

GOODWILL FESTIVAL 2006

12 June 2006

By Malvin Artley

Greetings Friends!

The autumn days had been clear and crisp in Adelaide in the lead-up to the first month of winter. I was walking along one of the leaf-strewn sidewalks lining the streets of the Nor'wood the other day, contemplating the strangeness of recent life. The energy has been nervy since the Java earthquake of the 26th of May, seemingly pressing on the nerves of people and causing all sorts of odd physical sensations and discomfort. The fallen leaves reminded me of the passing thoughts of people as life moves by day by day, memories of ideas' times in the sun, only to run their course and then to fall in the waste heap of the subconscious psyche of humanity. Now the symbols of those ideas lay at my feet as I kicked my way through them and I recalled strong memories from childhood. I remembered those times well, good times spent diving into the piles of freshly-raked leaves—the smells, the happiness, the carefree days, being overtaken in the joy of a moment of sheer abandonment. Oh, the things we forget as we 'grow up' and burden ourselves with the baggage of adulthood! I bent down and picked up a leaf, crushing it in my palm and breathed deeply the musky fragrance as I held it to my nose—remembering. There is beauty in every aspect of nature, even in 'death'. How my heart longed again for the simpler things of life and that same joyful abandon that I felt in my youth. Yet, here it all was before me. All I had to do was to release myself to it. How foolish I would look if I stopped to play in the leaves, I thought to myself. Then again, why do I even care what others think? Joy—such a simple, elegant reality— free of learned behavior, implicit with mind, yet devoid of its conditioning.

Thoughts are things, as material on their own sphere as our physical reality is on this one. As humans we get lost in our thoughts and desires and build up what is sometimes a huge cloud of subtle currents in our auras as the years tick by. It is those very thoughts that block us from the vision of the good, the beautiful and the true in life. As children we are singularly free of this sort of thing, not having the mind developed to the extent that an adult would, and generally being free of the conditioning and learned behavior that later childhood, adolescence and then adulthood brings. Immersed in the collective thought-currents of humanity, it is a very simple and easy thing for our own minds to become enshrouded in the mists and mire of other people's thinking and feeling. Yet, that is what we all do as we grow and it is that sort of thing that we have to work through and eventually resolve in order to come back to the elegant simplicity of the angelic consciousness of the first few years of our lives and the magic we experienced with that. We gradually lose the feeling of the oneness of life that we feel as children and then become aware that there are many different facets of life—many dualities—and we usually tend to identify with only one side of any such duality.

What do we mean by duality?—self/others, good/evil, man/woman, spirit/materialism, order/chaos—etc., etc. Each one of these dualities carries specific currents of thought with them, yet those very thoughts contain both the veil over the truth of the dualism and the keys to our liberation from them. If true Life is unity and oneness with all beings, then is duality not the antithesis to truth and life? If this sort of thing plagues or engages your mind, then welcome to the wonderful world of Gemini, for duality reigns supreme in this great sign that is most intimately connected with humanity. But it is also the one sign that connects us most intimately with what has been called the Christ principle and, as such, it leads us out of dualistic thinking and into the realms where there is no separation and love reigns supreme as the guiding principle of life.

As we have reached and gone beyond the full moon of Gemini we are reminded that this particular full moon has a great connection with the Christ principle but, more than that, with the concept of true brotherhood in the world. We are thus reminded also of the words of the Christ (as spoken in the Christian tradition, although there are many traditions used by the Christ) through Jesus, his agent, that we should love all people as we would want to be loved ourselves. If everyone in the world practiced that admonition then we really would have a world where brotherhood was a universal guiding principle. It is such a simple statement, yet it is so difficult to put into practice, precisely because of the conditioning that we buy into as we live through the years. The Gemini solar festival has been called "The Festival of Goodwill", for the reasons just elucidated, and it thus represents a dynamic wherein differences, separative thinking and all sense of duality should fade into the background, and the spirit of the Christ's admonition to love more fully and selflessly should come to the fore.

