

Toward a New Manner of Relationship

Kathy Newburn

Summary

This article is an introduction to relationships from the perspective of the Ageless Wisdom teachings. It presents possible ways in which relationships might change under the impress of the incoming energies of Aquarius and the seventh ray.

Basis of Relationship

“Love, for many people, for the majority indeed, is not really love but a mixture of the desire to love and the desire to be loved, plus a willingness to do anything to show and evoke this sentiment, and consequently to be more comfortable in one’s own interior life. The selfishness of the people who are desirous of being unselfish is great.”¹

The keynote of initiation is relationship. It is only natural, therefore, that during this period of transition and heightened initiatory experience all forms of life are being disrupted, including the forms of our relationships. Distortions in this area of living always occur when a civilization is crumbling and the old order is giving way to the new. So it is today as we pass through this period of the “withering of the Law.”

Because intimate relationships often stir up the physical and emotional bodies, they can easily pull us out of alignment with our higher self, thereby contributing to the overall condition of glamour in our world. As Aquarian energies pour into our planet, they are producing an opening of the heart and an urge towards universal love. But unfortunately these energies are often distorted and travestied as they pour into our largely material world, and they sometimes work out in a rampant and indiscriminate sexuality. Humanity’s desire nature is also being stimulated by the incoming seventh ray energy which works through the sacral center, the center most closely related to sexuality.

As with many aspects of life today, sexual expression has exploded to such an extent that it seems as if we are living in a world gone mad, caught up in the throes of desire and constantly seeking new and more exciting ways of satisfying that desire. Sex is not the way to enlightenment, even if our misguided culture seems to make it appear so. The present situation has led to disease, unwanted children, pain, sorrow, and much hardship for many people. But no one, it seems, knows how to turn things around and bring about a more measured response to this problem.

In a certain sense, this powerful expression of human sexuality could be seen as a reaction against the repression and inhibitions of the past, when sex and the body were considered evil and sinful—attitudes that often colored perceptions of women as well. It is understandable, therefore, that we are now moving in the opposite direction. Eventually we will find the middle way of balance governing this important aspect of our lives as conditions within the planet settle down, producing a greater measure of calm and stability.²

For hundreds of years, the monastic tradition provided a means by which many people were able to follow a spiritual path in relative freedom from the cares and worries of everyday existence. For women, in particular, the opportunities offered by the monastic life in terms of education and freedom from poverty and the dangers of childbirth were understandably viewed quite favorably. Now we

About the Author

Kathy Newburn is a long-time student of the Ageless Wisdom and author of *A Planetary Awakening: Reflections on the Writings of Alice Bailey*. She works for the Seven Ray Institute and lives in New York City

live in a different world, a secular age in which celibacy does not necessarily serve the purposes of the day. It is not helpful for seekers to be herded away, without any possibility of expression for their natural instincts. The vows of celibacy demanded in certain religious traditions have created unrealistic expectations and have led to the abuse of innocent people. Addressing this issue is part of the necessary house-cleaning needed within the world's religions prior to the return of the World Teacher.

The spiritual path could, however, be viewed as a higher understanding of the celibate life. As the Tibetan wrote, "The celibacy required is that of the higher nature to the demands of the lower, and the refusal of the spiritual man to be dominated by the personality and the demands of the flesh."³ Sometimes spiritual seekers do have to demonstrate the developed capacity to stand alone. But this enforced or chosen path is often said to be the result of past excesses that need to be adjusted in the present life or cycle. Celibacy is not, therefore, necessarily a sign of high spiritual status.⁴

As we impose a discipline and a rhythm upon our lives, we will find it easier to undertake the rigors that serious spiritual work entails. People talk openly about the need for the "conservation of energy" in regard to the ecological crisis presently afflicting the planet. But there is an equally pressing need for the conservation of energy in our individual lives. The body is most assuredly a delicate eco-system and we are wise to treat it with the same care and concern that we would like to see extended to the planet. The powerful energy that fuels human sexuality if mishandled can easily pull us out of alignment with our higher self. But it's not always easy to control. Many great spiritual seekers throughout time have struggled with their sexuality—the Buddha, Jesus, St. Francis, St. Paul, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and others. The over-stimulation that results from uncontrolled sexual energy has led to the downfall of many sincere people. Sexual scandals and rampant desire are never good but neither is sexual repression.

