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Thus, from the point of view of the psychics in Goodman's research team, the influence of our minds and our basic state of consciousness is there all the time, inevitably affecting the total Earth-organism, for better or for worse. The important question, then, is not *whether* we are going to affect it but *how* we are going to affect it.

In that regard, the predictions and prophecies say, virtuous living and respect for the planet will infuse Earth's energy matrix with powerful stabilizing influences. Prayer is a familiar form of this influence. It is no coincidence that psychic and spiritual traditions declare the efficacy of selfless prayer as a psychospiritual tool or resource. Prayer adds constructively to the mindfield of Earth.

Even better still would be the development among people of a steadily-focussed consciousness that recognizes the mutual dependence humanity and the cosmos have upon each other as co-creators of our joint destiny. Such a loving state of consciousness — which can properly be called a sense of conscience — would constantly govern our thoughts and acts in a life-enhancing way.

Spiritual traditions warn that we shall reap what we sow. Esoteric traditions and psychical research offer an explanation of how and why this must be. Hatred, anger, greed, fear and other negative character traits and qualities of mind can affect the total process of energy activity on and around the planet. The many "crimes against nature" that people are perpetrating — such as overpopulation, environmental pollution, wasting of nonrenewable resources, and nuclear testing — along with "crimes against humanity" — such as war, economic exploitation, and the imposition of inhumane living conditions, religious persecution, political abridgement of human rights, intolerance and bigotry toward minorities, and so forth — are all pouring negative thought forms into our planet's energetic foundations. The result, the predictions and prophecies say, will be geophysical cataclysm in the form of violent earth changes and a pole shift as the Earth-organism seeks to restore balance in the system.

Thus, from the point of view of psychic, prophetic and spiritual traditions, rather than saying we will be punished *for* our sins, it would be more accurate to say we will be punished *by* our sins. The law of karma, or cause-and-effect, is a stern one, so if there is global devastation in the future, we will have no one to blame but ourselves.

If a pole shift destroys civilization, some people will survive, according to the predictions and prophecies. The great loss of life will open up niches in the environment for new life forms to emerge. Those who are most deeply attuned to cosmic processes will become the seedbed from which it is said a new race, a higher humanity will evolve in accelerated fashion. The new race will know from first-hand experience what the terrible consequences are for failing to "walk in balance on the Earth Mother," as Native Americans say. The new race will know how to live in harmony with cosmic processes and will inherit the Earth. (Incidentally, I do not believe that global destruction is necessary for such an evolutionary advance to occur.)

It is an awesome vision that emerges from the study of pole shift data. Religious and psychical themes blend intimately with scientific and sociological ones. The subject is vast and requires the most careful scrutiny. Great care must be taken not to draw premature conclusions that could lead either to panic or to relaxed vigilance. Worst of all, however, would be total disregard of the subject. The stakes may be nothing less than the life or death of society and the outcome may depend

on human consciousness.

That is why I say that a pole shift is not inevitable. The possibility of it is influenceable by our manner of living and thinking. Some people fearfully watch the poles to detect the slightest movement. But if we are soul watchers rather than pole watchers — in other words, if there are people changes for the better, earth changes for the better will follow. We must change our consciousness from self-centered to God-centered living and recognize that there is a benevolent wisdom governing the universe, including us. You see, there are no problems — there are only situations. Problems don't exist in nature. Only situations do, only sets of circumstances.

It is the human mind that projects attitudes and values onto those situations and labels them as problems. But that label doesn't describe what nature is doing. It describes the state of mind of the human who labelled the situation.

Problems are a reflection of your state of mind — a state that is based on fear (laziness, an unwillingness to change or to flow into new areas of experience). But change your attitude and suddenly there are no problems. Now that same situation becomes an exciting challenge, a set of circumstances in which you can learn and deepen your experience, your understanding, your familiarity with the unknown. New values come into mind and are projected onto the situations so that what was once seen as a problem now becomes a fortunate chance for growth and discovery.

A pole shift may not happen. But even if it does, we don't have to see it as a problem. We don't need to dwell upon it as a source of fear and destruction. Prudent, practical survival preparations can and should be made, but our primary task is to attune ourselves with the life processes of Earth and thereby understand that, if we are the end of a cycle, we are being given an opportunity to profit from it in order to grow, to evolve, to begin again on the basis of deeper understanding and wider vision.

So remember the biblical wisdom: to be not anxious about the morrow, but rather to consider the lilies of the field which are arrayed in glory and are tended by a loving providence who tends you every bit as well. To the awakened mind, every experience is a blessing, even situations that are commonly labelled misfortunate or even tragedy, disaster, catastrophe, cataclysm. The attuned consciousness will receive all its needs, and more, from a loving universe whose whole purpose is to nurture the evolution of organisms such as us to a higher state of being.

I'll end with a brief story. One day Mr. Plague was talking to the Keeper of the Akashic Records when he remembered that he had an appointment at a distant city. So he broke off conversation and rushed to keep his appointment. Now, the Akashic Records are a record of everything that happens to humanity, so when Mr. Plague returned from the distant city, the Keeper of the Akashic Records asked him how many people had died on his mission. Mr. Plague, wanting to be accurate, replied, "Five thousand died due to me and ten thousand due to fear."

Thing about that. According to the predictions and prophecies, we are approaching one of the most critical junctures in the history of our planet. Will there be destruction or transformation to a new world order based on love and wisdom? The choice, they say, is ours.

