

The 60's: The Birth of a New Consciousness

Francis X Caulfield

Recently a friend approached me at a party and exclaimed. *“Francis I’m so glad you are here. What the heck is going on?”*

This was not the first inquiry of the kind. Many people have reported huge changes/crises in their personal lives. These include utter confusion and disillusionment, the break up of relationships, mood swings where one moment one would feel completely inspired and empowered only to find that in the next moment one feels tired and in need of a good nap. Additionally many of us who are the conscious seeds of a new humanity are personally feeling or reeling from the effects of a global transformation that is currently underway and seemingly out of control.

The answer to my friend’s question that came to my mind was a combination of the current planetary picture as well as the planetary picture from the mid 1960’s. In order to understand the present we have to look to the past. So let’s start there. During the mid 1960’s, a new wave of consciousness erupted upon the planet, upsetting the proverbial apple cart of the status quo. Traditional sexual, social and cultural norms were disregarded and held in disdain. Suddenly radical forces sought to overthrow the established economic, corporate, political, religious, governmental hierarchies and forces that many people gave blind and unquestioned obedience and threatened the sedate, bland, conformist world that was portrayed on the Ozzie and Harriet, Father Knows Best, My Three Sons TV shows.

Question authority and *Question reality* became catch phrases of the 60’s generation that gave birth to the counterculture, spiritual movements from the east, feminism, civil rights, the anti-war riots, the long haired hippie rebellion, the use of psycho-active drugs, the back to the earth, green, ecological and environmental movement, with alternative utopian communes dotting the landscape. A celebratory explosion of visionary music, art, rock and roll infused the culture. *We want the world and we want it now* was the battle cry. End poverty, end hunger, end war, end hate. The peace sign became the recognizable symbol of an unspoken bond that transcended all outer differences and unified all in a common vision. Our existential alienation ended with the embrace of the earth became our Mother; the universe a home in which Spaceship Earth dwelled. Superficial philosophies and belief systems were replaced by revelatory experiences. We couldn’t fail.

And then it ended as suddenly as it began, usurped by the very forces that it sought to overthrow. In retrospect, it would seem that the movements that emerged from the chaotic 60’s were sabotaged from within and not so much by the resistance of the authorities that we sought to replace, although that certainly played a huge part. Or did it end? Certainly not

entirely, as remnants of those radical visionary movements still exist planetary wide, threaded throughout the music culture and numerous political, spiritual, environmental grass roots organizations. Maybe it just went underground for a while, so it could reorganize at a more fundamental level. Maybe the counter-cultural/hippie/spiritual organizations weren't ready for the world.

Still a great deal was accomplished, though it would seem that looking at the way the world is now, dominated by an out of control military industrial complex, religious wars, greedy corporations and governments bent on profit and domination. A rapacious and reckless disregard for the land and for human rights dictates policy across the board. In fact the world seems more dangerously destructive than ever before. So as my friend asked, *What is going on?*

Before I begin I would like to reaffirm two themes stated in my past writings, namely of a connection between celestial and terrestrial events, as reflected in the following ancient statement. *"As it is above, so it is below, as within, so without, as the universe, so the soul."* The second theme that is highlighted in these writings is that of a planetary alchemy. Planets are more than objects in space. They are cosmic agencies for transformation and soul growth. By aligning and attuning with these planetary agencies, celestial intelligences are invoked that inspire, inform and guide you along the Path. This is true for the individual and the world soul, for the personal and the collective consciousness. For information of the planets, zodiacal and planetary glyphs, visit <http://www.franciscaulfield.com/writings/planets.html>

First the astrological diagnosis: on a celestial level, the 60's were caused by the planetary alignment of Uranus/Pluto in Virgo opposing Chiron (as yet undiscovered)/Saturn in Pisces with Neptune in Scorpio forming a sextile to Uranus/Pluto and a trine to Chiron/Saturn. This is a rare planetary relationship that will not occur until a very, long time has passed. (I really don't know exactly when.)

Next understand that the outer planets, Chiron, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto act as intermediaries between the galaxy and the earth. They bring in new information, new ways of being and doing, archetypal and transpersonal energies that are outside the known, accepted mainstream view of reality. As such they are highly destabilizing and deconstructing to the status quo. Saturn on the other hand represents the status quo, tradition, authority, government, politics, hierarchy and mainstream reality.

