

CENTER FOR REFLECTION ON THE SECOND LAW
8420 Camellia Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

Affiliated with
The Riverdale Center for Religious Research
5801 Palisade Avenue, Bronx, New York

James F. Berry
919/847-5819

April 9, 1980

Circular No. 2

If you believe that in the recent past you have come to understand yourself better, to understand the world better, to get a little better grasp on who and what and why you are; if, in some way hard to explain to others, you have reached a new level of consciousness, become more aware of your involvement in the life process, and are more and more unsatisfied with the way things are going, then maybe you are a member of a vast and growing network of persons, having no leader, apolitical, with prospects of bringing about the most radical cultural realignment in human history. Maybe you are an Aquarian Conspirator.

To find out about The Aquarian Conspiracy read the book by that name. Marilyn Ferguson is the author and the book has just reached the book stores. I referred to it in the last Circular. It is exciting from beginning to end.

What brings on this excitement is the description of a new paradigm. (A paradigm is a pattern, a model, a scheme which sets the framework for living.) The old paradigm prescribes the consumer economy. It subjects us to the constant yammer of the advertisers assaulting every sense through every moment of the day in a frenzied determination what we must buy this or that in order to achieve an earthly paradise through possession of things.

The old paradigm equates the good life with material consumption; gives us de-humanized and impersonal work so that machines and production lines can be better served; requires the acquisition of specialized skills and then makes them obsolete through automation; makes idleness a goal and work a burden and at the same time despises unemployment; finds "acceptable" levels of air and water pollution; makes it uneconomical to leave machines idle, so that a rapidly growing inventory of bulldozers and earthmovers must be constantly tearing at the earth, pushing over trees, and paving, paving, paving; it considers that forests and birds and foxes have no standing in a court of law.

In part, the new paradigm sees earth as sacred being, the maternal principle, alive with a spirit of its own out of which we are born and whence we derive all that we are and all that we have; recognizes that we are earthlings, that the earth is our origin, our support, our nourishment, our guide, our spirituality itself; says that if there is no spirituality in the earth there is no spirituality in us; that we are a dimension of the earth. The new paradigm is a lot more things than this, but underneath, it is the new consciousness of self and unity with the whole, of integration along with differentiation, of belonging, of being "imbedded in nature". (Lewis Thomas)

We are not strangers cast out into an alien land. We are at home. We are part of the earth, part of each other and of everything whatsoever, identical with all and still different; unique, but again, and most important, belonging. It is wrong to think of ourselves as enduring painfully an exile for the purpose of being tested prior to going on to another world. It is that way of thinking that has made us indifferent to what is happening to this precious planet.

- More on this in the next Circular -

A LOOPHOLE IN THE SECOND LAW????

An article of great interest to students of the Second Law appeared in the May 29, 1979 issue of the New York Times. Written by Malcolm W. Brown, it was entitled "Scientists See a Loophole in The Fatal Law of Physics" and reported on a 1977 Nobel Prize winner's research into the Second Law of Thermodynamics, a law which for over a century has instilled a profound pessimism on basic attitudes in every field of science from cancer research to the fate of the universe. The inevitable process of entropy has seemed to doom all the efforts of humanity, the earth, and the cosmos to decay, chaos and death.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin had this to say about the entropy process at the end of Chapter I of The Phenomonon of Man: "A rocket rising in the wake of time's arrow, that only bursts to be extinguished; an eddy rising on the bosom of a descending current--such then must be our picture of the world. So says science; and I believe in Science; but up to now, has science ever troubled to look at the world other than from without?"

Thus stating that such a view took into account only one-half of reality, Teilhard went on to examine the within of things: the psychic/spiritual energies that he believed, form a counter force to entropy and offset the Second Law. His Cosmic Law of Complexity-Consciousness implies a model of the universe-convergent and life enhancing, tending toward greater individuality, spontaneity, complexity and consciousness.

The research into the Second Law which the New York Times cited was that of the Nobel prize winner, Dr. Ilya Prigogine, a Belgian Chemist. His work has caused much excitement in the scientific community for it seems to imply a force that pushes life to further evolution and complexity. Dr. Prigogine sees his work as something profoundly optimistic. All scientific knowledge could be reshaped. Is Science awakening to something like Teilhard's vision, thus channelling its energies to vast new possibilities for humanity, society and the world? We have asked Dr. Al Coots, NCSU Chemist and Mathematician, if he will comment on Dr. Prigogine's work. Al has a deep comprehension for the Second Law. We hope to print his comment soon.

The American Teilhard Association meets in New York on April 26th. Robert Jastrow, world renowned astronomer, will be the principal speaker. For details call Jim Berry.