democracy appeared in one place (Tiananmen Square in China in 1989, Paris in 1779) and then was everywhere.

In 2020 we may see the breakdown of culture into two main groups. *Uranus*, representing the *Intelligence of Radical Change and Innovation*, is in Taurus, the realm of the traditional and the biological. One group is the Radical Traditionalists (Rad Trads) whose function is the restoration of the Earth to its pristine state. They are stewards of the gene pool, human history and culture. They are the seed people. The second group of people are the Visionary Technocrats, a movement begun when Neptune was in Aquarius (1998-2011), gathering momentum as those born during that time period entered their precocious maturity. These Visionary Technocrats (Vis Techs) started the colonization of outer space, beginning with the Moon, Mars, the asteroids and the L5 point, which is the orbit point between Earth and the Moon where the two gravity fields cancel each other out thus allowing for permanent orbiting colonies.

Biology and physics meet. Biological organisms are created which devour the Earth's remaining toxic waste.

Children are born in increasing numbers with irrefutable telepathic capacities (as well as other talents previ-

ously described as “paranormal”). This allows for the understanding that technology is but a crude literalization of innate capacities of the human brain. The Rad Trads opt for brain cultivation and pragmatic mysticism and prefer to communicate with their Vis Tech siblings through astral travel and home-grown metaphysics.

By 2025-2038 with Neptune in Aries, we see the beginning of a massive exodus from the home planet into outer space (starting with the above points of colonization). This exodus of Star Voyagers reduces the population stress on Earth, allowing the Rad Trads to get on with their work of restoration and healing. They are aided in their task through the development of perpetual motion and clean energy technologies (fuel from salt water). This is the *Age of Marvelous Solutions and Healing*—more energy with less matter and waste. The increasing cultural understanding of electromagnetic fields, both around the Earth (how to heal its ruptured ozone layer) and the human body, allows for the regeneration of limbs and the elimination of crude surgical techniques. The *Age of Regeneration* arrives in which plant and animal species thought to be extinct are re-animated with the gene seeds salvaged by those with foresight in the early '90s. A cultural understanding emerges that the Earth, people—all life forms—have magnetic fields and that efficient healing starts there. The physical follows the energetic.

More things with less matter. The end of the Age of Materialism. The year 2025 begins a whole new cycle of humanity, the Age, once again, of the Pioneer, the Heroine, the Hero. . . .

The initial conflict between the Rad Trads and the Vis Techs must come to a resolution and wedding around the mid-21st century as each realizes the symbiotic necessity of the other. The Rad Trads must steward and restore the gene pool to provide grounding in order for the Vis Techs

to fly and travel. More exchange through the Summit Conferences of Visionaries in both groups, the Traditional Shaman culture of elders and the Visionary Technocrats, allows for more fluidity of exchange between the two groups on a voluntary basis so that individuals can rotate in from the outer colonies to touch base with their Mother Planet.

By 2038-2052 with Neptune in Taurus, the Earth should be well on its way to full healing. The survival of a rich gene pool is assured. At this time we also see the stabilization of the outer-space colonies—the cities on Mars, the Moon, asteroids—and further expansion begins. . . .

With Pluto in Aries from 2067-2097, we have the beginning of star travel and the infinite opening universe in which to play. . . . Initial physical contact with extraterrestrials occurs in a large-scale societal way, full on cultural exchange and encounters with creatures from the core of the Milky Way similar enough in structure so that there can be breeding and intercultural marriage. . . .

Thus, life continues to serve the Great Order with increasing love and efficiency, with rapid, accelerated evolution in consciousness. And it only gets more far out after that. . . .

Here we are back in present time. . . . The task at hand is to elaborate on what we must do to get to the future we've just experienced or, indeed, to any future. What are the shadows we must bring to light, the demons with which we must wrestle? In astrological language, each part of the grammar (the planets, the signs, the houses, the aspects) has virtues to aspire to, instructions to fulfill—and demons to wrestle. One earns the virtues by wrestling with the demons. A related astrological principle is that solutions are always contained within the problems, with the corollary that whatever we reject or suppress will get

hurtled back at us with equal force.

We must embrace and dance with the demons. A Tibetan meditation consists of visualizing the demons on the other side of a locked door. Then we imagine a laser beam (Plutonian energy) streaming from our third eye, shattering the lock, whereupon we invite the demons to "come on out, no one's as ugly as Yamantaka (the Lord of death)." The demons then emerge sheepish, rather than terrifying. The terror lies in their presence behind the locked door.

