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The Guru of the Digital Galaxy



„Magoi apo anatolon”

When the editor of *Zen Tükör* (*Zen Mirror* magazine) asked me to write an article, my initial reaction was to decline the offer, on the grounds that there was no subject around Zen that I particularly wanted to write about, and most importantly, that I no longer felt that writing was a suitable instrument for transmitting knowledge. He then raised another question: is there not something that you wish to pass on? On reflecting upon this, I realised that despite the fact that the medium of writing no longer has the power to wake people up, there was one thing that was extremely important, even though it has only an indirect connection with Zen – and this is the change of era which we are currently witnessing, leading to a totally new world. And in this world, there will appear the Master or an old/new principle that can bring to life the earlier traditions in this era in which they have become lost.

To examine this we need to explore four interconnected themes. These are:

The Gutenberg galaxy

The hermetic chronology or era

The digital galaxy

The arrival of the new teacher — when Jupiter and Saturn stand together at 0 degrees of Aquarius.

The Gutenberg galaxy

More than 50 years ago, in 1962, Marshall McLuhan published his work: *The Gutenberg Galaxy*. In this seminal work, he examined the evolution both of books and the nature of read-

ing in the six centuries since Johannes Gutenberg invented book printing. He hypothesises that it may have been the development of the phonetic alphabet which led to the invention of printing – and proceeds to demonstrate the multi-levelled consequences of this invention. He shows how book printing altered the way in which knowledge began to develop not from shared dialogues and conversations but to portable and ready-made information. In this way, the unity and reproductibility of the book led not only to the modern market but a commodification so that literacy and knowledge could no longer be separated from industrial concerns. In a very broad sweep, he shows how the consequences of the invention of book-printing were those of individualism, applied sciences and ultimately the creation of the nation states. Furthermore, he shows how the internal logistics of book printing, leading as it does to individualism has created a separation and alienation within the human being. All in all, he condemns the consequences of the book in his work, doing so with precise science. He named the era from the start of book printing the Gutenberg galaxy, sensing its end by creating the term *global village* some decades before the appearance of the World Wide Web.

The consequences of book printing are even clearer now. Purely, and perhaps most importantly from the aspect of spiritual transmission (that is from spirit to spirit), it would have been hoped and expected that the teachings could be spread through the printed form. However, while the most secret and most hidden spiritual teachings have made their way to the market, we all have experienced that it is not so. There is indeed an enormous number of books of wisdom on the shelves, but the contemporary spiritual and moral level of the societies and humankind suggests that this transmission

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does not place. From this we can infer that any spiritual value dies on paper – it loses its power, and becomes merely information. Moreover, we haven't even mentioned the second principle of Zen, which is not to rely on scriptures themselves. However, as the era of book printing has come to its end, we now know what will replace it – digitalization based on binary numbers.

The hermetic chronology or era

Let us now examine the evolution of book printing from the point of view of hermetic time.

Hermetic time (also known as Platonic world-time) is built on the astrological phenomenon of precession which takes place every 25,920 years. The movement of precession (called *ayanamsa* in Indian astrology) is the time during which the vernal equinox wanders backwards through the ecliptic – that is through the 12 signs of the zodiac. Thus, in this period, the vernal equinox takes 2160 years in each sign.

This Platonic time is the basis of all occult schools (astrology, alchemy, cabala, magic) and is subdivided as follows:

- 1 divine year (world year) 25920 human years
- 1 divine month (world month) 2160 human years
- 1 divine week (world week) 540 human years
- 1 divine day (world day) 72 human years (1 human life span)
- 1 divine hour (world hour) 3 human years = 1080 human days
- 1 divine minute (world minute) 18 human days

Although not going into any detail here, it is important to note that these values are derived from the relations between the movement of the sun, the human pulse, and the number of breaths taken in a human life. They are based upon insights into cosmic connections that are used by both western and eastern traditions as reflected within both the practices of yoga and hermetic understandings of relations between the micro and macro cosmos – what is called the holistic approach in modern times.

