



The Global Mythology

The Legend of the Next 100 Years

The Primal Elements of the Story of Tomorrow

by Jim Channon

Editors's Note:

In the ensuing article Jim Channon writes: "The automobile as it is operating will kill the planet by 2050. So, what are the new solutions? Must they involve transporting people or just the images of people?"

As this article is submitted, dozens of people have been killed in London, while being transported by fossil fuel, because their civilization has a particular interest in a region of the world that rests upon a diminishing sea of oil.

They are casualties of a clash of *civilizations*: since all of us are of the same biological species and a civilization is simply a set of *beliefs* that drive a style of life, they are victims of a clash of *mythologies*.

Jim further writes, "There is ample evidence that our planet is completely connected." An event in London is triggered by a G8 event in Scotland that is triggered in part by an event in Iraq, all of which triggers an event in a news outlet that brings these awful tidings to you wherever *you* may be.

Our Western interest in the region is materialistic. The American president has recently espoused a mythology of "freedom" and "liberty" while the perpetrators espouse a mythos of God interpreted through His messenger Mohammad. The two could not be more disconnected.

If the world is truly to change, we need to envision a vision of a better world united by a common set of myths. 65 years ago another pall darkened London, and yet the smoke cleared and the world advanced. In light of the day's events, Jim's invitation to envision a positive future could not be more timely.



As the Academy Fellows begin to fill in the pieces of a new global vision for the next century it seems we might begin to network some of the ideas by looking at some primary elements of mythology. The list of parameters below must be large enough to hold a mythology about a whole planet. I am sure there are more dimensions than these, and I expect you will let us know what they are. They are:

- MYTHOS
- LOGOS
- ETHOS
- ARCHETYPES
- PARABLES
- FOOTPRINTS
- TIMEWAVES
- TEMPO

With the desirable elements of these dimensions in place we can begin to construct a legend much like a hero's journey. So, please allow me to kick-start the process. I will entertain a few of the ideas that have come in so far under each dimension. Please elaborate on the rest as you like and e-mail to arcturusjim@hotmail.com

MYTHOS

Humankind has inhabited this planet for nearly six million years. We imagine that beings much like ourselves, but with a lot more hair, began building the first campfires and then began the hunting and gathering that eventually launched each camp into a tribe, then village, then hunting ground, then territory, and so it went until now there is ample evidence that our planet is completely connected. We are on the threshold of understanding our new collective destiny. It seems that with six million years of steady success behind us we ought to be able to make it the next hundred years with just the normal amount of both vision and travail.

We stand now at the frontier called our Galaxy, with a social system that will become global, and a new level of cooperation with nature that seems inevitable. *What more to set the stage?*

LOGOS

What shall we call this new adventure? Our project name for the hundred-year vision is EARTHRISE. Are there other names for the end state or the processes we might use to enjoy the ride to 2100? Help brand this campaign for a better future.



And how about names for ourselves, the emerging players? English as a tongue could use some help in that regard. We would be better off if we didn't rely only on just a literal language as a base of understanding. We can evolve visual, sensual, and olfactory languages for a start. What else?

ETHOS

And what shall be our way of life? What kind of culture will best serve us all? The Internet connectivity has actually superseded representative governments. We can have a global culture now because we are all connected. We can now all learn what we need and represent ourselves in a matter of seconds, thank you very much, and even vote daily on all matters of interest with either our Internet voices or our currency. We now have access to everyone's best ideas. We can choose solutions everywhere based on the best ideas everywhere. Is it too early to announce we are all sovereign beings with no more allegiance to any country than we have to our own hometown? And what else? Can we create autonomous free zones where the people there have no prearranged set of rules? Think out 100 years.

ARCHETYPES

Isn't it about time we stopped asking our children what they were going to be when they grew up ... like it was only going to be one thing? Let's imagine archetypes like Casanova who went from kingdom to kingdom building bridges between cultures and then enjoying the highest forms of art as payment. Or consider having seven distinct business or artistic phases from 20 to 70 years old. Let's ask our kids if they want to be adventurers, or visionaries, or cultural bridge-builders, or comprehensivists ... let's not stick them in small boxes. And skills? How about 50 specific skills as a list that most people would aspire to in a lifetime? What else?

PARABLES

In the simplest way folklore and stories have always shaped desired behavior. What is the parable for win, win, win? What is the parable for "synergy" as a way of thinking and creating? Do you realize we have invented many new ways of being that have not become cultural memes for the planet at large? Other product based-ideas have done better like ... could you "Xerox" this document or ... we are having a "Big Mac" attack. We need clear analogies for paradigm shifting, lateral thinking, and all of the aspects of perception. What else?

FOOTPRINTS

Here we refer to the land and how it is used. Can't we have more mixed use



footprints? What about the carrying capacity for the many high-density footprints coming on board? How do we invent and name walking zones that accept only partial use of heavier vehicles? We have created zoning that is designed for towns that are already out of date. But we can't change because the zoning is in place. The automobile as it is operating will kill the planet by 2050. So, what are the new solutions? Must they involve transporting people or just the images of people?

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TIMEWAVES

The ancient Hawaiians worked for eight months and then all enjoyed the fruits of the harvest for four months. We could all function on the web for part of the day and then go to work the other half so traffic could be halved depending on the overall plan. Latins get up at 10, work in the afternoon and party till early morning. Many people just function in flow and with no schedules and manage to have a much more normal existence. Others wake up naturally every morning and have time to themselves before moving out into a busy world. A four-day workweek for commercial cultures? This is a real stress reducer and therefore medically very powerful. So many of our timewaves are just bad old habits of the industrial age. What else?

TEMPO

So, how fast do we go? Competitiveness has mindlessly sped up all of Western civilization. It is dragging the rest of the world along. We have been sold a bill of goodies, and they aren't necessarily the things that make life worthwhile. So, when do we get conscious about the tempo of life? What should it be? How do you regulate the tempo of your life? Some people are so unaware of the speed they are moving that they forget to breathe. Experts say that hyped-up environments may give us a little buzz to amp the work and chatter but pull us out of our bodies, and a common problem here is the loss of soul. What else would be more desirable in this regard?

Thanks in advance for any contribution you might make. Having been the creator and manager of an active mythology (the First Earth Battalion), I am aware of the potency of such an endeavor. I look forward to your assistance.

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