



*We see but dimly through the mists and vapors;
Amid these earthly damps
What seem to us but sad, funeral tapers
May be heaven's distant lamps.*

— HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

The State of Planet Earth



Larry was once again enveloped by an impenetrable mist. Although he could not see the Council, he was certain of their presence, imaging them in his mind's eye: nine Great Beings sitting in large, padded chairs arranged in a semicircle on a raised platform.

Still in trance, hardwired into the incomprehensibly vast storehouse of arcane data concerning the planet, he felt like a small puff of gas trying to fill an impossibly large container. When he finally spoke, Larry's voice assumed a tone of urgency reflecting the enormity of the occasion. "Most esteemed members of the Council, it is with profound sorrow that I address you this day. Considering the cataclysmic state of affairs and the need for immediate, remedial action, I will attempt to keep my report brief and as free of emotional content as possible. The latter, I might add, will not be an easy task.

"I am currently linked directly to the Akashic records—a transcript of every thought, word, and deed as well as emotional reaction of every being that has lived on Earth from its very seeding some 4.6 billion years ago.

"You are well aware that this planet is at the very end of the current and final great cycle and that she is already shifting into the fourth density. You are also aware that human Consciousness has not evolved as expected. While great strides have been made

in the sciences and arts throughout human history, there has also been a deliberate, clandestine effort to divide and compartmentalize humankind. What began as a need to circumscribe and thereby protect families soon spread to clans and tribes, then to countries, systems of belief, and ethical and moral codes of conduct. People began to sort themselves by skin color and geographic locale. Separation became commonplace and desirable.

“Leaders at all levels wielded fear as their weapon of choice. They fanned the fires of mistrust and hatred. People believed they lived in a universe of limited resources. If they didn’t hoard, they would not have enough for the lean years. The result was a widening spiral of destruction and imbalance, in which a small percentage of the population overproduced and overconsumed while the vast majority barely survived.

“Most recently, the greatest value has been placed on whatever reinforces people’s resistance to reality. Sex, drugs, and rock and roll have become the holy trinity of affluent societies. Entertainers are paid more than teachers. Sports personalities, supermodels, and business tycoons are elevated to Olympian heights. Magazines, like significant portions of the leading societies’ economies, are devoted to what people eat, where they travel, how they decorate their homes, what they wear to opening-night soirees. Popular papers in supermarkets carry sordid gossip about affairs, arrests, child molestation, and innuendo.

“The human race is in abject denial, seeking any anesthetic at any price. Instead of expressing at the higher levels of our being, we seem to have regressed into our reptilian brain. We have all but destroyed the planet in our attempt to survive at our neighbors’ expense. And hardly anyone seems to care.

“The following is an outline of the state of the planet immediately preceding the recent events of 9/11. I am sad to report that with precious few exceptions, the life-threatening conditions

I am about to list were not deemed important enough to merit a headline in a major newspaper or mention on the six o'clock news. In the months preceding the attacks on New York City and the Pentagon, none of these prompted the cancellation of a single baseball game, beauty pageant, or entertainment award spectacle. No school was closed. No flag flew at half-mast. Other than those immediately affected by a specific trauma, few even noticed.

“Some 1.2 billion people around the world live on less than a dollar per day. Thirty thousand children die each day of starvation.

“As I speak, 11 million Africans have already died of AIDS. This disease has reduced the life expectancy in Southern Africa from sixty years of age to only thirty-nine.

“War, in one form or another, has been the major activity of nearly every nation on the face of the earth for the past three hundred years. And millions of people continue to meet their deaths because of it. Yet there is little sentiment for peaceful resolution, and the rule of force not only prevails but is greatly admired. History always records the victorious as righteous, invoking the authority of God to vindicate and justify their acts.

“The so-called Cold War between Russia and the United States ended years ago, yet the USA spends more on weaponry than the next fifteen countries combined, while millions within its own borders are homeless or live below the poverty level. It now appears that the US military budget will increase even more. The poverty and homelessness will probably not be addressed, since doing so offers no political advantage.

“At present some two dozen countries have the wherewithal to set off an atomic device—some so small that they can be carried in a backpack. Yet instead of encouraging restraint—and despite more than fifty years of research—the United States now

claims it must resume underground testing to insure the efficacy of its arsenal, despite the extreme danger to the planet's ecological balance.

