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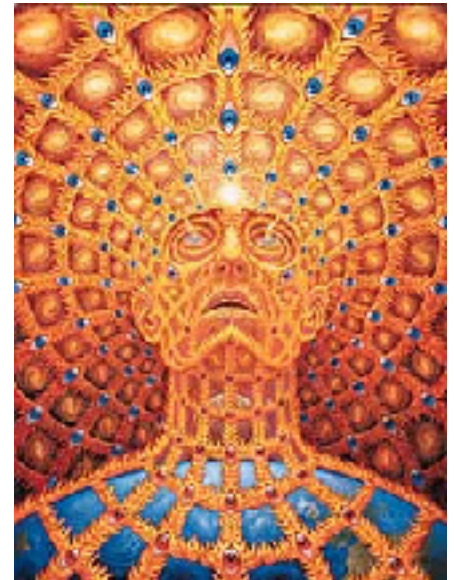


Carl Teichrib, Chief Editor

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Dissecting the New Age: Thoughts on God and Government By Carl Teichrib

"We are learning to approach problems differently, knowing that most of the world's crisis grew out of the old paradigm – the forms, structures, and beliefs of an obsolete understanding of reality. Now we can seek answers outside the old frameworks, ask new questions, synthesize, and imagine."
– Marilyn Ferguson, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, p.407.



Marilyn Ferguson's 1980 book, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, was a social landmark. Building on more than a decade of spiritual and societal discontent throughout the Western world, she postulated that a growing mind-change movement was poised to transform our collective culture. "Western society is at a pivotal point," she wrote in reference to this "Emergent Culture" paradigm.¹

This meta-transformation has had a number of titles given to it, depending on the personalities of the day and the slant given: Third Way, New Social Order, Spiritual Adventurism, Planetary Consciousness, Global Paradigm Shift, World Synergy, Emergent Paradigm, Global Transformation, and Conscious Evolution. Ferguson called it the "Aquarian Conspiracy," in recognition that a vast and leaderless network of individuals, grassroots initiatives, and formal organizations linked this movement at the national and international levels.

"Broader than reform, deeper than revolution, this benign conspiracy for a new human agenda has triggered the most radical cultural realignment in history. The great shuddering, irrevocable shift overtaking us is not a new political, religious, or philosophical system. It is a new mind – the ascendance of a startling worldview...."²

By the mid-1980s this mind-shift had a common name, the New Age Movement. However, this transformative process wasn't based on anything "New." Instead of a uniquely fresh idea, this movement simply represented the introduction, acceptance, and propagation of Eastern mysticism in the West, and the worldview that emanated from this form of spirituality.

Roger Oakland, author of *Faith Undone*, offers the following commentary,

“In the early ‘80s, I became aware of a major shift in thinking that was sweeping the Western world. Religious pagan practices of the past, once relegated to a world of darkness, were now being embraced as the ways and means of ushering in an age of enlightenment. Instead of physics, it was metaphysics. Rather than believing in God, people were following men who said they were gods. Instead of worshipping the one true God who created everything, they were worshipping everything the Creator had made. All was God, and every man could become god. Every method and therapy imaginable imported from Hinduism, Buddhism and every form of Eastern mysticism suddenly was in vogue. The age of enlightenment had arrived, we were told.”³

In the space of a few short, measurable decades, this “startling worldview” made profound inroads. From England to Australia, from New Zealand to the United States, the New Age Movement presented an alternative to Christianity; that “obsolete understanding of reality.” And as society shucked that “old time religion” with its fundamental tenets – the sinfulness of Man, the Holiness of God, and the saving work of Jesus Christ – people hungry for “spirituality” and personal meaning embraced a host of substitute philosophies and mystical experiences.

Now, 28 years since the publishing of *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, our shared landscape is so deeply interwoven with New Age concepts it’s impossible to keep track of the changes taking place. Moreover, the diversity of the New Age Movement lends itself to cultural anonymity – it subtly embedded itself into the fields of education, corporate business, health care, and even churches. Today, the New Age has pasted itself so tidily into the Western landscape we find ourselves often overlooking its influence. In other words, it’s such an accepted part of our social milieu that we have become largely blind to it.

This blindness is something I’ve witnessed over the last number of years when talking to various pastors and other professing Christians: “The New Age Movement was ineffective...it faded out years ago...it was a phenomena of the 1980s...it was a fad...it isn’t relevant today...”

Meanwhile, churches are holding yoga classes, setting up labyrinths and embracing other mystical tools for “divine union,” and adopting “human-progression” thinking and “transformative” psychology.⁴ What would have been obvious to Christians as “spiritual deception” twenty-eight years ago is now, in many circles, viewed as part of our “spiritual formation.”

We’ve come a very long way.

Manifestations

A short list of “New Age” aspects, or manifestations, suffices to demonstrate the spiritual diversity of the movement. In reviewing this incomplete list, it is important to take note of the fact that the New Age Movement is, in many respects, inseparable from what has been traditionally regarded as occultism.

- Theosophy, and other “Westernized” versions of Eastern religions and esoteric philosophies.
- Tarot cards, astrology, and other forms of divination.
- Mystical experiences, including ritualistic empowerment (labyrinth walks fall into this package).
- Channeled revelations and communications from “ascended” beings. Extraterrestrial messages and UFO cults could be considered as sub-culture components of the New Age Movement.
- Transpersonal psychology and human-progression/potential thinking – “conscious evolution.”
- Earth-based worship and other pagan-spiritual expressions; the revival of ancient nature religions.

- Esoteric symbolism, “sacred geometry,” and the renewed interest in the wearing of talisman.
- Goddess revivals – the resurgence of the “sacred feminine.”
- Crystal energy and other tools to tap into the universal “life-force.”
- Various alternative healing practices such as non-touch therapy/Pranic Healing.
- Universalistic and pluralist approaches to religion – all religions are valid, and all spiritual expressions are accepted as legitimate encounters with “the divine.”

