



The Clarion



January 1, 2021

Normally we meet at 332 Harbour Way in Richmond, close to 880; just 4 blocks from Bart. Parking in back. We look forward to seeing you there when the pandemic is over.



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

January CLASSES ON ZOOM.US:

Member ID: 397993561.

For the Secret Password, please call Peggy Heubel at (510) 926-2869

1st Sunday, January 3, 1:00-2:30 TS : The Secret Doctrine Dialogues (facilitator Henry Rutgers)

2nd Sunday, January 10, 1:00-2:30 TS: Fundamental Theosophy (facilitator Peggy Heubel)

3rd Sunday, January 17, 1:00-2:15 LCC: Hidden Side of Christian Festivals (facilitator Deaconess Imelda Brown)

4th Sunday, January 24, 1:00-3:00 TS Hermeticism: The Golden Thread (facilitator Barbara Penninton)-

5th Sunday, January 31, 1:00-3:00 TS: Evolution of Higher Consciousness (facilitator Peggy Heubel)

Janus, Roman God of Beginnings

By Peggy Heubel

In referring to Janus as the Roman God of Beginnings, we must assume he is also the God of Endings; therefore, rightly facing both the future and the past—the beginning of January and the end of December—straddling each at the same time. His other duties are as guardian over dualities such as war and peace, over doorways, gates, passages, and over ritualistic ceremony.

But, too, there is more to consider about this god. He is TIME—past, present, and future. It is said as a god of beginnings and transitions both in literal and abstract ways, he was also responsible for motion, changes, and time. He was present in the beginning of the world, guarding the gates of Heaven, and he also presided over the creation of religion, life, and even the gods. He was considered the most important Roman god and his name was the first to be mentioned in prayers, regardless to which god the worshipper wanted to pray. Janus represented the middle ground between both concrete and abstract dualities such as life/death, beginning/end, youth/adulthood, rural/urban, war/peace, and barbarism/civilization. Thus, at the highest level, harmony exists between all dualities and there stands Janus balanced between right & wrong; between harmony and inharmony. Wise is the person who lives in obedience of the one law.

And if the person is not obedient to the great law? Let us take two examples from ancient mythology: Lot's wife and Orpheus.



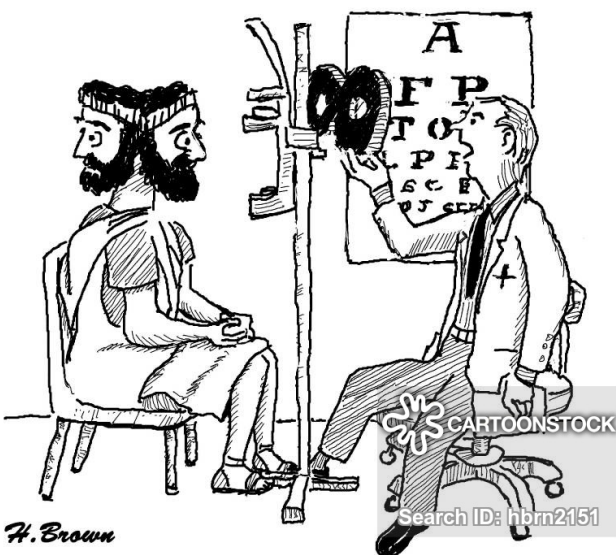
Not much is said of Lot's wife in the Bible even to the extent that she is not named. The gist of the story is that two angels came to inform Job (a righteous man) of the impending destruction of Gomorrah and Sodom (Lot's home) because of systemic iniquities, corruption, and perversion. Twice, Job was told by the angels to leave Sodom with his wife and children. On the plains outside the city as they were running, again one of the angels said, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed." But Job's wife looked back even as destruction rained down on Sodom and, for her lack of faith in the angels' warnings, she was turned into a "pillar of salt". It is suggested that perhaps she did not believe the angel's warnings even though they represented the "word of god"; perhaps she was thinking of her home and was saddened for its loss and the loss of her sons-in-law who laughed at Lot, refused to flee, and so were killed as Sodom burned. The actual reason she looked back is not stated but the consensus appears to be lack of trust and failure to be obedient. Lot's wife, for her own reasons however innocent they might have been, disobeyed and she was "removed from the equation."



