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**Opening & Meditation:**

**Cheryl Croci**

**12-21-12 ~ The New Golden Age of Light**

**[SEE BELOW]**

<http://pleiadianlight.net/12-21-12-the-new-golden-age-of-light/>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=RGIkw9RBKT4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=RGIkw9RBKT4)

**Everyone is invited** to Cheryl Croci's Sunday and Monday ascension and activation calls

- 8:45 pm EST/5:45 pm PST
- 213-342-3000; PIN 9467441#

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1704 B Llano St, # 249  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Or contact MariettaRobert at 317-773-0061

The work we do together, the sharing we do - all of this is important: thank you all for sharing!

**Phone Numbers:**

530-413-9537  
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**BBS Toll Free**

888-429-5471 [Canada, US]

**T:** Betty Rubble and Wilma of the Occupy Santa Fe are helping T & R a great deal - having more help from listeners would be welcome!

## Hard News:

R: things moving at light speed across the universe

**Camp Loveway:** Ben Stewart was guest; told true story of Christmas - of the shaman who delivered mushrooms on Christmas Day; speaking of the people of the Altai region of Siberia, Ukraine

- the shaman showed up and delivered a small package of mushrooms to each home
- if he found the doors covered with snow, they had a smoke flap at the top of the yurt and the shaman could enter that way - there was kambuca, mushroom tea, waiting for him
- on RT tv, this kind of wisdom is beginning to be shared; this kind of thing is not being shown elsewhere

**The fiscal cliff:** this might be the trigger that changes everything - a big deal - the world's economies have to be straightened out - St Germain can clear up the story, not Neil Keenan or anyone else

**Right Left and Centre** - Robert Scheer - discussing NRA, the domestic terrorist group

- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment = no standing army in times of peace
- it's about the hedge fund managers who are insanely jealous with greed
- Brian Epstein today: as we go over the cliff, there is a solution - forgiveness of debt across the board [this = NESARA!]
- Glen Greenwald: there were 2 shooters; more to story than being discussed - a convoluted story
  - Eric Holder: do your job!

**Up with Chris:** Crystiana Freiland was on

R: everyone he heard was discussing this: we have to go over the cliff and forgive the debt - we can fly!

**Reading: IMF's epic plan to conjure away debt and dethrone bankers**

[SEE BELOW]

NESARA is still the answer!

**Audio:** Episode 383 <http://rt.com/programs/keiser-report/episode-383-max-keiser/>

In this episode, Max Keiser and Stacy Herbert look at the the central bank revolution that will end in disaster with Japan leading the way after voters have demanded even more aggression with the nation's monetary policy. They also look at Moody's ratings getting no respect because nobody has done better than flipping a coin for 50 years in a slow burning prison. In the second half, Max Keiser talks to Peter Schiff about bonds, dollars and governments buying their own debt.

R: in summary, the hedge fund dance is about the bankers

**Reading: Ex-SAC fund manager indicted in insider trading scheme**

[SEE BELOW]

R: Mike Papantonio's law firm [Mike fills in for Ed Schultz's radio show] is taking on some of the biggest drug companies on behalf of people who take the drugs; talks of what Mike is seeing and learning about the effects of taking the drugs on the people

**Reading: ICE's NYSE swoop creates derivatives giant**

[SEE BELOW]

**Audio:** <http://www.shiftoftheages.com/watch-now/>

**Music:** Ravi Shankar and George Harrison

Playing for Change  
Peter, Paul and Mary

**Astrology: Richard**

- Chart is for 9pm on east coast, West Georgia
- Jupiter & Gemini with Saturn, Uranus, Pluto - - tonight, Venus at the bottom is 30° from Saturn, and 30° from Pluto - have 2 trines and a sextile
  - this window really signifies the essence of this winter solstice
- The angles are so close and so tight: amazing - lots of intensity; the angles are less than a quarter of a degree of accuracy
- Pluto governs divine love, transformation; Saturn rules time and the necessary matrix of dense physical reality, so the Saturn / Pluto is very potent. Plus Jupiter the governor of expansion is there
- There will be further travels in consciousness because Mercury is there.
- Uranus is sextile to Jupiter, and trine to Venus
- 3<sup>rd</sup> one is the Saturn / Neptune trine, Saturn / chiron trine with the sun in the middle

**Interpretation of the overlays with the Finger of God formation?**

- challenges as we grow in wisdom - Chiron / Neptune add healing and increase in wisdom
- Jupiter Saturn Pluto move fairly slowly: this is a window of opportunity here
  - Chiron in Pisces is spiritual healing - as much about our inner work as our outer work the within us component
  - Venus in Sag, opposite Jupiter: use creative visualization with all things going forward
- When thinking of each planet and its energy, we have to recall the huge amount of end of the world information and destruction prophecies - yet if we look with the inner eye, it's about dismantling one paradigm to make way for a new one
- Saturn's position in Scorpio = a new inner experience regarding the nature of time - more and more people will start opening up to a new idea of time, and a new process of creativity which is a healing thing
  - using time wisely = knowing when to slow down and when to move more quickly
- the only energies out of the loop here are Mars and the moon, yet the moon moves quickly like a second hand; until Mars makes another major connection somewhere, it's about being still, being loving, being kind; pray for peace globally
- There are still lots of folks who are not evolved: when things don't go right for them, they pick up a club - so pray for them too! The needs of the weak are those who need assistance.
  - The destroyers are the ones that get us going!
- T:** the illness of society has to do with the inequality running the show: who had the money for the Black Ops? Aurora, the Sikh Temple, Sandy Hook School - all were Black Ops.
  - There is enough inequality that people will do anything for money - tough to get out the situation once a commitment is made to do such acts
- Ri:** The house of the evil ones will come down: there was major manipulation in the precious metals markets this week - 3x this week, there were attempts to drive down the price of silver - but these attempts will not succeed.
  - there will be major transformation in the next month!
  - While all this is going on, the price of food is going up and more people are suffering.
- T:** we are going over the cliff - about time for NESARA
- Ri:** between now and spring equinox: sun conjunct Pluto next week Aquarius / air energy will mess with

peoples heads as it get activated, then the sun will come up there and tap on Neptune and Chiron which will help spiritual development a whole lot - around Feb 21 when sun goes into Pisces [Presidents Day]

**T:** hopes it is before then!

**Ri:** but our whole concept of time is changing: sometimes, we will think time is dragging, with no solutions or that they are slow to come;

- yet other times, will get up and soon find it is night time again. Need to regulate self to make sure the energy is kept up - broken sleep patterns will continue to happen
- Becoming normal to sleep less and then nap at some point during the day

**Reading:** 2012, Dec 10 [The End of 2012](#) [SEE BELOW]

- sun is 28,0000 light years away from the Dark Rift - the 3 days of darkness did not happen
- it was scheduled to happen on Aug 11, 1999

**Audio:** Last 10 minutes of the Mayan film

**Reading:** <http://digitalseance.wordpress.com/2007/07/16/the-secret-of-the-andes-part-7/>

**Reading:** **The Order of Melchizedek and the Merkaba Riders** [SEE BELOW]

- sometimes called the son of Shem; sometimes said that he just came out of nowhere
- he is King of Right-ness; also in genesis: King of Peace

**R:** Ben Stewart talked of the Last Supper: could have been a special supper of liquid and magic mushrooms

**Music:** an African Christmas song

**Reading:** **The Secrets of Thoth and the Keys of Enoch** [SEE BELOW]  
[written in 2000]

**Caller:** asking about Obama on holiday and what is happening

**T:** Kuchinich said would be better to go over the cliff

**Caller:** will we go forward in baby steps or what?

**T:** have been doing millions of baby steps up to now: we who know what is going on need to ground the new energies and maintain the balance, keep the energy grounded, keep cheerful, stay neutral

- they have gotten to a dead end because they will collapse the bond market

**Caller:** a 9 o'clock call from BOA - made arrangements for a payment on Dec 31 -

**T:** all the heads of all the banksters are on the chopping block

- The whole situation is playing itself out

**Music:** Debra Barabeau on the harp, singing the story of the energies of Christmas

**Reading:** **Wisdom of the Sages: Lao Tzu** [SEE BELOW]

**Reading:** **Taoism** by Peter Occhiogrosso [SEE BELOW]

**Music:** various Christmas selections

**Reading:** **The Mayan Factor, Ch 5** the History & the solar system: the galactic view

**Closing:** Rainbird

**Music**

2012, Dec 15

## 12-21-12 ~ The New Golden Age of Light

<http://pleiadianlight.net/12-21-12-the-new-golden-age-of-light/>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=RGlkw9RBKT4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=RGlkw9RBKT4)

### 12-21-12 ~ Alignment to the Galactic Center and the Cosmic Heart of all Creation

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 one of the greatest, unprecedented and most glorious events of Light is to occur as we align to the Galactic Center, experiencing our true radiance as these sacred transfiguring Flames of Divine Love through the Cosmic Heart of All Creation. This unparalleled activity of Light orchestrated from On High, has been prophesized and foretold by the Company of Heaven and its many Disciples over eons and eons. Humanity is about to officially enter into the Golden Age of Light as One Awakened Unified Cosmic Heart through the energy of Divine Love pouring forth from their heart centers and reflected through the Love of all Creation. In this Galactic Alignment of Light, all Life is moving up an octave, and by the Grace of God, One Unity Consciousness is again to be experienced as all planets, suns and cycles align through this Cosmic ascension cycle, occurring once every 25,556 years.

Overlighted by the Company of Heaven, Mother/Father God and our Beloved I Am Presence, we experience this alignment of Light through the Galactic Center to the Inner Earth Sun, the Sun, Central Sun and Great Central Sun, amplified through the Solar Flares, Photonic Rays and super-electron. This electromagnetic pulsing of Divine Light further assists in activating our Light Bodies/Merkabas and the Light Body/Merkaba field of Mother Earth as our Sun becomes the Central Sun and Mother Earth, the Spiritual Sun for this Solar System.

Our Light Body/Merkaba is a living, organic Divine Intelligence, powered by our Beloved I Am Presence working in alignment with Mother/Father God. As we receive the amplified Light frequencies through the Photonic Rays of Light from the surrounded stars, solar systems and the Galactic Center, we convert this Light energy into electrons and spin the sub-atomic particles within our bodies in increased Light frequencies. Photons, which are formed through the collision of an electron and its anti-particle opposite, the positron, produce two quanta of Light. And the super-electron is a Life activating force which impulses the transmutation of the positron on the lower dimensions. The Photon Rays of Light, which we have been shifting into and out of on this Earth plane, have been stimulated through the super-electron, and manifest as Photon Rays of Light using the sub-electron on our Earth plane. For the earthly electron is a sub-electron within the super-electron, the sole electron of our Multi-Universe. These Photon Rays which we have been experiencing further facilitate the clearing of karma, which is one of the reasons why so much clearing has individually and collectively taken place on Mother Earth. And now, in this grand Galactic alignment of Light, we experience this Gateway of Divine Love, into the Cosmic Heart of All Creation in non-duality and One Unity Consciousness, amplified through the energy vibration of the Photon Rays, now experienced through the electron, a much higher vibration of Light than we have currently experienced on this Earth plane.

Additionally, to connect to all dimensions of Light available to us and assist in the Planetary Merkaba activation of Mother Earth and all her Life into this Golden Age of Light, the Legions of Light from On High will activate 33 Cosmic Stargate Portals of Light within and around this earth plane. The number 11 is the Christ Consciousness sacred number for this earth plane and both 12-12-12 and 12-21-12 vibrate to the master number 11. 22 is the master number vibration for the fourth dimension, and 33 the master

number for the fifth dimension, taking us into the new Earth Templates of Divine Love. A particular time space vibration encapsulates each dimensional level, and until the Monadic Consciousness of our Solar System expands to the next level of dimensional consciousness or our own multidimensional Selves expand to the next dimensional level, we are unable to move beyond these ring-passeth-nots. However, by the Grace of God, this Galactic alignment of Light takes us beyond the ring-passeth-nots into the new Earth templates through the Galactic Center, as we access multidimensional realities and our past and future Selves through the Christed Timelines and experience a Now moment of incredible bliss, Divine Love and One Unity Consciousness.

These 33 Stargate Portals of Light are also directly connected to the 12 major vortices and Crystalline Cities of Mother Earth as well as 21 Spiritual Retreats of the Ascended Masters, Archangels and Mighty Elohim. Additionally, the 33 Stargate Portals of Light are connected to the 33 Cosmic Christ Holographic Discs, 13 major and 20 minor. These Silver Cosmic Christ Holographic Discs take us into the Christed Timelines and these fifth dimensional frequencies of zero point energy, the energy of Divine, unconditional Love and the everpresent Now. The Cosmic Christ Holographic Discs are activated through the spinal column, through the 33 vertebrae within the spinal column. This first activation occurred on January 21st 2012, and this last activation occurs on December 21<sup>st</sup>, following the activation of the 33 Stargate Portals of Light. The Cosmic Christ Holographic Discs are essentially high-vibrational templates which carry the mapping, remembrance and restoration of the Cosmic codes for our multi-dimensional bodies. In activated the Cosmic Christ Holographic Discs within the body and within the Unity Grid, we are creating and affecting change within our own bodies through the central nervous system, meridians and chakras, while activating the major chakras and vortices of Mother Earth to assist in the ascension process. Additionally we have been building our bodies of Light and creating the Group I Am Avatar Blueprint of Light.