Let's go back to 1988, the time of the Saturn/Uranus conjunction, for a reminder of the language of our primary demon. *Uranus is the Intelligence of Freedom, Intuition*—the accurate sensing of possibilities. *Saturn* in its darker shadow and most constrictive form is *fear*. The sentence structure says that if you buy into the agenda of fear then you have given up your freedom, your Uranus, your intuitive grasp of the future. Fear is the primary demon we all must wrestle with and transcend, the guardian on the threshold, the keeper of the dark night, for it is fear that would keep us separate in non-collaborative isolation. Astrology says that whatever you don't find inside you'll find outside in a form you won't like so much. It is incumbent upon each of us to find our inner Saturn, our own form-giving, inner guide, father authority. Or else we will create an outer bossy, state-authoritarian structure where he who hesitates gets bossed. Saturn's traditional association with fear is derived from the outer projection of the unintegrated Saturn—something to engender fear, indeed. Fear allows the lie that we can profit from another's pain. Triage (the writing off of certain peoples, continents or species deemed "unsalvageable" by those who call themselves "realists") is not an acceptable attitude. Realists are simply those still numbed by a narrow World Bank bureaucratic mindset. They are not unredeemable either. We must fight for the joy and survival of all. The odious

concept of "cost-benefit analysis" (the lie that a certain amount of fellow creature violence is "acceptable" if it yields sufficient profit) is to be banished.

A truism in the field of mythology is that its study is not some esoteric and/or academic indulgence but crucial to our survival, for unless we have a living vital mythology and rituals to make it meaningful, we will project shadow (unintegrated aspects of ourselves and our culture) onto others and other races, resulting in war—the ultimate expression of the illusion of isolation. Or, and this is just as crazed, we will project those unintegrated aspects of ourselves onto outer forms or people (like the State or leaders) to which we would like to give our power and responsibility. Gandhi said, "If I could lead people out of the forest, someone else could lead them back in."

Wrestling with the demon is a colloquialism because another method of relating to a demon is holding the other polarity in consciousness. The polarity to fear is love or unity, poignant kinship, integration, wholeness. Reverence is the form of relating which expresses and inspires love. Reverence is a ritual. Neptune is often called the higher octave of Venus, the amplification of the principle of relatedness, the yearning and aspiration for the emotional experience of unity. The instruction of Neptune is to cultivate devotion to living from that truth.

The Saturn/Neptune conjunction of 1989 was experienced by many as a time full of hard Saturnine lessons as each of us had our own obstacles to unity finely etched. The hunger for things to be different was also sharply defined. A Saturnine principle is that hunger precedes fulfillment. When we say "I'm hungry for this specific thing," by definition we have formed an imaginative vessel into which the Magical Transcendent (the energy we identify with the positive aspects of Neptune) can pour. We're all hungry and yearning for more loving paradigms

in which to relate.

The years 1988-1993 can be viewed as one important unit of time: 1988, the Saturn/Uranus conjunction; 1989, the Saturn/Neptune conjunction; 1993, the Uranus/Neptune conjunction—all of which are in Capricorn, representing the real structure of the world and our responsibility for designing its next adaptation. As Saturn/Uranus told us that if we buy into the agenda of fear we are not free, so Saturn/Neptune told us that fear will rob us of our creative power to dream our lives, private and collective, into being. It is significant that studies have shown that watching television diminishes dream activity at night. Do you want the culture of infantile glamour to do your dreaming for you? In 1993, the coming together of Neptune and Uranus in Capricorn is the celebration of our freedom to create a visionary reality as well as the banishing of the illusion under which humanity has suffered throughout this Dark Age that there exists contradiction between pragmatism and idealism. And 1993 will be a great time for rituals in inner cities throughout the world of casting off the gold chains of bondage. Those gold chains (designer cars, clothes, lifestyle, drug money—all expressions of glamorous nihilism) have shackled some of the most imaginative, creative elements of youth culture to unwitting servitude of the State. Similarly, yuppie culture has addicted former idealists to lifestyles of greedy, fearful isolation. These are the gross shadow manifestations of Neptune in Capricorn, the worshipping of Soul-dead Television "Culture." Gotham's shopping nightmare. Voluntarily or violently, that climate of selling one's soul for momentary and fragmentary addictive satisfaction will climax and explode in the early '90s. The Uranian shock to Neptunian spiritual narcolepsy reminds us that massive, internal evolutionary leaps tend to occur in times of massive external breakdown.

We are reminded of the Russian scientist Pavlov who conditioned dogs to salivate at the sound of a bell and other primitive behavioristic outrages. When there was a flood in Pavlov's laboratory, none of the dogs who survived retained the least trace of their elaborate conditioning. Can the great tide of human catalytic breakdown have less effect on humans than a flood on dogs? Crisis can liberate us from shadow if the invitation to be initiated and to participate in the most dynamic and creative aspects of cultural evolution is extended. As crises increase, more events and projects must be invoked to invite in those previously excluded.