The Ageless Wisdom teachings indicate that the present problems related to sex can and

will be solved in the coming decades. This will involve a shift in attitude. Eventually we will come to see that much that is thought of as progressive in the way of sexual activity is, in fact, very old and the remnants of a distant past that would best be left behind. The Tibetan has said that a solution to the problem of sex will involve a concerted, collective effort—one that calls upon the wisdom and counsel of many minds, many teachers and yogis.⁵ Great yogis know the power found in the conservation of energy and in the future this knowledge will be more deeply understood. The time is not far off when people will develop etheric vision and, as a consequence, will come to understand more fully than they do today the consequences of their actions because they will see the effect within the activity of their chakras. This will result in many changes in behavior.

Ray Influences

Today our relationships, as indeed all areas of our lives, are coming under the powerful opposing forces that exist in the world at this time between the outgoing Piscean/sixth ray influence and the incoming energy of Aquarius and the seventh ray. This is creating tension and opposition between those individuals who adhere to the past and want to uphold its values and those who are more progressive and who seek change. Eventually a middle ground will be reached and the new age will witness the best qualities of the past blending and merging with that which is new and yet to be realized.

At the present time, as Piscean energies cycle out of activity, there has been created a tremendous strain within the area of relationships. Part of the present problem stems from the fundamentalist mindset that is so strong at this time, a condition that is a distortion of the sixth ray tendency towards devotion. Within relationships this condition has contributed to conditions of control and dominance wherein one party usurps the free will of the other.

These outgoing energies have also fostered an unrealistic understanding of the nature of love and typically what we have come to view as love is not love at all, but rather a type of

pseudo-love. These distorted perceptions of romantic love have created unrealistic expectations that can rarely be realized. Not knowing the true nature of the love of the soul that leaves people free, we wander about in a dense fog pulling our loved ones with us. People today are questioning the present structures and searching for deeper meaning and connection. Eventually, as the new age unfolds, we will evolve new forms of relating to each other that will be the natural outcome of our living more integrated, soul-infused lives, and this will release a tremendous amount of creative energy that is at the present time being deflected. But in the interim, as the old forms crystallize and break apart and the new forms have yet to evolve, there is much pain and suffering in the process of liberation.

The safest way toward a new form of relationship will be one that retains the positive vestiges of the past while evolving new patterns that draw upon the incoming energies and better meet the changing needs of people everywhere. Perhaps what we are doing is redefining what it means to love—refashioning the experience along more equitable, Aquarian lines. In the years to come, with the “establishment of the Law,” there will be a widespread reorientation of consciousness that will result in wide-reaching changes in all areas of life, and the culture will begin to reflect the soul aspect.

The soul desires nothing, hopes for nothing, asks nothing for the separated self. As we begin to approximate this expanded conception of love, we will experience a lessening of the present distressing conditions. The soul qualities that are particularly needed to bring forward the new types of relationship are detachment and the consequent non-attachment that enable us to leave others free to grow and develop according to the wisdom of their own soul. The Aquarian ideal of freedom does not mean the freedom to do and to act indiscriminately, but rather the freedom that comes through an inner alignment with the soul and the consequent sense of responsibility. Cyril Scott's *Initiate* series presents a new model of relationship that could perhaps be viewed as a forerunner of the Aquarian age.

Part of the necessary housecleaning to be completed prior to the teachers' return, is related to the need to redress the imbalances in the world by bringing women into positions of prominence in all areas. Women today are demanding full equality—and the essential spiritual equality of all people is the fundamental human right that will provide the underpinning for all the changes that the Aquarian age will usher in. The ages-old suppression and devaluation of the feminine principle, coupled with economic and racial injustice, stands as the sorriest legacy of the human race. The Aquarian age will see the rectification of this situation, but during the present transition period many difficult challenges must be faced.

