

Spring 1993

YESTERDAY'S TOMORROW IS TODAY!

A while back a friend of mine was due to speak at a historical society. *Whatever can I tell them, whatever should I tell them,* she moaned. *Tell them that there is no future without a past,* was my quick and automatic reply. Yes, I really believe that there is no tomorrow without yesterday, or, as philosopher George Santayana so wisely said: *Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.*" Yet here we are, at the edge of the future, the millennium, the year 2000 we've all been waiting for, that magical moment in time when one century ends and another one starts...that elusive *tomorrow*, part of so many of our yesterdays, is finally here.

Are we ready for it? Have we learned enough from the past to take advantage of tomorrow? In Europe the past is not so hard to remember or reconstruct -- their cobbled narrow streets, old bridges, castles and aqueducts are daily reminders. But sometimes, because their history is still alive, they resent it and strive forward, stripping themselves of yesterdays encumbrances. In North, Central and South America, New Zealand and Australia, only traces of native Indian culture remain to remind us that we too have a past, so we tend to either ignore it or romanticize over what was versus that which is.

We also tend to idealize the present -- When the *Iron Curtain* lifted, when the Berlin wall and all it signified came down, we were ecstatic, hopeful that mankind had learned and would now, at least for a while, live in peace. Instead we have Bosnia, a so-called ethnic cleansing reminiscent of Hitler and the Nazis; the former Soviet Union is now divided into many countries, each

countrie
fighting
Bosnia

fighting for survival, the Czechs separated from the Slovaks, diverse Somalian tribes try to starve or kill each other, the Muslims are still fighting the Hindus, the Irish Catholics can't get along with the Irish Protestants and so on at nauseam...

Czech/Slovak
Muslim/Hindu
Irish

What about astrologers, we who supposedly are wise enough to see ahead? What progress have we made? How ready are we for tomorrow? We pride ourselves for having left fated and predetermined astrology behind, a fact, by the way, I also delight in and have extolled time and again. Nowadays we use psychological and new age terms, such as: The Free Will, Making your own Reality, Growth, Evolvment, Ego, Id, Crisis intermingled with such sentences as the Moon in the 6th house square Mars in the 3rd, as though astrology has always expressed itself partially in its own patois and partially in psychological buzzwords.

As above, so below... As we peered deeper into the universe, we not only sighted three transcendental planets, we also learned to peer deeper into ourselves. As we integrated the new planets, we changed our attitude about traditional astrology, especially Saturn. To the ancients Saturn represented the outermost reaches of space, the limiting factor between them and eternity; to us it represents the often welcome ability to self-discipline, the capability to organize, to concentrate, to accept responsibilities. Now Pluto has replaced Saturn as the farthest out planet in our Solar system. But there is one enormous difference: We now know that no mere planet can restrict our access to eternity; that we can travel in space, that planets do not impose limitations, only we can do that to ourselves. As a result Pluto does not instill us with the same fears as Saturn did. Instead we have chosen Pluto to lead us into the darkest corners of our sub- or unconscious.

bold
inner

Pluto
inner

In doing so, we are standing on the shoulders of great thinkers like Carl Gustav

Jung and Joseph Campbell, who made us aware of concepts like *the Collective Unconscious* and gently reminded us that the old truths found in myths and archetypes are always viable. They used the past to integrate into the present and thus form the future. Yet some of their followers, in their anxiety to undo a fatalistic approach to astrological interpretations, may have gone a step too far by nearly eliminating important traditional approaches. The pendulum tends to swing too far and rarely stops in the reasonable middle.

Let me insert a quick aside, I would like to leave some time at the end for questions and discussion -- with that in mind, if I touch on any subject that particularly stimulates you, that you want to have input on, make yourself some notes and we will discuss it at the end.

As technology and computers have become part of our daily world, formerly herculean astrological tasks have become easy as child's play and opened new vistas and discoveries. Real research can be undertaken, data checked and rechecked. In fact there is so much new information that it sometimes overwhelms us. We have made much progress in astrology, but we have a long way to go.