Gemini transmits 'The Light of Interplay', which is a "line of Light beams, revealing that which opposes". In the preceding quoted segment lies a key to the dynamics of the workings of this particular solar festival, and also the basic crux of why there are such poor relations between people, groups and nations. As human beings we tend to identify not with the sameness or commonality between people but, rather, with that which makes us all unique and different—hence,

with that which potentially separates us from each other. In this age of the cult of the individual, the keynote of this solar festival should ring through the minds of every person. Yet, we are all-too-apt to forget that we are more similar with everyone else than we are different. Rather than having right interplay between people and groups with the energy of Gemini, we usually get a dynamic that encourages competition, argument, strife, the stressing of differences and perceived inadequacies in others instead, and a current of thought that likes to manipulate and play with ideas and setting those ideas against each other rather than seeing how everything could possibly work better together. As it has often been observed with Gemini, it is the idea and its playing out amongst the myriad of other forms that is important to the Geminian consciousness, not the essence behind the thought itself. Every thought, just like every feeling or physical construct, veils a Light from a more sublime realm—the realm of the Soul. Now that we have the gist of the subtler meanings of Gemini, let us see what this great solar Festival of Humanity will bring us in terms of relationships this year.

The full moon took place at 4:03 AM AEST (6:03 PM GMT) on the 12th of June, Australia time. Although it has been named the Festival of Goodwill, it has felt like anything but that. One reason that I am late sending out this letter is because the solstice figure looks even more occult in many ways than the full moon figure does, and the solstice figure sets the tone for the entire season. Since yesterday was the solstice, it seemed appropriate to comment on both figures at the same time and to send the Goodwill letter late. Thus, we can look forward to quite a bit of good spiritual work over the next months.

Over the past couple of weeks the energies around have been a bit strange and difficult to gauge, somewhat like they were before the Sumatra Tsunami. Many people I have spoken with have noted the same thing. We all feel that something is about to happen in the world. The Goodwill figure shows it, as we will see. It is one of the most occult figures I have seen in a while and it carries the energy of destruction/reordering very strongly. Two dear colleagues of mine have both summed it up succinctly, but each in their own way—There are a large number of ‘gremlins’/negative thought-forms that have been released into the world. This is not a thing to be feared, however. In fact, it is a good indicator. The thing about it is that these entities are of a much more manageable size and nature than they have been in the past. Instead of large, planetary-scale energies, those big ones have been broken up and are much easier to deal with by groups or individuals. There is a lot of cause for hope in that because it means that the collective efforts of Light-workers throughout the world and humanity at large in recent years are having the desired effects. However, it also means that we have to deal with any negativity on a much more personal level and that we have to take more responsibility for our own thoughts and actions, rather than ‘offering everything up to God’ and trusting that we will be protected from the larger evils that beset the world. In this period of transition over the next 20 years we will see an acceleration of this breaking up of the larger materialistic thought-forms into much smaller pieces. Our planet would seem to have undergone a major initiatory shift over the past decades and it has enabled humanity and empowered it to move beyond the grosser materialistic instincts in a big way and to score major victories for the Forces of Light in the world.

Still, many of us feel that something is about to happen. Whenever gains are made, there are also challenges, since the status quo (the forces of materialism/evil/separatism) always wants to keep the old order in place and to keep its hold on power. There is a great dying-out taking place on a planetary scale at the moment and over the next century especially as certain great energies have completed their work and new ones come in to take their place. The main energy that is passing out is the one that gives rise to all the fundamentalist and fanatical fervor in the world (the Sixth Ray), and there is about 150 years yet to go with that. We are in the most difficult phase of it now. In any dying-out process the energies of the past always make a last-gasp effort to hang on to what was. Our intuition will serve us well in that regard if we look at recent events in the political arena. In addition, there is a greater movement of magma in the mantle of the earth that has occurred over the last few months, and this has given rise to larger-scale earth changes, such as the recent Java earthquake and volcanic eruptions in the rim of fire around the Pacific.

