

The Birth of the Future Human

Christopher M. Bache, PhD

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I am not writing this essay for you but for your children and your children's children for uncounted years. They are the ones who will bear the burden of what is coming, who will cry out to understand the events that have overtaken them, and who will have the power to change humanity forever if they act with courage and insight.

With every scientific report released on climate, it becomes clearer that we have driven our planet into a state of such overload that humanity has come to the edge of an abyss. Given the escalating severity of the destabilization of our climate, the 21st century will see a cascading spiral of crises: melting ice-caps, unstoppable coastal flooding, record-breaking hurricanes and other severe weather events, possible interruption of the oceanic conveyor belt, devastating forest fires and longer fire seasons, severe droughts, collapsing water tables, empty reservoirs, life-claiming heat waves, accelerated soil erosion, collapsing agricultural production, and fished-out oceans. The list could be doubled or tripled. These crises will take place in the context of an expanding world population, shrinking non-renewable resources, unchecked industrial pollution, extreme wealth disparity, massive refugee migrations, and state weapons of terrifying power. Many serious observers believe that the converging forces are so severe that humanity is facing either extinction or a shattering that will throw us into a new dark ages.

In the context of this grim forecast, I want to share a series of visions of humanity's future that I received inside a 20-year psychedelic odyssey that I undertook between 1979-1999. When I was a young professor of religious studies and quite naïve about ecological matters, I did 73 carefully planned, therapeutically structured LSD sessions following the protocol developed by Stanislav Grof (1980). I worked at 500-600 mcg. I mention the dose only to signal that the visions I'm reporting here came from extremely deep states of consciousness in which the limits of space and time were being transcended on a regular basis. Over the years I was repeatedly taken into "Deep Time" where I experienced the broad contours of humanity's evolutionary trajectory, not as an individual looking on from the outside but dissolved into the species-mind itself. The complete story of this journey is told in *LSD and the Mind of the Universe* (2019).

I know it sounds arrogant to speak like this and I apologize, but I have no choice if I am to describe the visions that repeatedly came through my sessions during these years. Ego-death destroys the existential isolation and constant self-referencing that organizes our

ordinary experience of the world. When the partitions of our personal consciousness are surrendered, our experience spontaneously opens to the larger rhythms of life we are part of. One portion of these rhythms is the collective psyche of our species. At the subtle level of consciousness, we can dissolve into the human species-mind so deeply that the beginnings and endings of our personal life become insignificant. When the “small-self” opens to the “species-self” this completely, it is only natural that insights into humanity’s larger developmental trajectory sometimes emerge in our awareness. We would be surprised if this did not happen. When we open still further, we can dissolve into the Creative Intelligence of the universe itself, experiencing all evolution as the self-emergence of its creative genius.

Sharing one’s visionary experiences is a tricky business. However meaningful my psychedelic experiences are to me, they are naturally less meaningful to others. I hope that my experiences will speak to you, but whether they do or not will largely depend on two things: (1) whether you trust the potential of psychedelic states to yield true insights into our universe, and (2) whether my experiences are mirrored in the experience of other psychedelic explorers. In these matters, it is always the collective witness of the community that matters most. I offer the following experiences in this spirit and with an open hand.

The Visions of Awakening

While the threat of a global crisis has grown steadily worse decade by decade, the vision of our future that has repeatedly come through my sessions is that humanity is rapidly approaching a positive breakthrough of evolutionary proportions. Despite the fact that we have repeatedly failed to heed the ecological warnings and rein in our rapacious greed and Earth-damaging policies, their message has been one of promise and hope. More than hope, a message of emerging greatness.

Between 1991 and 1994, I received six visionary initiations into what appeared to be an evolutionary pivot that humanity is entering. These were not things I “saw” but historical processes I entered experientially. In earlier sessions I had been shown that reincarnation is a natural fact of life. It is the higher octave of evolution, the driver of humanity’s perpetual growth as we pulse back and forth across the membrane of spacetime. Now, these six visions built on this to show me where reincarnation is taking humanity. Boiled down to their essential components, here are the key insights conveyed in these visions.¹

¹ The complete visions are presented in *LSD and the Mind of the Universe*, Chapter 9, and *Dark Night, Early Dawn*, Chapter 8.

