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THE CLEAR FUTURE

BY: PAUL LAFFOLEY, 1997 ©

ON THE ONE HAND: THE MYTH OF HISTORICISM, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECULAR PRESENT, STATES:

- ① ALL HISTORICAL NARRATIVE RESTS UPON THE ETERNAL IDENTITY OF HUMAN NATURE;
- ② THERE ARE LAWS OF HISTORY AND THEY ARE IMMUNE TO HUMAN CHOICE;
- ③ "EVERYTHING IS HISTORY", EVEN HISTORIANS REFLECT THEIR OWN ERA;
- ④ ALL PHENOMENA - EVEN MORALITY - ARE RELATIVIZED BY TRACING THEIR GENESIS AND EVOLUTION;
- ⑤ HISTORY IS THE REASONED KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS TRANSIENT AND CONCRETE ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS.

ON THE OTHER HAND: THE MYTH OF MILLENARIANISM, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SACRED PRESENT, STATES:

- ① SO FAR HUMANITY HAS LIVED IN ANOMIE [TOTAL SOCIAL AND MORAL BREAKDOWN AND CHAOS];
- ② SOON THERE WILL BE A TOTAL COLLAPSE OF THE PRESENT WORLD ORDER [THE END OF THE WORLD];
- ③ THE MILLENNIUM WILL REPLACE THE STATE OF ANOMIE AND BECOME A PERIOD OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND SALVATION FOR ALL. [THIS BELIEF IS BASED ON THE NEW TESTAMENT VERSE: "REVELATIONS": 20, WHICH PREDICTS CHRIST'S RETURN AND RULE OF THE EARTH FOR 1000 YEARS, PRIOR TO THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE CREATION OF A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH. RELIGIOUS GROUPS SUCH AS STANDARD BRAND FORMS OF CHRISTIANITY, GNOSTICISM, ISLAM, EXISTENTIALISM, COMMUNISM, THE CARGO COLTS OF MELANESIA, "ECO-FREAKS", AND OTHER FANATICAL COLTS, ALL REFLECT THESE BELIEFS TO VARYING DEGREES].
- ④ THE HUMAN WILL IS IMPOTENT IN AN ULTIMATELY UNFATHOMABLE UNIVERSE;
- ⑤ HISTORY HAS NO VALUE EXCEPT AS FERTILIZER FOR THE PRESENT.

BUT, HISTORICISM AND MILLENARIANISM ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN IN THAT THEY BOTH NEGATE THE POWER OF THE HUMAN FREE WILL WHILE PROPOSING A FORM OF FATALISM WHICH DISMISSES THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AUTHENTIC OPEN FUTURE, ALL IN RELATION TO A CONTEXT OF THE INVARIANCE OF COSMIC NATURE.

TO ME, THEREFORE, "THE HOLY SPIRIT" [THE POWER OF THE SACRED PRESENT] AND THE ZEIT-GEIST" OR THE TIME-SPIRIT [THE POWER OF THE SECULAR PRESENT] CAN BE STRIPPED OF THEIR "CLOTHES" OF "MILLENARIANISM" AND OF "HISTORICISM" IN ORDER TO REVEAL THE ENERGY OF TIME, OR "THE CHRONERG". THE CHRONERG IS EXPRESSED BY THE CLEAR FUTURE - AN EXPERIENCE OF THE PRESENT - TOTALLY DIVORCED FROM THE POWER AND MEMORY OF THE PAST, AND IS THE SOURCE OF MY ART WORK.

THE BEGINNING OF THE CLEAR FUTURE IS, OF COURSE, THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE OF WESTERN CULTURE BEFORE THE DUAL OVERLAY OF HISTORICISM AND MILLENARIANISM, WHICH BEGAN ALMOST FROM THE START.

THE NEXT TIME THE CHRONERA MANIFESTED IN ITS PURE FORM WAS IN THE 12TH CENTURY IN THE MIND OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTICAL PHILOSOPHER OF HISTORY - JOACHIM OF FIORE [c. 1135-1202] - WHO PROCLAIMED HISTORY TO BE A TREE-LIKE FORM AND SEGMENTED INTO THREE PARTS - EACH PART WAS SYMBOLIZED BY AN ASPECT OF THE BIBLE:

THE FIRST AGE [OR STATUS] IS OF "THE FATHER" [THE AGE OF THE LAW OF THE PAST] AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT;

THE SECOND AGE (OR STATUS) IS OF "THE SON" [THE AGE OF THE FREEDOM OF GRACE IN THE PRESENT] AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT; AND

THE THIRD AGE (OR STATUS) IS OF "THE HOLY SPIRIT" [THE AGE OF THE SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE FUTURE] AND IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOOK OF REVELATION.