And what of Orpheus? The myth: Orpheus, singer, musician, and poet, carrying a lyre on his shoulder, joined the expedition of the Argonauts, saving them from the music of the Sirens by playing his own, more powerful music. On his return, on the day of his wedding to Eurydice, 'in the very bloom of her life', she was bitten by a viper and died. Grief-stricken, Orpheus descended into the underworld determined to restore her to mortality. he married Eurydice, who was killed by a snakebite. Distraught with grief, Orpheus travelled to the land of the dead to attempt to bring Eurydice back to life. As the story goes, after receiving the King of the Underworld's approval, Orpheus was allowed to leave with Eurydice's soul but under the condition not look back to see if his wife was following him—he may

do so only when reaching the outside world. Hades wanted to know if Orpheus trusted him; he wanted to test Orpheus. Eurydice is just on the verge of exiting the cave, when Orpheus looks back. NO! At that moment, three loud noises echo throughout the Underworld. We can imagine Orpheus and Eurydice locking eyes for a split second; Eurydice just barely managing to say "Farewell!" before she is sucked back down to the Underworld. Orpheus tries to enter the Underworld a second time, but this time the Ferryman won't let him pass and, for his lack of trust and disobedience, there he sits weeping on the banks of the River Styx.

And there, doing his duty, Janus stands as Guardian of the Gates of Heaven and Hell.



"MR. JANUS, YOUR HIND SIGHT IS FAR BETTER THAN YOUR FORE SIGHT."



Mindful Thoughts . Heartfelt Words Transcendental Thought

By Nicole C. Scott

one hears another say
everything is dying
but one
also sees everything
is living

and just as everyone
is suffering
so too is everyone
healing

just as so many
feel so separate
and alone
we are one
and together

beyond the scope
of subjective-isms
of self vs.
them & other

beyond the
ideology of
living one's truth
where-in
others truth means
to hell with everyone else
I must serve myself

::there is another self::

one that serves
the other
loves the other
despite how much
they hurt
they abandon
they kill they hate
because "they"
has always
and ever
has been
"we"
we is us
us is me
is I AM

In that I am-ness
in the transcendental
thought

away from they
are what I am not

where all is
i am

it is in that space
that you will
find you

and the
idea of me
and you
them and us
matters not

save the one

all is as one

beyond the surface
beyond the
veil of separation
distortion
from any
people's portion

we are IT'
all is now
now is IT'
IT' IS...

is is is is is is

::infinitum::

eternal

so what does one
as one
for one

Creating the Future of Esoterics Realizing the Potential of the Aquarian Age

By Barbara Penninton

Reinventing what's timelessly true
Birthing the brilliantly new

Madame Blavatsky famously declared on the last page of *The Key to Theosophy* that "earth will be a heaven in the twenty-first century in comparison with what it is now!"

This optimistic statement from Madame Blavatsky echoes similar encouraging words from the Corpus Hermetica written thousands of years earlier. Hermes states that a human has the potential of the gods.

Think that for
you too nothing
is impossible;
deem that you
too are
immortal, and
that you are able
to grasp all
things in your
thought, to know
every craft and
science.



As we enter the third
decade of the 21st

Century, we face extraordinary challenges that require full activation of the divine qualities. Madame Blavatsky describes the sacred potential in the New Cycle (1889),

You know that a note, never before heard by the men of the present era has just been sounded and that a new kind of thought has arisen, fostered by the evolutionary forces. This thought differs from all that has ever been produced in the 19th Century; yet it is identical with what was the keynote and the keystone of every century, especially the last one: "Absolute Freedom of Human Thought."

We are clearly in a moment in history where from every direction we are challenged to enhance our capacities as divine beings.. Even the stars and planets are signaling that we are in a cosmic turmoil.

The signs portend the possible dawn of a new day of human capacity.