For anyone trying to grasp the full meaning and context of just one of these many manifestations, the task can be daunting. And for the average person who “just wants to know what’s going on,” the New Age Movement can be a quagmire of obscure terminology, logical fallacies, misrepresentations, contradictions, and out-right bizarreness. However, there are common themes that run through its veins, and in this article we will briefly look at two of these common issues: God and Government.

On God

The best way to grasp what the New Age Movement teaches regarding “God” is to listen to what New Age leaders and authors proclaim. Consider the following statements,

1. “Nothing can touch me but the direct action of God and God is my Omnipotent Self. I can do all things through the Strength of the Christ I AM. I AM STRENGTH!” — John Randolph Price, *The Planetary Commission* (The Quartus Foundation, 1984), p.133.

2. “...if I sent Jesus, then I would send Mohammed, Buddha, Krishna, and all of my great revolutionaries. Then what would happen? Is Jesus really my son, any more than the others – or for that matter, any more than every guy and gal is my son and daughter? You are all my children. And “Christ” means Universal Consciousness. You are all the Christ for whom you seek.” — as channeled through Allen Michael, *GOD – Unlimited Ultimate Mind – Speaks* (Starmast Publications, 1982), p.15.

3. “Take now your stand at My side, and let us together prove that Man is God, that there is nothing which is other than God.” — channeled through Benjamin Crème, *Messages from Maitreya the Christ* (Tara Press, 1980), p.59.

4. “In the name of the beloved mighty victorious Presence of God, I AM in me, Holy Christ Selves of all mankind, all great powers and legions of light...” — Elizabeth Clare Prophet, *The Great White Brotherhood* (Summit University Press, 1987), p.205.

5. “To be or not to be a Christ; that is the decision each soul on this planet must make.” — John Davis and Naomi Rice, *Messiah and the Second Coming* (Coptic Press, 1982), p.36.

6. “...all of us are love and spirit, and that love and spirit are God, and that all of us therefore are God, and God is everything...” — Desmond E. Berghofer, *The Visioneers: A Courage Story about Belief in the Future* (Creative Learning International Press, 1992), p.202.

7. “We are all linked together. We are the great ‘I AM’ as your scriptures call God...We are God. You are a piece of God...” — channeled through Lee Carroll, Kryon: *The End Times – Channelled Teachings Given in Love* (The Kryon Writings, 1992), p.10.

David Spangler, a long-time leading figure in the New Age movement, expressed this same type of thinking in terms that could – within certain circles – be considered “Christian” sounding,

“That is what the New Age movement is all about: to make God our Beloved, to answer his invitation to marriage and creative partnership with him, to be one with him, to be perfect even as our ‘Father in heaven.’” (Spangler, *Reflections on the Christ*, 1978, p.30)

Consider also the words of Henry C. Clausen, who was the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. In his book, *Emergence of the Mystical*, Clausen makes sure that the reader understands the linkages between the Lodge and Man’s divinity.

“Our Scottish Rite inspires the spirit that sets men free – it speaks to our Initiates with the golden pen of poetry and the sacred fire of drama – it speaks to the world with the inspired soul of humanity – it reveals the Divine Order within man himself...” (*Emergence of the Mystical*, 1980, p.8)

Other Masonic authorities such as Manly P. Hall, one of the highest regarded philosophers of the Craft, openly advocated this God-Man blending.

“Man is a god in the making, and as in the mystic myths of Egypt, on the potter’s wheel he is being molded. When his light shines out to lift and preserve all things, he receives the triple crown of godhood, and joins that throng of Master Masons who, in their robes of Blue and Gold, are seeking to dispel the darkness of night with the triple light of the Masonic Lodge.” (Manly P. Hall, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, p.92)

The Bible also contains a passage where the reader discovers this same spiritual concept – that is, of Man becoming Deity. This passage is found in the third chapter of Genesis, and it tells of the downfall of humanity.

Briefly, the context is this: Satan, in disguise as a serpent, convinces the inhabitants of the Garden of Eden to intentionally break God’s law – a decree set in place that restricted the eating of a certain fruit. Approaching Eve, the Serpent casts doubt on God’s protective law and introduced a new way of seeing the fruit.

“And the women said to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.”’

And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’” (Genesis 3:2-5)

Eve took it and ate, as did Adam.

Did death stay hidden, as the Serpent promised? Did Adam and Eve attain divinity through the knowledge of good and evil? The answer to both questions is in the negative. Instead, death became our trademark as Man foolishly deluded himself – the creation can never equal the Creator.

This brings us back to the New Age Movement. At its essence, the lie of Genesis is foundational to the New Age Movement; “We are God.”

I experienced this belief-system first hand in the late 1990s while attending a New Age event as a researcher. During one session a circle formed where the participants held hands, entered a time of meditation to collectively channel cosmic en-

ergies, and then closed the ceremony by bowing to each other in recognition of their own divinity. Throughout the day numerous other references were made to their Godhood and Christ-state, and yet they all paid an entrance fee to attend the event. Many of the participants were aged, and had health issues. Some of the attending deities also had eye problems, evident by the fact that they were wearing glasses. Moreover, every god-person in the building had arrived by car. None of them flew on their own accord, materialized at will, or ascended from the heavens. All paid bills. All were unremarkably human.

We are God? We're only fooling ourselves.

On Government

The New Age credence of ego-theism has obvious limits, logically, and in terms of the moral nature of Man. However, advocates of this social/spiritual transformation seek another method of evolutionary progression – the ability to manage humanity's existence through the instrument of world government.