In this Galactic alignment of Light, we are invited to assist thousands of Planetary Light Workers, starseeded ones and the entire Company of Heaven as one of many groups of 144 000 Christ Conscious Beings of Light and sacred transfiguring Flames of Divine Love. As we experience our Light Bodies/Merkabas and the Golden Flame of One Unity Consciousness within our Heart's Temple and the Cosmic Heart of Mother/Father God, we lift the vibration of Mother Earth into the new Earth Templates through the 144 Unity Grid of Divine Love, so that all Life may potentially experience this Golden Age of Light.

### **Invocation for the 12-21-12 alignment to the Galactic Center**

I call upon the Overlighting of Mother/Father God,  
the Pleiadians, the Sirians, the Andromedans and the Arcturians, all of the Light,  
the Archangels and Angels, the Trinity Lords of Light, Lord Michael, Lord Metatron and Lord Melchizedek,  
the Chohans of the Rays: El Morya, Kuthumi, Serapis Bey, Paul the Venetian, Hilarion, Sananda, St.  
Germain, Lady Nada, Mother Mary, Allah Gobi, Quan Yin and Pallas Athena,  
the Mighty Elohim,  
the Melchizedek Brotherhood of the Light,  
Lord Buddha, Sanat Kumara, Helios and Vesta and Lord Melchior,  
the Mahatma, the Cosmic Avatar of Synthesis,  
and all other Beings of Light I personally acknowledge,

as I now merge with my Beloved I Am Presence, the Highest Light that I Am within the Cosmic Heart of Mother/Father God.

I now find my Self on the Unity Grid of Divine Love,  
connected to the Light Workers, Starseeded One, and all the Beings of Light from On High assisting in  
this grand Cosmic Galactic alignment of Light.

I now experience the actualization and integration of the new Earth Templates and geometries of Light,  
that were activated through the 12-12-12 Initiatory Gateway of One Unity Consciousness,  
receiving the emanating Liquid Light crystalline star codes and vortex templates from the crystalline  
vortices, leylines, sacred sites and portals of Mother Earth,  
as the new crystalline geometries of Light are actualized within the Unity Grid of Divine Love.

I now align into the Inner Earth Sun, the Sun, the Central Sun, the Great Central Sun,  
and now the inner Sun within my heart,

as the 33 Stargate Portals of Light are activated by the many Legions of Light from On High.

I now connect into all the major vortices and Crystalline Cities of Light of Mother Earth that I am  
aware of, or connected to, in this Galactic Alignment of Light.

I now connect to the Spiritual Retreats of the Ascended Masters, Archangels and Mighty Elohim that I  
am aware of, through my connection to these Beings of Light.

I now anchor and activate all 33 Cosmic Christ Holographic Discs,  
13 major and 20 minor,  
through the 33 vertebrae along my spinal column.

I gently move my body from side to side and backwards and forwards, facilitating the process of the  
cerebrospinal fluid and the recalibration of my sensory system, central nervous system, chakras and  
meridians.

I now activate my Light Body/Merkaba to the fifth dimensional Templates of Divine Love.

As I bring a focus to my energy field, I create a radiant Golden Flower of Life 54 feet in diameter  
around my Self.

And now within this, I create a beautiful silver-gold sphere 10.8 feet in diameter around my Self.

I now visualize three super-imposed star tetrahedrons within this silver-gold sphere of Light,  
all the exact same size, superimposed over one another.

I now spin my emotional body star tetrahedron in a clockwise direction within this Golden Flower of Life,  
at the same time spinning the mental body star tetrahedron in a counter clockwise direction,  
as I now recite the following Fibonacci ratios and God speeds of Light:

8/5, 11 times God speed to infinity,  
13/8, 22 times God speed to infinity,  
21/13, 33 times God speed to infinity.

And now, my Light Body/Merkaba field is activated to the speed of the fifth dimension, to the new Earth Templates of Divine Love.

As I experience my Self in Divine Love, in the radiance and magnificence of my Self as this sacred transfiguring Flame of Divine Love,

I now connect to the Group I AM Avatar Consciousness of Light.  
To the Highest Light of all Humanity,  
and to all the Light Workers, starseeded ones and custodians to this sacred earth.

And now, through the Group I Am Avatar Consciousness of Light,  
I find my Self connected to one of these 33 Stargate Portals of Light,  
working in groups of twelve with my Soul and Star families of the Light and the many Legions of Light from On High.

I now assist in bringing in Pillars of Light from the higher dimensions through these Stargate Portals of Light,  
as I clear the lower dimensions frequencies on this earth plane,  
and wrap Mother Earth and all her Life in this beautiful Golden Flame of One Unity Consciousness.

And now, the ray qualities of wisdom, devotion, illuminating intelligence, Love, power, harmony, peace, equilibrium, creativity, forgiveness, compassion, enlightenment and One Unity Consciousness are activated and actualized through the Unity Grid of Divine Love.

As I experience this Galactic alignment of Light, and the Photonic Rays, Solar Flares and the super-electron,  
I now assist in the Planetary Merkaba activation of Mother Earth's Light Body.

As a bring a focus to Mother Earth,

I visualize the star tetrahedral shapes as they are connected to Mother Earth's etheric, emotional and mental bodies.

I see the base of the top tetrahedron connect with Mother Earth at the latitude of 19.5 degrees south, and the base of the bottom tetrahedron connect with Mother Earth at the latitude of 19.5 degrees north. And now I visualize all three star tetrahedral shapes within Mother Earth's physical body of Light.

The Brotherhood of the Light now brings in warps of Light in etheric crystals,  
and implant these within the electromagnetic grid of Mother Earth,  
so she may vibrate at a higher frequency and maintain her electromagnetic balance through this

Planetary Merkaba activation.

The collective Christed Light all Light Beings from all dimensions now bring in the seven healing rays,  
the chakra color frequency ray spectrum of sounds and colors and geometries of Light,  
to assist in lifting of the consciousness of all Life on this Earth plane,  
within the Cosmic Law of Free Will.

As this spectrum of healing colors shines upon Mother Earth's Body of Light,  
I now chant the holy words of *Kodoish, Kodoish, Kodoish, Adonai, 'Tsebayoth,*  
Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God of Hosts.

And now, the White Light of Christ appears around and within Mother Earth,  
creating a deep remembrance of One Unity Consciousness.

And now, Nature Intelligence assists in creating an involutory and evolutionary balance between  
Nature and Humanity on this Earth plane.

And now, as I link to the entire Company of Heaven, the planets, stars, solar system and numerous  
Galaxies of Light assisting in this dimensional shift of Light,

I assist in activating the Light Body/Merkaba field of Mother Earth.

As I breathe with Mother Earth,

I bring a focus to the equator.

And now, a huge disk of Light, 9 times the size of Mother Earth forms at the equator.

And now, I visualize Mother Earth's emotional and mental body star tetrahedrons spinning with this  
disc in a clockwise and counter clockwise direction respectively,

as I now recite the following Fibonacci ratios and God speeds of Light:

8/5, 11 times God speed to infinity,

13/8, 22 times God speed to infinity,

21/13, 33 times God speed to infinity.

And now, as Mother Earth's Merkaba field activates to this fifth dimensional frequency of Divine Love  
through the Galactic Center,

I merge with every single Being of Light that has been assisting in the Planetary Merkaba activation of  
Mother Earth,

including every single band of consciousness on this Earth plane,

that through the Cosmic Law of Free Will,

has chosen to experience Solar Christ Consciousness,

and this Golden Age of Light.

I now find my Self back in my sacred space,  
grounding into the Crystal Heart of Mother Earth,  
and the Cosmic Heart of Mother/Father God.

I now bring a focus to this beautiful Golden Flower of Life, 54 feet in diameter around me,  
and my activated Light Body/Merkaba,  
holding all the new Earth Templates and geometries of Light.

I align once more to the Inner Earth Sun, the Sun, the Central Sun and now Great Central Sun,  
as I come into my Heart's Temple, and the Golden Solar Sun Disc of Light within my heart,  
experiencing and feeling my Self through the Center of Creation,  
in Divine Love and One Unity Consciousness.

I experience this Golden Age of Light.  
as a Christ Conscious Being of Light,  
a sacred transfiguring Flame of Divine Love.

I Am One with all Life

I Am That I Am.

Invocation by Anrita Melchizedek [www.pleiadianlight.net](http://www.pleiadianlight.net)

You Tube video <http://www.youtube.com/user/AnritaMelchizedek>

Mp3 download <http://pleiadianlight.net/free-downloads>

Music by Michael Hammer [www.michaelhammer.com](http://www.michaelhammer.com)

Initiatory Gateways <http://pleiadianlight.net/initiatory-gateways/>

<http://pleiadianlight.net/12-21-12-the-new-golden-age-of-light/>

So there is a magic wand after all. A revolutionary paper by the International Monetary Fund claims that one could eliminate the net public debt of the US at a stroke, and by implication do the same for Britain, Germany, Italy, or Japan.



The IMF reports says the conjuring trick is to replace our system of private bank-created money. Photo: Reuters  
By [Ambrose Evans-Pritchard](#)

One could slash private debt by 100pc of GDP, boost growth, stabilize prices, and dethrone bankers all at the same time. It could be done cleanly and painlessly, by legislative command, far more quickly than anybody imagined.

The conjuring trick is to replace our system of private bank-created money -- roughly 97pc of the money supply -- with state-created money. We return to the historical norm, before Charles II placed control of the money supply in private hands with the English Free Coinage Act of 1666.

Specifically, it means an assault on "fractional reserve banking". If lenders are forced to put up 100pc reserve backing for deposits, they lose the exorbitant privilege of creating money out of thin air.

The nation regains sovereign control over the money supply. There are no more banks runs, and fewer boom-bust credit cycles. Accounting legerdemain will do the rest. That at least is the argument.

Some readers may already have seen the IMF study, by Jaromir Benes and Michael Kumhof, which came out in August and has begun to acquire a cult following around the world.

Entitled "[The Chicago Plan Revisited](#)", it revives the scheme first put forward by professors Henry Simons and Irving Fisher in 1936 during the ferment of creative thinking in the late Depression.

Irving Fisher thought credit cycles led to an unhealthy concentration of wealth. He saw it with his own eyes in the early 1930s as creditors foreclosed on destitute farmers, seizing their land or buying it for a pittance at the bottom of the cycle.

The farmers found a way of defending themselves in the end. They muscled together at "one dollar auctions", buying each other's property back for almost nothing. Any carpet-bagger who tried to bid higher was beaten to a pulp.

Benes and Kumhof argue that credit-cycle trauma - caused by private money creation - dates deep into history and lies at the root of debt jubilees in the ancient religions of Mesopotamian and the Middle East.

Harvest cycles led to systemic defaults thousands of years ago, with forfeiture of collateral, and concentration of

wealth in the hands of lenders. These episodes were not just caused by weather, as long thought. They were amplified by the effects of credit.

The Athenian leader Solon implemented the first known Chicago Plan/New Deal in 599 BC to relieve farmers in hock to oligarchs enjoying private coinage. He cancelled debts, restituted lands seized by creditors, set floor-prices for commodities (much like Franklin Roosevelt), and consciously flooded the money supply with state-issued "debt-free" coinage.

The Romans sent a delegation to study Solon's reforms 150 years later and copied the ideas, setting up their own fiat money system under Lex Aternia in 454 BC.

It is a myth - innocently propagated by the great Adam Smith - that money developed as a commodity-based or gold-linked means of exchange. Gold was always highly valued, but that is another story. Metal-lovers often conflate the two issues.

Anthropological studies show that social fiat currencies began with the dawn of time. The Spartans banned gold coins, replacing them with iron disks of little intrinsic value. The early Romans used bronze tablets. Their worth was entirely determined by law - a doctrine made explicit by Aristotle in his Ethics - like the dollar, the euro, or sterling today.

Some argue that Rome began to lose its solidarity spirit when it allowed an oligarchy to develop a private silver-based coinage during the Punic Wars. Money slipped control of the Senate. You could call it Rome's shadow banking system. Evidence suggests that it became a machine for elite wealth accumulation.

Unchallenged sovereign or Papal control over currencies persisted through the Middle Ages until England broke the mould in 1666. Benes and Kumhof say this was the start of the boom-bust era.

One might equally say that this opened the way to England's agricultural revolution in the early 18th Century, the industrial revolution soon after, and the greatest economic and technological leap ever seen. But let us not quibble.

The original authors of the Chicago Plan were responding to the Great Depression. They believed it was possible to prevent the social havoc caused by wild swings from boom to bust, and to do so without crimping economic dynamism.

The benign side-effect of their proposals would be a switch from national debt to national surplus, as if by magic. "Because under the Chicago Plan banks have to borrow reserves from the treasury to fully back liabilities, the government acquires a very large asset vis-à-vis banks. Our analysis finds that the government is left with a much lower, in fact negative, net debt burden."

The IMF paper says total liabilities of the US financial system - including shadow banking - are about 200pc of GDP. The new reserve rule would create a windfall. This would be used for a "potentially a very large, buy-back of private debt", perhaps 100pc of GDP.