Whatever happens, the three recent great spiritual Festivals of Aries, Taurus and now Gemini will do their work and aid in our spiritual progress forward. The festival just-passed will give a good ‘capper’ to the entire season and we will find that its effects will be most liberating for people. What that usually means from a personal perspective is disruption of life in many areas, but we are set free for more goal-fitting work (from the Soul’s perspective) as a result and stand in greater freedom. At the same time, if we can meet what seems like a disruptive force, fill the void we feel with Light and as much Love as we can and gain strength in the lessons from it, then we stand to gain greatly in strength and all of our relations can thus be made much stronger as a result. With these points in mind, what follows are the dynamics in evidence before us now, both from the full moon and from the solstice figures.

To begin with, the full moon axis was the base of a t-square, with Pluto conjoining the Moon and Uranus at the apex. Although it is a separating t-square, its action will be profound. On the 17th the Sun completed the opposition to Pluto and the Moon conjoined Uranus the day after. On that same day a combust t-square was formed when Mars joined Saturn in opposition to Chiron (now *there* is a potent heartbreak aspect if we have ever seen one) and with retrograde Jupiter at the

apex. *In addition*, Uranus made its station on the 17th and turned retrograde on the 20th. Ready for a bit of change? As one of my dear previously-mentioned colleagues has noted, where will *you* be when the proverbial offal hits the fan? These aspect patterns form the basis for what we are all feeling now. If you think you are alone in what you feel—that your world feels a little sullen and dark clouds block your usual sunny disposition—stick your head out of the window and ask the average person on the street how they are feeling. You are likely to get an earful of the same as what you feel. The good news is that, yes, this too shall pass.

The just-mentioned Saturn/Chiron opposition is very tight now and began to separate on the day Uranus turned retrograde. And a big sigh of relief can be had all around, for that opposition will not recur for a long time! As also mentioned, however, Jupiter forms the apex of a t-square with it. Jupiter squaring other planets can exacerbate existing conditions and make things far worse than they would be ordinarily, or at least can make them seem that way. The fact that it is retrograde, along with Chiron, points to the struggles indicated being more internalized than would ordinarily be the case. It is this t-square I will be watching as Mars approaches and passes on as well as the Sun/Pluto opposition. Things will be ‘triggered’ over the next week or so, both for individuals and in the world.

The symbol for the degree of the Sun set the tone for the festival, and it read thus:

“A tumultuous labor demonstration.” 21 Gemini

Need we say more in terms of what will be working out in the world?—or with people in general? All throughout humanity the urge for freedom and for better conditions is being felt, and the planetary configurations just outlined will provide a good catalyst for it. Look for unrest in the world, for it is within us all, and for the will of the people to be asserted, which is always what the spiritual Hierarchy works toward anyway. In the will of the people lies the hope for the future and for better relations between groups and individuals. That is the keynote of the Gemini festival anyway—right human relations. One thing many of my friends and I have noticed is that what is being pulled forward into consciousness for people are issues that have been of long standing and which are now crying out for resolution within people’s psyches. Sometimes the issues feel very Plutonian (which would be brought forward by the Moon/Pluto conjunction in the full moon figure)—that is to say dark, murky, terrifying, death-like, etc. Sometimes what happens to people feels very sudden and Uranian (the apex of the t-square in the figure), leaving one wondering what has happened, like life is unfair, that we have somehow been left behind, or that we somehow don’t fit in the scheme of things. Either way, there are some major emotional adjustments to be made in everyone’s lives this year, and especially over the next few months.

The symbol for the degree of the Moon indicates what is being reflected in the collective human psyche during this period. It reads thus:

“A child and a dog wearing borrowed eyeglasses.” 21 Sagittarius

There are two aspects to this symbol: learning through imitation, and imagination, both of which will be needed in determining how best to deal with people over the coming months. The ‘learning through imitation’ refers to the great examples of right human relations we have had throughout history—Buddha, Jesus, Mohammed, Confucius, and many others—all the great world Teachers who have laid the groundwork for our approach to life and how to deal with our fellows. The imagination part of the symbol refers to the fact that we often have to be inventive with people (not in the sense of lying to them or fabricating stories or situations) when we reach impasses with them and we need to find a way to amicably work through difficult situations with people in order to achieve the best outcome for a situation. Sometimes a lot of play is in order, and in fact, the more playful we can be when times get tough, the better off we are. Learning to laugh at ourselves is a big help in that regard, too. A lot of the learning we will all have in the coming months is to step out of whatever discomfort we might be feeling and to take a dispassionate view of things. Remembering that everything passes in time is a big help when confronted with what feels to be most uncomfortable.