Richard Tarnas, the author of *Cosmos and Psyche* describes evolutionary forces written in the stars and planets at this time. He declared in April 2020, the astrological headline for our era: The convergence of four planets (conjunction of Pluto, Jupiter, Saturn square to Uranus) and their archetypal energies, are signaling a time of volcanic intense, evolutionary pressures for radical reconfiguration. He explains that these

pressures are not mechanistic, deterministic causes but more like grand purposes unfolding. He makes clear we are in a cauldron facing great uncertainty signaled by grand events in the stars

To understand the significance of being bathed by energies from the stars, we may turn to insights provided by Plotinus, the great neo-platonist. He made clear two thousand years ago

how intertwined humanity is with the larger cosmos:

Stars are like letters that inscribe themselves
At every moment in the sky
Everything in the world is full of signs
All events are coordinated
All things depend on each other
Everything breathes together

Some astrologists are declaring the planetary conjunctions as the beginning of the Age of Aquarius. The exact dates are debatable but the reality of the movement from Pisces to Aquarius is not.

The entry into the Age of Aquarius, Blavatsky explains will be dramatically painful at first. Referring to the new age, she said: "When it enters, in a few years, the sign of Aquarius, psychologists will have extra work to do, and the psychic idiosyncrasies of humanity will enter into a great change."

In an article entitled, C. G. Jung's Vision of the Aquarian Age, Liz Greene described alchemical dynamics that are the basis for Jung's view of the new age. According to Liz Greene, Jung perceived that the Age of Aquarius would be concerned with revelations of an esoteric and psychological nature, "secrets" that had either been lost or had never been known, and whose emergence into collective consciousness would transform human self-awareness. Despite his pessimism about the capacity for global self-destruction inherent in the interiorization of the god archetype, Jung was guardedly optimistic about the psychological potential of the New Age.

Jung placed his hopes on the capacity of the individual to recognize the enormity of the responsibility involved and to engage in the inner struggle to achieve greater consciousness. As he wrote: "If things go wrong in the world, this is because something is wrong with the individual, because something is wrong with me."

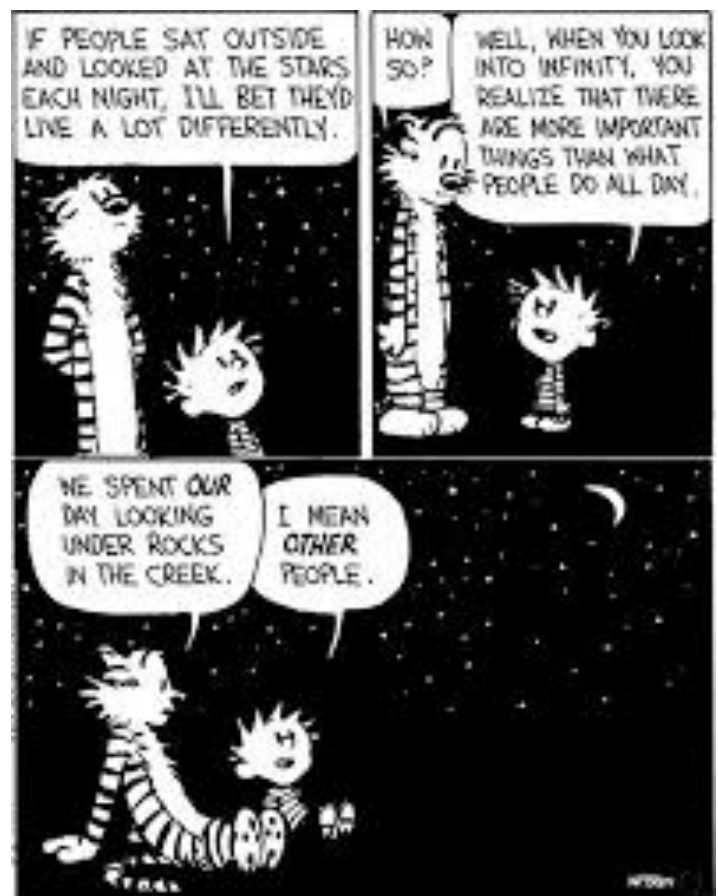
The Age of Aquarius will involve reinvention of truths that were announced thousands of years ago in ancient texts such as the Corpus Hermetica. As above so below as exemplified in the star tetrahedron will abide as a timeless truth. Other aspects of esoterics are yet to be discovered by sacred scientists and philosophers. They will be discovered by true inquirers transcending arrogance and prejudice to search into the deep mysteries.

