

“CAGLIOSTRO’S KITCHEN” THE BLUE MOON OF GEMINI 2016

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Greetings Friends!

I experienced an unexpected treat this past weekend, which I would like to share with you. The story is a little long, so bear with me. Before we begin, though, this letter is not so much about current events and elections as much as it is a look at the trends to come over the next few months and what lies before us, as well as a few more thoughts on Gemini, since this is the 2nd Gemini full moon for this year. We’ll address more about the upcoming elections in the US and other matters after the conventions, as there is too much that can happen between now and then. So, on to our story. A few days ago (June 2) was the anniversary of the birth of a man well known to the esoteric community. He was variously known as an esotericist, an alchemist, a charlatan, a magician, a forger extraordinaire and an enigma. His name was Alessandro Cagliostro, the man who in his succeeding life would go on to write *The Secret Doctrine* and found the Theosophical Society as H.P. Blavatsky.¹



Seeing that the anniversary of his birth had arrived, I remembered an incident that took place when I was on a group tour of Rovereto in my early days here. During the tour we were in the historic center of the city and it was pointed out that a certain house on the particular street we were on had once been the abode of a certain Conte di Cagliostro, which was passed off as an interesting side note at the time. The main point of interest was across the street a few houses up, where there was a plaque set into the wall of another house, giving testimony to the fact that Mozart had given his first performance in Italy there some years before. As for Cagliostro, no one else in the group had any idea who he was, and the tour guide quickly dismissed him as a charlatan, saying that he had been run out of town by the medical establishment there for practicing medicine unlicensed and for selling snake oil.

Cagliostro was an interesting figure to say the least, and his story has all the elements of a good mystery novel—intrigue, scandal, powerful people, love interests, travel to fascinating places, secret societies, stories of extraordinary acts, and more. And these elements of his life existed quite aside from the considerable service that he rendered wherever he went. Yes, he did a great amount of service, despite what you might have read about him. In many ways he was his own worst enemy, though, for reasons that we will get to, and he was greatly misunderstood during his time, even to now. In fact, even though he was reviled by many in places of power and viewed with suspicion and awe among the general populace, he was also well-respected and admired by giants of his time such as Goethe and Schiller, who would go on, along with many others, to compose works based on his life.² Although he was given only passing attention on the tour of the city that day, for myself I was more than a little intrigued, knowing who he was, and I decided to get to the truth of the sojourn of this ‘Conte di Cagliostro’ in Rovereto. After a little digging, my search yielded fruit. As it turns out, there is a rare little book in Italian titled *Il Vangelo di Cagliostro* – The Gospel of Cagliostro – author supposedly unknown, which describes Cagliostro’s time in Rovereto in some detail.³ And it is hardly the story of a scoundrel for those who know the truth.

As it turns out, Cagliostro spent his time in Rovereto as a healer of wide repute, and people came to see him from far and wide – much to the ire of the medical establishment – because he was

reputedly curing diseases and maladies that the doctors of the day could not, notwithstanding taking away their business. He also founded a Masonic Order of the Egyptian Rite in Borgo Sacco, which at the time was a village next to Rovereto, and it was that little act which was the final straw for the Bishop of the region, who had the Emperor denounce and expel him. After Cagliostro fled Rovereto he went to Trento, which is not far north from Rovereto, but he was expelled from there, too, for the same reasons. Soon after that he went to Rome, where he was arrested as a political agitator – re: engaging in Masonry – and imprisoned for the remainder of his life. The little aforementioned book is worth a read, and I have translated a version of it into English.⁴ There is a point to this story which we will get to shortly, and which applies to the world situation now, but first there is a little more about the fascinating life of this great occultist, who unfortunately is now only seen in the public eye in far less than a favorable light.