New Relationship Between the Sexes

The recognition that women are no better than men and men no better than women is a simple truth that is in the process of working out today. In many fields women are emerging as strong leaders, bringing their considerable talents and perspectives to bear upon the important issues of the day. Feminine principles are beginning to be valued and recognized as a necessary component of a just and balanced worldview. But, as in all movements for change, the movement for the liberation of women has resulted in a considerable backlash as many individuals (including many women) fight to maintain the status quo by overtly and covertly de-valuing and suppressing women in ways both large and small. Many women, particularly those who live in the developing countries of the world, still suffer gross injustices under the weight of customs born of ignorance and kept in place by fear.

Conditions, however, are changing as people change. Over-population of the planet is a clear indication that the primary role of woman as child bearer is no longer an evolutionary necessity and the use of contraceptives has made it possible for many women to turn their energies in other directions. The shift has had dramatic implications for both women and men, as it has freed women to do much more than was ever possible in the past. This is not meant to devalue women's contribution as

child bearers and mothers, it is simply to state that many other options are open to women today. New freedom, coupled with the fact that both women and men are living much longer, healthier lives, is giving us all increased opportunities to contribute and relate to each other in new and exciting ways.

We are told that the new age will see a change in the attitude of men towards women and of women towards their destiny.⁶ This will work out most noticeably in the areas of sex and marriage. As men learn to value women in a new way, it will free women to realize their spiritual destiny. What that destiny is is in process of unfolding under the impetus of Aquarian energies but surely it will be a destiny uniquely her own—different, yet complementary to that of men. The feminine perspective, which is overwhelmingly a voice in support of peace and justice, is still devalued in our world with the disastrous results that we witness all around us.

It is helpful to remember that we all experience many lifetimes in both male and female bodies to gain experience and develop different qualities. We usually pass through a series of lives in one gender and then another series of lives in the opposite polarity. This fact helps to explain the difficult transitions that occur frequently when, for example, the individual enters into a life when he or she switches into the opposite polarity. The physical body finds itself within one sex but the consciousness finds itself still holding to the sexual orientation from past incarnations. The Law of Rebirth helps us develop a deepened understanding of life's many complexities.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that the polarity of women and men is quite different on an energetic level. Of course there are no hard and fast rules and lines of demarcation and as we enter Aquarius there appears to be a great blending and fusing of the sexes taking place as we move into a deeper understanding of equality. But from the perspective of essential polarity men are positive, while women are "negative" or receptive. Traditionally these polarities have led to the devaluation and consequent suppression of women. But as the energies of the new age come into increasing

dominance, there will be a deepened understanding of equality that will embrace our differences. This will give place to a fuller understanding with a resultant greater harmony and well-being between the sexes.

Marriage and Family

We are not expected to be alone upon our journey, at least not all the time. Even the Masters and initiates of high degree enter into the marriage relationship at times. It is, after all, perhaps the most valuable field of life experience and potential service, for the sharing of life's joys and sorrows teaches us many things. The spiritual path demands a measure of solitude; through solitude, the "rose of the soul flourishes"⁷ and the connection with the inner worlds unfolds. Solitude is, therefore, often the rule for many people treading the path but it does not have to mean a path of solitariness. Solitude can be found or created within a healthy relationship when each party is free to have time and space, independent of the partner.

We are moving into the age of the group, into a condition of collective consciousness and this reorientation will have profound implications for the marriage relationship. The growing group nature of life will lead to a lessening of the pressure on couples to fulfill each others' needs and people will increasingly find that their individual needs are lost sight of in the needs and the good of the greater group of which they are a part. Individuals will be brought together for a larger purpose than their individual happiness. Energy is released when people come together and this is especially true of those on a spiritual path who understand the occult laws of the supply and demand of spiritual energy that exists whenever two or more are gathered together. The service provided by couples could be the creating and raising of children but increasingly people will come together to undertake specific work, in relationship with their discipleship responsibilities.