The crisis of the illusion of waste: As our dump sites are overflowing, so are our prisons. We can no longer exile our cultural failures. There isn't room anymore. The negative, shadow aspects of Neptune, Pisces and the 12th House refer to what the culture relegates to the realms of exile. But the repressed always return, with a vengeance. What does it say about a culture that creates massive amounts of toxic waste with no idea what to do with it? And that presumes to deal with a considerable proportion of its alienated youth in the same manner? It says that this is a culture with no future.

Neptune in Capricorn (1984-1998) is the era when ideals are finally recognized as necessities. (Environmental concerns are finally being recognized by economists.) Principles are becoming pragmatics. Businesses which reorganize along more sensitive (Neptunian) lines thrive. Businesses which do not go under.

In the summer of 1989 (the second sweep of the Saturn/Neptune conjunction) a study published in the journal *Nature* and reported in the *New York Times* (July 4) proclaimed "Rain Forest Worth More If Uncut." This study delineated the facts that not only is the annual loss of 28 million acres of forest around the world a spiritual and

ecological disaster—it is also an economic disaster. Immorality is ultimately a bad investment. We realize that self-interest and common interest are, in fact, the same if we look deeply enough into the apparent conflict. Once again, we understand the simple truth that there is no future in nihilism.

The rain forest is a central reality and symbol. Moist, luscious, teeming with an exotic and mysterious profusion of life forms that have evolved over millions of years, this surely is the habitat of the Earth's soul. The cornucopia of nature's abundance—the Grail—throughout core Western mythology has always been contrasted with its demonic polarity—the Wasteland. The lesson has always been and will always be one of reversal. Neptune. It is not that the Grail serves us but it is we who serve the Grail as wise stewards. When we violate this trust, it makes us crazy and ill. It sends a convulsive shudder down our collective backbone. From Wall Street to the inner city and on into our bedrooms, how we treat the rain forest, the Grail, is how men treat women, is how we treat our souls. Everywhere we feel a crisis of the soul, a crisis of that Vision, a crisis of Neptune. Dealing junk bonds on Wall Street and crack on the corner or trading sex without reverence is both a reflection and acceleration of soul death based on a spiritual alienation from our task as compassionate stewards and our truth as one unified being. The whole of creation groans and celebrates together. We cannot pluck one strand of creation without resonating the whole. There is no joy or pain anywhere in which we do not partake consciously or subliminally. Poignancy is the experience of kinship.

Astrology is the language of this interrelatedness, an articulation of correlation and resonance, embedded in the natural world. As such, it is called now to its most sacred use—to provide us with the overview so sadly lacking in

conventional public dialogue with its addiction to fragmentary sensationalism in which each crisis is viewed as "news," an isolated crisis rather than a crisis of isolation.

All of the problems we face in creating a non-catastrophic future are interrelated. We face a crisis of Neptune, a crisis of Vision in a culture of complicitous addiction to narrow self-interest and short-term greed.

Neptune is called the ruler of oil (presumably because it rules anything intrinsically addicting). On the second sweep of the Saturn/Neptune conjunction of 1989, within a day there were three major oil spills following the disastrous Exxon Valdez spill several months earlier (the investigation of which had prompted the Alaska oil spill coordinator to remark that "It wasn't that it was Captain Ahab on the bridge; it was that it was Curly and Moe in the Exxon boardroom." Our cultural addiction to oil, our addiction to immediate gratification without long-term Vision, is related to the crisis of the Earth's rain forests, the strip-mining of collective resources, with the Earth's abundance meant for all of which we are meant to be stewards rather than ravagers and bandits. When such atrocities are committed, we need to take drugs to numb ourselves to the pain.

Our addiction to beef consumption, the cow, the Great Mother, the drinking of milk, are emblematic of cultural infantilism that places pressure on men to clear-cut rain forests—millions of years of evolution, untapped wealth, wisdom, beauty and magic—for several seasons of hamburgers. The greed of multinational bankers compels Latin America to do this desperate short-term self-ravaging to alleviate the pressures of debt repayment. Each violence committed against the natural world is a violence committed against the feminine and does damage to each man's soul, manifesting in the relationships between men and women. The disintegration of the social

fabric and the male and female wounding are all echoes of the pain of the natural world and the traditions of our ancestors howling in outrage down the corridors of equinoxes and solstices . . . and this resonates in our psyches. The unintegrated masculine or feminine is always technically mythologically "monstrous" and terrifying. . . .

Joseph Campbell said that the good news is we're free; the bad news is that we don't know what to do with our freedom, having thrown out all our systems of guidance and mocked and trivialized our languages of the Soul.

In the outer rain forest and the inner rain forest, our soul's domain, lie untold medicinal plants . . . plants that could well heal the plagues like AIDS with which humanity is afflicted. The literal and symbolic question, then, is: Will we find the thing that heals us before we kill it?