“Perhaps one condition stands out as a global metaphor for aberrant human behavior. At present, 110 million land mines lie in the ground worldwide—some on every continent. To clear them all would cost more than 30 billion US dollars—and at the current rate of removal, would take 1,100 years. An additional 240 million unplanted mines lie in the arsenals of about a hundred nations. Among the ninety countries that have unexploded ordnances buried in their lands, seventy-three—most of whom are at peace, not war—reported casualties from these weapons in the past year alone. Twenty-six thousand people are killed or injured by land mines every year. That's seventy people per day—one person every twenty-one minutes. Since 1975, more than a million people have been killed or maimed by mines. Three hundred thousand children have been severely disabled. Yet many countries still refuse to sign the prohibition treaties, and many who do sign continue to use these weapons anyway.

“Countries are bankrupt, unable to repay international lending institutions. Some nations are experiencing rampant inflation while their better-heeled trading partners flirt with recession. Economics is driven, for the most part, by personal greed and short-term goals. Corruption, duplicity, coercion, and globalization are proving more effective instruments of self-interest than armies.

“There is a marked resurgence in religious fundamentalism. Extremists and literalists have become more vocal and visible on all fronts. Each sect seems to have spawned a righteous majority that sits in judgment over their more liberal fellow believers while fomenting hatred and violence against those who do not share their dogma. Terms like “ethnic cleansing” are now main-

stream. People have become pawns in an international game of escalating violence.

“The rainforest is being destroyed at the rate of 214,000 acres per day. That’s an area larger than New York City gone every twenty-four hours. Besides losing this ecological treasure, we are forfeiting countless endemic plants that could have provided natural cures for the growing number of diseases affecting an increasing proportion of the Earth’s population.

“Species are dying off a thousand times faster than their natural rate. By examining fossil records and studying ecosystem destruction, some scientists estimate that as many as 137 species disappear from the Earth each day, an astounding fifty thousand species vanishing every year.

“Scientists are finally admitting that their ecologist brethren may have been right all along. There is now conclusive evidence that the planet’s biosphere may be on the brink of collapse. One relatively minor event—a flood or drought, a prolonged rain storm or large fire—could tip the balance forever.

“These conditions have been known for quite some time. Yet the drain on the environment, instead of being moderated, has been stepped up dramatically. Easily accessed resources are dwindling. Even so, over the last thirty years the mining of coal has jumped from 2.2 billion metric tons per annum to 3.8 billion; natural gas extraction has nearly tripled, going from 34 trillion cubic feet per year to 95 trillion; oil extraction has increased from 46 million barrels per day to 78 million. These energy sources pollute at every stage, causing irreversible damage to the planet’s ecosystem: spills and fires happen during extraction, shipping, and storing; toxic byproducts are generated during refinement; pollutants are introduced into the atmosphere as these fuels are burned.

“Delegates from various countries meet and articulate beautifully worded, caring pledges promising relief. But their deeds belie their words: Since 1970, human carbon emissions have increased by more than 60 percent, going from 3.9 million metric tons per year to 6.4 million. The global vehicle population has swelled from 246 to 730 million. Air traffic has increased by a factor of six. The human population has escalated by more than 2 billion people—that’s over 60 percent in a little more than thirty years! To keep up with the skyrocketing demand for paper products—now exceeding 200 million metric tons per year—we have doubled the rate at which we chop down forests. Using sonar, satellite imaging, bigger nets, and more sophisticated boats, we pull almost twice as much fish from the seas.

“We use increasingly powerful chemicals to coax growth from the soil so we produce 2.25 times as much wheat, 2.5 times as much corn, 2.2 times as much rice, almost twice as much sugar, almost four times as many soybeans as we did thirty years ago. But at what cost? These fertilizers and herbicides leech into our waterways and converge in the ocean as a death shroud, destroying coral reefs, poisoning fish, and defacing the beauty of our shorelines. Acid rain, ozone depletion, and other toxic consequences deform and mutate life forms in many parts of the world.

“The Akashic records show that if the current state of affairs continues, it will not be long before the soil is depleted of minerals and can no longer produce viable food; before the oceans can no longer feed us; before there are not enough forests to convert our carbon dioxide waste to oxygen.

“In short, as of the tenth of September, 2001, the world was in dire straits, apparently accelerating along a fast track to self-destruction.

