



Volume Two: Issue Ten

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“Watching TIME pass is like watching a bicycle wheel.

The rim of the wheel turns, but follow the spokes back to the centre and you’ll see something that stays perfectly still.

When WE become still, we find our own centre.

That changes our relationship with TIME.”

From the Editor

Welcome to the September issue. We are now back on track with the arrival of a much anticipated commentary from Patrick, the content of which may confirm thoughts you may have been having or at the very least offer a moment to reflect.

The very first newsletter of 2005 employed a theme of change. Here we are now in September 2005 having lived through, witnessed from near or afar, discussed or avoided a variety of changing and challenging events. Most natural or nature-driven disasters that have changed the landscape, both geographically and population-wise, have occurred on coastlines. The ravages of unusually potent seas disturbed by earthquakes beneath the surface and seas whipped up by hurricane strength winds, has impacted on the world.

Our world leaders also have driven change. George Bush’s need to have a war in Iraq has finally reached a level of impact that is demanding his accountability.

In our own personal worlds too, much change is occurring. The article this month suggests to us that the big C word – commitment, no longer drives a new relationship. The new C word is casual.

Change is everywhere and as Patrick reminds us, we are still in The Eye of the Storm! Enjoy.

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Relationships – a study of “Pretty Woman”

by Jan Melanie

Recently the film “Pretty Woman” screened on the television. It is a timeless movie when approached with a metaphysical eye. It has much to tell us about relationships. When viewed in a particular way it offers the opportunity to understand more about the space between and when one is desirous and willing to become more it reveals through the characters how relationships make this possible. We can witness for ourselves through the wondrous images on the screen the subtleties of allowing oneself to be impacted upon without ever losing one’s dignity. It demonstrates that in the environment of personal relationships, if willing to evolve, we can grow quite gracefully and speedily. Paramount to this shift is that each individual is whole.

We have been informed in our metaphysical training that the space between is greater than the individual, meaning that there is energy available that has been generated by each individual and this exists in the space between. It may be dynamic or destructive depending upon the qualities drawn out of the relationship. It is this energy in this space that makes and challenges a relationship to reach higher ground or not. And so it is possible in this environment that change can occur at an accelerated rate. What may foil growth is when too much realness is given to the other. Perhaps this is demonstrated when we either blatantly or subtly, try to change the other.

“Pretty Woman” is and has been recommended viewing. It seems that if it can be viewed in the context of observing the nature of the space between zinglessly, it is possible to gain a better understanding of how the above statement works.

What happened in the movie? We have two main characters, a wealthy man named Edward and a prostitute named Vivienne.

Edward has behind him a failed marriage and a casual relationship that he doesn’t appear to be all that excited about. One could surmise that he has reached a relationship crossroads in his life. He doesn’t appear to be analysing what has been, his life is far too hectic for that, but he is in a quandary. He has reflected enough to realise that. Could this brief moment or pause in his life have given him the faintest of opportunity to step outside the pattern he had up to now been living in? Has he made it possible through being at a crossroads to change from the inside out? Is he now willing to let go of the scruples that have defined his choices up until now? Perhaps Edward is open to discovering what he really wants in a relationship. Perhaps for the first time he is allowing himself to tap into the energy we call vulnerability.

On the surface his life does appear to be working. He is financially successful. He can have anything he wants that money can buy. From what we see, one could describe his business attitude as impeccably ruthless, but not ruthlessly impeccable. He makes his wealth solely on others' failed business ventures. There is no satisfaction to be gained. There is no creativity involved. Rather his success lies in the shark mentality of making a kill at the right time and he employs the right people to make this happen.

The other character Vivienne has turned to prostitution in order to survive. From the image we see of her we can assume that she is successful at this – she has the looks, the body, the attitude and the fortitude. Her friend has taught her well. Although she appears to be successful it is somewhat of a deviation from her original aspirations. Perhaps she set herself a goal to move on once she had generated enough income. Unavoidably the energy we call money translates into more options. Right now though for every step forward there seems to be two steps backwards. Her flatmate has debts and habits and has no hesitation in taking rent money to pay for the latter. Vivienne does the best she can to address this issue. In the end though it is quite a fruitless exercise. Survival must go on and no permanent grudges can be held. Her success is limited by her circumstances, but she is not a victim. Her groundhog day is the repeated need to take to the street in order to survive. Selling sex is her business.