The traditions maintain that each era is strongly characterised by the zodiac sign through which the equinox is travelling. So for example, if we look briefly at the last three eras we can see that the Taurean era (4480 BC – 2320 BC) marked the time of great, stable empires and monumental buildings – the era when spiritual transmission took place between guru and disciple, and teachers appeared such as Gilgamesh who was half god and half human. The era of Aries (2320 BC – 161 BC) is that of the Aryans and warriors whose determining teachers are the kshatriya Buddha, Mahavir or Zarathustra. The following era of Pisces (161 BC – 1999 AD) is determined by the appearance of Jesus and the Christianity. This is followed by the era of Aquarius (1999 AD – 4159 AD).

4480 BC *Vernal equinox moves into Taurus* –

The beginning of the era of Taurus characterised by stable empires and monumental buildings

2320 BC *Vernal equinox moves into Aries* –

The beginning of the era of Aries, characterised by the Aryans and the beginning of the period called Antiquity.

161 BC *Vernal equinox moves into Pisces* –

The beginning of the era of Pisces characterised by Christianity

AD 1999 *Vernal equinox moves into Aquarius* –

The beginning of the era of Aquarius characterised in the first week by the digital galaxy

If we look more carefully at the key dates and characteristics that take place around the time of a change from one world week to another in Pisces we can see that each world week (540 years) has its own determining cultural and historical characteristics.

BC 161 the beginning of the first week of the era of Pisces

135–132 BC the beginning of the first civil wars in Roman Empire – first slave rebellion in Sicily

104 BC – second slave rebellions in Sicily

73 BC Spartacus begins his campaigns against Romans

(AD – *The start of a new chronology – the birth of Jesus*)

AD 250–304 Persecutions of Christians

AD 313 The start of the Dark Ages, the Edict of Milan, the establishment and validation of Christianity

AD 375 the beginning of the Migration Period – the Huns crossed the River Volga presaging the fall of the Roman Empire

AD 379 *the beginning of the second week of the era of Pisces*

AD 395–476 The fall of the Roman Empire

AD 919 *the beginning of the third week of the era of Pisces*

AD 1054 Schism (the breakup of the Church)

AD1077 The Canossa of the Holy Roman Emperor, Henry 4th

AD 1096 The first Crusade

AD 1459 *the beginning of the fourth week of the era of Pisces*

AD 1445 Gutenberg invents book printing in Mainz

AD 1453 The first printed book

AD 1459 Gutenberg prints first edition of the *Catholicon* encyclopaedia of Johannes de Balbis

AD 1492 The discovery of America. The start of the modern history

AD 1789 The French revolution. The beginning of modernity. The beginning of the age of materialism.

AD1993 World wide web declared to be free

AD 1996 Grover's algorithm

AD 1997 First 30 qubit computer

1999 *Vernal equinox moves into Aquarius. The 1st week of the era of Aquarius*

11 September 2001 New York, the attack on the World Trade Centre

21 December 2020 Jupiter-Saturn conjunct on the 0 degree of Aquarius

The arrival of the digital galaxy

These significant dates and events that seem to open up new eras take place every 500-600 years and correlate to a week of the Platonic world month (2160 years). They mark a significant change in political, social and culture such

as we are transitioning through and witnessing now. As we have seen, the last world week of Pisces has been characterised by book printing accompanied by a growing materialism-nihilism-psychism that overshadows the old religions. I am naming the forthcoming world week that begins the age of Aquarius 'the digital galaxy'. We are now living in the first world day of this era, and can already see these events playing out. Let's examine these events in more detail.

If we add 540 years to the time of the first printed book – 1453, we arrive at 1993. This was the year in which CERN announced that the World Wide Web was free for everyone. In 1996 Lov Grover created the algorithm that facilitated the development of the first 3-qubit quantum computer at IBM's Almaden research centre in 1997 only 2 years before the solar eclipse which ushered in the beginning of the Platonic Aquarius world month (1999). Following its introduction of the first commercial quantum computer in January this year (2020) IBM announced that this marked the opening of the era of quantum computing. Thus we can say that the beginning of the digital revolution took place during the 90s, up to the turn of the Millenium.

