

THE VISION OF THE ECLIPSE
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OK, hold on tight folks because we have entered one of these rare two-week intra-eclipse periods between yesterday's solar eclipse of the sun and a second eclipse of the Moon coming up on November 28, 2012. In other words, back-to-back eclipses.

I have found that essential inner changes in me can take place during these eclipse periods, if not in actual fact, then in the seeds of change sown of an inner vision, the forerunner of facts to come.

In earlier blogs I have pointed out that in the long tradition of New and Full Moons, this very close alignment of Sun, Moon, and Earth in the heavens at the time of an eclipse corresponds with an identical alignment of what are called the chakras along the spinal cord, what the Tibetan mystics call the winds & channels in the human body. This was pointed out to me years ago in a rare teaching on this topic by a very-high Tibetan lama. These eclipse times are singular times to observe our own mindstream a little more than normal. It is possible then to see something of our own mind's nature and know it.

As for what "observe your own mindstream" actually means, it is just this: be aware. And by "awareness," during these eclipse times, it is meant to, as much as possible, allow the mind to come to rest (and be still), call it mind-training, meditation, or what-have-you? Of course, this is easier said than done, because most of us can't just order our mind to rest and have that happen. We have to learn to be aware. So what can we do in the interim, if we have no mind training?

Well, the simple answer, of course, is "do the best we can," and that may mean to attempt to be more mindful and less distracted in the rush of events and the daily business of life. Ideally, what we want to do is to just allow the mind to rest in the moment, and let that moment speak to us of what it can. We take it in. This is what has been called experiencing the "Vision of the Eclipse." Every eclipse has one.

Note that when we speak of the "vision" around the time of an eclipse, we don't mean the cartoon-image of seeing a picture in the mind, although this too can happen. In my experience, visions are moments or times of intense identification and absorption, times when something imprints us very deeply. After a visionary moment takes place, where before we had our tunnel of time stretching back into past memories, suddenly when looking back, our mind stops at the moment of the vision. We somehow identify with that time. That is who we are.

The moment of vision imprints or affects us so deeply that it becomes a reference point in time for who we know we are. And the time subsequent from that vision moment pales by comparison, because somehow (during the vision) we lived large, and life was more real, or at least real enough for our memories to suddenly be from or of that time.

Times of vision are somehow richer, more immediate, and authentic than what comes afterward. And it is from these moments that we find ourselves measuring and knowing who we are. Visions have the power to define us by their seminal influence. In the flow of the past, visions stand out as islands of identification in the sea of our memories. That is what "visions"

are about.

And visions are like those all-day-suckers I used to have as a kid. You don't exhaust the meaning of a vision in one sitting or in an afternoon. It can take days, weeks, and months to suck all the sense we can from a vision, and to absorb and to know what it means for ourselves.

Visions are intense moments of identification that are imprinted (implanted) in our mindstream and have so much meaning for us that we can't just "get it" and know what the vision is about. The meaning of an eclipse vision is like a scroll that unrolls a little more each time we bring it to mind. And bring it to mind we do, over and over and over again, until we have fully grasped its meaning.

An analogy I use for myself are those old popular songs I most loved as a kid the first time I heard them. I was struck and mesmerized by the song, and would play it over and over again on my little 45 record player, unable to exhaust its meaning and beauty all at once. I listened for months and sometimes years, and was still captivated. Visions are something like that. They last like an all-day-sucker lasts.

So, you can see why we might want to set a little time aside for observing these cosmic (and inner) events, and not just ignore them (as we most often do) while they occur. At least that is what the Tibetans suggest be done.

Meanwhile, low-level solar flares continue to spike our mind these last few days and, indeed, life can have a bit of a dreamlike quality. For example:

Last night, as dusk came on, I had traveled up north of Traverse City and was walking with friends on a long-abandoned railroad spur inset into some of the densest and most wild Michigan forest I can imagine. It was cold as we walked along the spur, while below us, on our right and left, were streams of clear pure water running past, and the woods surrounding us was filled with pools, puddles, and patches of dark water. Fresh watercress was growing here and there. We ate some.

We were half a mile from the shore of a large lake, itself bounded by vast bogs. To give you an idea of how wild this place is, we came across a man who was scouting out the place for hunting deer in the morning. He had lived there, if I heard right, since the mid-1970s. He said maybe a few humans come here in the entire season. And he said one should not go into this area without a GPS and a compass, and that in all the years he has lived there (some 40 or so) he has never walked that half mile through the dense forest to the lake. It is boggy and impenetrable, except in mid-winter and on snowshoes.

Dreamlike? Yes. A vision, perhaps not, but it left its imprint nevertheless. I was aware that, as the song goes, "times they are a changing," and the person I call "me" seems to change with them, like it or not. Now how funny is that?

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