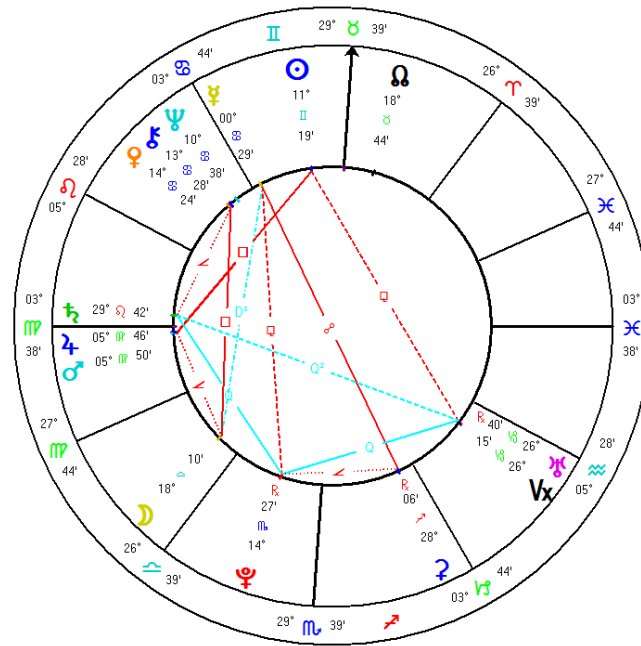
From his chart below⁵, Cagliostro was a reputedly Gemini, his birth time being in doubt. In fact, Cagliostro told his biographer that he knew neither of his parents nor his place of birth, so we do not really know if his birth data as Giuseppe Balsamo is even true. Nonetheless, the chart does support the character and timing of his life, if the accounts we read are true. What follows is thus conjecture, but it is a good exercise in astrology. If the time is close and the place correct, then he would have had Virgo

rising, with Jupiter and Saturn straddling his ascendant, his Sun in the 10th house square to Jupiter and Mars, and his moon in Libra in the 2nd house. Uranus would have been conjunct the Vertex, marking his path as an occultist. In all, without going into detail, the chart shows his public face and social influence (Sun in the 10th), his magnanimous nature (Sun/Jupiter square, with Jupiter in the 1st house on the ascendant), his interest in healing and having women in Masonry (Virgo rising), and his outspoken, fearless and uncompromising attitude (Mars on the ascendant conjunct Jupiter and square the Sun), the latter along with the Virgo ascendant.

The preceding points along with the Gemini Sun alluded to Cagliostro's ability as a writer and also a forger, and he also spoke several languages. His ability with writing is further indicated by the quintile triangle between Saturn, Uranus and Pluto, with Pluto at the midpoint of the triangle and in the third house (communication and writing). That triangle also points to the trouble that seemed to follow him wherever he went. He was quite a gifted man, all other considerations aside. Just before the end of his life he was arrested and brought before the Inquisition, tried and sentenced to death for studying and practicing Masonry, indicated by a solar arc direction of Saturn simultaneously to Venus (broken heart, separations and also the ruler of his Midheaven, indicating a public fall) the asteroid Chiron (the deep wounding and pain that would have caused) and his Midheaven (his public standing, career and having to face people in authority). Uranus also made a solar arc at that time to his Sun, which ruled his 12th house (confinement, institutions, hidden enemies) and indicated his betrayal and sudden change in fortunes—this time for the worse.

At the end, word has it that shortly after his conviction and sentencing, a mysterious stranger appeared and demanded a conference with the Pope regarding Cagliostro, whereupon his sentence was thereafter commuted to life imprisonment at San Leo prison, where he was said to have died shortly thereafter (1795) at the age of 52. At least, we are told that he died in prison then, but legend has it that he escaped or was taken away and fled to India, where he was well-received for his wisdom, or that he was recalled there by the Guru(s) who had initiated him earlier in life. Like the end of any good mystery, we may never know for sure. And as well we may never find out if his 'Gospel' is true either. But then, that only makes the mystery of Cagliostro's life all the more interesting.

Cagliostro, Allessandro di
Natal Chart
 Jun 2 1743 NS, Sun
 11:08 am LMT -05:32
 Palermo, Italy
 38°N07' 013"E23'
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node
Parallax Moon