So this is where we are now with our toe (almost literally as the Latin *digitus* means finger/toe), dipped into the first years of a new era. And although it is not yet clear where digitalization will lead us in the remaining 520 years, we already see that from the aspect of spiritual transmission the digital form is of a lower quality than the printed form, and the printed form is equally less effective than the oral form of transmission. And the highest, from spirit to spirit, may not be able to take place on the World Wide Web – meaning that the inhabitants of the global village will remain without spirit. Whether one agrees with this or not is a matter of personal opinion, but the fact remains that what was previously transmitted qualitatively, has now gone through a quantitative filter; this may be transformed back by mathematical geniuses, but what remains of the original transmission? It may be that digitalization will generate vast amounts of data and ad-

vance material development, but the question remains whether the spiritual content vitalizing the human world will remain, or withdraw, leading to more intense spiritual darkening.

*The guru of the digital galaxy
– The arrival of the new teacher/
principles*

The magicians of the East foresaw the coming of Jesus, the dominant spiritual teacher of the era of Pisces, from a constellation in the sky, and according to the scriptures, they hurried to greet him. (*Magoi apo anatolon*)

This constellation was the Jupiter–Saturn conjunction, when they met at the very beginning of the zodiac sign Pisces. To make it simple, these planets symbolize space and time. Jupiter symbolizes space, extension and emanation, and Saturn, time, intensity and concentration. When the ecliptic longitude of these coincide – that is they are at the same place on the ecliptic, this means that space and time collapse into one another. The conjunction of these two planets is not rare because it happens about every 40 years. However, it is more rare that when they meet again, they are conjunct in the same zodiac sign, and it is even more rare that their equatorial declination coincides to the same degree, minute and second. The two planets move in similar orbits, so when they conjoin they do not move away much regarding latitude, but when we look at the sky then the one to two degrees of declination difference seem to be a significant distance.**

Spiritual traditions declare that this is the time when great teachers are born from the above-the-time spheres – the gate of time opens from its own dimension and divine powers flow to the Earth. From the aspect of space, the intensification symbolized by Saturn crystallizes to one point, and the immanence of

the transcendent is realized. So those who are born in this time will have these powers and will manifest them in some fields, just as Jesus manifested the power of Pisces during this era. What will this mean as we step into the era of Aquarius?

Now we are living through the first week of the era of Aquarius whose 540 years I have named the digital galaxy. We can reasonably raise the question of how the spiritual character of this era will manifest? What form might the traditional spirituality take? And who or what is to be the guru of this era just as Jesus was in the era of self-sacrifice – Pisces. Who or what will manifest a fundamental spiritual reality which adjusts to the new era, and points the way forward for human consciousness? Perhaps many in the Buddhist tradition may think that this will not happen, since the teachings (Dharma) of Buddhism develop a consciousness that transcends time that can be trod in every age and time. However, if we examine this carefully, we can see that Buddhism has also changed significantly over time, since consciousness of the era is the key through which the teachings (Dharma) update themselves in human consciousness.

This is the law of change: whilst there is a forest, there will be a forest hermit; whilst there is a chip, it will also be implanted in a yogi meditating in the cave – Yoga is no longer the path of salvation but a health-preserving exercise. How the Eternal Doctrine will manifest itself in all-encompassing fashion in the digital era, will soon manifest itself through the guru of the digital galaxy.***



On 21 December 2020, the day of winter solstice when we celebrate the birth of light, on

** During my life I have met only one person whose astrological chart has Jupiter and Saturn within 0 degrees of Taurus, and he is known by every *Zen Tükör* (Zen Mirror Magazine) reader. He is Antal Dobosy, the chief editor of *Zen Tükör* and one of the founders of Tan Kapuja [Dharma Gate Buddhist Church, Budapest, Hungary], and the abbey of the Zen community.