THE THIRD AGE WILL BE THE CLEAR FUTURE IN WHICH THE EVOLVING TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO ABSOLUTES OF ORDER AND FREEDOM WILL MANIFEST AS THE CHRONERA.

IN THE 20TH CENTURY THE CHRONERA APPEARED ONCE AGAIN IN THE MIND OF A PALEOANTHROPOLOGIST AND ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST WHO ADVOCATED A DOCTRINE OF ORTHOGENIC PANENTHEISM - OR COSMIC EVOLUTION. THIS WAS PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN [1881-1955]. LIKE PLATO TEILHARD BELIEVED THAT BECOMING [AS OPPOSED TO BEING] IS THAT WHICH HAS ONLY HISTORY AND HENCE NON-LIVING NATURE IS AS PROFOUNDLY HISTORICAL AS THE EVENTS OF HUMAN KIND. BECAUSE MASS AND CONSCIOUSNESS ARE ULTIMATELY CONTINUOUS, THE PHYSICAL EVOLUTION OF "THE COSMIC STUFF" WILL AT THE SAME TIME BE AN EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS. HE PROPOSED A NEW "LAYER" OF LIFE ON THE EARTH WHICH TEILHARD CALLED THE "NOOSPHERE" [OR MIND-SPHERE] DISTINCT FROM YET SUPERIMPOSED ON THE BIOSPHERE. THE "NOOSPHERE" OR THINKING-LAYER OF LIFE, FORMS THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENT OF HUMANS, AND DISTINGUISHES ANIMAL LIFE FROM WHAT IS CALLED HUMAN HISTORY. BUT THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS [AND FOR THIS TEILHARD DEPENDS UPON BOTANICAL IMAGERY] WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE EXISTING PLANETARY MULTICULTURALISM INTO A SINGLE WORLD CULTURE WITH A SINGLE LANGUAGE, WHICH WILL THEN INVOLVE INTO A HYPERPERSONAL CONSCIOUSNESS TEILHARD CALLED THE "OMEGA POINT" OF THE EARTH. HERE EVOLUTION WILL REACH A TERMINAL EARTH PHASE OR "THE END OF THE WORLD" FOR HUMANS. WITH THE DESTINY OF THE EARTH SEALED, TEILHARD ALSO ENDS HIS THOUGHT BECAUSE HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENT LIFE FORMS. IN THE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS OF 18TH CENTURY EUROPE AND 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICA THE CHRONERA MANIFESTED IN A LESS OBVIOUS BUT MORE PERVERSIVE MANNER FED BY:

THE THOUGHT OF SAINT THOMAS MORE [1478-1535] AS PRESENTED IN HIS POLITICAL SATIRE CALLED "UTOPIA" [OR NOWHERE] [1516]; OR

THE THOUGHT OF WILLIAM GODWIN [1756-1836], SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE [1772-1834], JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE [1749-1832]: OR

THE THOUGHT OF GEORG WILHELM FRIEDRICH HEGEL [1770-1831] THE PHILOSOPHER

WHO CONCEIVED OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE EXTERNAL OBJECT AS FORMING AN UNITY IN WHICH NEITHER FACTOR CAN EXIST INDEPENDENTLY, MIND AND NATURE BEING TWO ABSTRACTIONS OF ONE INDIVISIBLE WHOLE; OR

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE 19TH CENTURY UTOPIAN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED STATES; OR

THE IMAGINATIVE FUTURE VISIONS OF THE 150 YEARS OF SCIENCE FICTION, BEGINNING WITH EDGAR ALLAN POE [1809-1849].