Consider the following statements,

1. **“Control population, limit one or two children per family...it is necessary to strive for a true internationalism, one that will take into consideration the resources of the world collectively...I fully realize that World Government is a controversial subject and it seems opposed to the traditional spirit of nationalism. However, the world is far too small now to continue to think of it in the future as but a checkerboard of sovereign states and individual ambitions.”** — Ralph M. Lewis [past Emperor of the Ancient and Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis], *“The Emperor Interviewed,” Rosicrucian Digest*, April 1984.

2. **“The sharing and co-operation of all mankind, the redistribution of the produce of the world, will result in world government...At the head of several governments of the world and in the great world agencies, like United Nations agencies, and so on, there will be either a Master or at least a third degree initiate.”** — Benjamin Crème [Crème claims to be the vehicle through which an evolved spirit Master speaks], *The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom* (Tara Press, 1980), p.169.

3. **“The people of understanding and special ability rise to bring our New World Government, which is already potentially started in the United Nations; to bring our free marketplaces, which are already potentially started in the Common Market; and to bring our World Planning Commission, which is already started thru environmentalists and progressive city planners.”** — Allen Michael [who channeled the messages of a spirit being who claimed to be the Ultimate Mind], *God – Ultimate Unlimited Mind – Speaks* (Starmast Publications, 1982), p.286.

4. **“The revolution has begun. It started more than one hundred years ago, but now the pace is quickening.**

Throughout the world, men and women are joining in the uprising and are coming forward to be counted as part of a new race that will someday rule the universe.” — John Randolph Price [co-founder of the Quartus Foundation], *The Super Beings* (The Quartus Foundation for Spiritual Research, 1981), p.1.

5. “What it [world order] would mean is that certain functions would transfer from national levels to the planetary level, e.g., peace-keeping, transnational ecological protection, regulation of world trade and of an integrated monetary system, regulation of the uses of the seas, and some global taxation.” — Gerald and Patricia Mische [founders of Global Education Associates, a transformation organization with strong New Age leanings] *Toward a Human World Order* (Paulist Press, 1977), p.64.

6. “...America must consciously view itself as a transition empire, one whose destiny at this moment is to act as midwife to a democratically governed global system. Its great challenge is not to dominate but to catalyze. It must use its great strength and democratic heritage to establish integrated institutions and mechanisms to manage the emerging global system so that its own power is subsumed by the very edifice it helps to build.

President Wilson established the League of Nations out of the ashes of World War I. Presidents Roosevelt and Truman established a new international order after World War II. America must now build the third iteration of global governance.” — Jim Garrison [Pres. of the State of the World Forum; Pres. Wisdom University – a school that focuses on esoteric/New Age studies], *America As Empire: Global Leader or Rogue Power?* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2004), p.9.

7. “A new consciousness is...emerging from a growing awareness in the West of the wisdom of the Eastern world-view. Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Shinto, while they differ in many respects, portray the world as a multi-dimensional, organically interrelated eco-system of which man is one of many inter-dependent parts. Perhaps we can learn that them to see the world whole, as it really is, and together – West and East – begin to build the foundations of a new world order.

The most urgent item on the planetary agenda is to set the limits of freedom and order in supra-national, global affairs. A constitution for the world is needed which combines the achievements of both hemispheres: that is, constitutional limitations and a bill of rights from the West and a spacious world-view from the East.” — Lucile W. Green [a world federalist with very strong New Age leanings], *Journey to a Governed World: Thru 50 Years in the Peace Movement* (The Uniquist Foundation, 1991), p.34-35.

Lucile Green, the one who provided quote #7 above, firmly believed that the United Nations would be the organization best qualified to be global manager; “...the United Nations must be made into an effective world government.”⁵ Many others in the New Age Movement view the UN as the world’s “best and only hope.” But simply *wanting* a world government doesn’t mean much unless the organization or the individual in question has some clout in elite social and political settings.

Is this the case with the New Age Movement? While the majority are simply grassroots followers, there is a vocal and influential faction who operates in the upper echelons of social, political, business, and academic circles. And it’s not hard to find New Age adherents right within the United Nations community. Robert Muller is a case-in-point.

In 1947 Muller won an essay contest with a piece he did on world government. The prize was an internship at the United Nations, and later in 1948 he found himself employed at the UN. From ’48 until his retirement in 1986, his postings included,

- Political Advisor to UN troops in Cyprus
- Associate Director of the UN Natural Resources Division
- Director of the UN Budget
- Director of the Secretary-General
- Secretary of the Economic and Social Council
- Assistant-Secretary General
- Recipient of the UNESCO Peace Prize (and other awards)
- Chancellor-Emeritus at the United Nations University for Peace
- Coordinated a number of UN events, international years, and world programs.

Known as the UN's "Prophet of Hope" and "Philosopher," Muller's life has been dedicated to world citizenship and global spirituality – with a belief structure built around Theosophy's blending of Eastern mysticism and Western occult philosophy. A noted New Age speaker and author of several books, Muller's influence is felt throughout the UN and the broader international community (Note: Muller is still alive, however his age has slowed him down considerably). In other words, he's not an inconsequential follower.

A taste of Muller's "world government" concepts can be found in his statement to public educators and school children at the Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress, which was held during the spring of 1997 in Vancouver, BC,

"I have six fundamental ways of getting to a United World...I'm going to work with each of them...I am asking now that either the United Nations would be tremendously strengthened, or create a United States of the World. Or let us take the European Union now, as a model which is better than the United Nations, for a United World. Or let us take all the World Federalists together to create a World Federation. Or let us create regional continental units...the European Union, an American Union, which I've been pushing too – and this how you got the trade agreement between the US and Canada. And then we'll take the five continents, and the five continents, if they're united, will create a World Union. That's another one... The latest and most important one is that we should organize this planet according to biology. All the bacteria, all the cells in your body, they are inter-connected... This is a completely new concept of how the planet should be organized. We should do it by region instead of cutting things across. I would like to have a Pacific Community, an Atlantic Community...I would like to have a Pacific Community with all the countries around the Pacific. An Atlantic Community around the Atlantic. I would like to have an Arctic Community, an Antarctic Community, the desert countries... The great rivers of Amazon should be practically one region where the people should be [united with] nature. So you have to work on all this. You have a fantastic future."