While Washington would issue much more fiat money, this would not be redeemable. It would be an equity of the commonwealth, not debt.

The key of the Chicago Plan was to separate the "monetary and credit functions" of the banking system. "The quantity of money and the quantity of credit would become completely independent of each other."

Private lenders would no longer be able to create new deposits "ex nihilo". New bank credit would have to be financed by retained earnings.

"The control of credit growth would become much more straightforward because banks would no longer be able, as they are today, to generate their own funding, deposits, in the act of lending, an extraordinary privilege that is not enjoyed by any other type of business," says the IMF paper.

"Rather, banks would become what many erroneously believe them to be today, pure intermediaries that depend on obtaining outside funding before being able to lend."

The [US](#) Federal Reserve would take real control over the money supply for the first time, making it easier to manage inflation. It was precisely for this reason that Milton Friedman called for 100pc reserve backing in 1967. Even the great free marketeer implicitly favoured a clamp-down on private money.

The switch would engender a 10pc boost to long-arm economic output. "None of these benefits come at the expense of diminishing the core useful functions of a private financial system."

Simons and Fisher were flying blind in the 1930s. They lacked the modern instruments needed to crunch the numbers, so the IMF team has now done it for them -- using the 'DSGE' stochastic model now de rigeur in high economics, loved and hated in equal measure.

The finding is startling. Simons and Fisher understated their claims. It is perhaps possible to confront the banking plutocracy head without endangering the economy.

Benes and Kumhof make large claims. They leave me baffled, to be honest. Readers who want the technical details can make their own judgement by studying the text [here](#).

The IMF duo have supporters. Professor Richard Werner from Southampton University - who coined the term quantitative easing (QE) in the 1990s -- testified to Britain's Vickers Commission that a switch to state-money would have major welfare gains. He was backed by the campaign group Positive Money and the New Economics Foundation.

The theory also has strong critics. Tim Congdon from International Monetary Research says banks are in a sense already being forced to increase reserves by EU rules, Basel III rules, and gold-plated variants in the UK. The effect has been to choke lending to the private sector.

He argues that is the chief reason why the world economy remains stuck in near-slump, and why central banks are having to cushion the shock with QE.

"If you enacted this plan, it would devastate bank profits and cause a massive deflationary disaster. There would have to do 'QE squared' to offset it," he said.

The result would be a huge shift in bank balance sheets from private lending to government securities. This happened during World War Two, but that was the anomalous cost of defeating Fascism.

To do this on a permanent basis in peace-time would be to change in the nature of western capitalism. "People wouldn't be able to get money from banks. There would be huge damage to the efficiency of the economy," he said.

Arguably, it would smother freedom and enthrone a Leviathan state. It might be even more irksome in the long run than rule by bankers.

Personally, I am a long way from reaching an conclusion in this extraordinary debate. Let it run, and let us all fight until we flush out the arguments.

One thing is sure. The City of London will have great trouble earning its keep if any variant of the Chicago Plan ever gains wide support.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/9623863/IMFs-epic-plan-to-conjure-away-debt-and-dethrone-bankers.html>

2012, Dec 21

## Ex-SAC fund manager indicted in insider trading scheme

EMILY FLITTER AND NATE RAYMOND

NEW YORK — Reuters

<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/international-business/us-business/ex-sac-fund-manager-indicted-in-insider-trading-scheme/article6659763/?service=mobile>



SAC Capital Advisors, a hedge fund manager founded by chairman Steven A. Cohen, has drawn scrutiny from prosecutors probing insider trading. (© Steve Marcus /Reuters)

Federal prosecutors on Friday lost one opportunity to build a case against hedge fund manager Steven A. Cohen when a grand jury indicted one of Cohen's former employees on charges related to an insider trading scheme, severely reducing the possibility he would co-operate as a witness against Mr. Cohen.

- ▲ [SAC's top consumer trader draws U.S. scrutiny](#)
- ▲ [Investors U.S. authorities eye hedge fund mogul Steven Cohen](#)
- ▲ [SAC notified of possible SEC charges](#)

The grand jury in New York returned an indictment against Mathew Martoma, a former portfolio manager at CR Intrinsic Investors, one of SAC Capital Management's funds, in what prosecutors have called the "most lucrative" insider trading scheme ever.

Mr. Martoma, 38, of Boca Raton, Fla., was indicted on three counts of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and securities fraud related to trades made in Elan Corp. PLC and Wyeth – now part of Pfizer Inc. – based on tips prosecutors say he received from a doctor.

The trades allegedly helped CR Intrinsic avoid losses and reap profits totaling \$276-million (U.S.) in the summer of 2008. The indictment followed an earlier criminal complaint federal prosecutors filed Nov. 20.

Mr. Martoma is the seventh former employee of Mr. Cohen's to be charged or implicated in insider trading schemes, and the criminal complaint against him is the first to refer to Mr. Cohen.

Mr. Cohen appears as "Hedge Fund Owner" in the criminal complaint and "hedge fund manager A" in the corresponding civil complaint against Mr. Martoma, filed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, according to a source familiar with the case.

"Though disappointing, today's events come as no surprise," said Mr. Martoma's lawyer, Charles Stillman, founding member of Stillman Friedman in New York.

"The simple fact is that Mathew Martoma did not trade on inside information, is innocent of all these charges, and we look forward to his ultimate vindication."

After the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Mr. Martoma in late November, federal prosecutors filed a criminal complaint against him but did not formally charge him, a move widely seen as leaving the door open for Mr. Martoma to "flip." Had he flipped, he would have had to agree to a plea deal in exchange for becoming a co-operating witness for the government.

"The reports have been that the government has made significant efforts to enlist Mr. Martoma as a co-operating

witness and he has refused,” said Tom Gorman, a partner at Dorsey & Whitney in Washington.

“The fact that they’ve incited him probably means that they’ve given up on that, but he could still change his mind.”

Mr. Gorman added defendants often grow more willing to make a deal as the time of their trial nears.

“The process looks a lot different when you’re sitting there looking at jury selection,” he said. “By that time, everybody starts to get true religion. It’s the pressure of the process.”

A spokesman for SAC Capital declined to comment for this story. Spokeswomen for the FBI and for Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, both declined to comment.

The charges against Mr. Martoma stem from the U.S. government’s long-running investigation of improper trading in the \$2-trillion hedge fund industry.

The investigation has led to more than 50 convictions so far, most notably that of Galleon founder Raj Rajaratnam and former Goldman Sachs Group director Rajat Gupta.

Slowly, U.S. authorities have been filing charges and winning convictions against lower-level traders and analysts who once worked for Mr. Cohen, one of the hedge fund industry’s most successful and best-known traders.

Authorities are stepping up pressure on Cohen and his hedge fund. This summer, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission took a deposition from Mr. Cohen as part of an insider trading investigation. It is not clear what the SEC asked Mr. Cohen.

Recently, a top Cohen deputy, Michael Steinberg, was named as an unindicted co-conspirator in court documents in a separate insider trading matter.

The \$14-billion SAC Capital, which charges some of the highest fees in the industry, is up about 10 per cent this year – double the performance of the average U.S. hedge fund.

The criminal complaint filed by federal prosecutors and the SEC’s civil suit contend Mr. Martoma got insider information from a doctor who is not named in the criminal complaint because he is now co-operating with prosecutors after agreeing to pay a \$186,781 disgorgement.

The SEC complaint identifies the doctor as Sidney Gilman, who once worked as a consultant for a so-called expert network. Hedge funds use such networks to gain insight into various industries.

Dr. Gilman, an 80-year old neurology professor at the University of Michigan, is serving as a confidential co-operating witness in the criminal case.

“Dr. Gilman’s accomplishments in medical education and research speak for themselves,” said Dr. Gilman’s lawyer, Mark Mukasey, a partner at Bracewell & Giuliani. “He has been a leader in the fight to find a cure for people suffering from debilitating neurological diseases. Going forward, he will abide by the terms of his agreements with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the SEC.”

The name of the expert network firm does not appear in the court documents. A disclosure attached to a paper by Dr. Gilman in the medical journal *Neurology* lists him as a consultant for the Gerson Lehrman Group.

A GLG spokesman declined to comment.

The court papers describe phone calls in which Dr. Gilman shared detailed information about the Alzheimer’s drug’s clinical trial. Dr. Gilman was chair of a committee to monitor patients’ safety during the clinical trial.

According to the criminal complaint, Dr. Gilman scheduled meetings and phone calls with Mr. Martoma that allowed him to pass on new information about the clinical trial soon after receiving it. He was initially positive about the drug; as a result, Mr. Martoma vigorously bought shares of Elan Corp. and Wyeth.

The complaint says the hedge fund owner defended Mr. Martoma against other people inside SAC Capital who

criticized the large positions.

After Dr. Gilman learned the drug trial results were mostly negative, a trader for CR Intrinsic unwound its positions and made a move into options that paid off when the stocks fell. Elan shares, for example, fell about 70 per cent following the news of the trial results.

Of the \$276-million in profits, more than \$81-million came from short sales and other options on the two stocks and \$194-million came from losses avoided by selling the stocks before the trial results were revealed to the public, according to the complaint.

2012, Dec 21

## ICE's NYSE swoop creates derivatives giant

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/21/us-ice-nyse-idUSBRE8BJOLK20121221>



By Luke Jeffs and John McCrank and Jessica Toonkel

LONDON/NEW YORK | Fri Dec 21, 2012 4:35pm EST

([Reuters](#)) - IntercontinentalExchange Inc ([ICE.N](#)) agreed as part of its \$8.2 billion takeover of NYSE Euronext ([NYX.N](#)) to pay the New York Stock Exchange operator a termination fee of \$750 million if it fails to gain antitrust clearances, suggesting a high level of confidence the deal will go through.

Big Board parent NYSE could get out of the arrangement for a fee of \$300 million if a sweeter deal were to come along, according to a regulatory filing on Friday.

ICE failed last year to buy NYSE in a joint bid with [Nasdaq](#) OMX Group ([NDAQ.O](#)). At the time, NYSE was involved in year-long pursuit to sell itself to Frankfurt's Deutsche Bourse ([DB1Gn.DE](#)). In the end, [regulators](#) killed both deals, saying they would be anti-competitive.

On its own, Atlanta-based ICE lacks the massive equities operations of Nasdaq or Deutsche Bourse, so there is less overlap between the two exchanges, antitrust lawyers said, making regulatory approval far more likely.

Some in the industry have suggested that CME Group ([CME.O](#)) could table a competing offer for NYSE, but they said that would not be likely for several reasons, including the break-up fee.

People familiar with the deal said other issues include potential antitrust concerns and the fact that under the latest agreement, NYSE's Liffe business will do all its clearing through ICE regardless of whether the deal goes through.

"The clearing deal they signed is like a second break-up fee," one of the people said.

Also, CME has not been known for making large deals. "It does not seem to be in its DNA," said Adam Sussman, director of research at Tabb Group.

NYSE CEO Duncan Niederauer acknowledged a higher bid could come along, but that NYSE would not chase after a deal unless it was almost certain it would pass regulatory muster.

"If we did that for another year and at the end we are told, 'we are not going to allow you to do this because of the overlap of your businesses,' we would look beyond foolish," he said in an interview on Thursday.

#### FOUR-WAY BATTLE

The deal, announced Thursday, would give 12-year old commodities and energy bourse ICE a powerful presence in Europe's lucrative financial derivatives market through control of NYSE Liffe, Europe's second-largest [futures](#) exchange, and a major advantage over U.S.-based rivals CME and Nasdaq.

All three want to challenge Deutsche Boerse's European dominance. A shake-up in banking regulation is expected to increase demand sharply for clearing financial derivatives through such exchanges.

"The deal would place a bigger and more aggressive competitor on Deutsche Boerse's doorstep," said Richard Perrott, an analyst at Berenberg Bank.

Regulatory changes in the wake of the financial crisis are forcing banks to channel derivatives business through clearing houses and regulated exchanges to ensure their risk positions can be better monitored than they were when bank dealers were trading complex contracts directly among themselves.

The reforms are expected to be fully operational in Europe in 2014.

ICE's takeover of NYSE Liffe will give it an advantage of existing presence in Europe over Chicago-based CME, owner of the world's largest futures market, and New York's Nasdaq, both of which plan to open their own London-based exchanges next year.

#### THE PRIZE

While the New York Stock Exchange, an enduring symbol of American capitalism, is NYSE Euronext's prestige business, London's Liffe is the real jewel in the crown.

With profits from stock trading significantly eroded by new technology and the rise of other places for investors to trade, the stock market businesses like NYSE are less valuable to ICE.

The company has said it will try to spin off NYSE's Euronext European stock market businesses in a public offering. This has generated speculation, which the company has denied, that it may also have little interest in the NYSE trading floor on [Wall Street](#).

NYSE made an operating income of \$473 million from Liffe in 2011 on revenues of \$861 million compared to an income of \$533 million on revenues of \$1.3 billion from its equities business.

ICE's Jeff Sprecher will be CEO of the combined organisation and Duncan Niederauer, the NYSE Euronext CEO, will be president - a post he said he plans to remain in until at least 2014. The two are longtime friends.

ICE started out as an online marketplace for energy trading before Sprecher initiated a string of acquisitions, from the London-based International Petroleum Exchange in 2001, to the [New York Board of Trade](#) and, most recently, a handful of smaller deals, including a climate products exchange and a stake in a Brazilian clearing house.