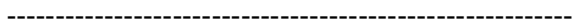
To finish off the dynamics of this period, the Cancer ingress figure for this year contains two Great Crosses. It is one of the more stressful figures I have seen in a while. Occurring, as it does, at the start of the sign Cancer, one’s most intimate relations are highlighted as all sorts of parental issues are being called up for resolution. The masses will be very strongly affected, and the general feeling for the figure is quite Plutonic (see the description under the 21 Gemini symbol). Cancer is the most subconscious of the signs, too, and with the Sun opposing Pluto in that figure it is a pretty good indicator that a lot of what is happening for people at the moment is a ‘clearing of the decks’ in terms of the subconscious, both individually and collectively. The most striking Great Cross in the figure is the one involving the Saturn/Chiron t-square. The Moon completes the Great Cross and points to a further Cancerian/familial dynamic in the resolution of people’s subconscious outflow. The degree for the Moon in that figure holds a key to how to resolve such matters. It reads:

“A fully decorated Christmas tree.” 9 Taurus

Remember how you felt as a kid when Christmas morning rolled around? If you come from that heritage, it is generally one of the most exciting and joyful days of the year—full of love and laughter for most people, the giving of gifts and the thrill that comes from that, feeling the joy of another when a gift from ourselves is received and the care that is felt when something we desire is given freely to us in the spirit of love by another. There is strong tradition among families at Christmas time (note the connection with Cancer here). It is the one time of the year when people are brought together as the family unit in a big way. More than anything, it is the celebration of Life, family, giving without thought of return and of the true spirit of Christianity—of loving all others as we would want to be loved ourselves. Pity we tend to forget that over the remainder of the year. However, if you want the key to resolution of the difficulties now presented to you, this would be it: ***Be toward yourself and others now as you would be at the Christmas season.*** There is not much more to be said about it. Self-forgetfulness and a giving spirit is the keynote here. It gives us faith in the cyclic return of happiness and the ability to create happiness in dark hours, to paraphrase Dane Rudhyar’s commentary on this symbol.

Therefore, let us be mindful, tolerant and open-minded in our dealings with people in the coming months, for there will definitely be things to overcome—entrenched issues, old fears and the like. And, by all means, find some time to have some fun in the midst of whatever dramas we find ourselves immersed in. Nothing stimulates the imagination like play. This has been a difficult full moon period for many, and the coming days will present much for us, too. Finally, then, in the words of Shirley Horne:

“May all your storms be weathered.
May all that’s good get better.
Here’s to life. Here’s to love.
Here’s to you.”



How poignant times seem now, yet so full of promise, too. Like the leaf that has its time in the Sun and then falls from the tree after completing its work, so we all must move with life when called to do so. We fear the future, but in that fear, we forget who we are. There is no future save what we take into it and forge from our own being. This is a thing we forget in thinking of offers of security and comfort in the present or in the past. Sometimes the past gives security. Other times it imprisons us. It is for us to decide our course. As always, though, the present offers a promise—the sure and certain knowledge of our Being—that all things we do, create or experience lead us inexorably and infallibly to a realization of our true place in the Sun. That is the place where life is vital, where we give with no thought other than the sheer joy of giving and living in that moment, and where we see relations in their true light—that we are as one in the vast sea of bliss that we call Life, and which we choose to forget as we grow up in the swamp of emotional entanglement that is human life in this world. Like the leaves of a tree we are all as one, linked in common purpose, giving of our vitality and energy to the common good, giving shade and comfort when the going gets hot, fulfilling our duties and then moving on from this life, knowing that we have added to all Life—even in our passing.

Do get out and have some fun, my friends. We all deserve it. Find a loved one and en-joy your own life and theirs!

Blessings,
Malvin.
22 June 2006

These letters go out as a gift and a service. If you feel so inspired, please feel free to pass them on, but I would ask you to do so without alteration or charge. If you wish to be added to or deleted from the mailing list, please let me know.