1. *Divine Love* – Creation is an act of Cosmic Love, and the suffering we experience in life takes place *inside* this love. Because we have each voluntarily chosen to participate in this difficult cosmic process, our suffering is noble beyond words. No matter how intense the pain becomes in future years, we are not being punished or abandoned, but rather we are cooperating with a transformational fire that is re-creating humanity.

2. *All Humanity* – It is difficult to describe the enormity of what is being birthed in history. The Creative Intelligence of our universe is working to awaken not just individuals but all of humanity. What is emerging is a consciousness of unprecedented proportions – the entire human family integrated in a unified field of awareness. The species reconnected with its Fundamental Nature. Our thoughts tuned to Source Consciousness.

3. *Guiding Intelligence* – After millions of years of struggle and ascent, we are poised on the brink of a sunrise that will forever change the conditions of life on this planet. Though we do not know the deep future at a personal level, there is a more encompassing level of consciousness that can see it clearly. There is an Intelligence in nature and in our species that is preparing us for this transition and working to bring it about.

4. *Our Species as a Single Being* – The evolution of our species is the systematic growth of a single organism. Nothing in our theological or philosophical systems does justice to the grandeur of this being, to the subtlety of the interplay of the whole and its many parts. This unified being is moving decisively to become more aware of itself; it is waking itself up from within.

5. *Collective Purification* – To awaken to this higher self-awareness, we must let go of everything that has kept us small. I saw that the generations born in our period of history were being deliberately configured to precipitate an intense cycle of collective purification. This century is a watershed into which the karmic streams of history are flowing. The poisons of humanity's past are being systematically brought to the surface in us, and by transforming these poisons in our individual lives, we are making it possible for divine awareness to enter more deeply into future generations. As this purifying process comes to fruition, the future condition of our species will be beyond anything we might project from our current state of fragmentation.

6. *The Future Human* – At one point, I was carried deep into the future and allowed to experience the abiding state of humanity at that time. What a magnificent being! Just touching the Future Human filled me with rapture, calm, and awe. It felt clear, warm, and whole. There was an abiding sense of being truly One beneath the diversity of life. Such expansiveness, such breadth of being! It was fully embodied spiritual realization, the tantric awakening of our entire species, Spirit and Matter in perfect balance.

The Death and Rebirth of Humanity

As inspiring and clarifying as these visions were, nowhere in them was I shown *how* this collective transformation will actually take place. What would it take for humanity to make this evolutionary jump? This critical piece of the puzzle was missing. Then, in December of 1995, a particularly powerful session dissolved me into the species-mind and in this form took me into the heart of humanity's coming death and rebirth. It was as though all the expansions and purifications I had undergone in my previous sessions had been exercises preparing me for this seminal visionary download. This session was so intense it took me more than a year to recover from it.

The collective convulsions I describe below appeared to be driven by a global ecological crisis, but I was not given any details about how or when this crisis would take place. Instead, this session showed me the *fact* of a global crisis, it took me inside the *collective psyche's* experience of this crisis, and it showed me some of the *mechanisms of collective awakening* that will be activated by this crisis. Here is the "Core Scenario" of Session 55.

In a field of relative calm, a small anxiety began to grow. Slowly, people were looking up and becoming alarmed. Like people living on an island who gradually become aware that a hurricane is overtaking them, humanity was gradually waking up in alarm to events that had overtaken them. Conditions got worse and worse. People became more and more frightened as the danger increased, forcing them to let go of their assumptions at deeper levels. There was less and less for people to hold on to, fewer givens that they could assume—how they would live, where they would live, what they would do for a living, how society was organized, what could be possessed. The world as they knew it was falling apart.