A combined ICE-NYSE Euronext would leapfrog Deutsche Boerse ([DB1Gn.DE](#)) to become the world's third largest exchange group with a combined market value of \$15.2 billion. CME Group has a market value of \$17.5 billion, [Thomson Reuters](#) data shows.

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing ([0388.HK](#)) is the world's largest exchange group, with a market cap of \$19.5 billion.

(Additional reporting by New York bureau; Writing by Aaron Pressman and Carmel Crimmins; Editing by Philippa Fletcher and Alastair Macdonald)

I watched a NASA news conference this week. The astrophysicists and astronomers felt it was essential to communicate to the public after receiving masses of emails and calls from people in acute anxiety about what is going to happen on December 21, 2012. They responded to questions on the possibly imminent pole shift, or change in the earth's rotation, the collision into earth by the rogue planet, Nibiru, solar flares, and other matters. (1)

It was informative, but, like most astrologers, I dwell in a land that includes myth and magic and all kinds of inexplicable phenomena. And the December 21, 2012 date, largely interpreted as the date of the end of the Mayan Long Count calendar, has taken a place in human imagination all around the globe.

Coinciding with speculation on Mayan cosmology, of course, is the longest night of the year (in the northern hemisphere), the winter solstice. After its light and power have been diminishing for the past months, the Sun reaches its maximum southern declination and stands still in declination. It is very low in the noon sky; its movement is imperceptible.

What if the light and warmth of the Sun never return? How will we survive? There is a layer of chill and terror in our primitive brains; our ancestors created ritual, lighting the Yuletide fires to evoke the Sun to return. It is still a time of ritual and prayer and petition.

I was quite taken this week with the report of a "collective mass psychosis" in a jail in Russia as prisoners were overcome with terror at the coming apocalypse. (2) I don't know how much media access these prisoners have, but I think that this is an event arising from the collective unconscious as well. What is being activated in the collective psyche in these times?

The obvious sources for global anxiety — climate change, civil unrest, financial chaos, water and food shortages — are stunning and haunting. As are people talking about consciousness awakening, the activation of galactic codes that are changing the human bio-circuitry, and the downloading of templates "holonomically resonant with each individual's point of soul evolution and organically regulated by their capacity for change." (3)

Startlingly creative to challenging moments seem to be magnifying, and, at times, the world can seem whole and perfect and fiercely and longingly full of love.

Although I don't really understand it, my capacity for mythic imagination is touched by a modern interpretation of Mayan cosmology, whereby the Sun, the essence of the masculine, is crossing into the dark rift, the deep feminine center of the Milky Way, whom the Maya saw as the cosmic mother. (As the good people at NASA remind us, the Sun is 28,000 light years away from the Galactic Center, so the Sun will not literally fall into the dark rift. But, if you just heard about the Sun falling into the dark rift and bringing our entire solar system with it, that could be cause for anxiety.)

We know change is everywhere — invisible and subtle sometimes, and also with enormous and blatant display.

Although everything counts, so I'll just mention a few current planetary aspects as markers of this time in the calendar year.

Saturn's first exact sextile to Pluto is on December 26. (The aspect will be exact again on March 3 and September 20, 2013.) I find this an omen that we might be demolished and reconstructed — on whatever level or in whatever area there is a need — with a hint of gentleness and ease. (This is the

waning sextile in the cycle that began with the conjunction in 1980; the waxing square was in 1993-4; the opposition in 2001-2, and the waning square in November 2009 through August 2010. The transition in the calendar year between 2009 and 2010 was accompanied by the waning square between these two planets.)

Perhaps we are in a time where the experience of being at the abyss, i.e., “the bottomless gulf, pit, or chaos of the old cosmogonies,” is becoming familiar and the moments for creative acts, resurrection within despair, the compression of death and rebirth into one easy flow, and the alchemy of transforming perceptions accompanies every step we take. (4)

And there’s Saturn’s trine to Neptune guiding us also across the end of 2012. This aspect forms exactly between October 2012 and July 2013; these two will not form a trine again until 2036.

There is a Sanskrit word, *sav karuna*, which means self-compassion — the practice of diving deeply into our own hearts towards compassion for self that *then* might be extended to others.

Saturn-Neptune suggests engaging with the invisible worlds, feeling the space between thoughts, cultivating our unique artistry, finding a pathway that is inclusive and spacious enough to hold our wildest imagination and aspirations.

I had a Saturn-Neptune moment the other morning. I was just awake from a series of dreams. My first conscious thought was, I don’t want to open my eyes; it was such a deeply contented state. (And unusual for me as I usually bound from bed several hours before dawn to go out and look at the sky.)

Sometimes the instruction to choose between fear and love is obvious and easy, but Saturn in Scorpio can also bring an inquiry into the contours of fear. Saturn is an anchor, and in Scorpio it suggests that ongoing openness to Scorpio motifs might keep us steady on the path. The sign has countless correspondences, of course, but the connection to that which is hidden, denied, or uncomfortable in the feeling life is an edge that we can notice.

The process of going back into the muck, into what is stuck or afraid, the experience of contraction, is a step toward the greater expansion that will inevitably and naturally follow. Staying open and vulnerable right at the edge of our defences can be a practice itself, and the circumstances of our lives can change.

I watched a video about 2012. (4) My favorite part was an Indian gentleman, whose name I missed, who said: “Sprinkle some spirituality into whatever you do; be a sane person in this insane world.”

Have a great week everyone.

#### **Footnotes:**

(1) [NASA](#)

(2) [New York Times](#)

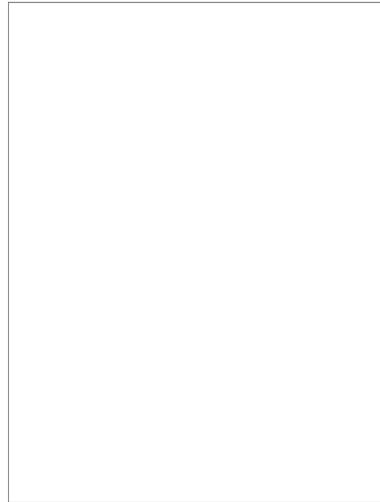
(3) [Template Portal](#)

(4) [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#)

[http://mountainastrologer.com/tma/the-end-of-2012?](http://mountainastrologer.com/tma/the-end-of-2012?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+MountainAstrologer_TMA_ThisWeek+%28The+Mountain+Astrologer+%C2%BB+TMA+This+Week%29)

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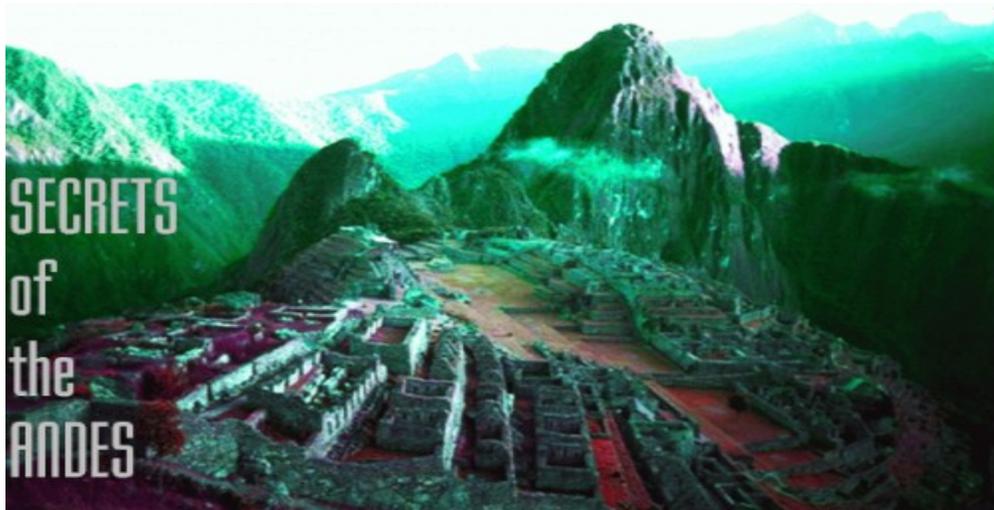
## ***-Viracocha -***

*Viracocha: According to the myth, Viracocha rose from Lake Titicaca during the time of darkness to bring forth light. He made the sun, moon, and the stars. He made mankind by breathing into stones, but his first creations were brainless giants that displeased him. So he destroyed them with a flood and made new, better ones from smaller stones.*

*Viracocha eventually disappeared across the Pacific Ocean (by walking on the water), and never returned.*



## The Secret Of The Andes- PART 7



### PART VII - The Order of the Red Hand

The scriptorium of the Monastery is under the direction of its Prior, Brother Philip. This chamber houses documents and records, codices and parchments of the world's greatest and most ancient civilizations. Rome, Greece, Egypt and Babylonia, Crete and China, Tibet and Troy, Atlantis, Mu and Adoma, and even earlier. From such hidden libraries as this will come forth from all the Inner Retreats of the Great White Brotherhood, the old and true history of our planet and its great revelation for modern man. Man will be greatly surprised when he discovers history as it really happened! Previously, the dark forces have written history as they wished it to be interpreted.

The ancient Order of the Red Hand has worked throughout Earth's history in the preservation of the Secret Wisdom, the Arcane Knowledge. Members of this Order are guardians of Earth's vast storehouse of treasure more precious than gold or gems. It is they who hold the secrets that are man's heritage in South America.

This continent was not merely a vast area colonized on its west coast by Lemurians, and on its east by Atlanteans. While it is true that those two great civilizations of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans did colonize parts of South America, this was only a few thousand years ago just before the final destruction of the Motherlands. What, then, existed before Atlantean and Lemurian cultural influence on the great South American Continent?

On May 27, 1957, an ancient secret, heretofore known only to the highest teachers, was revealed to the Outer world through the Abbey. It was appropriate that this information be first given from South America where the events related took place in the dim past.

The Great White Brotherhood decided that it was time for such secrets to be given out in conformity with its three decisions of 1956. The startling secret was that South America existed side by side with Atlantis and Mu as a third great world civilization. Not just a colony but a civilization in its own right, an Amazonian Empire which was culturally ahead of its more famous and well-known neighbors in the nearby oceans. Its architecture was more magnificent, its science outshaded all others while its people were physically the most beautiful upon the Earth. In many ways it acted as Mentor to the kings, priests and teachers of the two better known Lost Continents of Earth.

It differs from them in yet another respect. While they both sank under the ocean waves, it remained always above the water, shrouded in dense jungle, waiting for re-discovery in an age when man would lose his hunger for gold alone and would not seek this Empire's material wealth but would search out its greater, treasures, the keys to a more abundant and longer life, knowledge that would eventually present the Universe itself at man's feet.

Yet, is it not a Lost Continent also? It may just as well have been under water, for few men have sought its truths, and those that did have either disappeared in the Green Hell of the jungle or the forgetfulness of Time itself.

Now, in the fullness of that time, the Hierarchy has decreed that the "Secret Places of the Most High" shall give up their Knowledge to that will remain upon the Earth in the days immediately following world-wide catastrophe. That same Remnant will use this ancient wisdom in a New World that will once again be brought into the Interplanetary Brotherhood of our Solar System. Mankind will, indeed, begin its eternal march across Time and the Stars.

Records of Mu's history and downfall, of the fate of Atlantis, and of the secrets of the enlightened Amazonian Empire known in legends as Paititi and of the Cyclops who came to Earth a billion years ago, and of the inhabitants of interstellar space, exist in special hidden chambers in the great Lost Cities of the unexplored interior of South America.

While it is true that our brothers from space will teach us much in our New Age, they also tell us that it is far better if we regain once more the so-called lost knowledge of the Earth's Golden or Saturnian Age when men spoke with the gods and with the angels. They tell us that such knowledge is our true heritage, and belongs to all Truth-seeking men of Earth. It is a Divine Gift from the Eternal Father, and the Son is now ready for his inheritance. Therefore, we need not rely only on great intelligence that is extra-terrestrial, for we have our own knowledge that will lead us forward to where we can stand side by side with our planetary brothers and sisters. Man can look to the skies of Earth for guidance at this time, but for scientific knowledge he can look to her secret places, where Mother Earth will bring forth from her womb a Knowledge that has been protected and cared for within her for thousands of years, and which will shortly be born unto the Outer world of men. Verily, even now the pains of labor begin.

The Order of the Red Hand is as old as man upon the face of the Earth. Everywhere, archaeologists find representations of a human hand painted red. It exists in abundance on cave walls throughout Europe, in cave dwellings in North America, and is found on many of the walls of the Mayan Temples in Yucatan, Mexico. The hand itself is a mystical symbol of great antiquity, and the mysteries it represents are still incorporated in the secret lodge ceremonies of today. Scientists have wondered why the Red Hand is so much in evidence among world peoples. And simply because they do not know nor have a better explanation, they say that it is only proof that the ancients were good doodlers and dabblers.

But, to you who are Students of Light, the Red Hand was and is much more than that. It stands for the preservation of all that and is good and true, while its opposite, the Black Hand, stands for the destruction of the Arcane Knowledge that has been accumulated over many centuries. For example, it was the force of the Black Hand that destroyed the Alexandrian Library, but it was the efforts of the Red Hand that prevented total destruction and secured the most important documents in hidden chambers so that only copies or unimportant manuscripts went up in the flames started by Caesar.