The point to be made is that during Cagliostro’s life it is said that he brought harm to the work of the Master Morya’s ashram and the work of the Masonic tradition in general.⁶ There was not a single reason why, but the reasons given by Blavatsky were that he had certain secrets of nature that he refused to divulge to the Church and his having taken up with an untrustworthy partner, along with his “extreme good nature and the blind confidence he placed in his friends...”⁷ In reading the account of his time in Rovereto the thing that stands out is that he raised the ire of the medical establishment to start with and later the gossip-mongers went to work on his reputation. It was a time when the science of medicine was gaining a foothold. The fifth Ray was beginning its rise into activity (from 1775)⁸ and the Enlightenment was sweeping through Europe. Cagliostro’s life corresponded with the influx of the fifth ray. He came in with the group of souls over time who seeded the Enlightenment and cemented it into European and colonial cultures, along with Masonry to a more marked degree, although Masonry had been around long before. People were beginning to think for themselves and the Church’s ascendancy over people’s lives was coming unraveled. As a movement, both the Enlightenment and Masonry were seen as direct threats to the Church’s authority and the Church responded by excommunicating any Catholic who engaged in Masonry from 1738. The result of both suppression and the awakening of the populace was revolution, and the trial over the Affair of the Diamond Necklace⁹ in France (for which Cagliostro was arrested and later exonerated) was cited as one of the sparks that ignited the French Revolution because it exposed quite a lot about the French elite and the Church in France at that time. We can see parallels between then and today’s society in terms of an awakening populace and revolutions.

Although Cagliostro did much in the way of good and charitable works in his life, some of his personality quirks, if we can call them that, drew hatred upon him and thus what he represented, and most notably the hatred of powerful groups, such as the Church and the medical establishment. To invite such evil:

A disciple may do this through misuse of the lower mind and its rationalising capacity, ***which can make black to appear white and prove that good intention is responsible for evil-distributed energy***; or the disciple can ***let in evil under the influence of glamour***, provided again that it is group evil. In these ways, the disciple simply turns the key, and group evil enters.¹⁰

Both cases were probably at the root of Cagliostro's downfall, it would appear, such was the glamour among the people of his presumed power and the power of his mind, especially the later with regard to the Church and Masonry. So, having read all the preceding, what does this have to do with today's world?

Well, we see this sort of thing all the time in the media: People who do good work but have a few misplaced notions or actions that allow for attacks upon their work; the attempt to discredit people who stand for the betterment of the human condition by either ignorant and well-meaning but misguided people or a more concerted attack by 'people of the shadows'; people who really do bring through light but who misjudge the import of their work and disclose to the wrong people or at the wrong time resulting in the destruction of all they have done; well-meaning people who receive impressions but who become glamoured by what they receive to the point where they believe themselves to be 'called' somehow, etc. Perhaps we get the idea. I am not referring to any specific group or person here. There are a great many people and groups who do much good for the world and who truly promote good will among all groups. But then there are always doubters and detractors and those people can stir up a pot of trouble, especially these days with the media that we have at our disposal. It is an essential skill to know when to hold one's tongue and to have the patience to know when and where to act.

In every Gemini interval the emphasis is upon the will-to-good. In these times it is easy to think that the door to hatred and evil has been opened wide, but I would not necessarily agree. There is an enormous world glamour that is in process of being dispelled, which has been with us for many centuries, and it relates primarily to material wealth and the power that it brings. 'Glamour' here is defined as an emotional illusion. The preceding is a glamour that is particularly evident in the West, and in the US especially. But it is also evident world-wide. What are the major glammers that we have before us at the moment? There are a great many, but we might consider a few here:

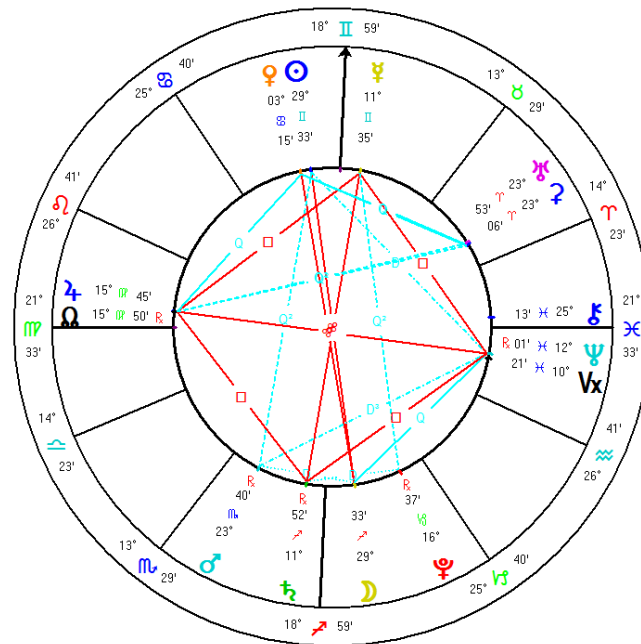
- The glamour that money brings happiness and security. We fail to realize that anything material can be taken from us in an instant. Some of the happiest people in the world have very little materially.
- The glamour that intimate relationships are necessary for our fulfillment and well-being. A truly fulfilling relationship will be ever-elusive until we become self-fulfilling.
- The glamour of 'the others' – the feeling that people of other cultures, gender or races are fundamentally different, or that 'our way is the best way'. Living amongst 'the others' dispels this notion very quickly.
- The preceding glamour leads into the 'glamour of the enemy' – the notion that other world powers are seeking world domination and that we must stop them at all costs. This is foolish in the extreme. No one nation will ever dominate the nations of the world.
- The glamour that security is effected through a strong militaristic defense. In this is included the feeling that guns make us more secure.
- The glamour that political change comes through electing 'the right people'. True, lasting political change only ever comes through strong and sustained public movements. Political change must usually be forced upon politicians through public will. This is at the root of the 'Bernie phenomenon' in the US, for example, and is at the root of all popular revolutions.