— Robert Muller, speaking at the Global Citizenship 2000 Youth Congress, April 5, 1997. [Audio tapes of the event are in the author's possession.]

In reading his book, *New Genesis: Shaping a Global Spirituality*, Muller advocates global unification centered on New Age spirituality. He stating that, "Someday our planet will be a world spiritual democracy." (p.10). Muller elaborated,

"Little by little, a planetary prayer book is thus being composed by an increasingly united humanity seeking its oneness...Once again, but this time on a universal scale, humankind is seeking no less than its reunion with the 'divine,' its transcendence into ever higher forms of life. Hindus call our earth Brahma, or God, for they rightly see no difference between our earth and the divine. This ancient simple truth is slowly dawning upon humanity. Its full flowering will be the real, great new story of humanity, as we are about to enter our cosmic age and to become what we were always meant to be; the planet of God." (p.49)

The New Age Movement has, at least, been an influencing factor regarding the modeling of what future governance systems might resemble. Moreover, New Age fingerprints can be found in many other current government structures. Significant New Age elements can be traced throughout the European Union, and in many national and state/provincial departments – primarily in educational, environmental, and cultural agencies.

In one respect, this notion of world government acts in-kind to the idea of Self-God. Simply put; if Man is God, as taught in the New Age, then "World Government" represents the greatest organized expression of "God on Earth." After all, a centralized global system would be, by its nature, the overriding manager of human activity on the planet. In this respect, "Government Equals God."

The implications of this are staggering. Who could contradict the centralized aspirations of this government-deity?

Barbara Marx Hubbard, a path-breaking New Age leader who's work has reached right into the White House, tells us that this planetary transformation will effect everyone. And if you're opposed to this evolutionary program – this global transition aimed at universally empowering mankind – you will be separated out.

"Humanity will not be able to make the transition from Earth-only to universal life until the chaff has been separated from the wheat. The great reaper must reap before we can take the quantum leap to the next phase of evolution. No worldly peace can prevail until the self-centered members of the planetary body either change or die. That is the choice... This act is as horrible as killing a cancer cell. It must be done for the sake of the future of the whole."⁶

Knowledge Equals Responsibility

Understanding these two common components found in the New Age Movement – views on God and Government – helps us to better grasp the cultural shift being experienced in the Western world. And in thinking through these issues, it's important to note that this is a spiritually based "battle for the mind and soul."

All of this takes an especially serious tone when it's realized that these philosophies have inundated the schoolroom, along with children's television and literature. Not surprisingly, education is considered to be the gateway to global and social transformation, so much so that Robert Muller developed an international curriculum based on New Age principles. Furthermore, the co-founder of the World Future Society, Barbara Marx Hubbard, is equally adamant regarding education as the primary key to New Age transformation – "our spirit-motivated plan of action for the 21st century."⁷

"Education for conscious evolution is the context in which all disciplines and fields work together to understand and guide the evolution of humanity. It is the metadiscipline we need to provide the knowledge, motivation, and opportunities upon which leadership in the 21st century will form."⁸

"The coming 50 years should be dedicated to bringing together the intellectual, social, and spiritual resources of our brilliant species to lay the foundations for the next stage of human evolution..."

...To house the new metadiscipline, new schools for conscious evolution are needed, not only a school of thought, but also school sites, whether in accredited universities or not, where people gather to teach and learn how to participate in conscious evolution – spiritually, socially, and scientifically... They would be places to stir the intellectual, social, and spiritual ferment needed for this quantum jump."⁹

Knowing that education, and children in particular, are targets for New Age transformative programming, what's our responsibilities?

1. If you are a parent, it's your responsibility to recognize these influences and deal with it in a way that provides wisdom to your children. Don't just tell them that something is "bad." Rather, explain the deception and provide them with a foundation built on truth. If your child is in the public education system, regularly review the curriculum and course materials. If there is a problem, express it to the teacher and/or administrator, explaining your position with tact, facts, and logic. Be on guard over your own emotions – calm, cool heads are more effective than emotional outbursts. [Note: Home-schooling provides a wonderful alternative, but not everyone is in the position to do this.]
2. If you are a school administrator and/or teacher, you also have a responsibility; you are the classroom filter. This is not an easy task, especially as your professional environment may frown on your interest in filtering out New Age teachings.

It's important to remember that the New Age has infiltrated a wide range of fields and activities. As an example: my family enjoys rock collecting. This isn't about finding nice stones on the driveway, but about collecting mineral specimens, well-defined crystal clusters, and other unique pieces. We've done much of this through basic hard work – digging, hammering and chiseling, and exploring challenging terrain. And, whenever possible, we try to visit rock and gem shops. Inevitably, when we do visit a rock shop, we run into one aspect of the New Age Movement: the supposed spiritual properties of rocks and crystals – healing stones and crystal energy.

This does not sway my children. They understand the difference between spiritual truth and error, both from a Biblical perspective and from logic; they know it's just a rock, nothing more, nothing less. They also know that it took someone doing a lot of hard, dirty work to find and clean the nice-looking crystals sitting on the store shelves; there's nothing "magical" about this. Yet, there it is, New Age teachings that attempt to challenge the faith and convictions of my family.