The members of the Order of the Red Hand are found in many of the Inner Retreats and Mystery Schools throughout the Earth, and they are the appointed guardians over the Secret Places of the Most High. This ancient Order is now in charge of the expeditionary group of the Abbey. Many projects are under way, including research with the rediscovered Lost Writing of the Pre-Incas and of the Empire of Paititi, complete exploration and mapping of the Great Wall of Peru which is similar to the Great Wall of China and was absolutely unknown until 1931 when it was viewed from the air. This Wall is far older than the Incas or the Chimus before them. Why it was built and the story behind it is fabulous. Another project deals with the re-discovery of the Solar Light Energy used by the Pre-Incas and later by the Incas, who copied them. Yet another project deals with the re-discovery of the Lost Capital of ancient Paititi itself. Already much has been done to bring this about. There are also other projects dealing with the underground tunnel system of the ancient Pre-Incas. The Abbey has received the assistance of several South American universities and museums and co-operative scientists. This is invaluable when dealing with the Outer world so that the most benefit can be derived from the discoveries made.

This then, is really a quest for the Red Hand, a quest for the Truth about man and why he finds himself upon the Red Planet Earth, what he must learn while he is here, and where he is going in the New Age now dawning. Although, at first, it seems strange, Lost Cities of South America and the UFOs belonging to arriving space visitors, are connected, and both play a vital role in the present work of the ancient Order of the Red Hand!

[George Hunt Williamson's SECRET OF THE ANDES](http://digitalseance.wordpress.com/2007/07/16/the-secret-of-the-andes-part-7/)

<http://digitalseance.wordpress.com/2007/07/16/the-secret-of-the-andes-part-7/>

<http://www.northernway.org/school/aom.html>

"Yeshua has entered on our behalf as forerunner, becoming High Priest forever according to the Order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:20

### **Melchizedek, a Type of Christ**

This Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, met Abraham as he returned from his defeat of the kings and blessed him, And Abraham apportioned to him a tenth of everything. His name (Melchizedek) first means righteous king, and he was also king of Salem, that is king of peace. Without father, mother, or any ancestry, without beginning of days or end of life, thus made to resemble the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. See how great he is to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of his spoils. Hebrews 7:1-4

Melchizedek was the first priest mentioned in the Bible. (Genesis 14:18-20) Melchizedek pre-dates the Levite priesthood---Levi wasn't even born yet. Melchizedek is a mysterious dude who shows up and gives communion/mass to Abraham. Bread and wine. He's the first one to make the use of bread and wine sacred. He is mentioned as having no parents, no origins, he just came out of nowhere. Melchi-tsedek means King of Rightness, and Genesis says his other title was King of Peace, as in the father of the Prince of Peace.

We also find mention of Melchizedek in Psalms:"Your people shall be willing in the day of your power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: you have the dew of your youth. The LORD has sworn, and will not relent, You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." (Ps. 110:3-4)

Melchizedek is mentioned again in the New Testament book of Hebrews as the oldest priest of a higher order, more ancient and direct from God, than the Children of Israel (Levite) priesthood. In the Book of Hebrews, Jesus is repeatedly referred to as a High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek. So there was a pre-historic priestly order, founded by this mysterious pre-Israelite Jerusalem King. (I say pre-Israelite because he was long before Moses, Solomon, the Temple, etc. He existed in Father Abraham's time, showing up as mentioned in Genesis, then disappearing again.)

The Gnostic scriptures refer to him as Melchizedek the Supreme Paralemtor, which means Light-Bringer or Light-Maker. The Gnostic library on line has some texts that mention him, one is even named Melchizedek. It's real vague writing, as if they're trying to hide secrets--- speaking in a code. Pain in the neck to read! But mysterious as hell....

Edgar Cayce believed and taught that Melchizedek was one of the *Lives of the Master* and explains his theory in a book of that title. Cayce believed Melchizedek was an earlier incarnation of Jesus who came to introduce the Eucharist of bread and wine. Personally, I am not certain of that theory because I have always had trouble with believing in re-incarnation. I do believe in Genetic memory, however. The theory of genetic memory is becoming widely accepted and puts forth the possibility that when we have flashbacks to another life, we are really tapping some memory of one of our ancestors.

On the other hand, mythology and the religions of the world teach that God and Goddess often like to be born among us, so if anyone could have previous life-times, if anyone could be a "victim" of re-incarnation, it would be them. Maybe Melchizedek was indeed Jesus making an advanced appearance---or maybe he was God-the-Father. Our Order believes he was God's High Priest and still is.

In the Hebrew Bible Melchizedek is called the High Priest of El Elyon, YHVH, the Most High One.

Our Order of Melchizedek, founded in 1996, attempts to accurately reconstruct the priestly system, rites and practices of this pre-Old Testament order. The members of this ancient priesthood were the first to use the bread and wine to represent the body and blood of the earth---they never did animal sacrifices like the later

priesthoods.

The Melchizedek rites are powerful. Some of the rituals and prayers beautifully express the connection between heaven (sky-god Yahweh) and Earth (earth-Mother). Melchizedek Clergy dress in black and white (balance, cosmic origins) and use a white cutout cross from a black field, with a gold Jerusalem seal at the intersection of the cross. These priests and priestesses of YHVH use an ancient, simple but powerful Eucharist ceremony either daily or at least once a week. Members greet each other with "Hail Melchizedek!" in Hebrew or English. The second one answers, "Melchizedek Hail!"

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Visit this page of our website for more on the [Ineffable Name YHVH](#) and how it came to be made up of the Quaternity, the four-part Divine Father, Mother, Sacred Son and Shekinah Daughter.

And elsewhere on the Net, see this scholarly kabalistic article on the [Shem ha-Mephoresch](#) (72 Names of YHVH), which includes the origins of the YHVH four-part Godhead.

**What does the name Hebrew Melchizedek mean in ancient Hebrew? Several theories abound. There is the standard "King of Righteousness" and the historical linguistic "The God Zadok is my Sovereign" definition.** Below is a rather bizarre interpretation of his name. Bizarre but meaningful nonetheless.

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#### From HiddenMeanings.com

Dark Matter from Orion and Eta Carina = Melchizedek and Tithing?

- 1. Bible:** Genesis. Melchizedek appears as one who has no mother, no father, no descendants, no beginning and no end. Abraham gives him 10%.
- 2. Science:** Dark matter makes up 90% of the universe. The physical and visible is only 10%. Human brain. We use 10%. The 90% is called the right side and is considered the emotional or spiritual side.
- 3. Science:** Alien energy observed in a parallel universe or other dimension in Orion NGC1999. The energy is dark matter which is next observed in the wind on Earth by an astronomical observatory in Rome. The New York Times, Week

**Premise:** Is Melchizedek who was not a human being according to the Bible, a symbolic representation of the dark matter life force which has come to earth. Is the tithing or 10% a symbol of the meditative state where one gives up the 10% or intellectual and physical state.

CONSIDER the word Melchizedek. Source of information: American Heritage Dictionary

MEL: dark, milk, galaxy. Is it not curious that the letters mel identify not only with dark, but also milk and galaxy considering that we live in the milky way galaxy and have recently discovered dark matter arriving in the winds of earth.

CHI : Chinese for the life force flowing through the meridians of the body.  
Melchi: The life force of dark matter now flowing in the milky way galaxy.  
Z Z : is the the symbol of the atom, electron and Ohmic Resistance. In meditation identified by OM, we apply resistance to the electrical energy rising through the spine to the brain. The energy is electron activity within the atoms of the body.

DEK: Ten. Dek connects to the word Pentecost which is 10 times 5. In addition it connects to the word Quintessence. The scientists who found the dark matter which had come from Orion to the earth called it Quintessence.

The Bible identifies Pentecost as the arrival of an otherworldly energy from



above found flowing as a rushing mighty wind. Exactly as discovered by the observatory in Rome. So Melchizedek. The life force flowing as dark matter in the milky way galaxy via atom and electron and exercised via meditation in OM. This is tithing or giving the 10 percent and fulfills Pentecost or Quintessence. All of this from the word Melchizedek.



### **Order of the Merkabah Riders**

Merkabah is a Hebrew word meaning Chariot of Fire

Merkabah mysticism is studied in our Ancient Order of Melchizedek. Merkabah or Merkavah as it is sometimes spelled, follows the oldest system of mysticism in the Bible, older than even Kabbalah. Kabbalists say Merkabah does not pre-date Kabbalah, but is rather the earliest form of Kabbalah. It begins in the book of Ezekiel (Hebrew Bible / Old Testament) where Ezekiel's vision of the fiery chariot spawned the earliest Jewish mystical system. The "Riders" of the Merkabah/Chariot would ascend upward thru seven different "heavens." Special sacred pass words, hand signals, and Guardians marked each level.

This system has been carefully kept alive, and is coupled now with both Jewish and Christian Kabbalah and end-time prophecies. The Initiate is taken up and up, evolving level by level to the Seventh Heaven. Here the divine Presence of YHVH, the four-in-one Deity, the Face is revealed to the climber....

The symbol of the Order is a seven rayed star, symbolizing the seven heavens, seven musical notes and seven colors in the light spectrum.

Here is an excerpt from the first lesson:

It is important to note that the book of Ezekiel was written in Babylon while the Jews were being held captive there. Babylon, an ancient city full of magic and the oldest pantheon of deities known to man, means "Gateway of the Gods." Abraham was from Ur, a city not far from Babylon. He was a Sumerian, not a Hebrew. Both Babylon and Ur were full of step-pyramid ziggurat temples each with seven levels. Priest and Priestess Initiates would climb these levels to reach the ultimate gateway to heaven. The Tower of Babel was said to be a ziggurat, and it was built, as the Bible story tells us, for the express purpose of reaching heaven.

This idea was thus an ancient one, and poor Babylon seems to have missed the boat, and the chariot, in this case. She is now a city buried in the desert of Iraq. But still Babylon haunts us, and we hear the prophet of Revelation's enigmatic cry, "O mystery, Babylon....."

In modern Iraq, on the spot of Babylon's ruins, an annual festival is held to act out the story of the Goddess Inanna and her consort Dumuzi, as well as the creation of the world by Tiamat and Marduk. Saddam Hussein revived this lavish festival making it a fabulously colorful event. CNN attended and filmed it in 1998, 99 and 2000. Since the war came and Saddam fell, I do not know if they still have this "pagan" celebration. Saddam was also rebuilding Babylon and had every brick imprinted with "Babylon rebuilt by the Glorious Saddam Hussein". Ah, the ego of an anti-christ.

Dumuzi is mentioned in the Old Testament several times, the Israelites brought his worship back with them when they returned from Babylon. The Jewish women would weep loudly for him in the Women's Court of Solomon's Temple. It was a ceremonial form of weeping, and the Yahwist Priests used to encourage it until a "purging" episode around 200BC. The ceremonial weeping marked the fact that the god Dumuzi would die every year at Spring planting time and be resurrected after three days in a garden tomb... He was always found alive again by a woman, usually by his priestess-wife. The similarity to the gospel story of Mary Magdalene finding Jesus alive is significant. See [Similar Gods to Yeshua](#) and [Myth of the Dying God](#) for more details.

### **Chariot Mysticism and the Sun God in the Three Desert Religions (Judaism, Christianity & Islam)**

[Alan, a professional religious librarian, a Christian, but born & raised Jewish, who is also a member of our discussion list, wrote the following brief notes on the Riders:]

Merkabah (chariot) mysticism is the earliest form of Jewish esotericism known, deriving from speculation on the nature and qualities of the chariot in Ezekiel's vision of the Throne of Glory (Ezekiel 1). These visions have been endlessly fascinating to readers down to the present day. Many researchers believe that the imagery was influenced by the idea of the sun-chariot found in a lot of surrounding cultures and mythologies.

The goal of Merkabah mystics was to ascend to the divine throne, which they attempted to do by means of rituals and other mystical practices. Merkabah mysticism not only gave rise to later Kabbalism, it influenced Gnostic ideas of ascent to the realm of the hidden god, as well as similar ideas in Islamic mysticism. Elements of it even appear in the New Testament, where Paul writes of someone (maybe himself) who ascended to the "third heaven" (there were seven heavens in Merkabah) and heard and saw unutterable mysteries (II Corinthians 12:2-5). The prophet Muhammad's Midnight Ride to heaven on El-Buraq also owed a lot to the imagery of Merkabah Mysticism.

[Bishop Thomas Clary of the Free Catholic Church and the Society of Mary Magdalene comments on Paul and the number of Heavens:]

I'm not a fan of Paul, he had his good days and bad days -- more bad ones--but he wrote beautifully on Love (1Cor. 13:1-13) and on men and women (Gal. 3:28).

On Paul going to the third heaven (2Cor. 12:2), the commentary in the Catholic Study Bible has an interesting comment: "In the body or out of the body: he seemed no longer confined to bodily conditions, but he does not claim to understand the mechanics of the experience. Caught up: i.e., in ecstasy. The third heaven...Paradise: ancient cosmologies depicted a multitiered universe. Jewish intertestamental literature contains much speculation about the number of heavens. Seven is the number usually mentioned, but the Testament of Levi (Lev. 2:7-10, 3:1-4) speaks of three; God himself dwelt in the third of these. Without giving us any clear picture of the cosmos, Paul indicates a mental journey to a nonearthly space, set apart by God, in which secrets were revealed to him. Ineffable things: i.e., privileged knowledge, which it was not possible or permitted to divulge.