Almost all glamour is based in fear of some sort, and this has its root in ignorance. Once we understand and experience something, then fear of that thing usually disappears. Fear is what moves us as a populace to elect authoritarian leaders, to exclude others or to rely on 'authorities' for our sense of truth, for instance. We search for certainty, never realizing that the only certainty we will ever have is the reality of our own inner divine nature, the clarity of our own timeless consciousness and the power of our souls to evoke love from others. We have a big job regarding these in the present world period, and that is the task before us. To promote goodwill among people provokes

the fears of those who are comfortable in their ignorance and who seek to control the hearts and minds of people, but provoke them we must, meaning that in a caring sense. Otherwise these fears never get addressed. Black-and-white thinking is a symptom of the fears that people have. Black and white thinking ignores all the beautiful shades of color in between – the hues of the soul – and tries to reduce everything to a lowest common denominator. We see quite a lot of this type of thinking at the moment. Personally, I like to see the whole palette. Life is more interesting in color. Cagliostro, for instance, was a colorful character and provoked a lot of fear in people, but he also helped people in the process, if we could see it. Gemini revels in the interplay of the world palette and produces synthesis in the process. So, what do we see for this second Gemini full moon period and coming summer season?

The full moon takes place on 20 Jun 2016 at 11:16 UT (9:16 PM AEST). Since it is also on the same day as the Sun's ingress into Cancer (the solstice), we will consider the full moon to also be the ingress as well. As such, it marks not simply the full month but the entire summer/winter quarter of the year, depending on one's hemisphere of residence. This full moon thus has more than the usual significance. The ingress (solstice) takes place on the same day at 22:34 UT (21 June at 8:34 AM AEST). There are two main features that stand out about these figures: a Great Cross in mutable signs (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces) involving the t-square with Saturn apex and the Jupiter/Neptune opposition, and with Mercury completing the Great Cross; and then two quintile triangles. One of the triangles involves the Uranus/Eris conjunction, Jupiter and Venus as the midpoint while the other is constituted of the Sun with Mars and with Neptune at the midpoint. If you like roller coasters, throw your arms to the sky and enjoy the ride! If you don't, hang on to your seats, grit your teeth and try to maintain composure. Either way, expect the unexpected, expect that things will be changed after this quarter of the year is over and that you will see and hear some of the most amazing things you ever experienced on the world stage – both the foulest and the best.

Full Moon Jun 20 2016
 Event Chart
 Jun 20 2016, Mon
 12:16:22 pm BST -1:00
 London, England
 51°N30' 000"W10'
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node
 Parallax Moon



Being the Gemini full moon, the ruler of the Great Cross is Mercury on the one hand, but Neptune is also in Pisces which it rules. It is a most interesting planetary dynamic. On the one hand we have the world glamour being magnified by the Jupiter/Neptune opposition, and on the other hand we have the penetrating and investigative power of the mind dissipating it, represented by the Mercury/Saturn opposition. Politicians will be seeking to cast their spells over their respective nations, seeking for re-election and the rhetoric will be fast and furious. So will the mud-slinging. This looks set to be one of the more negative electoral cycles in recent memory, if the recent

election of Duterte in the Philippines is any indication, as well as the Trump phenomenon in the US. The recent shootings in Orlando, Florida will only add fuel to the already heated debates about security, extremism and the like in the US. And we may well see more conservative elements being returned to power in the US and abroad given that sort of thing – but then, expect the unexpected. Bernie is still in the race, Clinton has a cloud of dirty dealings threatening to rain on her parade and the revolution in the US is only just starting, if it has really started in earnest yet. My sense of the latter is that it is still early days on that front.