The scope of the New Age is vast. Marilyn Ferguson, writing about those involved in advancing this movement, penned the following,

*"They are in corporations, universities and hospitals, on the faculties of public schools, in factories and doctors' offices, in state and federal agencies, on city councils and the White House staff, in state legislatures, in volunteer organizations, in virtually all arenas of policy-making in the country."*¹⁰

Knowing this, how are Christians to respond to those in the New Age Movement?

Individuals who embrace New Age beliefs are not your adversaries. While the philosophies are antithetical to Biblical Christianity, the adherents are your neighbors, co-workers, and family members. Treat them with respect and love, and be willing to discuss spiritual things with them in a way that is tactful and truthful. Be honest when you don't know an answer to their questions. When you have a chance to sit down and compare religious beliefs – and this happens! – be clear about the Biblical condition of Man, the Holiness of God, and the saving work of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, the New Age Movement is extremely relativistic in its outlook, essentially saying that personal experiences are more valid than truth claims, and that no one can know "absolute truth." The logical holes in this line of thinking are immense. And while many in the New Age are able to live with logical contradictions, it's important to recognize the opportunity to challenge their assertions through provocative questions and statements.

We live in changing and challenging times, and it's our responsibility to identify these cultural shifts and engage society as opportunities are presented. While the New Age seeks self-deification, either individually or collectively, we are reminded of what the book of Isaiah tells us,

*"For thus says the Lord,
Who created the heavens,
Who is God,
Who formed the earth and made it,
Who established it,
Who did not create it in vain,
Who formed it to be inhabited:
'I am the Lord, and there is no other...'
...there is no other God besides Me,
A just God and a Savior;
There is none besides Me.
Look to Me, and be saved,
All you ends of the earth!
For I am God, and there is no other."*

(Isaiah 45:18,21b-22) **FC**

Carl Teichrib is a researcher and writer on world religious and political trends, and is the editor of Forcing Change (www.forcingchange.org).

Endnotes:

¹ Marilyn Ferguson, *The Aquarian Conspiracy: Personal and Social Transformation in the 1980s* (J.P. Tarcher, 1980), p.37. Note: the term "Emergent Culture" is a subtitle used by Ferguson to provide a contextual basis for the changes she saw coming.

² Ibid, p.23.

³ Roger Oakland, *Faith Undone* (Lighthouse Trails, 2007), p.93.

⁴ A number of critical reviews on this subject of church/New Age blending exist. For yoga and Christianity, see Dave Hunt, *Yoga and the Body of Christ* (The Berean Call, 2006). Other books include Samantha Smith, *Trojan Horse* (Huntington House Publishers, 1993) and Dave Hunt, *Occult Invasion: The Subtle Seduction of the World and Church* (Harvest House, 1998).

⁵ Lucile W. Green [a world federalist with very strong New Age leanings], *Journey to a Governed World: Thru 50 Years in the Peace Movement* (The Uniquet Foundation, 1991), p.12.

⁶ This text was taken from Barbra Marx Hubbard's book, *Manual for Co-Creators* (New Visions, 1980), pages 55-61, and was reprinted in Gary Kah's work, *The New World Religion* (Hope International Publishing, 1998), pp.117-118. Others in the New Age, such as John Ranolph Price, have made similar statements.

⁷ Barbra Marx Hubbard, *Conscious Evolution* (New World Library, 1998), p.171.

⁸ Ibid., p.165.

⁹ Ibid, p.169-170.

¹⁰ Ferguson, *The Aquarian Conspiracy*, p.24.



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Examining the New Age:

Basic Orientation

Editor's Note:

The following is a short glossary of New Age terms and their meanings, compiled and defined by Willy Peterson.

By Willy Peterson,

author of *The Leavening: A New Age Primer for Christian Parents.*

The New Age is a movement of incredible complexity and diversity, therefore it is difficult to generalize into an easy, concise definition. However, in today's America it does tend to incorporate the following concepts:

1. **Monism** – A concept of the universe that all is one. The universe is composed of a common essence, which also connects and binds all things together. All truth becomes relative to your frame of reference and God is relegated to a mere conceptual expression of matter/energy or time/space. Monism provides the philosophical framework for the agnostic religions of the East, such as Buddhism and Taoism, but is also shared by the Neo-paganism of the West. Two of the most popular implications of Monism are Nihilism (all is nothing) and Universalism (all paths lead to “God”).
2. **Relativism** – A belief that all truth, knowledge, and laws are relative to particular perceptions or situations and do not carry universal authority. Claims William Hurt, in the movie *Altered States*, “I have seen the other side and I have found that the only absolute truth is that there is no absolute truth.” One of the offshoots of relativism is the Hindu concept of *maya* which holds that all matter is ultimately illusionary – a trick of the imagination. As the Beatles line goes, “Strawberry fields, nothing is real, and nothing to get hurt about; Strawberry fields forever.”
3. **Pantheism** – The concept that all is one, expressed as deity. Each element of that one is as much a part of god and therefore as inherently divine as the whole. As Shirley MacLaine put it, “I’m God! I’m God!” Polytheism is often a natural outgrowth of pantheism as this deity is expressed in various elemental manifestations. Pantheism is most often associated with Hinduism, but is also found in many other earth-based pagan religions.
4. **Enlightenment** – The moment of self-awareness when an individual fully recognizes personal identification with the universe; that he/she is indeed fully divine. Also known as *self-realization* or *actualization*, this experience of personal infinity often follows a process of indoctrination, mind altering drugs and/or psychic techniques that are designed to dismantle the rationale and foster a working dependence on intuition. LSD probably did more for the spread of this phenomenon in the 60s than all of the gurus put together, but not without their influence.
5. **Gnosticism** – An ancient heresy denounced by the early church that has reemerged and now heavily influences the New Age Movement. Simply stated, Gnosticism is the Serpent’s lie. Prominent features today are the spark of divinity within all living crea-

tures; a mystical fall from the tree of life and gradual re-ascension through the mastery of special knowledge; initiation and guidance to that inner truth through the serpent's wisdom; periodic appearances of messianic guidance; and the vilification of the Creator. The Gnostic Institute of Anthropology advertises: "Man know thyself, and thou wilt know the Gods of the Universe." Contemporary examples are Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, Sufism, and Kabbalism.