I find this interesting: in the Gnostic Gospel of Mary when Mary Magdalene had information revealed to her by Jesus, Peter and Andrew wouldn't believe that she, as a woman, could receive this kind of information which would only be given to them (10-19). And the ten pages explaining the secrets she received were conveniently missing. +Thomas

### **"Streams of Nectar"**

Commentary by Darshan Singh

SK Publications

All scriptures say that God is Light, and our soul, being of the same essence as God, is also Light. When St. Teresa speaks of a "dark sheet" covering the soul she is referring to the various coverings of mind, matter, and illusion. In the mystic literature, generally, the soul is said to be covered by three distinct bodies, the physical, the astral, and the causal. In India, there are finer distinctions, and reference is made to koshas or sheaths in which the soul is encased. When the soul rises above physical consciousness and enters the astral plane [first heaven], it sheds the physical body. As it proceeds further and enters the causal realm [second heaven], it dispenses with the astral body. As it advances, it experiences its own increasing brilliance. When it crosses the causal plane and reaches the supracausal [third heaven], it arrives at the Fountain of Life which the Sufis speak of as chasma-e-kausar and which the Sikh scriptures refer to as Amritsar. On tasting its waters, it finally sheds its next covering, that of its causal body. It is purified of matter, mind and illusion. Mystics compare its brilliance to that of a dozen suns. On attaining this stage, the soul realizes its own innate divinity and cries out, "I am That [Soham]."

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For an interesting "new agey" take on Merkabah, read this article from another webpage:

[Alchemy and Planetary Merkabah](http://www.crystalinks.com/alchemy.html) --- -http://www.crystalinks.com/alchemy.html

## 2012, Dec 22 **THE SECRETS OF THOTH AND THE KEYS OF ENOCH**

**By Paul Whit**

\*Just after the Deluge, at the dawn of the present time cycle, an era the Egyptians called ZEP TEPI, "The First Times", a mysterious group of "gods" appeared, to initiate the survivors in the rudiments of civilisation. From Thoth and Osiris in Egypt, to Quetzacoatl and Viracocha in the Americas, traditions worldwide subscribe the origins of contemporary civilisation to this sophisticated group\*.

Despite the misleading popularity of Von Danikan journalism, evidence from around the world, indicates these people were the hi-tech survivors of the previous civilisation. Like the nuclear survival bunkers and secret research facilities of our civilisation, there were those who arose from the underground "cities of the Gods", after the dust settled. They were the "prediluvian patriarchs", like Enoch and Methuselah, the "giants and heroes of old", mentioned in Genesis.

The enigmatic gods ancient Summer, Egypt and India, all hail from the fabulous times before the Flood. Since the declassification of the new ground-penetrating radar 2 years ago, the most staggering data has emerged of complex and labyrinthine underground systems in various parts of the world. At places like Guatemala in the South Americas, tunnels have been mapped under the Mayan pyramid complex at Tikal, which extend a full 800 kilometres to the opposite side of the country. Investigators remarked, it was possible to understand how half a million Mayan Indians escaped the decimation of their culture.

In similar fashion, the SIRA radar was deployed in Egypt as early as 1978, mapping an extraordinary subterranean complex beneath the Egyptian pyramids. Arrangements made with President Sadat of Egypt, resulted in three decades of top secret excavations to penetrate the system. At a recent meeting in Australia, one of the key scientists on the Giza project, Dr. Jim Hurtak, showed film footage of work in progress called, CHAMBERS OF THE DEEP, due to be released at the end of the century. The film reveals the discovery of a vast megalithic metropolis, 15,000 years old, reaching several levels below the Giza plateau.

While the rest of the Nu-Age speculates about a hidden chamber under the left paw of the Sphinx, the legendary "City Of The Gods", lays sprawled beneath. Complete with hydraulic underground waterways, the film shows massive chambers, the proportions of our largest cathedrals, with enormous statues, the size of the Valley of the Nile, carved in-situ. Researchers, risking their lives with lights and cameras, carefully negotiated rubber dinghies across subterranean rivers and kilometer-wide lakes, to penetrate sealed chambers beyond. Already, remarkable caches of records and artifacts have been found. It is the legacy of a civilisation and a technology way beyond our own. A technology capable of creating a vast underground city, of which the sphinx and pyramids are merely the surface markers. The project scientist, Dr. Hurtak, likens it to the impact of contact with an advanced extraterrestrial culture. He described it as the discovery of the Fourth Root culture, the so-called Atlantean civilisation, destroyed by the last earth tumble. It presents unequivocal evidence that all languages, cultures and religions trace back to a single common source, which Dr. Hurtak refers to as the "Parent Civilisation".

The technology unearthed is way beyond machine technology, as we know it. As Arthur C. Clark once joked, "any technology beyond our own would seem like magic to us." According to Dr. Hurtak, this was a culture who cracked the genetic code and possessed the keys of the physical spectrum, the "Higher Light Physics" of the ancients... everything old Gilgamesh went searching for in his famous trek to the lost "City of the Gods" to search the tunnels beneath "Mt. Mashu" in the desert lands.

Hurtak refers to a "language of light" and a great priest-scientist of the previous time cycle, named ENOCH, who is associated with the building of the Great Pyramid complex. Hurtak alludes to a grand spiritual science, a science which describes a genetic stairway to the stars. The priest-scientist ENOCH, is a prediluvian patriarch, one of the most famous and seminal characters of the previous time cycle. Father of Methuselah and great grandfather of Noah, Enoch is credited in the Bible as architect of the original Zion, the legendary "City of Yahweh", as well as inventor of the alphabet and calendar. Enoch is also history's first astronaut, who "is taken aloft by the Lord" and shown "the secrets of earth and heaven". He returns to earth with the "weights and measures" for all humankind.

Known to the Egyptians as THOTH, the "Lord of Magic and Time" and to the Greeks as HERMES, "messenger of the gods", he is even remembered in the Celtic tradition as the enigmatic wizard Merlin, who disappears up an apple tree to mythic Avalon, seeking the secret of immortality and vowing to return. As one who attained immortality, the secret of how we "might become as gods", Thoth/Enoch promises to return at the end of time "with the keys to the gates of the sacred land."

In the controversial Dead Sea Scrolls, revealing the lost Books Of Enoch removed from the Bible by early religious leaders, Enoch describes a wondrous civilisation in the past, who misused the keys of higher knowledge and were unable to save themselves from the last cataclysm. Both literally and figuratively they lost the "keys", they lost all higher knowledge. Yet, Enoch, along with many traditions, even the Mayan legend of Quetzacoatl, promises a return of this knowledge at "The end of time", the end of the present time cycle.

Biblical Revelations promise "all will be revealed" at the end of the present world. The extraordinary discoveries in Egypt and other parts of the world, describe not just an advanced technology but, evolutionary path beyond our present state. Careful scientific examination of the world's key pyramid sites, reveal them to be sophisticated harmonic structures, not only mirroring positions of the planets and stellar systems but, designed to mimic the chakras and harmonic cavities of the human body. Even each stone within the Great Pyramid is harmonically tuned to a specific frequency or musical tone. The sarcophagus in the centre of the Great Pyramid is tuned to the frequency of the human heart beat. Astonishing experiments, conducted by Dr. Hurtak and colleagues at the Great Pyramid and other sites in the South Americas, demonstrate the pyramids to be voice-activated "geophysical computers."

Intoning specific ancient sounds, the scientific team produced visible standing waves of light, above and within the pyramids and were even able to penetrate, hitherto, inaccessible chambers. Subsequent discoveries indicate the ancient priest-scientists employed some sort of harmonic sound technology within the temple structures. The lost Enochian knowledge reveals the mother tongue as a "language of Light". Known to the ancients as HIBURU, it is the primal seed language, introduced at the beginning of this time cycle.

Modern research confirms, the most ancient form Hebrew to be a natural language, the alphabetic forms emerging from the phosphene flare patterns of the brain. The same shapes, in fact, born of a spinning vortex. It is a true language of light, coursing through our very nervous system. Encoding the natural waveform geometries of the physical world, Hiburur is a harmonic language, mimicking the waveform properties of light.

The "keys" Enoch speaks of, turn out to be sound keys, keys to be vibratory matrix of reality itself, the mythic "Power of the World". The Enochian knowledge describes sonic equations, encoded within the ancient mantras and god names, capable of directly affect the nervous system and producing profound effect of healing and higher consciousness states. As the ancient texts declare, "If you would speak with the gods you must first learn the language of the gods."

DNA, the ancient cabalistic "Tree Of Life" portrayed in the Biblical Torah, is now coming to be viewed as a live vibrating structure, rather than a fixed tape recording. Many modern scientists, regard DNA as a shimmering, waveform configuration, able to be modified by light, radiation, magnetic fields or sonic pulses. The legacy of Thoth/Enoch suggests this "language of Light", the harmonic science of the ancients, could actually affect DNA. The evidence in Egypt, indicates this was the grand 6,000 year genetic experiment attempted by the Egyptians, the quest for immortality and the stars, a quest described by the great ones of old, a quest initiated by Gilgamesh so very long ago.

The Egyptians were not fixated on the afterlife, as thought by early Christian translators but, focussed on creating a higher type of human. Along with many ancient cultures, they believed DNA came from the stars and was destined to return. The knowledge of Thoth/Enoch implies humans are meant to evolve beyond our present terrestrial form, as the Bible tells us, "we may become greater than angels". The Egyptians record stories of the "Star Walkers", occasional individuals who, like Enoch, travelled "beyond the Great Eye of Orion" and returned, to walk like gods amongst men.

Despite the bleaching of semi-divine beings from modern consciousness, could it be possible, as the ancient

texts insist, we are destined to "become as gods"? are the Mayan "Lords of Light" and the Egyptian/Tibetan "Shining Ones" really a higher form of human? According to many earth legends, such beings are supposed to return regularly, at the beginning and end of each time cycle, the 13,000 year half-point of our solar system's 26,000 year zodiacal orbit around galaxy centre. Because of conditions on our galactic orbit, these 13,000 year intervals or "worlds", seem to be separated by cataclysmic upheaval. According to the "calendar in stone" of the Great Pyramid, which describes the so-called "Phoenix Cycle" of our galactic orbit, the present time period ends (converted to our present calendar) in the year 2012 AD.

The Greek word PHOENIX, derived from the Egyptian word, PA-HANOK, actually means, "The House of Enoch". The Enochian knowledge suggests, these regular cataclysmic changes act as an evolutionary agent provocateur, to quicken the resident life forms to the next evolutionary phase, prior to exodus from the womb planet. Human evolution may proceed more rapidly than previously thought. The evidence now appearing, records civilisations before us, who mastered the physical continuum and progressed beyond this world. There were also those who failed.

We, too, have equal opportunity to make it or break it. The discoveries emerging from Egypt, describe the existence of a world wide pyramid temple system in prehistory, mounted like antennae on the key energy meridians, which were employed by ancient priest-scientists as a musical system to stabilize the tectonic plates of the planet... cataclysmic geology at it's finest.

>From the mother tongue word JEDAIAH, meaning "the way of the Word" or "the power of the Word", the ancient JEDAI priests used the language of Light to tune the planet like a giant harmonic bell. Much is being rediscovered in the last days of this time cycle. In the words of Dr. Jay Franz, of the Omega Foundation, "even if we don't dare to name it, there is a universal feeling of something impending on the world stage."

<http://www.lightparty.com/Spirituality/ThothEnoch.html>

## 2012, Dec 22 Wisdom of the Ancient Sages: Lao Tzu (Laozi)

<http://www.deepspirits.com/ancient-sages/lao-tzu/>

### The Old Master

### An Introduction to Lao Tzu

Two and a half millennia ago, in ancient China two great contemporary philosophers and holy men, Confucius and Lao Tzu, attempted to reform and improve the way people lived.

Lao Tzu was not only a philosopher but a personality worshiped as a prophet or divinity. He showed people the "Tao" or "The Way", and through his [Taoist teachings](#) he tried to lead them to a non-aggressive and harmonious way of life, and to being in accordance with nature and the forces that govern the natural and universal order. He is also one of the top deities in the Pantheon of Taoism, a member of the Three Pure Ones.

Lao Tzu presented his philosophy in the [Tao Te Ching](#), which, next to the Bible, is the most translated book in the world.

### The Story of His Life

Lao Tzu (The Old Master), also known as Lao Tse, Lao Tsu or Lao Zi, is a personality clouded by doubt and historical uncertainty, as far as facts about his life are concerned. Historians and scholars have been trying for centuries to create an accurate biography for Lao Tzu without much success, as two or three historical figures seem to identify with him.