Many scientists throughout the ages were deeply intuitive with mental patterns that did not accept harsh boundaries of thought. If a hint of a significant idea was revealed in a reverie and suggested a new hypothesis, it had potential value. There are many highly creative scientists who would say, like Einstein, that intuition is more valuable than highly-cognitive expertise like mathematics.

As we enter the Aquarian Age, we are leaving emphatic focus on the sixth ray of devotion and transition to the seven ray of science and spirituality. The place that scientists and esotericists might meet would be in the higher realms of visionary intuition. In esoteric terms this would be intuition that involves the ajna center of the higher mental plane

and the soul body on the buddhic plane. The higher intuitive realms are the areas of the mystics but not exclusively. Artists, musicians, metaphysicians and sacred scientists populate these realms as well. We might recognize that we are a human family with innate passion and divine evolutionary eros sincerely striving to fulfill Blavatsky's prediction.

Madame Blavatsky was aware, in a similar way as other significant sages and seers, that the brilliant higher intuitive capacities of humanity would be realized in the Aquarian Age. The activation would require that each human reset the jewels of the past, discard the decaying dross and seek inventive collaborations with creative souls of many worthwhile fields. Spiritual philosophers knew that this century would be a time of great breakthroughs. Previous limitations would be surpassed and the evolutionary power of intuitive spirit would majestically prevail.



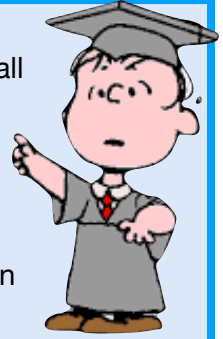
Peanuts Conjecturing

By Peggy Heubel and Odette Larde

Snoopy and I were wondering, why do you suppose God made us?



LINUS – This is supreme of all mysteries, Charlie Brown. Even the greatest sages and philosophers of all time do not know. It is generally agreed that the purpose of existence is the progressive development of all things, not just humans; this suggests all things are developing toward something that might be likened to perfection—though what is perfection? There is an element of interaction between all lifeforms and part of the perfecting process must include the development of harmony and balance between all. What, then, is harmonic and balanced? Leadbeater points out that our evolution was expressed by the Gnostics in this way: “God,” they said, “is Love; but Love itself cannot be made perfect unless there are those upon whom it can be lavished, and by whom it may be returned; therefore God Himself can express Himself more fully,, more perfectly, when we rise to the Divine, when He can pour out the the splendid flood of His love upon us, and we in our smaller way can definitely, clearly return it.” (*The Hidden Side of Christian Festivals*, p.69)



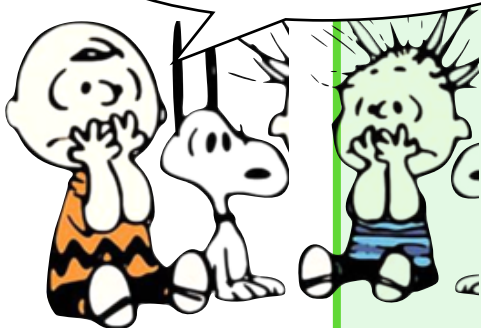
Where do you suppose I was when God made the world?



LINUS In the beginning, you were with God, Charlie Brown; we were all with God. We were with God before the foundation of the world. (**John 17:24**). We were as God: perfect of Being. But we were as children in God's own house; we had no individualized selfhood and were subject to God as children are subject to their parents. If the very purpose of existence is progressive development, we could not stay in our “Father's House”. We were, therefore, sent out into distant realms to gain experience, to develop our own fragment of God's consciousness, and to become individual, adult, “sons of God” rather than to remain “children of God”. The parable of the prodigal son (**Luke 15:11-32**) helps us to understand how, upon leaving our “ancestral home in heaven”, we went “astray...on [our] journey of a hundred days” but were welcomed back. In the biblical story: “His friends said to him, 'Return to your father.' He said, 'I cannot.' Then his father sent word, 'Return as far as you can, and I will come the rest of the way to you.' So God says, 'Return to me, and I will return to you.' We return from whence we came but we return as perfected “adult” children of God. You were with God in the beginning and will return to God at the end of Time.