Anybody can see that we have a huge problem here as Saturn is in opposition, an aspect or planetary relationship signaling open conflict, with Uranus a planet of rebellion, revolution, radical change, sudden shifts of awareness, freedom at all costs, eccentricity, overthrow of structure, unique manner of self expression and with Pluto a planet of ruthless power, the underworld, unbridled sexuality, life force, regeneration, death and rebirth, the Soul.

The fact that Uranus and Pluto were together in the skies in the mid 60's intensified the pressure on Saturn, so they caused a split, dividing the world into two. The alchemical intelligence of Uranus brings uncontrollable and unpredictable actions causing instability to the existing structure (Saturn). It does this by introducing new visions, a higher order of

intelligence. That is precisely what is still happening. The old world is reacting to these new visions, seeking to control (Saturn), its piece of the pie, which is of course for them the whole pie.

The more positive side of Uranus is the Light Body, the Awakener, the Christ Consciousness, the highly individuated and self-actualized individual. The higher side of Pluto is the Soul in all its eternal mysteries. These are the energies, the alchemical intelligences that were seeded into the mainstream in the 60's. It is the liberation of humanity and its emergence into a higher and truer form of expression that the status quo wants to keep suppressed, as the full activation of these cosmic forces will undermine their control.

Basically Chiron signifies the Wounded Healer/Inner Shaman, the Maverick or Black Sheep, Wild Medicine, therapy and the Vision Quest, Initiation into the Sacred Round of Existence, the crossing from the Old World to the New, through crises of identity, the Rainbow Bridge to the Stars. Chiron is the mentor, having discovered within his wounded identity, skills and abilities that allowed him to become a truly authentic and genuine expression of his nature.

With these three planets pressuring Saturn all at once, the old structures just had to go. Reality as it was known burst apart at the seams. Some welcomed and celebrated this chaos/crises/change while others recoiled in horror and fear. This was the death knell for the old world, the beginning of the end. Two worlds then, one dying and one being born, the latter born out of the ashes of the old, which is dying of its own excesses and greed. It will collapse in on itself, as that is what the alchemical intelligence of Pluto demands, rebirth through implosion, through destruction of anything old and corrupt. But it's too late. It's all falling apart so it can reassemble itself on a higher, more complex order of design.

Neptune, not to be denied, was exerting its influence through an easy going and flowing relationship (sextile and trine). *Go with the flow* and *Tune in, turn on, drop out* were the Neptunian mantras of the age. Neptune signifies drugs, escapism, denial, delusion, idealism and worked to pull the plug on the whole conflict, which was probably a good thing. So the 60's generation mainly opted for an exploration of inner space and transcendent realities (Neptune) or engaged themselves wholeheartedly in the materialistic, narcissistic game of *he who dies with the most toys wins*.

The powers that be were only too happy to continue its wars on drugs, on crime, on other nations, on asteroids from outer space, or whatever, while the counterculture realized that the conflict was within itself. But it soon discovered that transcendence or materialism wasn't necessarily The Answer and decided it needed major doses of therapy (Chiron discovered in 1977) to recover from all the buried traumas of sexual, emotional, physical abuse that littered the inner landscape of their Ozzie and Harriet/Father Knows Best childhoods.

Ultimately the shortcomings of the 60's peace movement was the lack of an unshakeable peace within. What was forgotten was that the world outside is a reflection of the inner world. Now we know that if we want to change the world, we have to change ourselves. *Up against the wall motherf...er*, falls a bit short of the message. The statement by Mahatma

Ghandi that *"You must be the change you wish to see in the world "* is the new mantra of the peace movement.

Francis X Caulfield, a life-long student and practitioner of Astrology, offers a **holistic vision** to **astrological divination** and **counseling**. He reads the natal chart as a **transformational blueprint** of the **Self**, impeccably informed with **celestial guidance** and **insight**. He eloquently blends intuition with modern and ancient astrological expertise forming a multi-layered, comprehensive understanding of each client's distinct **life purpose, potential, and direction**.

Francis is a talented **vibrational healer/bodyworker** with over 15 years experience in private practice and 30 plus years of meditation practice. His work is an intuitive blend of **Somatic, Energetic, and Shamanic** bodyworks for **Spiritual Awakening, Personal Transformation, and Holistic Healing**.

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In Spirit,
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