6. **Gaia** – A modern concept of the Earth as a single, living, sentient being, named in honor of the ancient Greek goddess. This idea holds that the earth has evolved into a fully functioning, self-regulating organism, complete with consciousness and personal awareness. All natural cycles, ecosystems and organisms are part of her life support systems, just as our blood cells, lungs and hormones are part of us. Gaia has been elevated to a goddess, replacing our transcendent God as the creator, savior and ultimate source of life to the New Age Movement. One of the spin-offs of this concept is the view that humanity has become a parasite on the earth and thus human civilization needs to be severely cut back and restructured, to ensure the survival of our great host organism. Neo-pagans, environmentalists, and many scientists now identify themselves as *Gaians*.

7. **Reincarnation** – The wheel of life or transmigration of the soul. All matter evolves through various natural cycles, through death into life and ultimately "back" to divine consciousness. Human reincarnation involves a series of birth to rebirth cycles, which provides opportunities to fulfill karmic debt through devotion, right action and the development of psychic abilities. This belief which was largely introduced to the West through Eastern philosophy has also been championed by spiritualism and witchcraft, among others.

8. **Shamanism** – Nature religion that emphasizes divination, spiritism, herbalism, astral projection and collecting psychic power in an attempt to develop supernatural abilities and knowledge. An important element of shamanism is the identification of the inner being with spirit guides in the form of animal spirits. Shamanism has seen its rise in popularity largely through the promotion of aboriginal religions of Australia and the Americas. Although, one of the most notorious examples of contemporary shamanism is Haitian Voodoo, the movie *Emerald Forest*, provides the quintessential look at shamanism, without all of the fanfare.

9. **Paganism** – Pre-Christian or non-Christian religions that are based on the earth, its elements and the natural cycles. Paganism can be most simply understood as a primitive explanation of natural phenomenon in terms of supernatural forces. Modern Neo-paganism has been championed primarily by witchcraft and has seen a great revival in the New Age Movement. Examples of paganism are the ancient religions of Greece, Egypt, and the Celts. Modern forms include Hinduism and Native American religions.

10. **Occult** – Literally "things hidden," occultism usually refers to the manipulation of hidden energies. Benjamin Crème, who calls it the science of energy, makes the following interesting distinction: "Once manipulated or channeled, this energy becomes force."

11. **Animism** – A pagan view of nature that inanimate objects contain the spark of divine consciousness and are therefore worthy of our devotion. Also, the practice of worshiping a superior intelligence within simple animate or inanimate objects. Example – the Druidic worship of oak trees.

12. **Spiritualism** – The doctrine or practice of communion with the dead, or necromancy. Spiritism is similar except that the spirit forces need not be human, but can be entities emanating from nature or the host's own consciousness. Today, a popular form of spiritualism is channeling, whereby hosts learn to empty themselves of their own consciousness, contact willing spirits and invite them into their bodies to transmit knowledge through various forms of communication.



13. Divination – Practice of obtaining special knowledge about past, current or future events through metaphysical powers or skills. Cabalism is one of many traditions that holds that the universe is constructed on a code of mystical wisdom. Various rituals, cryptic models or random processes enable the inquirer to break the code and discover hidden meanings. True “adepts” often admit that cooperative spirit guides are the key to successful divination. Examples include Tarot cards, Ouija, astrology and casting bones.

14. Astral Projection – A form of psychic travel where the soul or astral body projects outside of the physical body to explore “alternative realities,” dimensions, or physical locations. These experiences can be induced through hallucinogenic drugs, hypnotic rituals, or

occult techniques such as Yoga and Transcendental Meditation. Techniques, such as the *dream body* and *awareness shifting*, were heavily promoted through the 70’s by the prolific writings of Carlos Castenda.

15. Sorcery – The use of magic to manipulate the natural or human environments. Aleister Crowley, who called himself “The Beast” and was known by his peers as “the bad boy of witchcraft,” coined the now popular definition for magick as “the Science and Art of causing Change to occur in conformity with Will.” Probably his most concise definition for sorcery is “Every force in the universe is capable of being transformed into any other kind of force, by using suitable means.” Many sorcerers have felt that thoughts are tangible energies and when properly channeled through the will, have the power to conform the visible and invisible world around them. Though championed largely through the witches, contemporary sorcery is finding vast expression through our increasingly paganized society.

16. Circle of Life – A pagan world view that all life is related, interconnected and interdependent. This view typically assumes evolution and reincarnation as the driving force behind the cycle of existence – life, death and rebirth. The concept can be seen as the totality of all ecosystem, engaging in a constant process of consumption, reproduction and death. All organisms are feeding on each other and in turn contributing themselves to that great natural struggle for survival. It is a naturalistic view of the biosphere that implicitly denies any outside supernatural influence. It also implies that all life is equally sacred, although proponents of this view seem to forget this status with regards to certain sectors of humanity. Though taught in natural science, it appears to have also been the basis for the pagan mystery rites of the ancient world. More recent adherents include Neo-paganism, Joseph Campbell, and New Age psychologists.