The task before us is great. It is, as the I Ching says in its final hexagram, nothing short of leading the world out of confusion and back to Order. On one level, we are all in the court of the Evil Emperor. The drive of the unleashed unconscious is towards mass extinction and genocide to compensate for the unbearable, unchecked increases in population. The unconscious lumbers towards the precipice of disaster and catastrophe (both words having their root in the Latin *aster*, "star"). But consciousness can always be interjected into any cyclical process. Our task, perhaps the task of life, is to make the unconscious conscious.

We can dance or crawl into the 21st century. It's our choice. We each carry the task of being a Visionary, a pragmatic functioning in the real world.

Now Neptune, representing the intelligence of Dreams, Vision, Illusion, Addiction, is also symbolic of *Water*. Water reflects a reverse image. So Neptune comes to represent the *principle of reversal*. Most people take Sat-

urn, the "reality" principle, to be the determining factor. But Neptune says, "No, the reverse is true: structure follows Vision." The environmental revelations of 1988 (Saturn/Uranus) led to the understanding in 1989 (Saturn/Neptune) of the enormous structural and attitudinal reversals required in our collective consciousness. We must regear, reverse industrialism and linear notions of progress from a war economy to an environmental effort based on cyclical understanding. . . .

We are at the collective crisis of the death of the "cowboy myth," whose essential shadow is one of rootless extraversion, the lone unrelated male laying waste to the land and indigenous cultures which had embodied an appropriate pragmatic mysticism. Ronald Reagan rode this myth into the sunset. Now we need a better mythos.

Neptune, being the principle of living vibrant mythology, also describes what happens to a person, a family, a culture when there is no vital mythology. That person, that family, that culture becomes hooked (the glyph or visual representation for Neptune is the trident) on anything that will numb the pain of alienation from the Divine. Addiction is the repetition of any innately unsatisfying experience in which one says, "Gee, that didn't really work. Let's try more." As Carl Jung and Bill Wilson, the founder of AA, remarked to each other in their correspondence, there is no cure for addiction without a spiritual experience since addiction is a pure drive for transcendence that became twisted in an inappropriate direction.

How can we not fear when we look, clear-headed, at the craziness of the situation? And what is a better myth?

What is the cure, the thing that will heal us, the plant that lies waiting in the rain forest—the symbolic plant in our psyches that we must find to manifest—the wedding of polarity? Any unintegrated half of a polarity is a rogue element and bound to be crazy. . . . The feminine, the voice

of the Soul, says reverence is the antidote to fear. Increase reverence rather than fear, the major demon to passing our collective evolutionary initiation through which we are all now traveling.

Astrology trains the mind to think symbolically—to dignify outer events by understanding that they are always reflective of inner process. An astrological chart is a real map, a symbolic map of the instructions of that moment, just as everything in our lives is real and symbolic. Everything has resonance and meaning. Symbols are the language of the soul. Chance is the category of the alienated mind. What one ritualizes one need not melodramatically enact. Melodrama is expensive to the creative life, whereas ritual contributes, catalyses, amplifies. . . . We integrate those aspects of ourselves to which we can give outer representation. An initiation is the outward mythological and ritual enactment of inner material.

We are all candidates for Initiation into the new Myth. Whether we heed the call is the issue. Some hear and talk over it, uncomfortable with the tension, seeking to control it, to make it go away, to trample on the mystery rather than offering themselves—quiet, alert, relaxed but vigilant.

Our old paradigms are dying. We must die *to* them if we are not to die *with* them. This strips us temporarily of guidance systems and Soul takes over—the Real Work begins. Being defeated by our souls (we are still so willful) allows us to become more ourselves. Compassion comes from being eaten alive. Initiation entails terror, but initiatory terror is distinguished from fear because it is wedded to Faith. Simplistic New Age dogma says it's all for free. (The unintegrated-male-leave-the-planet ideology.) Space without stewardship is an infantile reinvocation of the dead "cowboy myth." We can't have Vis Techs without the Rad Trads. In fact, we can't have either unless each

person acknowledges and consciously reverences both in the psyche in a light and dark, extroverted and introverted, way.

The new ancient myth we are called upon to reinvoke, to celebrate and to offer our imaginative talents to creating is the Wedding, the Conjunction, the Sacred Marriage, the Fifth Act, the redemptive Vision, the True Myth. Reverent relating creates a vessel into which life-spirit can pour. The great tool that lies not in our modern memory but in our primeval, rain forest, ancestral memory is magick—the collaboration of our dreams bridged to the spiritual life force of what wants to be. This alliance can heal and save us all.

We are called now to the grand conspiracy (*conspire* means literally *con spiro*, "to breathe together") of collaboration, of offering the best in us to the Grand Design and extending the invitation to others to act similarly. By doing this we form a vessel into which grace can pour.

Life turns into the mystery play—dangerous and flashy . . . dangerous and wonderful. . . . Good luck to all of us.