During the Han dynasty (206-220 BC), a historian named Ssu-ma Ch'ien created Lao Tzu's first biography. Although its reliability cannot be confirmed, it is a point of reference for the study of the philosopher's life. Lao Tzu was a citizen of the state of Chu, which corresponds to the modern city of Luyi in the Honan Province. His first name was Er, his surname Li and his appellation Tan. He worked as a keeper of the archives in the court of the Emperor. At that time keepers of archives were not historians but scholars who specialized in divination, astrology and the study of sacred books. According to legend, Confucius (551-479 BC), who was younger than Lao Tzu, had consulted the royal archives to find information on certain rituals, and not only praised Lao Tzu, but also compared him to a dragon that flies high up in the sky, rising on the winds and clouds.

Also legendary is the account of Lao Tzu's voyage to the west and the way he wrote his book "[Tao Te Ching](#)". Lao Tzu got disgusted because of the decline in morality and the dishonesty prevailing in politics in the area where he lived, and decided to go away and live as a hermit. When he reached the entrance to the state of Ch'in, the famous Hsien Ku pass, he met Yin Hsi, the guardian of the pass, who asked him to prove his wisdom by writing a book. When Lao Tzu finished the book, he left it to Yin Hsi and after that, nobody ever learned what became of him.

In order to provide an explanation to why Lao Tzu's life was so much shrouded in obscurity, Ssu-ma Ch'ien claimed that since Lao Tzu taught non-action and inner calm, he, himself, was a recluse who wanted to leave no trace of his life.

### Legends

By the 2nd century AD, [Taoism](#) had become a [religion](#) and a very important part of people's lives, consequently, Lao Tzu was worshiped as a divine creature, a revealer of truth and a saviour of mankind, and as such, his life was beautified with several stories and legends.

One of the stories concerning his birth is that his mother bore him in her womb for 72 years and that Lao Tzu entered this world through her left flank, while another explains his family name by saying that he was born at the foot of a palm tree (li) and because of this, his family name was Li.

Lao Tzu was also connected to the Buddha. There are stories that say that he was one of the Buddha's teachers, while others claim that he was the Buddha himself or one of Buddha's incarnations.

Lao Tzu, as several other Taoist masters, was credited with unusual longevity as it was believed to have reached the age of 150, and that he had incarnated innumerable times after his death to provide the rulers with proper instructions on the Taoist doctrine.



## Tao Te Ching

Lao Tzu only wrote one book, the famous [Tao Te Ching](#) on which [Taoism](#) was based. Tao means "The Way", Te means "Virtue" and Ching means "classic scripture". The book is a short, poetic text of 5000 Chinese characters, divided into 81 chapters, but has been a great source of inspiration for poets, artists philosophers and theologians all over the world through its numerous translations into most of the Western languages.

In the first part of the book the Tao Ching, the Tao is presented like Whatever Existed before time and space and the Nameless Creator of everything. Tao is the Source of Chi, the essential energy that keeps the creation in motion. Tao could be the "Word" as it is described in the beginning of the Gospel by John, which was the creator of everything.

In the second part the values are described as "feminine" or Yin, with properties of a quiet and passive nature and "male" or Yang with properties of energy and action. The symbol of Yin and Yang is very well known in the West as the omnipresent duality that exists in every aspect of life on Earth.

On the whole, the Tao is a quiet power and man should attune to its harmony. Tao Te Ching teaches man to live a life free from violence and all forms of aggression. People are also taught to adopt special eating habits and practise special breathing exercises so that they could maintain peace of mind and harmony with the Tao.

## Conclusion

Despite the controversy surrounding Lao Tzu's life, what remained of him is of the utmost importance, as [Taoism](#) has been the pillar of Chinese religious beliefs and way of life. At the same time that the [Buddha](#) taught in India and [Pythagoras](#) in Greece and Southern Italy, Lao Tzu was the influential spirit in China. It seems that at all times and at all places, The Great Sower sows the seeds of knowledge in all parts of the world.

<http://www.theharmonyproject.org/taoism.html>

“We believe in the formless and eternal Tao, and we recognize all personified deities as being mere human constructs. We reject hatred, intolerance, and unnecessary violence, and embrace harmony, love and learning, as we are taught by Nature. We place our trust and our lives in the Tao, that we may live in peace and balance with the Universe, both in this mortal life and beyond.”

-- Creed of the Western Reform Taoist Congregation

For most Westerners who are aware of Taoism at all, the tradition is epitomized by the generic wisdom embodied in the Tao Te Ching, the famously succinct book of wisdom written about 2,500 years ago. This book of 81 brief, poetic chapters has probably been translated more often than any other book of Eastern thought, but although its subtle philosophy is at the heart of Taoism, it is not by any means the whole story. Taoism also has a dimension of religious ritual, although there is no character in Chinese equivalent to “religion” in the Western sense of the word. Philosophical concepts and religious rites coexist in the Chinese tradition with a wide range of physical exercises and yogic practices designed to enhance vitality, stamina, flexibility, and sexual enjoyment; to develop martial arts skills; and to utilize medical practices, from qigong to acupuncture, to relieve pain and increase health and longevity.

Alongside all this practical, earth-oriented wisdom and health-enhancing knowledge and practices, however, the Taoist tradition is also rife with fantastic stories of hundred-year-old adepts who fly on dragons and create elixirs of immortality. To the Western mind these sets of teachings seem utterly incompatible, if not incomprehensible. And yet, as we find the deeper we look into Taoism as it has been practiced in China for over 2000 years, believers and practitioners themselves are comfortable with the intermingling of religious rituals, philosophical beliefs, and physical practices.

On one level, Taoism developed as a response to the problem of human suffering, although out of a set of circumstances that were somewhat different from those in which Buddhism arose to address the same dilemma. Nonetheless the earliest Taoist teachings were a response to the rampant violence and disorder that plagued much of the Asian world in those years. The principles of Taoism are traditionally said to have sprung initially from the writings of the man called Lao-tzu--a name that simply means “Old Master.” Although Lao is presumed to have lived in the 6th-5th century BCE, at roughly the same time as the Buddha taught in India, many scholars doubt his historical authenticity, believing him to be a convenient personalized figure representing the collective wisdom of the early Chinese sages.

China had been so ravaged by continual warfare and inhuman cruelty that the stability of the natural order of life had been seriously undermined. So Lao-tzu, or perhaps a tradition of anonymous sages, sought a more reliable basis for order in their lives to counter the chaotic physical circumstances. They drew on what was undoubtedly an older tradition of nature worship, divination, and shamanism, in which the underlying cycles of the natural world; the harmonious flow of the seasons; the alternation of day and night and the counterbalancing forces represented by sun and moon, hot and cold, male and female energies provided a greater sense of order than military power or the political institutions that attempted to manage the world. These philosophical principles blended with ideas from the Yin-Yang and the Five Elements schools of belief, which expressed the relationships between all phenomena in terms of the principal cosmic forces of the universe: the polarity of yin-yang and the five natural elements of earth, water, fire, wood, and metal.

For Lao-tzu, the underlying order of the world was a mysterious but utterly reliable force he called Tao, which may be translated as the Way or Path. As that name implies, the Tao is conceived of not as an omnipotent Supreme Being in the personalized Western sense but as a universal energetic intelligence that informs and directs all life. Nonetheless, Chinese folk religion is rife with colorful gods and goddesses, such as Ssu-ming, the Lord of Fate, who later became popular as Tsao-chun, the Kitchen God, today the most significant folk deity of Chinese culture. (Said to have originated as early as 800 BCE,

Ssu-ming keeps a record of each individual's sins and failings, which he presents to the chief deity, known as Taiyi, each New Year's day, along with his recommendation for extending or shortening that person's life. The parallels between the essentially Christian figure of Santa Claus and the Jewish concept of the Book of Life are intriguing, although no direct relationship has been historically established.) Taoist temples venerate several other deities, including Lao-tzu himself, but these are all seen to be under the direction of the Tao, which is not personified or worshiped in any theistic sense.

It has been said that Chinese religion views these many deities as celestial bureaucrats who keep track of affairs on earth and mete out rewards and punishments. The celestial bureaucracy is arrayed against the forces of evil and disorder, especially ghostlike demons called kwei, who cause pain, illness, natural calamities, and death. And so the minor gods are not worshiped so much as entreated for aid in specific situations, much the way pious Christians call on St. Anthony to help them find a lost object, or St. Christopher (before he was de-canonized) to guard them while traveling.

Probably influenced by Buddhist ideas of a subterranean hell with different levels of punishments, the Chinese came to believe in an afterlife and specifically in a period of time spent in hell. Unlike the Western version, though, the Chinese hell is not a place of eternal damnation, except perhaps for certain demons and politicians. For everyone else it resembles the Catholic purgatory; after alchemical fires of the cosmos purify the spirit in the yin underworld, the soul ascends into the pure yang of heaven. To help speed up this process of refinement and assist the souls of the dead on their journey from hell to heaven, the Chinese employ Taoist and Buddhist funeral ceremonies and memorial services; in recent years, Christian funeral rites have been added, and are often performed in tandem with Buddhist services.

Taoism teaches a complex mixture of philosophical principles and physical exercises, meditations, and breathing techniques with the practical goal of improving health and extending life. Although the ancient Taoists spoke at length of achieving immortality, the aim of their practices was longevity of the body rather than an immortal soul. Not until the arrival of Buddhist missionaries did the idea of an afterlife of the soul enter the Chinese consciousness.

## The Old Tao

Lao-tzu's understanding of the Tao as harmonizing force of the universe harks back to a much earlier time when the roles of men and women are said to have been more equitably apportioned, and when spiritual practice centered around the birth of all creation from the Divine Mother. Lao-tzu wrote of an ancient time when the feminine principle was not yet dominated by the masculine:

There was something complete and nebulous  
Which existed before Heaven and Earth,  
Silent, invisible,  
Unchanging, standing as One,  
Unceasing, ever-revolving,  
Able to be the Mother of the World.  
I do not know its name and I call it Tao.

## Tao Te Ching, 25

Although the essence of the Tao is ancient and unknowable, it could be witnessed in its manifestations, and the literature of Taoism glitters with closely observed references to the actions of birds, animals, and the entire natural world. Lao-tzu noted, for example, that water, the softest of substances, can wear away the hardest rock, or that an apparently empty bellows is never depleted of air: "Move it and more always comes out." He turned these simple observations into profound wisdom meant to be used in everyday life.

This reliance on a deep understanding of the natural rhythms and principles of life led to a reliance on

techniques to improve and maintain health and to promote longevity. And so the Taoist masters developed a firsthand knowledge of herbal medicine and pharmacology; nutrition, including principles of macrobiotic cooking and other healthful diets; systems of physical exercise to keep the body strong and youthful; and the use of massage and needles to release the blocked flow of energy that they believed accounted for disease.

## Philosophical and Religious Taoism

Although the Tao Te Ching is dated at several centuries before the Common or Christian Era, Taoism as a religious practice did not develop until the second or third century of that era. These philosophical, physical, and medical applications of the principles of Taoism make up the face of the religion best known to the West. Asian practitioners of Taoism, of whom there are many millions in Asia but only a few thousand in the West, also follow a related but rather different set of practices and beliefs known collectively as Religious Taoism, to distinguish it from Philosophical Taoism, which is called Tao-chia in Chinese. This “other” Taoism, also called “Church Taoism,” or Tao-chiao, is somewhat mystifying to Westerners, and tends to be of far less interest. It is, however, of great significance to its Asian adherents. Further, it cannot be easily separated from the underlying philosophy of Taoism drawn from the Tao Te Ching and the later work of Chuang-tzu. The various sects of Religious Taoism, such as the Five Pecks of Rice school, also use the Tao Te Ching as their main study text and revere Lao-tzu as their symbolic leader. Lieh-tzu, whose authorship of a book named after him is disputed, comes to us with no biographical details. But he is said to have pursued themes common to philosophical Taoism, such as the direct experience of the Tao and the pointlessness of personal striving or intervention in human affairs.

Toward the end of the Han Dynasties (220 CE), Taoism began to outstrip Confucianism as the philosophy of choice of the intellectual elite, especially as Confucianism became reduced to little more than ritualized codes of conduct -- a kind of handbook for civil servants. Confronted with the same disordered society, in which the race was so clearly not always to the swift, Taoists chose to base their behavior on inclinations that came to them in their meditative trances, preferring to be true to their own natures rather than to established conventions.

Over time, Taoists began to combine yogic and mystical practices with self-hypnosis, restrictive diets, and drugs, not only to induce transcendent states but also in the hope of achieving physical immortality. More and more, Taoism came to be associated with ways of prolonging life; fantastic stories about masters who lived very long lives, exercised magical powers, and ascended into Heaven in broad daylight became commonplace. Once again, some observers claim the import of these elements have been exaggerated by Western popularizers, and do not make up a significant portion of current Taoist beliefs. And yet, although Tao-chiao as a whole system has never had the sweeping appeal of Philosophical Taoism, it remains part of the complex fabric of religious life in China, even after the Communist and Maoist revolutions. Some of the yogic practices that have developed through the various schools of Religious Taoism have also found an increasingly avid following in the West, and those are worth looking at in greater detail.

## Qigong

The concept of an afterlife characterized by rewards and punishments did not take a prominent place in Chinese belief until the arrival of Buddhist missionaries from India, probably well after the beginning of the Christian or Common Era (CE). Until that time, the understanding of immortality was based primarily on survival of the body; one's good or bad actions, as carefully noted by the Kitchen God, could lead to the lengthening or shortening of one's life on earth.