“Then came the events of this past Tuesday. Four commercial airliners, commandeered by terrorists, stopped the world dead in

its tracks. The stark reality of their attack, broadcast live by the international press, managed to shock a populace completely inured to all the other events threatening its very existence.

“For the remainder of this week, everything in America ground to a halt. Sports, entertainment, work were suspended. Attitudes changed; people found new ways to express concern for their fellow humans. There was a genuine outpouring of heartfelt love. People gave blood, money, their time, comfort. For a brief while, people actually debated the circumstances that might have spawned the unthinkable.

“But from what the future records reveal, all this may prove to be a brief awakening, and excepting an unlikely sudden shift in Consciousness, the majority of humanity will eagerly return to their somnambulistic existence. Over the next few weeks, leaders will step in to channel the spontaneous heartfelt reaction in more controlled directions. Flags will be printed by the tens of millions to be displayed on every rooftop, door, car window, T-shirt, and lapel. The enemy will be named, the world mobilized, and the battle lines clearly drawn. Every nation, every man, woman, and child, will be called upon to declare sides. A powerful, devastating response, carefully planned, will be surgically administered.

“National pride will flourish. New heroes will be declared. At interfaith ceremonies, mullahs and rabbis and priests will speak of the nobility of religion and the universal love for peace that their faiths proclaim. The individual voice will be replaced by a Greek chorus lamenting fate as people gather at thoughtfully orchestrated candle-lighting ceremonies, prayer vigils, and fund-raising concerts.

“We will be urged to return to normal, to our pre-9/11 existence. We will be told not to give in to the enemy and to display our patriotism by spending and playing more. The collective focus of the world will be shifted to a long-neglected part of the

globe populated by desperate people living on the brink of existence, too weary, weak, and disenfranchised to be concerned with more than making it to the next day. It will be no surprise when they become the victims of their own deluded leaders, who are joined at the hip with the agents of chaos.

“I would like to report that we are beginning to awaken. I would like to say we are led by wise visionaries who have risen beyond the myopic perspectives of special interests—even the grand ones held by nations and alliances. I would like to tell you there is a bright light clearly visible at the end of this long, dark tunnel. But I can’t.”

Larry paused for a long moment. For the first time he grasped the full import of the message he was delivering, and he was visibly shaken. The flow of information was disrupted, and he slowly began to disconnect from the Akashic database. “We are in deep trouble, and we need help.”

The powerful voice that spoke through Larry receded and he felt alone and perplexed. The softness of his tone reflected his creeping self-doubt. “I’m not sure I understand what I’ve been looking at. I can see that the actual events transcribed in the Akashic records are rarely the same as the way they’re written in human histories. And there appear to be hidden files or restricted areas within the records beyond my reach. Is there a reason? Is there something buried here that could make sense of it all? There seems to be an underlying pattern—a hidden agenda—but I can’t quite make out.”

Larry looked up, fully expecting to see the members of the Council before him. The mist had lifted completely; he was back on the rock next to the medicine wheel in Joshua Tree. Zeus’s eyes were intently focused on his own.

“Interesting stuff, ain’t it?” Zeus asked. “As to those last few questions: Yes, certain files in the Akashic records are unavail-

able to you. Yes, that information would help you make sense of a great deal. And yes, there is an underlying pattern, a framework—or hidden agenda, as you called it—on which history is woven. There is a reason why this information has been deliberately secreted within the Akasha; however, now is not the time to explore it further.”

It took Larry several minutes to completely reenter his body. He had heard Zeus’s words and indeed found himself unable to probe deeper. Solving the mystery of the hidden files would have to wait for another time.

“Okay, then, who exactly is the Council, and where did they go?” Larry asked.

“You certainly don’t ask easy questions,” Zeus chuckled. “I saw your image of them as nine beings sitting on a raised platform. Interesting, what the human mind creates to fill in the blanks. The ‘nine’ part is accurate. The Council is made up of nine discrete. . . .” Zeus looked lost for a moment. “Here’s where language falls short. The name I used, ‘High Council,’ is a bit misleading. It suggests the Nine might be some sort of cosmic commission that makes decisions regarding the conditions of forms of intelligence and their biospheres. That is not what the Council is about. Moreover, they are not ‘beings,’ in the strictest sense of the word.”

“*What? What? . . . What? What?*” The high-pitched shriek was right on cue. Zeus couldn’t help but laugh.