*** As a point of interest, Dr Frederick Philip Lenz also known as Rama, the American new age guru who has now passed away, suggests in an interview that the way of thinking applied in computer science resembles that to which the advanced level Zen Buddhism practitioners aspire and could lead to self-realization. According to him, programming, especially in the fields of relational databases and artificial intelligence, helps people develop their mind – and in his view these resemble the practices done in Buddhist monasteries. Whether this is true or not is up to the reader to decide.

the first day of the week, Monday (Budapest time) – when Uranus, the ruler of Aquarius is in the midheaven (at the MC) – Jupiter and Saturn join together at 0 degrees, 29 minutes, 10 seconds of Aquarius with only 5 minutes separating their declination – then they will both be visible in the west sky right after sunset. This is quite an exceptional constellation. We cannot ignore such a powerful celestial sign that takes place precisely on the day that the first light is born!

During the 540 years of the digital galaxy they will be conjunct in Aquarius three more times: on 11 degrees in 2080; on 17 degrees in 2140; and on 28 degrees in 2199, each time further and further apart in their declination. Thus, they will be the closest in 2020 right at the beginning of Aquarius, making their way further and further through till they reach 28 degrees in 2199. After this, the next conjunction in Aquarius takes place in 2915 which will no longer be in the digital galaxy, but another period of 540 years will have opened up with its own particular characteristics.

What does this celestial sign tell us?

Within human consciousness lies dormant a capacity for perceiving the world that we can call analogical thinking (or holistic thinking). This type of consciousness was alive in archaic human but at this moment in time, the capacity for this type of consciousness has died in humans; most spiritual paths seek to regain these capacities by awakening it in the mind and thereby attaining an enlightened state.

Within this type of consciousness, the human being was able to see the unity of seemingly different phenomena through correlations. For instance, he observed and understood the correlations that underpin astrology, alchemy and magic or the I Ching. This gave him insight into the connections between action and the fruit of action; between consciousness and nature; between consciousness and the body; between the different organs of the body; or between the states of being that are strung together – just as, for example, when the Buddha became enlightened, he saw all his previous

incarnations, linked together as though on a string through his actions over lifetimes.

Over the course of time the capacity for this type of consciousness has albeit disappeared, although the belief in its existence has remained for a long time. Furthermore, whilst the belief and respect for the connection between consciousness and the external world and nature has existed for a long time, it was not at all clear what this was, or how to access it. When the belief itself disappeared, the connection between the world and nature started decaying – a process which is continuing to this day. During this period, human suffering has increased exponentially in such a way that it has now reached to such a degree of numbness that we do not even know about it. Furthermore, everything has sped up to such an extent that the capacity for this type of thinking has all but disappeared. This is clearly illustrated in the way in which human beings at this time pay zero attention to the connections we listed earlier.

Well, it is high time to open our eyes and notice these correspondences. Not the linear spectrum of connections because these have already been digitalized, but the analogical perspective that can never be converted into binary numbers – a perspective that can embrace the correspondences within the new digitalized environment. This is the moment for an awakening power to arise as powerful as the letter from the Father in Apostle Thomas's *The Hymn of the Pearl* – powerful enough that humans open their eyes to realize the reality that confronts them and to recognise that something has to be done to avoid total blindness. This letter will arrive on the day of winter solstice in 2020. It is impossible to guess whether the saviour of the digital era will be born in a concrete human body, whose exact place of birth could be calculated as was done in the time of Jesus by the magicians – or whether a new form of spirituality appears that will be able to revive the Doctrine (Dharma) by reaching masses. What does make sense is that on the day of the winter solstice in 2020, each of us is able to respond from the first person singular, seeing our situation and awaken the saviour of the era of Aquarius – the guru of the digital galaxy in ourselves.