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rapid appearance and disappearance of continent-sized ice sheets; second, the vast epochs — each several hundred million years long, far exceeding the alleged periodicity of the ice ages — in which the planet was free of polar ice sheets; and; third, the fact that the North American ice sheet during the last ice age was centered in Hudson Bay while the north polar area — as presently located — was virtually ice free?

**Anomalous ice striations.** Continental drift cannot explain all anomalous glacial striations in bedrock. Those in South Africa show a direction of movement toward, not away from the South Pole.

**Trigger mechanisms.** Perhaps the most important question of the pole shift concept is this: what conditions might bring about a pole shift? Various trigger mechanisms have been suggested. Some are natural, some are human in origin. Among the former are astrophysical/extraterrestrial factors external to Earth such as a rare planetary alignment that will occur in the year 2000, and celestial bodies such as comets, asteroids and miniature black holes that pass close to the Earth or even collide with it. Natural geophysical factors have also been suggested, including the increasing mass of the Antarctic icecap, and upwelling convection currents of magma from deep in the planet that might cause a crustal slippage.

It is the human element, however, that many of the predictions and prophecies say will be of critical importance in triggering or preventing a pole shift. In essence, the predictions and prophecies say, the state of consciousness among people will determine the outcome of the approaching global crisis. This will be the final factor that influences the matrix of geophysical and astrophysical factors operating to stabilize Earth in space.

Let's consider the situation in more detail to see what the relationship between planetary safety and human consciousness is said to be, as described by esoteric psychology.

All the world's major spiritual traditions tell us that free will operates in human affairs and that we can influence the outcome of events through the application of our physical, mental and spiritual resources. The predictions and prophecies described in *Pole Shift* largely agree with this, although a few say that a pole shift is inevitable.

Now, from the esoteric point of view, the purpose of prophecy is to warn people against the consequences of certain kinds of action. Dire prophetic words are spoken by a prophet to awaken people to their erring thought and behavior. By setting people into a new course of action, the prophet either diffuses the disaster-in-the-making or else causes people to prepare for it sufficiently far in advance so that death and destruction are minimized. The people's new mode of behavior eventually proves the prophecy wrong — which is exactly what the prophet wanted in the first place!

The mechanism by which consciousness modifies a set of circumstances has been described by some of the psychics as "thought forms." The term and the concept behind it come from esoteric psychology and metaphysics. The concept says there is a mental or psychic energy as an intermediate substance between matter and consciousness. From this perspective, thoughts are things — real but nonphysical energy configurations, produced by human consciousness — and they exist objectively in space outside the human beings who produce them. A thought form is the energetic embodiment of the idea on which a person dwells, consciously or otherwise, and it takes on an existence external to and independent of the thinker. By a process of which official science knows little, our thoughts, as a poet put it, "take wings."

In other words, when we think or focus our attention in a goal-directed way, the experience of thinking is not simply electrical activity within the neural pathways of the brain, nor is it confined to the limits of the cranium. Research into extrasensory perception suggests a fifth force in nature which is beyond the four known physical forces. It is a metaphysical or mental force — a psychic force. The question then arises: What becomes of a thought after it has been thought? Does it simply disappear, vanish?

Apparently not. From the point of view of psychics, metaphysicians, occultists, true magicians, shamans and so on, thought activity extends beyond the physical body, partaking of a "field of mind" surrounding the planet and extending into space for an unspecified distance. The mind field is composed of the collective experience of the human race. That is, our thoughts, feelings and actions are somehow impressed or encoded into the field of mind energy, creating thought forms. Untold numbers of thought forms over millions of years have been contributed by the human race to the planetary field of mind.

Moreover, thoughts of a similar nature tend to coalesce over time and gather into what could be called "thought fields." These thought fields are equivalent to what psychologist Carl Jung called an archetype, which is a nonspatial, nontemporal repository of a certain basic human experience. The totality of thought fields, or archetypes, constitute an "atmosphere" of thought energy that extends through our planet's physical atmosphere and beyond, and can be understood as what Jung called the collective unconscious. The concept I am presenting here can explain in quasi-scientific terms how it is that people everywhere have access to archetypal experience, as Jungians and other schools of psychology claim. It is simply because we are all immersed in the collective unconscious mind field, which is suprapersonal.

Mind energy interacts with the physical energy matrix sustaining the planet in space, and can influence it, subtly but directly, in either a positive or a negative fashion, depending on the vibratory quality of thoughts arising from the human level. Harmonious, loving mental states are said to produce a stabilizing effect on the planetary matrix of physical energies; disharmonious, hateful thoughts result in a destabilized matrix.

This mind-matter interaction is a two-way process. People can "receive" from the planetary mind field or collective unconscious, as well as "give." For example, certain universal or primordial images and symbols have been perceived by people in dreams, meditation and other altered states of consciousness, regardless of race, sex or culture. As another example, consider how a new idea or discovery often appears almost simultaneously in several separated locations, apparently as "fallout" or "precipitation" from nonphysical levels of reality to the physical.

Goodman coined a term for the psychokinetic process by which human thought forms influence the total energy pattern of earthly life. He calls it *biorelativity*, the interaction of people with their physical environment via psychic, or mind, energy. The Hopi rain dance is an example. In *We Are the Earthquake Generation*, he says, "Since energy can be neither created nor destroyed, the energy of thought, psychics say, is still in existence as a sort of atmosphere or field surrounding the planet, recording all the experience of humanity. This is the so-called 'akashic record' which Cayce and other psychics claim to 'read' when they obtain paranormal information about the past."