“The Council, sometimes called the Council of Nine or more simply, ‘the Nine,’ is named for its constituent members, the nine expressed aspects or principles of Creation—part of the Universe’s sacred geometry. Collectively, they form the matrix on which subjective realities manifest. The Nine, together with the three unexpressed and as yet unknown aspects of Creation, make up the Illimitable Dodecahedron—twelve infinitely large

twelve-sided geometric shapes defining an identical dodecahedral shape at their center. This inner, infinite space, from which the twelve radiate, is the domain of the Great Unknowable Mystery.

“Forgive the vagueness, but this is the closest that words can come to describing the true nature of the Council.”

“But if they are so . . . omniscient, why did they need my report?” Larry asked.

“Obviously, you said nothing they didn’t already know. Your report’s purpose was not to tell them but to allow you to verbalize your own insights so you could bring them back with you as you reentered the illusion. Already, your words have created an echo accessible to all on your planet.

“It’s not surprising that you don’t appreciate the implications of your own statements. You were in a deep trance. However, your account calls into question the very core of the entrenched belief systems that underpin your planet’s political and religious structures. You, my friend, have set a fox loose in the hen house of complacency. You have opened portals to unplumbed avenues of exploration. You have added new spice to the stew!

“The law of Free Will requires that the impetus for change comes from your side of the Veil. Although others, in higher densities, may wish to stir the pot and raise the level of Awareness on this planet, to interfere like that without express permission and a call from within your illusion is as impossible as it would be for you in your present form to walk through that boulder over there.

“You also added a subtle overlay of emotion to what you transmitted. Emotions are integral to communication within your space/time illusion but nearly incomprehensible on the other side of the Veil. Since you will be a key player in helping your human race through its transition, your reactions—on all levels—are of vital importance.”

“I’m not sure I follow you,” Larry said. “I was obviously saying something to someone, but now you tell me they weren’t really there. I know I had access to a wealth of information I never knew before. I was even able to see into the probable future.

“Wow, was I channeling? Is communing with the Nine the same as talking to a disembodied intelligence, like Lazarus or Abraham, or God for that matter?”

“No and yes,” Zeus responded. “Remember what I said earlier: All questions, whatever their depth or subject matter, inquire into an aspect of God. God, as you are gradually realizing, is not a Creator sitting off somewhere causing the Universe to unfold. God *is* the Universe. There is nothing real or imagined, nothing expressed or potential, that is not God. If God is all things, then all things are God, and by extension, all is One.”

“Zeus, you’re messing with my mind,” Larry said. “You’re suggesting that you and I—not to mention everything around us—are God. If that’s so, then we are One—even though I can clearly see we’re not. Besides, if all the channeled beings are One, how come the information coming through is so diverse?”

“Aha!” Zeus exclaimed. “You have stumbled upon one of the more slippery paradoxes of Creation. For the harder you try to understand how you can become One with All That Is, the more distance you create between it and you.”

“So how do I close the distance between us?”

“Understand that it isn’t there,” Zeus replied with obvious amusement.

“Then you *are* saying that God and I are One?”

“Not one, not two,” Zeus said, enigmatically.

“Huh?”

“Leave the mind behind on this one, kiddo,” Zeus chided, “it will only get in the way. Consider the sun and its light, the

ocean and the wave, the singer and his song—not one, not two. Whatever you do, Larry, please don't try to make sense of this. Just let it splash you like a gentle rain. For once in your life, simply be an innocent child and let yourself get wet.

“As to the specifics of your question, in the strictest sense, all channeled entities are the same, in that they're all aspects of the One. There's a data bank for the entire Universe, analogous to the Akashic records. Given your need to grasp and name, we can call it the heart/mind of God—the HMG, for short. Consider it the central hub. It connects all things; it animates them; it allows, facilitates, loves, experiences, integrates, interpenetrates, embraces—even a mile-long list of verbs can't begin to capture the fullness of what it does.

“One might even say the heart/mind of God *is* the One—the very source of Consciousness itself, without which there would be no Creation. All Consciousness draws freely from the HMG and contributes to it, as well. In theory, you and I can access this infinite knowledge any time. In practice, it doesn't work that way. The information is stored as patterns of Light/Love energy in varying levels of intensity. Much of the data are so brilliant that neither of us could view them. Raising one's Consciousness increases access to the HMG, until, at some indeterminate point, it becomes expansive and pervasive enough to encompass the entire bank. Then it merges with the source.