17. Aquarian Age – The ruling constellations progress on a 2100 year cycle. We are on the verge of a changing of the guard from Pisces (the fish) to Aquarius (the water bearer). This event accompanies a current paradigm shift in world consciousness from the age of monotheism, characterized by male-centered imperialism and Christian dominion, to the New Age movement, characterized by a monistic one-world religious, political and social order of peace, cooperation and respect for the sacred unity of all life.

These teachings, which have not always been closely allied, now tend to flock together to support a holistic world view. Where you find one, the others inevitably tag along. Marilyn Ferguson explains:

“The Threshold Foundation...stated its intent to help ease the transition into a planetary culture, ‘foster a paradigm shift, a new model of the universe in which art, religion, philosophy, and science converge,’ and promote a wider understanding that ‘we exist in a cosmos whose many levels of reality form a single sacred whole.’”

Such efforts have not been confined to any single organization but are shared by the network of tens of thousands of

like-minded groups around the world, resulting in the collaboration and fusion of formerly incompatible world views and religions. However, in spite of their idealistic goals of love, unity, and cooperation, such groups are largely based upon some of the most evil teachings of humanity's dark past, namely occultism. The New Age Movement is utterly antithetical to a normal or literal interpretation of the Bible and thus flies in the face of Moses, the prophets of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His Apostles. In fact, New Age doctrines eloquently express the consummate rejection of the Word and authority of the only true God. **PC**

The above text was taken from Wily Peterson's self-published manuscript, *The Leavening: A New Age Primer for Christian Parents* (Fourth Edition, 1997).



The following text is the words of former United Nations Assistant-Secretary General, Robert Muller, and represents in part, his version of what the world could look like in the not-so-distant future. Take note the blending of politics and religion at the global level.

World Peace Plan 2010

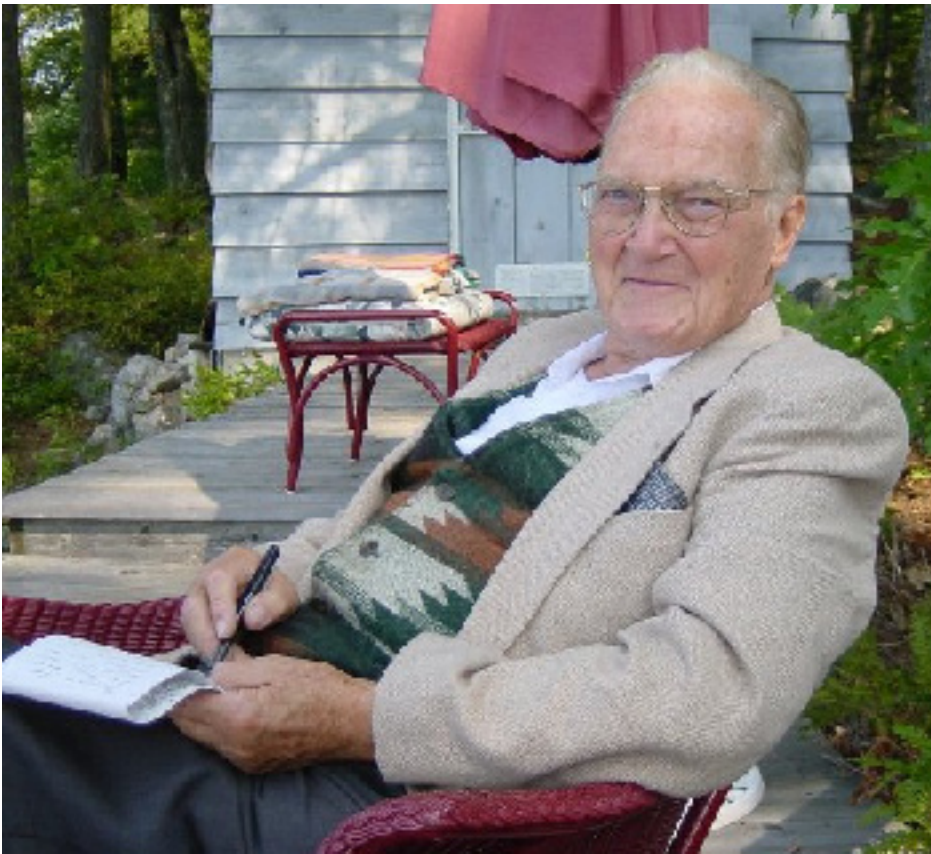
By Robert Muller

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“For it isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work for it.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

1. A new Marshall Plan should be created to help the poor countries. Premium aid, debt reduction, and debt forgiveness are granted to countries that disarm and demilitarize under UN protection and guarantees. A series of engineering and power projects are implemented with savings from disarmament and demilitarization to improve the productivity, efficiency, and environmental impact of the world economy.
2. Nuclear free zones, peace zones and demilitarized areas should be established, guaranteed by the UN, accompanied by premium economic aid.
3. The world’s religions should put an end to all religious conflicts, to support peace, disarmament, and demilitarization, to cooperate on a world spirituality and to draft in common a world code of ethics and cosmology to guide governments and world agencies within the larger framework of the universe and eternity. The United Nations should create a World Spiritual Agency, which brings the resources, visions and wisdom of the spiritual traditions to bear upon world problems.
4. The Marshall plan for the dramatic improvement of the standards of living of the poor countries drafted by the UN Economic and Social Council is endorsed by the General Assembly and put into operation.
5. World summit meetings should be held annually between all heads of state:
 - i) They decide to chart a new course for humanity and the Earth – a Global Renaissance, a new Planetary Deal unfolding better ways to administer properly and peacefully our magnificent planet.
 - ii) They agree to total nuclear disarmament by the year 2010 and total disarmament and demilitarization by the year 2020.