Decades were compressed into minutes, and I felt the people's fear deepen as they lost more and more of what they considered the normal and necessary structures of their world. Step-by-step, events were forcing a rapid reassessment of everything in their lives. The events that had overtaken Earth were of such scope that no one could insulate themselves from them. The level of alarm grew in the species field until eventually everyone was forced into the melting pot of mere survival. We were all in this together. Families were torn apart—parents from their children and children from each other. Life as we had known it was shattered at the core. We were reduced to simply trying to survive.

For a time it looked as though we would all be killed, but just when the storm was at its peak, the worst of it passed and the danger slowly subsided. Though many had died, many were still alive. As the survivors began to find each other, new social units began to form. Parents and children from different families joined to form new types of families. Everywhere new social institutions sprang into being that reflected our new reality—new ways of thinking, new values

that we had discovered within ourselves during the crisis. Every aspect of our lives was marked by new priorities, new perceptions of the good, new truths. These new social forms reflected new states of awareness that seemed to spread through the survivors like a positive contagion. These new social forms then fed back into the system to elicit still newer states of awareness in people, and the cycle of creativity between the individual and the group spiraled.

The whole system was becoming alive at new levels, and this aliveness was expressing itself in previously impossible ways. It was as if the eco-crisis had triggered the myelination of nerve cells in our species-brain, allowing new and deeper levels of self-awareness to spring into being. Repeatedly, there was the message: “These things will happen faster than anyone can anticipate because of the hyper-arousal of the species-mind.” Thousands of fractal images drove this lesson home again and again. “Faster than anyone can anticipate.” The pace of the past was irrelevant to the pace of the future....

History is intensifying. Feedback loops are accelerating. Time is becoming concentrated. Developments are unfolding exponentially. The past is rapidly catching up with us; debts put off for generations are coming due; a new beginning approaches. The ecological crisis will precipitate a death-rebirth confrontation that will shatter our psycho-spiritual isolation, both individually and societally, and bring forward an awakening of common ground within us. I saw that once we made this painful transition, we would discover that all was gain. Nothing essential had been lost. We will look with amazement at the depth of ignorance that had set us on this course of self-decimation, and we will not long for that past at all. All is gain, all is gain.²

This session showed me that humanity’s transformation will come about through terrible suffering. This suffering will be driven by a global systems crisis triggered by a series of ecological crises. Our species will change when our collective pain simply becomes unbearable any longer. In this, Session 55 echoes the conclusion reached by Duane Elgin in *Awakening Earth* where he wrote:

It is the immense suffering of millions—even billions—of precious human beings coupled with the widespread destruction of many other life-forms that will burn through our complacency and isolation. Needless suffering is the psychological and psychic fire that can awaken our compassion and fuse individuals, communities, and nations into a cohesive and consciously organized global civilization.³

² Bache, 2019: 222-223. Session transcripts are placed in a distinct font.

³ Elgin, 1993: 121.

While the suffering that is coming will be terrible to endure, this session showed me that humanity will come through this crisis, not intact but changed for the better. In the context of the earlier visions of awakening, it affirmed that through this ordeal we are giving birth not just to a new period of history but a new form of human being. As the years have passed and I have watched the shadows of history deepen, I find that this promise means more and more to me. Without a vision of where nature is taking us, without understanding the higher good that our collective suffering is bringing forward in history, we might drown in the sorrow that lies ahead, and we must not drown. Too much is at stake.

The Nonlinear Dynamics of Awakening

In order to comprehend how our species can make such an enormous transition in a short period of time, it is important to understand the mechanisms of our collective awakening and the role that the collective psyche will play in it. Space restrictions allow me to make only few quick points.⁴

The key insight is that the suffering that is coming will be so severe that it will impact not only our personal psyches but the ground of the collective unconscious itself. As we spiral into this global crisis, the collective psyche will be put under enormous pressure from billions of human beings across the planet experiencing the collapse of industrial civilization. These experiences will be so traumatic and so widespread that they will drive the field of the collective psyche into a hyper-aroused *far-from-equilibrium* or *nonlinear* state. Science and chaos theory have shown us that *physical* systems are capable of doing extraordinary things when they are driven into nonlinear conditions. This session showed me that the same is true for *psychological* systems. From *Dark Night, Early Dawn*:

If the species-mind were driven into something analogous to a far-from-equilibrium state, it too might show increasingly nonlinear characteristics. Nonlocal psychological effects might become more prominent; something like psychological phase-locking might take place. Under these extreme conditions, systems that were previously isolated might spontaneously begin to interact with each other to form new connecting patterns... If this were to happen, it would feel as though the human psyche were becoming alive at new levels, causing the human family to experience itself in new and previously impossible ways. Interconnections between people that had previously been too subtle to detect could start to become obvious. As our sense of psychological isolation began to break down, compassion for the now less-distant “other” would increase. And because these developments were being generated

⁴ For a more detailed discussion of the nonlinear dynamics of awakening, see *Dark Night, Early Dawn*, 2000: 233-245.

within a far-from-equilibrium system, they would occur much faster than anyone might have predicted on the basis of linear behavior alone.⁵

Ordinarily we might think that the forces generating this crisis are so deeply entrenched in our behavior and social institutions that there is little that we can do to change the outcome. But the highly charged state of the species-mind in the future will translate into conditions that are dangerous but filled with opportunity for humanity. When a system goes sufficiently into the far-from-equilibrium state, it comes to a fork in its destiny known as a bifurcation point. At this point, a flux occurs in which many possible futures exist. Chaos theory tells us that at this critical juncture, systems become extremely sensitive to influence. Small changes can be disproportionately amplified by the hypersensitivity of the system. The severity of the global systems crisis, therefore, may be lowering the threshold of influence and *amplifying the impact that individuals can have* on shaping the outcome of this crisis.

In the highly unstable, supercharged morphic field of tomorrow, those persons who have already made the transition individually that humanity is trying to make collectively, who have begun to think and act as ecologically responsible global citizens, who have truly lifted from their hearts the divisions of race, religion, class, gender, nation, and so on, may function as *seed crystals*...to catalyze new patterns in human awareness. In this setting, each of our individual efforts to bring spiritual, social, political, and ecological sanity into our lives may have far reaching consequences.⁶

The Diamond Soul

I want to close this essay by asking a question. If history or nature or the Creative Intelligence of the universe is giving birth to a new form of human consciousness through the global systems crisis, what form will this consciousness take? What will our future-self look like? I believe that we can see the form of the Future Human if we look deeply into the dynamics of reincarnation.

The understanding of reincarnation that emerged in my sessions is different from the classical Eastern view. In the Asian religions, reincarnation is seen as a long developmental process which culminates in a spiritual awakening that frees us from physical existence. When we realize our divine essence beneath the many layers of earthly “illusion,” physical existence has served its purpose and we can move on. In Hinduism, for example, this awakening is called *moksha*, “escape,” for through it one escapes *samsara* (“cyclic existence”)

⁵ 2000: 241.

⁶ Bache, 2000: 245, my emphasis.

and returns to Brahman. In Buddhism, *nirvana* (enlightenment with a body) is followed at death by the higher state of *parinirvana* (final enlightenment without a body). Even the Bodhisattvas who return to Earth after their enlightenment are ultimately seeking to liberate all sentient beings into parinirvana and thus empty the planet.

While I understand the noble intent of this view and value the methods it has given us to realize our Essential Nature, I believe it is an incomplete and inadequate understanding of existence. It fails to grasp the true nature and purpose of physical reality, and it therefore misconceives what the goal of reincarnation is.

Our contemplative spiritual traditions tell us that we are made of the stuff of God, that Atman is Brahman, and my sessions affirm this truth. But something special happens to this Atman-essence inside the incubator of the physical universe beyond just waking up to itself. In repeatedly entering and leaving physical reality, in the constant folding and refolding of human experience, something new is being forged – not simply adding new layers one by one but eventually *fusing all these layers into a new form of life*. Our Essential Nature not changed but actualized into a higher expression.