UTOPIAN SCIENCE FICTION LITERATURE IS A DIRECT CREATIVE EXTENSION OF CHRISTIAN APOCALYPTIC DOCTRINE, AND AS SUCH DEFINES HISTORY AS A SET OF NON-REVERSIBLE EVENTS LEADING TO HEAVEN OR HELL ON EARTH WHERE SECULAR AND SACRED TIME MERGE IN UTOPIC SPACE, WHERE RELIGION IS NO LONGER NECESSARY. UTOPIC SPACE - THE SPACE THAT IS REVEALED AFTER THE INVENTION OF THE TIME MACHINE IS THE SPACE OF THE AUTHENTICALLY FREE ACT OF THE WILL AND THE AUTHENTICALLY NEW BECAUSE ALL EVENTS BOTH PAST AND FUTURE BEFORE THE TIME MACHINE ARE AVAILABLE TO ANY INSTANT WITHIN UTOPIC SPACE FOR COMPARISON. THE BORDERLANDS BETWEEN NON-UTOPIC (THE NATURAL SPACE) AND UTOPIC SPACE ARE PATROLLED BY UFOS OR FLYING SAUCERS [DEVICES WHICH ACT AS MIND-SHIPS CAPABLE OF BRIDGING THE TIME BARRIER ESTABLISHED BY THE TIME MACHINE].

THE AUTHENTICALLY NEW CONSTRUCT OF UTOPIC SPACE HAS A FUNCTION OF HELPING TO BRING ABOUT OR SET THE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR THE COSMIC TASK TO MANIFEST.

FOR ARTISTS, THEIR PART IN THE COSMIC TASK IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REDESIGNING OF THE ENTIRE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE SO THAT IT CAN EVOLVE FROM ITS CURRENT FOURTH DIMENSIONAL REALM STATUS INTO THE FIFTH DIMENSIONAL REALM. IN CHRISTIAN MYTHOLOGY THIS PROCESS IS THE RETURN TO EDEN. BEYOND THE FIFTH DIMENSIONAL REALM THE COSMIC TASK IS UNKNOWABLE EVEN BY SPECULATION.

EACH PLANET THAT IS INHABITED WITH INTELLIGENT LIFE FORMS WILL GO THROUGH ITS OWN DIMENSIONAL SINGULARITY OR OMEGA POINT CREATING THEREBY ITS OWN UTOPIC SPACE. COLLECTIVELY ALL THESE UTOPIC SPACES, LIKE THE MONADS OF THE PHILOSOPHER GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ [1646-1716], WILL BE CENTERS OF ENERGY THAT "MIRROR" THE UNIVERSE [IN BOTH ITS PHYSICAL AND METAPHYSICAL ASPECTS], AND HENCE BECOME TRUE MICROCOSMS. THE ULTIMATE ORGANIZATION OF THESE "MONADS" WILL BE THE HYPER SINGULARITY [OR HYPER-UTOPIC SPACE] OF THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE.

I FEEL, THEREFORE, THAT MY ROLE AS AN ARTIST IS TO BE A "COSMIC-TASK" ARCHITECT AND TO MAKE DESIGN PROPOSALS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE OMEGA POINT OF THE EARTH [THE END OF THE WORLD OR LIFE LIVED AFTER THE INVENTION OF THE TIME MACHINE - WHICH WILL OCCUR IN THE BAROQUE PERIOD OF EARTH HISTORY IN THE YEAR 2013 AD, THE END OF THE MAYAN GREAT CYCLE]. AS AN EXAMPLE I OFFER AN ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSAL FOR THE EARTH WHICH WILL BE BASED ON SEVERAL INTERLOCKING ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE 21ST CENTURY:

BESIDES THE ASSUMPTION OF THE TIME MACHINE, THERE WILL BE THE EXISTENCE OF [TECHNOLOGY AT THE ATOMIC LEVEL] WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE CREATION OF

NEW LIVING SPECIES AND ALLOW THE DIRECT CONTROL OF EVOLUTION ITSELF, INCLUDING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND LIFE, THIS IS NOW CALLED NANOTECHNOLOGY BECAUSE IT ASSUMES THE ABILITY TO MANIPULATE PARTS OF THE ATOM SUCH AS ELECTRONS. THE SCIENCE OF ELECTRONICS WAS THE BEGINNING OF NANOTECHNOLOGY.

ANOTHER ASSUMPTION IS GIGATECHNOLOGY. THIS IS MEGAENGINEERING AT THE OUTER SPACE LEVEL. AN EXAMPLE WOULD BE THE EXTENSION OF EARTH-LIKE HABITABLE SURFACES BY CONNECTING THE EARTH TO THE MOON BY A PHYSICAL LINK. IN 1994 ROSA DISCOVERED WATER ON THE MOON IN THE FORM OF AN ICE LAKE AT THE SOUTH POLE OF THE MOON - A DISCOVERY THAT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED IN 1506 BY THE LATE GOTHIC ENGINEER LEONARDO DA VINCI [1452-1519].