Dr. Robert Muller

iii) They agree to stop all arms sales and call for a United Nations conference on the worldwide prohibition of arms sales and production.

iv) New world priorities are set, to be implemented with the huge resources released by disarmament and demilitarization.

v) High-technology video and sound communications systems are established between the offices and the homes of the heads of state in order that they can remain in direct, instantaneous communication at any time on any crisis, problem, idea, proposal or action for peace and a better world.

6. The U.S. scraps all "Star War" plans and research.

7. The U.S. ratifies the UN Law of the Sea, which creates legal order for the largest world commons – the seas and oceans which cover 71 percent of the planet.

8. A group of experts is appointed jointly by the heads of state to draft proposals for a quantum jump in the role and resources of the UN system, to enable it to deal effectively with global problems confronting humanity at an accelerating pace.

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9. A UN specialized agency on population is created. The U.S. renews its support to the UN Fund for Population Activities and increases tenfold its contribution to it.
10. The UN World Meteorological Organization is transformed into the World Climate Organization.
11. Following the path-breaking reports of Eminent Persons on North-South relations (the Brandt report), on *Disarmament and Our Common Future* (the Palme report), on environment and development (the Brundtland report), three further groups of Eminent Persons are established:
- i) On the elimination of all forms of violence in human society
 - ii) On a New World Deal for humanity, including world priorities;
 - iii) On a proper, peaceful, just world government and the creation of a true world community that encompasses the European Union and new regional communities for Africa, America, Asia and the Middle East.
12. The UN General Assembly takes six major steps:
- i) In consultation with governments, world agencies, and the best minds of the planet, it prepares a plan for world peace by the year 2010. All member states are requested to submit proposals. National committees are established with peoples' participation to draft ideas and concrete action proposals towards "World Peace 2010" and "World Disarmament and Demilitarization 2020."
 - ii) The General Assembly requests that all existing UN plans 2010 (Food 2010, Health 2010, and the Economic Development Decades) be put together into a World Action Plan 2010. The Assembly calls for the rapid solution of all remaining conflicts to enable humanity to proceed with a clean slate. A worldwide cease-fire is proclaimed under UN control.
 - iii) It decides to abolish the Trusteeship Council, which has completed its work, and to replace it with an Environmental Security Council as proposed by Russia.
 - iv) The Assembly decides to celebrate in 2005 the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations, both as a retrospective of the successes and failures of the world community during the past sixty years, and as a forward look to the year 2010.
 - v) A third world conference on the environment and development is organized to adopt a bold World Environment Action Plan. The United Nations Environment Program becomes a specialized agency with vastly increased resources, including taxes on environmentally detrimental activities.
 - vi) A UN Outer-Space Agency is created, as proposed by Austria.
13. Eminent thinkers meet during the year to draft a World Constitution. Provisions are made for world democracy, world elections, world public opinion polls and referenda to give people a direct voice in the world's affairs, a step rendered possible by modern communication technologies.
14. The UN Security Council meets several times a year at the heads of states level to review the world political and security situation, to settle disputes, finalize agreements and initiate further action. The Security Council meets in vari-

ous cities of the world, to be closer to the people, especially the troubled areas.

15. The summit meetings of Eastern, Western, and non-Aligned countries are replaced by a yearly world summit meeting of all heads of states, preceded by regional summit meetings (African, American, Asian, European, Middle-Eastern).

16. A World conference on Security remains in session, like the Law of the Sea Conference did, until it hammers out a proper world security system.

17. The Military Staff Committee of the Security Council meets at the chiefs of staff level and undertakes three tasks:

- i) Plans a World Disarmament Agency;
- ii) Adopts immediate measures to prevent a nuclear war;
- iii) Implements worldwide military cooperation in multiple fields, starting with the creation of a UN fleet to patrol the seas and the oceans and a UN satellite system to monitor disarmament, as proposed by France.

18. Direct video and teleconferencing systems are set up between heads of states, especially members of the Security Council, and the Secretary General.

19. The Secretary General's office for conflict information and prevention is strengthened. A Peace Room is set up at the UN to prevent, track, contain and solve conflicts in any place on earth. UN offices are established in each capitol.

20. Four additional world conferences are held:

- i) A world conference of scientists from environmental fields (oceanography, atmospheric science, hydrology, climatology, biology, deforestation, radiation, immunology, toxicity, etc.);
- ii) A world conference of education ministers, to adopt measures for urgent environmental education in all countries of the planet;
- iii) A world conference on Voluntary Simplicity and Frugality, to address over consumption, greed, garbage, unnecessary waste, and planned obsolescence;
- iv) A fourth world conference on women;
- v) A world conference on the Future of Humanity;
- vi) A world conference on the Future of the Earth.

21. The Conference on World Security completes its work and submits a treaty for ratification by member states. The Military Staff Committee submits to the Assembly a blueprint for a World Disarmament Agency as part of that treaty.

22. A majority of countries change the name of their Ministries of "foreign" affairs to Ministries of Peace or Ministries of World Affairs and Cooperation.

23. More and more nations celebrate the world days proclaimed by the United Nations, such as Earth Day, the International Day of Peace, United Nations Day, Human Rights Day, World Health Day, World Food Day, International Children's Day, International Women's Day, and the Day of the Elderly. National war memorial days are shifted to United Nations Day, a symbol of hope and rebirth from all past wars. Monuments to known and unknown peacemakers, peace parks and peace museums are created in many places. National hymns are rewritten in peaceful, global terms.

24. A World Peace Service is created allowing young people to do world service in developing countries and world agencies in lieu of the abolished military service.

25. Commissions on the Future are created in the United Nations General Assembly and in all UN Specialized Agencies. Ministers of the Future are created in all governments.

As a result of these steps, governments begin to realize that world peace is possible and an entirely new period of human history can begin, marked by synergetic cooperation in a world society no longer stifled by national sovereignty.

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