“The One is composed of infinite parts, or points of view—of which you and I are prime examples. Like components of one great bouillabaisse, we are One but we are also individuated, each contributing a unique twist or taste. Because I can access information beyond the Veil that marks the outer boundary of your illusion, I—like Lazarus or Abraham—can countenance a slightly higher level of light intensity within the HMG. So I, and they, appear to have greater understanding. However, the infor-

mation within the HMG is not stored in words. It is, as I said, made up of Love/Light energy rather than organized cohesive concepts.”

“Now you’re really making this difficult to follow,” Larry said. “A moment ago you used the term ‘Light/Love’; now you are saying ‘Love/Light.’ Aren’t they the same?”

“Yes and no,” Zeus said. “They interpenetrate each other just as ‘teach/learn’ and ‘learn/teach’ or ‘space/time’ and ‘time/space’ do. The placement of each word creates a subtle but important distinction between the two.

“Thanks, by the way, for that question. It underscores an important point. Even though much that we’ll be discussing transcends the mind’s ability to follow, it must nevertheless completely understand the words it hears. Please interrupt any time the meaning of a term isn’t crystal clear. Don’t depend on What-What to show up; you can monitor your own comprehension. If you allow me to continue past a term you don’t understand, everything that follows will be foggy and will fall away—like trying to build a skyscraper on a foundation of sand.”

“Got it,” Larry replied. “From here on I’ll ask about the words. But God knows, I’ll never get out of the starting gate if I have to grasp the meaning as well.”

“Don’t be too hard on yourself, Larry. You’re doing just fine. This will all come into focus as a few more pieces are added to the puzzle. Now, where were we? Ah, yes! You wanted to know why channeled material varies so much, since it all comes from the same source.

“When beings hanging out in the time/space continuum connect with someone within your illusion, they act as transducers, feeding information into the recipient’s mind/belief/thought construct. Thus, a channeled entity assumes a form and signature that’s pleasing and comfortable to the channeler.

“That’s why the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous at the grotto in Lourdes and to Margaret Mary Alacoque in Burgundy. It’s also the reason why aspects of the Infinite Intelligence came to Jane Roberts as Seth, to Esther Hicks as Abraham, to Carla L. Rueckert as Ra, and to Neale Donald Walsch as God. It also explains why I, and others you have yet to meet, may come to you as aspects of your inner self or some of the more irreverent characters in your life, like your fellow members of the PDQ Society.”

At first, Larry was taken aback at Zeus’s reference to his monthly poker and drinking buddies. Then he began to laugh. “Nothing here makes sense. I’m probably going to wake up and find I’ve never really left L.A. Since there are no rules, I might as well suspend rationality and enjoy the ride.”

“Clever boy,” Zeus responded. “Now you’re getting the hang of it. If you try to grasp any of this with your rational mind, you’ll probably slip off the face of the earth. Just ease off the reins and go with the flow.

“For all the apparent differences, all channeled information is drawn from the same pool of knowledge. Part of the diversity has to do with the disembodied entity’s light quotient, which directly affects its ability to penetrate levels of Awareness. But the biggest factors are the expectations and personal biases of the channeler.

“As to the Council of Nine, that’s a different kettle of fish altogether. Notice that they never once spoke to you, never asked a question, never made a comment? They can’t. The dimensional difference between you and the Council is so vast, it cannot be bridged in direct communication. In the rare instance when they perceive a need to interact directly, the Nine use a highly evolved being as an intermediary, shuttling between them and the channel.

“In your case, the Nine consented to the creation of an energetic matrix enabling you to freely pierce the Veil and access the Akashic records. Then, with your agreement, they assisted you to open a portal into higher Consciousness on behalf of this planet. Incidentally, you did one helluva job, there. My guess is the Council was suitably impressed. I sure was.”

“Thanks,” Larry responded, “but a lot of it seems pretty depressing. I never knew we were so close to extinction. Given the actual state of affairs and our leaders’ unwillingness to address it, I don’t think we’ve got much of a chance, do you?”

“Oh, lighten up already. This is a piece of cake. It’s all a question of tuning your ‘tudes. Once you get the hang of it, the rest will quickly fall into place. You’ve done some good work here. Don’t weaken on me, kiddo. It’s now time to begin one of the most important lessons of your training.

“Ready?”