The system of enhancing life energy through physical exercises, meditation and breath developed in China is known today by the overall title qigong (pronounced chee-GUNG), a word that means “working with life energy.” Qi, or ch'i, is the Chinese equivalent of prana, the Sanskrit term for the vital energy that flows through the human body. According to the Chinese system, the life force is absorbed into our

bodies through entry portals in the skin known as acupuncture points. The subtle energy of qi then circulates along 12 pairs of invisible pathways called meridians or channels, linking the inner organs and other parts of the body and nervous system into a unified whole. Qi is believed to flow freely in healthy individuals; any blockage or imbalance in the flow of qi is said to result in disease and weakness; blockage in a specific channel can lead to a localized ailment.

Related systems of movement, breathing, and meditation that have been devised to maximize the flow of qi throughout the body are known by various names, including taijiquan (t'ai chi chuan, in the old spelling), kung-fu, and medical qigong. Based on traditional Chinese medicine, medical qigong offers preventive, healing, and strengthening exercises designed to regulate the health of the internal organs such as the liver, kidneys, heart, lungs, and spleen. Other forms of qigong focus on developing sexual energy, either alone or in conjunction with a partner; learning to use qi energy to heal oneself or others from a variety of ailments; and the application of principles of qi in the martial arts.

Perhaps the best-known application of qigong principles in healing is the ancient science of acupuncture, which aims at releasing blockages of energy flow by the insertion of needles into the skin at one or more of the approximately 365 acupuncture points located along the meridians. Although acupuncture fell out of favor in China in the late 19th century, Mao Tse-tung returned it to prominence. In the 1970s, American journalists witnessed surgery being performed in China for which the only anesthetic was acupuncture. With Richard Nixon's reopening of ties with China, the knowledge began to flow more freely to the West, and today major insurance companies such as Mutual of Omaha pay for acupuncture for pain management and other therapeutic uses.

The Chinese also developed treatments which use the application of heat to the acupuncture points to achieve similar results. In moxibustion, the heat comes from smoldering balls or sticks of compressed wormwood leaves, called moxa; in cupping, small heated jars are held in place over the acupuncture points through vacuum suction. And in acupressure, the acupuncture points are massaged by the practitioner's fingertips.

## Church Taoism: Historical Background

Church Taoism as practiced primarily in Mainland China and Taiwan can be divided into two main branches. The Way of Right Unity, or Cheng-i Tao, encompasses those schools that use magical practices such as amulets, talismans, and exorcisms. This branch was begun by the long-lived Chang Tao-ling (34-156), who healed people in Szechuan province with magical cures. The price for a cure was five pecks of rice, the name that was later applied to the pivotal school he founded. The Five Pecks of Rice School, or Wu-tou-mi Tao, based on teachings found in the Tao Te Ching and aimed at healing maladies caused by evil deeds, remained active through the 15th century. Members indulged in mass confessions, fasts, and orgiastic feasts. It was also known as the School of the Celestial Masters, since Chang was later venerated as a celestial master, or t'ien-shih, a title that was inherited by each of his successors down to the present day. (When this lineage of "Taoist popes," as they are sometimes called, was kicked off the mainland by the Communists in 1949, they continued on Taiwan.) Chang's descendants were largely responsible for making Taoism an organized religion. In 165, for instance, official imperial sacrifices were offered for the first time to Lao-tzu.

During the second century, famine and plagues caused enormous turmoil and led hundreds of thousands of Chinese to embrace Taoism, which offered a more personal and emotionally appealing form of religion than state Confucianism. The Han Dynasty's oppressive rule added to the peasants' suffering and helped to accelerate the swing. One sect that especially profited from this development was the Way of Supreme Peace (T'ai-p'ing Tao), founded by Chang Chueh, a follower of Huang-Lao Chun, who pursued conversion through the use of missionaries. Like the Five Pecks school, Chang believed that public confession of sins was an important step toward healing illness, and encouraged fasting rituals called chai.

In 184, the government took steps to stem the flood of conversions, which led to a reaction among the

Taoists. Some 360,000 of them put yellow cloth on their heads on the same day as a show of solidarity (and in honor of the Yellow Emperor, Huang-ti, a legendary ruler of the 3rd millennium BCE). The rebellion, which became known as the Rising of the Yellow Turbans, was suppressed and Chang Chueh executed, but the Taoist Church had been established and continued to function alongside the other currents of philosophical Taoism and individual Taoist magicians and sorcerers. Although it made ample use of magical elements including talismans, amulets, holy water, and incantations, the focus of the early Church was more on healing, especially faith healing, than on the elusive search for physical immortality. In this sense, it laid the groundwork for what is today one of the major contributions of Chinese medicine -- healing through herbal remedies, acupuncture, and qigong.

Buddhist teachers had already begun to trickle into China as early as the time of Christ. They were successful in passing on the dharma for several reasons, not least because Mahayana Buddhism, at least, offered a plan of general salvation for the masses, while the complex Buddhist metaphysical system and scriptures appealed to the intellectual elite. Meanwhile, Buddhist monasteries and rituals for the dead provided physical and spiritual solace in times of stress. The monks taught Buddhist practices and doctrines and translated Buddhist texts into Chinese, and by the 11th century, Taoist and Buddhist ideas had merged with folk practices to create a popular religion that survives to this day.

Between the 2nd and 6th centuries, a movement arose within Church Taoism of the Cheng-i Tao branch that came to be known as the Inner Gods Hygiene School. According to this school, the body is a microcosm of the universe, with three energy centers called Fields of Cinnabar (tan t'ien), and is inhabited by 36,000 gods. These gods correspond to the 36,000 in the outer pantheon, where they serve as heavenly bureaucrats, running the physical universe in much the way earthly bureaucrats administer government. Hell also has a bureaucratic structure, divided into ten sections dedicated to punishing different kinds of sins, similar to the nine circles of Dante's Inferno.

Alongside the 36,000 gods live the Three Worms (San-ch'ung), which also dwell in the Cinnabar Fields and cause illness, aging, and death. They report on the sins of their host in an effort to shorten his or her life and thereby set themselves free. Since the Three Worms live on a diet of five grains (wheat, barley, millet, rice, and beans), true adepts must avoid grains, reducing their diets until they have eliminated all solid foods, not unlike certain raw juice advocates today. Under no circumstances are they ever to partake of meat or wine, because the inner gods dislike their smell. Adepts must regularly cleanse their colons and perform exercises based on animal movements to prepare their inner bodies for Embryonic Respiration. This requires lying down in quiet, holding one's breath for anywhere from 12 to 1,000 heartbeats and learning to circulate it throughout the body, moving through all the internal organs as a way of stimulating and healing them. The adept then swallows the saliva that has accumulated in the mouth. The Inner Deity school also required charitable works, such as building roads and bridges and contributing to orphanages, not for any moral or ethical reasons but because good deeds helped accumulate credits toward personal immortality.

During the 6th century, the School of the Magic Jewel (Ling-pao P'ai), which had begun to develop during the two previous centuries, displaced the Inner Gods Hygiene School. The Magic Jewel sect taught that individual liberation was dependent on outside help from the Celestial Honored Beings. The highest gods of the Taoist Church, their title came into use during the 3rd century, just as Buddhism was gaining a foothold in China. The T'ien Tsun are led by Yuan-shih T'ien Tsun ("Celestial Venerable of the Primordial Beginning"), pictured as the pre-existing Creator and Ruler of Heaven and Earth, who spontaneously sprang into existence before the rest of the world. Others include the equally important Tao-te T'ien Tsun ("Celestial Venerable of the Tao and its Power"), and the Jade Emperor (Yu-Huang). After the 3rd century, Taoist priests who lived in monasteries began to practice celibacy, and Taoist women religious entered convents. Both developments reflected the influence of Buddhism, and the Five Pecks of Rice tradition began to fade from common practice.

The other principal branch of Church Taoism, at least since the religious reformation of the Sung Dynasty, is the School of Perfect Realization, or Ch'uan-chen Tao. Founded by Wang Ch'un-yang (1112-1170), who reputedly received a secret transmission from a passing hermit, the aim of the school was total asceticism. Reflecting the influences of both Buddhism and Confucianism with their emphasis on

strong codes of personal ethics and moral living, members of Perfect Realization abstained from alcohol, sex, and other pleasures of the senses, refused sleep whenever possible, and practiced Zen-style meditation. One story goes that Wang had himself buried under ten feet of earth and remained there for two years, emerging unscathed. Perfect Realization was dualistic in its attempt to place yang (heaven or spirit) over yin (earth or matter). The focus was on inner alchemy (hygiene and meditation), and did not require monastic life, although their tao-shih were supposed to be celibate.

The Perfect Realization school quickly generated branch sects, starting with those created by seven of Wang's own disciples. The most significant, though, came to be identified as the Northern and Southern Schools. The Northern School, also known as Lung-men ("Dragon Gate"), was led by Wang and his successor, Ch'ang Ch'un, who used the White Cloud Monastery in Beijing as his base beginning in 1224. The Southern School was founded earlier than the Northern, during the 10th century, by Liu Hai-ch'an, who claimed spiritual transmission from Hui Neng, the Ch'an Buddhist master.

Over the centuries, the Inner Gods Hygiene School practice of exterior breath circulation (hsing-ch'i) fell out of favor and was replaced during the T'ang dynasty by the practice of circulating the "interior breath" (nei-ch'i). This procedure didn't require holding one's breath for dangerously long periods of time (although that technique did have the added advantage of hallucinations induced by carbon dioxide intoxication). Similarly, the alchemy of creating an elixir of immortality from lead or mercury was gradually replaced by the search for an inner elixir (nei-tan), beginning during the Sung Dynasty, especially in the sects of the Ch'uan-chen Tao, and came to be known as the Inner Elixir School. The aim of nei-tan is to create within the adept a new being called the sacred embryo (sheng t'ai), which will depart the body at the instant of death and ascend to Heaven, much like the concept of the immortal soul in Western religion. The embryo was sometimes called the golden flower, lending its name to one of the school's key texts, *The Secret of the Golden Flower*. The best known proponents of the inner elixir were Chen T'uan (906-989) and Chang Po-tuan (984-1082).

The inner elixir was one manifestation of a religious reformation that swept China during the Sung Dynasty. Somewhat paralleling the Protestant Reformation in Europe, the Chinese laity began to take on itself the expression of religious fervor without the intervention of priests and monks, whether Taoist or Buddhist. The clergy retained their function during funeral services, but the people took over officiating at birth, marriage, and healing rituals, among others.

Through yogas pertaining to the inner alchemy, some adepts claimed to be able to use the sacred embryo as an astral body, a subtle configuration that contains the soul but is usually invisible. This allowed them to leave the physical body while alive and travel on the astral plane.

## The Three Teachings

Although Eastern religions have had their share of fanaticism and fundamentalism, they have tended to be far more tolerant of other religions than have the Western monotheistic traditions. From at least the first century CE, Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism were all considered sacred by the vast majority of Chinese, and by the 11th century, Chinese religious culture was thoroughly steeped in a synthesis of the three. It wasn't just that believers of one tradition accepted the others as valid, but that they actually practiced elements of all three. Referred to as San-chiao kwei-i, or "Three religions, one culture," this openness reflects the sharing of the basic principles of yin-yang cosmology in popular religion. Despite the occasional attempts by certain emperors to counteract, persecute, or stamp out one or another of these traditions, most Chinese assimilated the Three Teachings in different proportions in their own belief systems, so that in general a Taoist could feel comfortable worshiping in a Buddhist temple, and vice versa. A Buddhist might have an image of the Kitchen God or K'ung-tzu (Confucius) alongside various buddhas and bodhisattvas in the home. One current saying goes, "Confucian head, Buddhist heart, Taoist belly," implying that even today, at least among those Chinese who are not doctrinaire Marxists, elements of Confucian ethics and morality; Buddhist funeral rituals and prayers for the dead; and Taoist philosophical attitudes toward nature all form a part of their lives. Along with that, they are likely to incorporate elements of folk religion and the ancient cult of ancestor worship, making the Chinese

perhaps the most religiously pluralistic people on earth.

Nevertheless, the Taoist Church was responsible for occasional persecutions of Buddhists during the first millennium, when they feared that their hierarchical power was being threatened. Major persecutions took place in 446 and again in 845, when a Taoist emperor moved to counter Buddhism's growing popularity by closing thousands of Buddhist monasteries and defrocking their monks and nuns, leading to the eventual decline, but not disappearance, of Buddhism in China.

Today there are at least 86 sects of Taoism, including many lay societies that, apart from their religious beliefs, have a history of opposing autocratic or tyrannical rule. A prominent non-Taoist sect called the I Kuan Tao ("The Great Way") embraces Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, and Hindu traditions, including their gods and prophets. Its main deity is the Mother of No-Birth, the creator of the world. Members abstain from meat, alcohol, and tobacco, and focus on controlling the mind by lessening desire. Founded in 1930 by Shi Zueng and Shi Mu in Chi Nan City, I Kuan Tao became well established on the mainland by 1946. But following the Civil War in 1949, many I-Kuan Tao followers in China found their beliefs incompatible with Communist doctrines and so emigrated to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. They claim about 6,500,000 followers in Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and South East Asia, and the World I Kuan Tao headquarters are now located in California.

Peter is the author of *The Joy of Sects* and lives and works in Woodstock, NY