You mean there really is a Hell?



LINUS – No, there is no hell as a location, Charlie Brown; no eternal damnation. Hell is said to be a state of hell-like self-imposed torment but only for those who, for many lifetimes, consciously chose to live evil and depraved lives. For the ordinary and “somewhat sinful” human, the concept of eternal suffering is incompatible with God's character and that He cannot torture His children. Read the Bible: nowhere does it suggest there is a hell of eternal damnation. However, it does suggest the “punishment” for sin is separation from God for as long as it takes to “see the light”. If biblical texts are interpreted literally, this has given rise to the popular idea of Hell. Theologians generally see Hell as the logical consequence of using free will to reject union with God and because God will not force conformity, it is not, incompatible with God's justice and mercy, i.e., with karmic consequences. The “saving grace” is regret and remorse for sins we know we have committed and we are given lifetimes of chances to change our ways. Fear of so-called divine punishment is never the reason for repentance, but knowing that God is love and that we are accepted even for our general failings should be enough to turn our hearts toward Home.



What do you mean Snoopy doesn't have a soul?

LINUS – Of course, Snoopy has a soul, Charlie Brown – a group soul. He shares a beagle-soul with other beagles, but because he is so intelligent, he is very close to evolving a greater state of consciousness that will cause him, at his next incarnation, to enter the human kingdom with an individualized human soul and human form. Since he is smarter than most people, he will continue to be smarter than most. Life, consciousness, and all forms of power/energy are emanations and aspects of that which we call God; therefore, everything is of God and everything is in God. If (as has been said) the very purpose of existence is progressive development, Snoopy is well on his way toward the source of his very being.



Did God make us because He was lonely?

LINUS – No, Charlie Brown. In **Matthew 5:48**, it is said “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” We are immature and, therefore, imperfect, and we are called to make ourselves as perfect as is God from which we came. We talk of existence as progressive development, but of what? Of life, of spirit, and of form. If God is LOVE, then we will be as God; if God is perfect in every way, we will be as He. God is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent and so shall we be for we are one with the heart of God; we exist in full and complete unity not only with God but with all that was emanated from and within God. Such is perfection and such is the reason we are called to action--for the realization of God in and of all beings and all things everywhere.



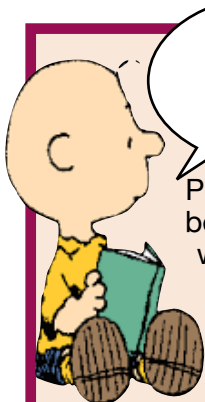
When did I become me?

LINUS – You, Charlie Brown, became you when you individualized upon obtaining the human state of existence—the human kingdom. Before that, you were part of a group-soul in the animal kingdom and had an “animalistic” state of consciousness. You learned so much that animal forms could not contain your developing consciousness as only entering the human kingdom could do. You progressed and are continue to progress. One day you will enter the Spiritual Kingdom and know that you are of God. No worries, Charlie Brown.



Is it sure I can go to Heaven?

LINUS – Yes, Charlie Brown. Your heart is so big and you are so kind and innocent, that you will easily enter the heaven state of consciousness. But, like hell, heaven is not a location and, unlike Hell, everyone who has loved another being for even a moment will temporarily enter that state called Heaven. But we are not yet perfect, we are as young children, and we are progressing onward as we learn to respect, appreciate, and love one another. Compassion and sacrificing for each other represent pathways to the heaven-world. One day we will find that our love for one another is exactly the same as God's love for us in that God does not love us but is Love Itself and we will experience that Love and know that this is the true heaven on earth.



Did God write the Bible?

LINUS – No, Charlie Brown. Perhaps the best that can be said is that the Bible was written by men who were inspired by God. “Who” wrote the Bible is not as important as the meaning behind the words. The greatest and most meaningful interpretation is in its parables and allegories for these are representative of the growth and development of human beings in symbolic, biblical, language. Reading and even memorizing the Bible is an intellectual exercise but we are asked to open our hearts to deeper understanding—one that does not expand mind-understanding but expands heart-understanding that leads to mystical and direct experiences of spiritual realities toward which the Bible points through its scripture. Refer to **2 Corinthians 3:6**, “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the