The main thing to beware of through this period is for a tendency toward negative thinking, to depression, especially in the dark periods of the moon each month¹¹, for one's drive to go to sleep and for muddled thinking. This can be a period for deep investigations into things and people, but at the same time we can also expect that there will be some people who will try to pull the wool over our eyes. It should be a period wherein things like voter fraud get investigated, where shady dealings come to light and where the shallow and misguided rhetoric we see spewing from people like Trump gets shown for the affront to human dignity that it is. The quintile triangles point to the same sorts of issues. The last quarter of this year looks to be more clearly defined with better motivation and more of the spirit of optimism and victory.

Then there are a number of eclipses that are being activated and we are entering a period wherein powerful events will precipitate at an accelerated rate, basically throughout the summer. The recent shootings in the US are an indication of this sort of activity, although there will be many helpful events as well. We haven't been alone in the US in the scale of attacks, either. Since June there have been close to a dozen incidents of similar scale and larger in other parts of the world. 2016 has been a very violent year overall.¹² The quintile triangles in the ingress figure spell out what will be a very interesting period to say the least. These will call upon our collective creativity as we pierce through the cloud of fear and ignorance that has fallen over many parts of the planet over the past few decades.

It is difficult to say what is to come in the Cancer-through-Virgo quarter of his year, with the Great Cross in the ingress figure, the quintiles and the Uranus/Eris conjunction. We think we have a good idea of what is coming, like with the US elections. But a year ago no one would have guessed that Donald Trump would be the presumptive Republican nominee, for instance, or that Bernie Sanders would do as well as he has. A year ago most people yawned and thought it would be a race between Jeb Bush and Clinton. We have been both pleasantly surprised and at the same time appalled by what has transpired. But through all this we have seen many things come to light, too, such as the broken and corrupt nature of political systems in countries like the US and Australia, the full role of corporate interests in politics, the lengths that people will go to get elected and re-elected and the absolute control the establishment has over the corporate/mainstream media. But these things are nothing new.

We have seen these sorts of problems throughout history. The thing is, we have the capacity and yet another opportunity to change things. That opportunity is always there. The main thing we need to do is to keep the pressure on 'the system' to make sure that change comes in the way we would like to see it, and that it stays that way. That is what is needed on the ground. This is especially what we need with issues like gun control¹³ in the US, changes in electoral laws in the free world, the breaking up of the huge conglomerates, etc. It's a big job, but it is *our* job to make certain the changes come. Subjectively, we need to link with people of light everywhere, anchor that light on this planet, see that it increases steadily, and make certain that it translates into action, so that all people can eventually live in peace and freedom. People changing their minds changes the world.



When Cagliostro was in Rovereto he stayed in a hotel with his wife and servants, which has since been converted into residences. He used to prepare his remedies in the hotel's kitchen. That kitchen is still there, and it has been converted into a bottega with an adjoining dining room. The dining room is where the oven he used was situated and the alcove where it was placed has been preserved. The room is available for small groups on special dining occasions and it is a point of interest for tourists still. The original floors are still intact, and a friend of mine and I had the pleasure of being taken through it and given the history. Of course, none of the original equipment remains and the place has been remodeled, but the history is there. If walls could talk...

In his day Cagliostro was denounced as a fraud and hounded from every place he went, condemned to death and imprisoned in his own country. His story sounds vaguely familiar to that of other great initiates. As the proverb goes, a prophet has no honor in his own country. Yet, the truth is that he was sent to Europe at a time when people's minds were being stimulated at great pace, sent there to promote the causes of Masonry and free thought. That he made mistakes in judgement and could have done some things better is true. The legacy of distrust that a great many people have for the Masonic Rites remains with us to this day, partly due to the hatred he drew upon himself and the movement. The skepticism and doubt that the lower mind can generate about all things out of the ordinary and outside of our 'normal' understanding contributed to his being branded a fraud, too. Of his 'gospel' it was stated that "Vannetti¹⁴ wrote the truth"¹⁵ But which 'truth' did Vannetti write? Or that of Thomas Carlyle¹⁶ in his essay "Count Cagliostro, In Two Flights"? The main thing Cagliostro was denounced for was medical charlatanism, which then poisoned his reputation overall. And neither of the aforementioned men had any direct dealings with Cagliostro, preferring merely to report the speech of his detractors and hearsay about him. In fact, Carlyle was born in the year of Cagliostro's death, and interestingly, Vannetti died the same year as Cagliostro. At least Vannetti actually saw the man and lived in the city when Cagliostro was there.