The Catholic Church still considers the use of astrology a sin, even in its newest catechism. Now I don't mind sinning along with the best of you, but at least it should be worth my while...If I'm accused of being a sinner, I want to have some fun along the way. Instead we've been trying to convince everybody how much we've changed, that we now don't predict or foretell the future, that the future is ours to choose...but none of our assurances seem good enough -- to the church we are and will be sinners!

irony

The media's reaction is not much better. They still regard us as fun and games. In fact Steven Forest, a well known and well liked American astrologer, makes a very sad statement in his latest book THE NIGHT SPEAKS:

"I live with a primal fear that somebody's conservative father will come up to me at a party and ask 'by the way, Steve, what do you do?'" How devastating that a member of a profession that can and has done so much good, should be embarrassed to admit that he is an astrologer. Yes, we've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go.

In reaching out to the future and trying to please those who deride us, we face a definite danger: that by throwing too much of the past away, we may not only have to repeat it, but we also have to relearn much of our true trade.

When Christianity took over as a religious and secular power, it changed the prevailing belief of what life was all about...No longer was time circular, it became a finite line, one that began at Creation or Genesis, and ended at the Millennium or Golden Age. The Christian concept of time was a radical departure from the cyclical time of the Ancients. All of a sudden the eternal quality of life was lost as the events of the world, and with it the life of the individual all happened within linear time. Nothing was repeated, the world became a unique place of unique events instead of the repetitive manifestation of the archetypal.

like
linear
and
circular
now

Though some great intellects like Jung tried to lead us back into the inner world of the collective unconscious, or like Freud, into the more instinctive realm of the subconscious, most of the Western world deals in the Christian concept of events being determined by prior causes rather than divine will or karmic effect. We will probably argue forever whether Astrology is causal or synchronistic, if its influence is due to some natural phenomenon like, for example, electro-magnetism or if it can be attributed to the synchronicity of the universe.

The synchronicity of the Universe, which I happen to believe in, is working now and preventing us from throwing all the past away. An interesting development has occurred in the United States and by chance, I became part of it a few years ago. It seems to be taking hold in Europe too. Denmark's Christian Borup, in a chapter in the latest Llewellyn anthology series, *"The Astrology of Crisis,"* comments on the return to such old techniques as Horary Astrology. In fact he calls the birth chart: *"the Horary chart erected for the time, date and place of birth."* He does not make fun of the old technique, on the contrary, he brings it forward to the present. Of course I totally agree with him, only I call it an **Electional Chart** since, in my opinion, we elect or choose the moment we wish to be born and become independent, whereas our parents elect when to conceive us

This movement not to throw the baby out with the bath water started just a few years ago. After railing against anything that seemed pre-determined, we were on the best way of losing some of the old truths that make astrology the helping tool that it is supposed to be. I myself realized it a while back, when a client of mine, who had been with me for about five years, bitterly complained about the last three movies he had produced and partly directed, which had barely recuperated their expenses and not been the hits he felt they should have been and deserved to be.

"Can't astrology help?" was his question. "I guess so," I answered, I occasionally do **electional charts** for when to initiate something, such as a marriage or the sale of a house, a move into a place, the start of a business or conference, so I guess I could calculate the onset of a movie, as long as you can tell me what you consider the start...

We found a good time for him to begin his next picture, it was a great box office success and even received two minor Oscars. My client now not only uses

Astrology for himself, but will openly admit that he does so and recommend it to others - a great step forward from the years when he was my client, but, shades of Ronald Reagan, would never own up to using astrology. Since then, I have become a great enthusiast of Electional Astrology and considerably expanded my use of it. In fact my partner Joan McEvers and I have just finished another book (number 6 in our series) on Electional and Horary Astrology.

Why were we so ready to throw out something that can be so helpful. Why did we look down on it as old-fashioned or pre-determined. All we are doing is choosing an appropriate moment in time to start a certain venture, we don't have to start the venture if we do not want to, but at least we have the choice of starting at a good rather than difficult or indifferent time. The same goes for Horary charts. What is wrong with asking a question and using the moment the question has formed in our mind as that point in time which contains the right answer? We believe in the synchronicity of time and the synchronicity of other matters, why are we hesitant to give it a name or to utilize it. Does that make us greater sinners in the eyes of the church. As long as it helps someone, how much of a sin can it be? Or does the church maybe fear that we can manipulate time?