Vivienne does have dreams though. Right now her circumstances dictate her currently chosen reality and without bitterness, misery or regret, she pursues her newly learned craft.

These backgrounds perhaps could be explored and expanded ten-fold. It all depends upon who is viewing and for what purpose. For the purposes here though, this snapshot is plenty. With the focus of exploring the space between, it seems to me that herein lie the qualities, in both characters, for something more beyond what has been, without expectation. The story would have been much different if either one had been focussing on poor me, why is my life so hard, or what is wrong with me that my relationships break down.

Obviously they meet. The meeting does have significance. Ordinarily Vivienne would determine the potential client acceptable or not before naming her price. When Edward drew up in his friend's sports car, initially on the premise that he was seeking direction, his posture turned to curiosity when he agreed to pay her the fee she negotiated to navigate him to his hotel. So why is this significant? It was outside the norm enough for both, that a crack in their usual realities opened enough for something different to occur, something that would be out of the ordinary. It was up to each one to either take advantage of this minimum opportunity that had no relationship to the past, or let it go and settle for the security of what each already knew in their lives.

The glitter of the personality ethic is that there is some quick and easy way to achieve quality of life – personal effectiveness and rich, deep relationships with other people – without going through the natural process of work and growth that makes it possible. It's symbol without substance. It's the "get rich quick" scheme promising "wealth without work." And it might even appear to succeed – but the schemer remains. Trying to get rich-quality results with its techniques and quick fixes is just about as effective as trying to get to some place in Chicago using a map of Detroit.

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People

Edward had been quite charmed and curious by her lack of scruples in this brief moment in the car on the way to his destination. Vivienne was both the prostitute and the wondrous woman. She knew about prostitution and she had experienced other things in her life as well that helped shape her character. In this scene her intimate knowledge of the car he was attempting to drive was of great value to him. Usually a man likes to be behind the wheel, a position of being in charge. However, Edward did not even know how to change the gears in this high-powered machine. She knew this and much more, and so he asked her to take over the wheel.

At this stage, both had stepped a little outside their usual practice. So much had happened in just a short car ride, initiated by his agreement to pay a prostitute for taking him to his hotel, and hers by conversing with him both inside and outside of her prostitute's role. Previous boundaries were becoming a little blurred.

He took the next step, perhaps following more his curiosity, by asking if she would spend the night with him. This signified the potential beginning of the end. This is where it is possible to explore the space between.

One night turned into a week. Edward pursued his business interests sometimes in the company of Vivienne. However before this was possible a transformation in Vivienne had to occur. Her street clothes and attitude just wouldn't do. She had enough dignity to accept the offer of new clothing and had intelligence enough to ask for help in restaurant protocol from the Manager of the classy hotel. People liked her. She had charm, innocence, beauty and a child-like ability to adapt to her new surroundings. Edward was impacting on her. He wasn't trying to change her, rather he made it possible for her to become more of who she truly was and she accepted this with humility.

How did Vivienne impact upon Edward? Quite gently really, whilst her change was quite visible, his had more to do with his attitude. Vivienne's impact, it could be said, is simply witnessed in just being. For instance, she liked the old gentleman and his son they dined with one evening. Edward was in the throes of taking over his business and had agreed to a dinner engagement to hear what the old man had to say. It was cut short when Edward made it clear that the takeover would proceed. Later, in a different context, Vivienne expressed her like of the man about to be railroaded. She was not interfering in Edward's business when she said this. She was merely freely expressing how she felt about the person.

A few challenges arose for Vivienne. One of these appeared late into the week when Edward expressed that he wanted her and that he would put her up in a condominium and give her an allowance. Her response was to say that her dream as a little girl had been to be rescued by a knight in shining white armour from the attic where her mother had frequently sent her when she had been naughty. Further, she said, in her dream her rescuer never suggested he would keep her in such a way. The inference probably was that she did not want to be treated like a prized possession of anyone.