Referring to the quote cited previously, the lower mind "can make black to appear white and prove that good intention is responsible for evil-distributed energy", and this is what both Carlyle, Vannetti and others have done with the reputation of Cagliostro, not that either of the men were disciples. However, they were esteemed in their day, were very learned and their views carried influence and carried favor with the public. Of course, the great many people who turned on him did likewise, too. We have seen this with anyone who carries the torch for the masses and seeks to advance the public good. These days we have other pundits and people of letters who, with authority claim that they know the truth of matters and people. But who is to really know the truth? Even eyewitnesses sometimes mistake what they see or hear things only within the context of their own experience. And with our main sources of news in the mainstream being so biased and controlled, it is small wonder that people distrust the media.

The only reliable gauge of truth is one's own direct experience of it. There is the birthplace of wisdom. And truth is a fluid and relative construct, changing as our experience of life deepens. Gemini reminds us of this fluid nature of our sense of reality and our seemingly never-ending search for truth and confirmation of what we believe. Cagliostro's story reminds us of the power of the mind to both reveal and to destroy, the care we must take with our words and our acts, the power of public opinion when moved by glimmers well-meaning and ill, and the lengths to which powerful people will resort in order to keep established tradition and social structures in place. True

alchemy is the action of the soul as it continually reshapes our vision of the truth, leading us finally to that place of mind wherein we know finally the bliss of pure, unstained enlightenment. So, whether we see something as a magical event, as revelatory, or as snake oil and only so much smoke and mirrors, eventually we arrive at our own truth about events and life.

Politicians, events, relationships – experiences all – come and go. Only our consciousness remains for us after the fact. Experience in Gemini teaches us that, as well as the multifaceted nature of living. Life is a continual experience of the fruits of ‘Cagliostro’s kitchen’, in which are prepared the alchemical potions of the soul – the remedies to our ills or the next experience that will wake us up to ourselves. It is up to us to decide how we want to see things. The crucible of our hearts will indicate the ways for us to act. Let us act with the faith that we can move the mountain of ignorance and fear that has arisen before us in these days and enlighten the minds of those who would hate and who fear their way of life is threatened, showing them that we are in this world together, and that only together can we make our lives better.

Blessings,
Malvin.
15 June 16

These letters are sent as a service, If you want to be added to or deleted from the mailing list let me know. Feel free to pass them along, but please do so without charge or alteration.

¹ Alice A Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age II*, p. 331

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alessandro_Cagliostro#Appearances_in_fiction

³ The original essay was written in Latin, and its author was a Latin scholar who lived in Rovereto at the time. He was no friend to Cagliostro, but in his ironic accounting of Cagliostro’s brief time there, much in the way of truth is revealed about his life for those who know the truth about Cagliostro. There is also a larger volume in English that was published later, titled: *Count Cagliostro: An Authentic Story of a Mysterious Life*, by Constantin Photiades. Available on Amazon.com, originally published in 1910. ‘Il Vangelo’, or parts of it, is included in that volume in English.

⁴ http://www.malvinartley.com/PDF%20Files/IL_VANGELO_DI_CAGLIOSTRO.pdf

⁵ Chart info from www.astro.com/astro-databank/Cagliostro_Alesandro_Di

⁶ *Discipleship in the New Age II*, p. 331

⁷ Blavatsky on Cagliostro: See www.wisdomworld.org/setting/cagliostro.html , www.filosofiaesoterica.com/ler.php?id=1752#.V168L9V97nA

⁸ Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 411

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affair_of_the_Diamond_Necklace

¹⁰ *Discipleship in the New Age II*, p. 331

¹¹ http://www.malvinartley.com/dark_half.htm

¹² <http://www.malvinartley.com/Eclipses.htm>

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RoIEI5n4Jxs>

¹⁴ https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clementino_Vannetti (in Italian)

¹⁵ See the addendum to the English translation of ‘Il Vangelo’, referenced earlier in this letter.

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Carlyle