Though we are rushing toward tomorrow, our basic instincts are telling us to hold on to certain traditions and memories to give us continuity. That is probably why other so-called old wisdoms such as Feng-Shui, the I-Ching and the power of Chi seem to experience a revival, just now, at the turn of the millennium. That is possibly why astrologers like Rob Hand have delved into such subjects as Project Hindsight. We all seem to feel protective of the past and want to preserve it before it is forgotten, just like some families are searching for their roots before their background is forgotten. Or maybe it is just the reality of Capricorn wanting practical, provable testimonials?

Whatever it is, we all seem to feel it, *the past calling to the future: wait for me, help me catch up to today, don't leave me behind or you may have to re-invent me for the future.*

Of course many of the old wisdoms have been and should be modernized. Just as the everyday astrology we use has streamlined itself, such tools as Horary or Electional Astrology, or Feng-Shue or whatever else you may use, have to be brought into the 21st century and should incorporate Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. If we believe in the past, we know that the future may bring us more discoveries. We may be very Capricornian now, but Aquarius is just over the horizon.

Maybe people feel the typical Aquarian sensation of change, of awakening, of something new and different in the offing when they talk about the *Paradigm Shift*, that new buzzword on everyones lips. You've probably all heard the expression, but do you really know what it means? Don't be embarassed if you don't! *A Paradigm is a worldview held by a large group of people, such as an entire nation or even civilization rather than a personal opinion.* According to Michel Gauquelin, for example, *"Paradigms are universally accepted scientific truths which, for a time, provide the community of researchers with a model for all the problems and all their solutions."* Right now, many of those models are breaking down, giving rise to the possibility of a major paradigm shift.

Many astrologers seem to hope for a shift away from the so-called materialistic approach into a more metaphysical climate. Others feel that because Aquarius is the natural 2nd house to Capricorn, we may find new tangible and concrete solutions to existing enviromental or political problems. Personally I do not foresee a real paradigm shift, I think we are in what I would call a *Seachange*, a not so gentle changing of our economy and our type of productivity.

Industry is realizing that a lean work force is better than a fat one. The workers let go recently will most likely never be replaced. The new types of work available, for example the *Cottage Industry*, will need different educational proficiency. The uneducated may be left behind forever or stay in a type of welfare stage for the rest of their lives. Countries like Switzerland and Germany have discovered that they can support up to 9% of unemployment, soon the United States may discover the same thing.

In early 1995 Uranus will enter Aquarius, Neptune follows three years later. In 1834 to 1847, when Neptune last was there, we used anesthetics, the deadening or numbing of the senses, for the first time. What will the combination of Neptune with Uranus bring? What social, philosophical and political changes are in store from the union of Neptune's creative and intuitive capacity with the ability of Uranus to understand the abstract as well as its need to be free? A new way to numb our senses or could we discover a new type of awakening of our sense of awareness?

By 1995 Pluto will finally leave Scorpio, and instead of stirring the murky waters of our stagnant unseen depth, it will enter Sagittarius. Instead of transforming relationships as it did when it was in Libra, or probing into sexual mores and ensuing illnesses like AIDS, as it is doing now while in Scorpio, maybe it will bring a return to the more fundamental laws of nature while in Sagittarius. In a less positive vein, perhaps we have to penetrate through layers of phony religions, or, per chance, we can reach for the stars, the future, tomorrow!

When first Christianity and then Islam came into being, they revolutionized mankind, because, according to historians, they empowered people. They removed gods and fate and put the power where it belongs, into the hands and minds of

people. And that, of course, is what astrology can and should do. We have removed the so-called fated aspects. Astrology is, can and should be a tool of personal power, strength and insight. May we all be ready for tomorrow. Let us us once again be proud to say: *I am an astrologer!*