

NEPTUNE AND OUR COLLECTIVE ENCHANTMENTS (part two)

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When we consider the extreme events and side effects of any long-term social and economical changes, we may realize that the cosmic influences and the slow beat of the planetary cycles help create favorable conditions or circumstances for our collective growth and evolution, supporting and urging us to move forward and to bring us closer together. These conditions can be considered as “progressive” or “evolutionary”, appealing to our higher aspirations and our humanistic traits which can remind us that we are all part of the same family of human beings. Any separation by race, by culture, by religion, by gender and by beliefs is only superficial and perpetuated for centuries by the ruling classes who maintained their position and their authority by setting us against each other through war and destruction of “our enemies” whose only fault was that they were born in a territory ruled by a different lord and they spoke a language that was different from what we recognized.

We could answer this cosmic call for change and rise to meet the challenge and follow our evolutionary path by recognizing the power of the collective. More often than not, we fail to recognize this call and we lose the advantage of striking while the iron is still hot. We wait, we debate and often argue with each other. We give in to the pressures and fall prey to the fears spread freely by those who stand to lose the most from society’s bigger changes. We trade our dreams and our visions for gadgets and gimmicks. We choose modern conveniences and the safety of our comfort zones over the fear of the unknown and the uncertainty of our future. Even if we often say that we would welcome any necessary change for a better and brighter future with open arms, we take a step back and retreat into the safety of our shells as the prospect of us co-creating the future together is way too fearful and unpredictable.

The wave of long-term transformations that peaked in 2020 will continue with their potential for more sweeping changes and for our gradual unplugging from the system. While planets, their movements and unique alignments can create special conditions and act as agents of change and transformation, we still have our job to do and our responsibilities to fulfill here on Earth. **Very little will change or happen without our collective effort, cooperation and collaboration.** The highly anticipated conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius in late December 2020 may provide a potent mix for our next collective vision of a much better, more democratic society with all our expectations, dreams, prayers and ideas piled up high on the altar of this cosmic event. Time will tell what will happen and how the future will end up unfolding for most of us. While most of US are busy expecting and anticipating, the world of THEM is also busy preparing for what may possibly come while it is also busy preparing alternative solutions - decoys, diversions and highly attractive distractions which can be offered at a critical juncture point to appease many of us and to convince us that there is no need to change anything, as the world is just fine the way it is right now.

So where is the silver lining and maybe a tiny glimpse of a potentially better tomorrow in all of this? A few weeks or possibly even a few months some of us spent either in self-isolation or working from home

or being temporarily laid off or having to lock up the doors of our private enterprise and head home was the time that could have been well used to get unplugged from “the matrix”, to question and to review the quality of our lifestyle and the futility of our daily pursuits, the countless hours spent either at work or in other work-related activities just to transfer most of our hard-earned money to retailers and entertainment providers on weekends. It is true that our modern spending habits and our frequent trips to shopping malls or online purchases help fuel the economy and in turn provide thousands of jobs for our local community which translates into jobs and food on the table for millions of people worldwide. But the healthy balance between work time and family or personal time has been lost or grossly imbalanced for decades. Most of us have lost a direct connection with the work we do and how it is received or how it benefits our customers or clients. We may be able to view some aspects of it but a lot of times what we receive is just piles of data – sales figures, profit margins, customer engagement, market penetration and demographic breakdown of the population which is at the receiving end of what we provide. All usually result in either rounds of celebrations if things work out in our favor or maybe a call to arms and sad news about another wave of necessary layoffs to help with our overhead costs and to prop up our bottom line should the quarterly sales and profits decline. Opportunities to connect directly with a customer and to spend some valuable time with another human being while catering to their specific needs and concerns are now possible for a selected few who bravely ventured out on their own while providing alternative solutions well outside of the established systems and frameworks.

So we need to return to the basics. A simple solution could be to start manufacturing and consuming a lot less in terms of the actual consumer goods and products and maybe to learn how to extend the lifespan of what we already own and how to rebuild some of our products so they can continue serving our needs a lot longer, instead of throwing out the old and replacing it with a new item every 3-5 years. As long as we keep playing the numbers game where more horsepower, more impressive specs, more available data storage space and faster computing will always win against the technology of yesterday we will continue our unhealthy run on the hamster wheel.

We also need to come up with new ways to create income or to create alternative ways to earn a living through other means and perhaps even outside of the established ways and what the system currently allows. We need to assign a value system to many current and future activities and services which can help many of us and which can also help rebuild the network of human minds and hearts, not through the hype and the fashionable trends of social media and other types of superficial connectivity but through our direct contact and through working within smaller groups while possibly still using technology to allow like-minded people to connect and to work together towards a common goal.

What should have become painfully obvious to us over the last few months was what really matters in our lives and what we should value over and above the superficial glamour of the modern world. The time we spend with our loved ones either playing together or sharing how our day has been or helping each other with some small or bigger tasks daily duties is worth much more than what we could potentially gain from even the most successful or fulfilling career. Secondly, several groups of common workers came to the forefront with their daily tasks and job responsibilities becoming much more valuable and indispensable to our health and our well-being. A small army of nurses, emergency crews, health practitioners, personal support workers, general staff and cashiers at grocery stores and drug stores became the heroes of our daytime stories. It was and still is exciting and refreshing to shift the balance of our attention away from the politician, celebrities, athletes, the super wealthy and the insanely privileged percentage of our total population. Needless to say, we need a lot more of what's been essential for us in 2020 and much less of what we've been spoon-fed so far. Just like Neo in the Matrix we need to get unplugged from the system one life-sucking connection at a time.

Until and unless we become ready and willing to give up some of the current substitutes and plenty of other gadgets and gimmicks that masquerade around pretending to be something worth working and living for, life as we know it will continue, more or less uninterrupted until we come to the next big bump in the road ahead.