"The shortest and surest way to live with honour in the world is to be in reality what we appear to be."
Socrates

Edward of course thought he was making an offer too good to refuse, but he listened to her response. Later there was another incidence when Edward, attempting to explain himself said that he had never treated her like a prostitute. There was silence and when he walked away she quietly said, "you just did".

Finally Vivienne decided not to continue the relationship. Their love for each other was palpable but their worlds were so different. Neither appeared to want to possess the other but the terms put forward by Edward were unacceptable to her. She decided to use the money she earned to leave prostitution and finish her education. Already the effects of having the means were taking place in the decisions she could now make.

Lets reflect here for a moment. It was mentioned that growth or otherwise takes place in the space between a relationship. The energy generated by each person in the relationship creates the space. The space ultimately consists of a mixture of energy provided by each individual. Either or both can utilise this energy, which in "Pretty Woman" had the potential for worthwhile change. Even if they went their separate ways something had happened to both of them. What was the potential though if they continued their relationship outside of this fairytale romance?

I remember when I attended the Magus on the Amazon Patrick introduced the concept of a blip. What is a blip? That is a little more difficult to explain in words, but I would like to suggest that Vivienne and Edward had created a blip. That is, they gave themselves an opportunity to experience something outside of their old paradigms, beyond their wildest dreams, perhaps even beyond this world. The blip itself is usually quite fleeting but its impact can be immense. Perhaps it occurs when we are in transition and are willing to accept a little help from our friends!

Other characteristics that may signify it is a 'blip' experience are seen in the nature of support in the supporting characters. For instance, in "Pretty Woman" most of the characters around Edward and Vivienne were quietly supportive of this 'experiment'. In a 'blip' it may be that the support represents an agreement to assist of sorts. This was also prevalent in the role the female friend had in the movie "Sliding Doors". As well in both movies, there is a character involved that tries desperately to keep the status quo.

So the week they had experienced was outside the ordinary. The space they created contained all elements of love – tenderness, respect, care and intimacy. When Vivienne departed with dignity intact, another space was made available to reflect and ponder. This impacted upon Edward in particular. It enabled him time – time to consider what he really wanted.

Finally, with a few timely words from the perceptive Manager of the classy hotel, his considerations were leaning toward his desire to be with Vivienne without the need to possess.

The car and driver who had driven Vivienne home was offered to take him wherever he wanted to go. He accepted and after a short pause, whilst contemplating what direction he would take,

"It's a funny thing about
life; if you refuse to
accept anything but the
best, you very often get
it."

Somerset Maugham

"When there is no enemy
within, the enemies
outside can't hurt you."

African proverb

he instructed the driver to take him to the place he dropped Vivienne off. At this point we could see that a shift had occurred in Edward. He had shifted into a new paradigm. He now knew what he wanted and was willing to take the risk to live his life with more passion.

With opera blaring from the limousine and with flowers in hand standing up through the sunroof, Edward drew closer to the moment that could change both of their lives. He appeared to be a warrior on a mission.

Opera was Vivienne's newly found love. In the neighbourhood she lived it probably had never been heard before. Much like in her fairytale dreams she went to the window of her top floor flat. The fire escape was beneath her. Edward was afraid of heights. He had admitted this to her when explaining why he never went out on the balcony of his penthouse in the classy hotel. In this moment though, his fear was not going to get in his way, although it still existed. Vivienne met him on the landing halfway between the ground and her top floor flat. They embraced and he asked her what happens now that he had climbed up to rescue her. Without hesitation she told him that she rescues him right back.

To sum up, initially we were led to believe that both had wanted more in their lives. Neither expected it to happen right at that moment. Perhaps there was the energy of restlessness flowing through them. Perhaps because of this, the meeting that appeared to be chance was planned on another level. In this fleeting moment something became possible. It was set in motion when Edward hesitated at the hotel entrance. He was about to settle for the pattern he knew but in his hesitation he watched Vivienne waiting at the bus stop, and he changed his mind. He then did what perhaps he would not have normally done. He asked Vivienne if she would stay the night with him in his classy penthouse at the top floor of this very classy hotel.

What is evident throughout the movie is that the space between was not contaminated with energies such as desperation, victim-hood, self-importance, neediness or shame.