INSTRUMENTALITY AT THE HUMAN SCALE WILL BE COMPOSED OF LIVING TISSUE, AND BASED ON ANIMAL, INSECT, BIRD, OR ABSTRACT FORMS, AND BE PRODUCED BY ADVANCEMENTS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING. EXAMPLES WOULD BE LIVING MOTORS, COMPUTERS, CONVEYANCES, ETC.

EARTH BASED ENVIRONMENTAL INSTRUMENTALITY WILL ALSO BE ALIVE BUT BASED ENTIRELY ON PLANT-FORMS - PRODUCED BY BOTH GRAFTING AND GENETIC ENGINEERING. WE WILL SEE ALIVE FLOWERS LARGE ENOUGH TO LIVE IN, SUCH AS GIANT ORCHIDS 50 FEET IN DIAMETER, AND DESIGNED BUILDINGS CREATED OUT OF PLANT MATERIALS [THEY WILL BE KNOWN AS VEGETABLE CHIMERAS UTILIZING TOPOLOGY TO CONTROL SHAPING].

IN THE CLEAR FUTURE THE NATURE OF HUMANITY WILL CHANGE SO THAT ALL TECHNOLOGY WILL BE SEEN AS AND ACTUALLY BECOME MORALITY RECOGNIZING THE NATURAL PRIORITY OF PLANT LIFE IN TERMS OF SURVIVAL ON BOTH THE PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL LEVELS. THIS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE WAY HUMANS CONCEIVE OF THE PAST AND HISTORY ITSELF. BEFORE THE CLEAR FUTURE THE PAST IS BELIEVED TO BE A KIND OF SCREEN UPON WHICH WE PROJECT OUR VISION OF THE FUTURE CREATING A MOVING PICTURE WHICH BORROWS MUCH OF ITS FORM AND COLOR FROM HUMAN FEARS AND ASPIRATIONS. AFTER THE CLEAR FUTURE THESE "FUTURE VISIONS" WILL BE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED AS INDIVIDUALS BEGIN TO DISCOVER THAT ALL THEIR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS WILL BE TOTALLY PROVIDED FOR BY A SINGLE PLANT CALLED "DIE ERDE BLUME" [THE EARTH FLOWER]. THIS PLANT FORM WILL BE COMPOSED OF LINKED VEGETATION WHICH COVERS THE ENTIRE SURFACE OF THE EARTH ["THE OMEGA-SPHERE"], ALL GRAFTED TOGETHER TO FORM THE APPEARANCE OF A SINGLE GRAIN OF POLLEN. THE EARTH WILL THEN BE LIKE "THE SACRED FOREST" OF WHICH POET DANTE ALIGHIERI [1265-1321] DESCRIBED IN CANTO 28 OF "IL PURGATORIO" OF THE DIVINE COMEDY. "THE SACRED FOREST" IS THE INVERSE OF THE BIBLICAL "GARDEN OF EDEN". "THE SACRED FOREST IS A PLACE OF THE RESTORATION OF NATURAL INNOCENCE [A SPIRITOSPHERE]. IT CONTAINS TWO RIVERS. THE FIRST IS THE LETHE - THE RIVER OF OBLIVION WHERE

THE DRINKING OF ITS WATERS CAUSES YOU FORGET YOUR EVIL DEEDS. IT IS LIKE AN ATTACK OF AMNESIA AS AN ADULT - THE LITERAL ENDING OF HUMAN HISTORY. THE SECOND IS EUNOE - THE RIVER OF THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE GOOD, IT IS LIKE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HOPE OF CHILDHOOD BEFORE ONE HAD A PERSONAL HISTORY.

BUT "THE SACRED FOREST" IS A PLACE OF POSITIVE ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE, WHOSE CONTENT IS THAT IN REALITY THERE ARE NO ETHNIC, RACIAL, RELIGIOUS [RELIGIOUS COMMITMENT IS OVER], POLITICAL OR CULTURAL BOUNDARIES ON EARTH; AND THAT NATURAL INNOCENCE IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF HELPING TO STOP SUCH BIASES AS AGISM OR GENDERISM (WHICH IT WOULD), BUT THE NECESSARY CONDITION OF A NEW BEGINNING [THE DAY ONE] - A PLACE OF UNLIMITED HUMAN POTENTIAL AND DIMENSIONAL PROGRESS FROM THE NATURAL TO THE SUPERNATURAL PERFECTION, AND THE ELIMINATION OF DEATH.

