

## Letters and Discussions

2003 (revised: Full Moon, June 2014)

In answer to a question posed to me many years ago:

"I wonder if it will ever stop bothering me how much of *Liber AL vel Legis* (the *Book of the Law*) could easily be a product of Aleister Crowley's experience/stuff he had read. Probably never, or until there is a good argument for causality." Ms. X

Dear Ms. X,

"I think I know pretty well what you mean." There is no doubt that *Liber AL vel Legis* (the *Book of the Law*) has Uncle Al written all over it. One hardly needs to go any further than the reading list he provides in the A.:A.: curriculum. Add to that some other works he mentions here and there, his world travels and the experiences of his life's work – and *abrahadabra!* "It" pops out of his top hat. *Liber AL* is the distilled spirit from all that prime material. So what do you now have? You have the best of the world's past teachings without the orthodoxy, the doctrinal bias, the xenophobia or ethnocentricity, the superstitions or the materialism, and also without the geocentrism or even the heliocentrism. All those forces converged in him and there emerged a *star sapphire*. He even polished it a bit for us. AND he left us with a lot of tools for polishing that precious stone ourselves.

All the major religions of the current world (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism) originated quite a few years ago; the youngest being Islam (7th cent), which as we know Islam alone influences 1.6 billion people on this planet (23 %) and is expected to double in the next 16 years. The oldest being Hinduism dating to probably before 1500 BCE some 3500 years ago and now influencing approximately a billion people. Christianity still holds the largest percentage of people in its ... grasp with 2.1 billion or about a third of the world's population. In that time since these various religions

emerged, the human being developed from very primitive societies and cultures to become these vast civilizations with incredible power and technology. We have even left the planet on occasion.

Prior to this emergence of the great religions, humanity, it seems, has not changed much. Before me I have an *Associated Press* article I cut out some years ago reporting on some ancient spears. They are reporting on some unearthened spears that researchers have dated some 400,000 years ago. What major advances occurred over those 394,500 years of prehistory? Not much it seems, not really. But it seems though that about 3500 B.C.E. there was an acceleration of civilization. What happened to instigate this incredible turn in human history? Well, one thing was obviously the invention of an alphabet and everything that unfolded from that. (See: *The Alphabet Effect* by Robert K. Logan, Ph.D.) Without going into the history of the rise of civilizations I contend that another phenomenon emerged that set up the world to move into another stage of “quickened” development – that of the great religions. In the study of the history of religions, a concept has been put forth of an “Axial Age” – a period of time from about 800 B.C.E. to 200 B.C.E. when the spiritual foundations of humanity were laid. (See: Karl Jaspers) These foundations were laid by great thinkers in religion and philosophy that lead to, among other things, the birth and development of the great religions. These religions have had major impact upon the subsequent and incredible advancement of civilization. And with human development going on for over two million years, I would say the last 5,500 (since the invention of writing) have been remarkable but the last 2800 years (with the rise of the great religions) have been downright amazing.

Now lets consider the last 120 years or so and consider the massive changes of our lives that have occurred. Industry, technology, transportation and communication have virtually transformed our planet. When my father was a boy, his family had no car, no phone, no indoor plumbing, and no electricity. Before he died he witnessed men walking on the moon. Now I can talk to someone anywhere in the world anytime I wish and I can get there within 24 hours. These things were laughable in my father’s time – they would have considered you insane if you insisted on the possibility. Human

advancement is accelerating at a terrific rate. Yet some things have not.

No new religions have made it to the status of those mentioned before. And any new religious movements are just another shade of one of these great ones. But just like at the end of our spear making days when the old tribe and clan religious beliefs became obsolete as the great ones emerged, we might be once again at a crossroads. As we move deeper into the Aquarian time where communication and travel make vast unimaginable strides forward, those great religions are themselves becoming obsolete. All the cultural and language barriers that helped keep them intact have begun to break down. All the older worldviews have also collapsed in the face of science. Religion as we knew it is in steep decline in several cultures of the world. In other places, religion has taken on an ominous tone. It is, admittedly, not the first time for religions to be in conflict (and all of them are guilty) but the current times, the huge governmental and economic backing of one or the other and the advanced technology of war are, relatively speaking, rapidly bringing the whole world to the brink of disaster. Regardless of the past positives, it is clear that these religions have failed. Each one while claiming the ideal of bringing the world together are, in fact, tearing it apart. They are no longer a help to humanity's future but an obstacle and a peril; maybe even a fatal one.

It is now time to "step into the new aeon". Something new has to emerge to encounter and embrace the future. But it cannot be a new religion; yet it has to be a new way of "being in the world." This new way of being-in-the-world has to transcend religions, cultures, national boundaries, race, gender and any other limitations to the expression of the human spirit. This does not mean we lose our heritage but it means we must repudiate any limitations it may impose upon us – as individuals and as a society.

*Liber Al vel Legis* is a seed document for this transformation. That is, a document from which many more will sprout; one from which others will unfold much like laws from a constitution. For God's sake, it is not scripture; it is not God's Word even though there are

self-proclaimed “leaders” out and about who insist on its divine, messianic or prophetic origin – mostly for their own economic or egotistical gain. These people should be considered “centers of pestilence” and shunned accordingly – mostly by laughing at them. This is not to say that *Liber Al vel Legis* is not vastly important in itself beyond being a call announcing the end of one era and the beginning of a new one. If one has the wit to see into it and not read it as some religious fundamentalist, one would find a manual or rather the keys to aligning oneself to this new orientation and accelerating one’s advancement in human evolution.

Our dear Uncle was very much on the forefront in trying to point this out to people. He intuited the future. He was not the only one who saw it but, to my mind, he was the one who saw it, proclaimed it and worked to set up a structure for the next advancement of the human race. Did he succeed or was he just sucking eggs? Actually we could say both; his life was the epitome of the Hermit archetype standing alone on the highest peak holding a lamp to light the way of those below. I also say that there were shortcomings and mistakes in his vision of how this era would proceed (believe me, the world’s religions are deeply entrenched across the globe and are not going anywhere anytime soon), mistakes in trying to determine what social instruments might be best to assist the transformation and he was full of quirks, idiosyncrasies, and questionable behavior that would give many people pause.

So where did *Liber Al vel Legis* come from? We all agree A.C. wrote it. What were the powers or influences that brought it about? Was Aleister crafty enough to pull it off? Is it a product of all the correspondences and insights available to his subconscious mind that spilt over into his waking life those three days of composition? Was it inspiration unleashed from a magical rite he had done? Was it somehow coming directly from the highest and inmost part of his soul? Or was it a type of angelic presence working through him? If you asked him now which one is the answer, he would probably retort between pipe puffs: All and None. I would say: does it really matter? Are there not numerous conditions present to make each event

unique? The event though is probably more important and has more relevance than those conditions that produced it.

In fraternity,  
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