Finally, what also is interesting is that this movie does not inflict upon us that relationships are about commitment. It was a casual encounter that had the potential to grow. This growth I would suggest relied upon each individual's wholeness expanding and that at the end of the movie it had reached out to us to challenge us to consider the wondrous potential we all have in our freedom to be more of who we really are. This possibly cannot exist when one confines the other to be committed to them, but it does open us to reworking our views on what may be possible when we let go of expectations from past constructs of how relationships should be.

"Human beings are not
born once and for all
on the day their mother
gives birth to them:
life obliges them over and
over again
to give birth to
themselves."

Gabriel García
Marquez

A bit of Humour ...

Two Irishmen walk into a pet shop in Dingle. They head to the bird section and Gerry says to Paddy, "Dat's dem." The owner comes over and asks if he can help them. "Yeah, we'll take four of dem dere little budgies in dat cage up dere, says Gerry.

The owner puts the budgies in a paper bag. Paddy and Gerry pay for the birds, leave the shop and get into Gerry's truck to drive to the top of the Connor Pass.

At the Connor Pass, Gerry looks down at the 1000' foot drop and says, "Dis looks like a grand place." He takes two birds out of the bag, puts them on his shoulders and jumps off the cliff.

Paddy watches as Gerry falls all the way to the bottom, killing himself stone dead. Looking down at the remains of his best pal, Paddy shakes his head and says "Fook dat. Dis budgie jumping is too fook'n dangerous for me!"

Moment's later Seamus arrives up at Connor Pass. He's been to the pet shop too and walks up to the edge of the cliff carrying a paper bag in one hand and a shotgun in the other.

"Hi, Paddy. Watch dis," Seamus says. He takes a parrot from the bag and throws himself over the edge of the cliff. Paddy watches as half way down, Seamus takes the gun and shoots the parrot. Seamus continues to plummet down and down until he hits the bottom and breaks every bone in his body. Paddy shakes his head and says "And I'm never trying dat parrotshooting either!"

Paddy is just getting over the shock of losing two friends when Sean Og appears. He's also been to the pet shop and is carrying a paper bag, out of which he pulls a chicken. Sean Og then hurls himself off the cliff and disappears down and down until he hits a rock and breaks his spine.

Once more Paddy shakes his head. "Fook dat, lads. First dere was Gerry with his budgie jumping, den Seamus parrotshooting ... and now Sean Og and his fook n hengliding!"

Current Events

by Patrick Desplace

Again I can repeat that "The Eye of the Storm" is holding within tolerance. There are a few gusts of disaster and frustration: The Katrina devastation is an eye opener to the world and is creating some sort of an indictment for the US and Australian governments' ability to handle the unusual. The issue of discrimination, neglect and carelessness are hitting the world hard.

I am aware that those of you in Africa have little access to World News, unless you have Satellite TV. I am sure The Time Magazine will give you a greater insight into what really took place.

Here in Adelaide (and South Eastern States) we had an unseasonable and brutal storm a few days ago. The Earth Herself (including the weather) is going to keep us on our toes for quite a while to come. Remember that what we are experiencing is only the tip of the iceberg as to things to come.

On an Esoteric Theme, in answer to many questions and comments: Yes the Messiah is born. She is a she and in going through Puberty at the moment. Many Esotericists believe she is in Lebanon. She may have been conceived there but she is now in northern or northeastern Europe.

Yes it is true that "The Covenant" has been abolished and the Jews are now on their own. The scenario at The End of Time has not been rescinded, but more options are now open to us.

Work we recently did in South Africa is having a far wider and deeper effect than I anticipated. Changes that I am unable to fathom are underway. Leaders of Nations and also Teachers will have their true colours exposed over the next few months.

In order to pursue its agenda, the US needs a cataclysmic happening. I hope they do not engineer such an event!

Contact Us

My general aim for the newsletter is that it is eclectic in its style. Everyone's life is interesting in some way and everyone has a voice that needs to be heard. This is an open invitation for you to think and act on what, how and when you may have something to say that you are willing to put forward and perhaps have published in the newsletter. If you are uncertain of how to proceed with written material, guidelines will be made available upon request.

Please send correspondence and submissions to me, Jan Melanie, at the following email address: jan@accessit.net.au