I believe that the goal of reincarnation is not simply to awaken spiritually and then leave the physical universe behind. The goal is to awaken and actualize our full divine potential within the physical universe. Just as “young souls” become “old souls,” old souls become “complete souls.” When our former lives are integrated and fused into a single consciousness, an explosion in our self-awareness takes place. The shell of the ego pops, and we no longer experience ourselves as simply hundred-year-old beings but as hundred-thousand-year-old beings. When we look out on the world, we feel our connection with countless people formed over countless lifetimes. We see the Earth as our home for a thousand incarnations. In short, we know ourselves to be incarnating Souls, and with this knowledge comes a greater capacity to create the life we want in physical reality.

I did not come to these conclusions on the basis of theoretical reflection but through experience. At an important juncture in my psychedelic work, I was taken into a state of awareness in which all my former lives began to come back into me, each filled with the learning it had gathered from across the centuries. It was like winding kite string around a spool. As I rewound the threads of my existence, I rose to quieter and quieter levels of awareness and into deeper intimacy with what appeared to be the Source of our universe. Against a vast temporal landscape, I became step by step what I had been before I had incarnated in spacetime, and at the same time I also focused and clarified what had been accomplished by entering spacetime. So there was both the sense of return, with a profound resonance of homecoming, and also the sense of realization of accomplishment, of seeing clearly what had been the purpose of the entire exercise. It had not been about what

happened in any individual lifetime. It had been about learning to control the powers of creativity that were my innate nature. We were, in effect, learning how to be gods, learning how to create inside spacetime.

With this discovery, a brilliant diamond light suddenly exploded from my chest, fusing all the strands into one and giving birth to what I came to call the *Diamond Soul*. It was both me and more than I had ever been. Composed of many lifetimes, it was more than the sum of all their years. In coming together, a burst of energy was generated that fused all these centuries of experience into a single being. I was an individual but an individual beyond any frame of reference I had previously known. I was a point of infinitely dense, infinitely transparent Diamond Light.

I now understand why it is called Diamond Consciousness...It had the characteristics of brilliant light, of sparkling luminosity, but also perfectly aligned density. It was extremely concentrated, like a laser, yet at the same time completely transparent. It was perfectly focused power. I suddenly knew that all my experiences in spacetime over all these centuries served the cultivation of this Diamond Energy. This is what I am here for, what we are all here for, to learn how to consciously control this extraordinary power.⁷

I believe that what I experienced in this session was a foretaste of what humanity is becoming. Through all the centuries that we have been taking on the human form and growing its extraordinary capacities, nature has been bringing us toward this evolutionary crescendo. The powers that terra-formed this planet, that brought forth life here and then self-aware life are now taking us across a new threshold. The emergence of the Diamond Soul in history, the shift in our identity from ego to Soul is the natural and inevitable consequence of the relentless cycle of rebirth as we integrate more and more experience into the vessel of our precious human body.

Gestation is long and slow, but birth is sudden and quick. We have been growing the Future Human inside us for thousands of lifetimes. Our planet is going into labor and will soon give us no choice but to deliver our deeper self into history. The problems that are coming at us now are too large to be solved by egoic awareness, even well-intentioned, collectively organized egoic awareness. There is a structural relationship between the self-centered and short-sighted thinking that created this crisis and the nature of the ego itself. The ego of the private-self built our divided world and is being consumed by the fires that are consuming this world.

⁷ Bache, 2019: 181. The full account of this session is given in 2019: 176-183, 200-206.

In order to truly resolve this crisis, we will need to grow up as a species, to shift from what Duane Elgin calls our adolescent self to our adult self. From a reincarnational perspective, “growing up” means owning and integrating the larger being that has been gestating within us for thousands of years. Opening to it, seeing the world through its eyes, and letting its accumulated wisdom shape our choices. The form of our future self is implicit in our past. The Future Human *is* the Diamond Soul. With this transition, all things begin anew.

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