The young people coming into incarnation have evolved a different perspective about relationships. They have observed much disruption in relationships over the course of their

short lives and this has had a powerful effect on them and made them wise beyond their years, with positive and negative consequences. The impermanency they have observed could help them to be more discriminating in their own choices but it could also produce cynicism. But even this cynicism can sometimes be beneficial if it serves to break through some of the illusions surrounding relationships, eventually contributing to clear vision and the strengthening of the discriminative powers. As the Tibetan wrote of humanity as a whole (and this could clearly be applied to this area of relationships):

Men [and women] are being rapidly disillusioned and will consequently see more clearly. World glamour is being steadily removed from the ways of men... Disillusioned and deglamoured (if I may use such a term) humanity awaits the coming revelation.⁸

Up until the past century, most marriages were short-lived, due to early death of one or both spouses; at other times marriages were disrupted by long periods of separation on account of war or economic concerns. Now that people are living longer, perhaps it is unrealistic to think that couples can always adhere to the “until death do us part”

injunction contained within the marriage vows. In many cases it is simply unrealistic. People change and grow throughout the course of their lives, and not always in the same direction or at the same pace. It is sometimes the course of wisdom to sever ties rather than maintain a relationship that has outlived its usefulness.

Marriages today are rarely found that unite the people on all three levels of the physical, emotional and mental planes, but that is the ideal. Today we might find, for example, that the union of the physical body of one person is involved while the physical body of the other

is left uninvolved, but there is an emotional attraction and connection. Sometimes the mental body is involved and activated but the physical and emotional bodies are left out. When the involvement is found on all three levels, you find that rare instance of a true union and a resultant happy marriage.⁹ When there is this ideal merging of all three planes of involvement, the right conditions exist in which souls can be provided with the appropriate forms in which to incarnate.

The incoming seventh ray is called “the marriage ritual of the Son,” and under this influence spirit and matter meet and are united. Gradually the present unsettled conditions will improve under the rhythmic influence of this

ray energy. In the future we’re told there will be stricter marriage laws in order to provide greater protection from the natural impulsiveness that so often characterizes romantic love. The changes will not result in making it more difficult to end a marriage, but rather it will become more difficult to enter into the arrangement. Hasty marriages and marriages among juveniles, will not be permitted.¹⁰ Young people will be taught and counseled before they undertake this important step in their lives.

As we struggle and fight our way into a greater measure of light through the overcoming of our glammers, we eventually find ourselves entering into the freedom to be who and what we essentially are—beings capable of ever-widening and deepening manifestations of ceaseless and boundless love.

So while today many people enter rather blindly and foolishly into marriage, the future will see a more “scientific” or business-like approach to the whole arrangement. In a certain sense we will find ourselves moving into a new type of “arranged” marriage, on a higher turn of the spiral. The perspective partners will be studied from the angle of the potential suitability of their union—a suitability that will be based not so much on personal considerations but rather on the considerations of the quality of children that the union would pro-

duce and the influence or contribution they might make to the group or the collective of which they form a part. They will be studied along the lines of their ray and astrological qualities as well as their relative evolutionary development. A consideration of these factors, plus one's heredity, will contribute toward the making of more enlightened choices. And, as a consequence, it would seem likely that the incidence of divorce would lessen. The sanctity and ritual of marriage will be more fully understood and people will take more time to enter wisely into the marriage relationship and will, consequently, leave it less frequently. And those who do face divorce will surely find the whole process less painful as they will be functioning with greater detachment. As we grow in soul alignment we come to trust the soul's wisdom, knowing that the law works, even in the midst of change and disruption in this delicate area of our lives.

The freedom inherent in a good relationship is based upon trust and respect. Relationships that are secure in their love are expansive, leaving each partner free to include many other people within their sphere of influence. As people learn to relate to each other increasingly as soul-infused personalities, there will be a general deepening and a real spiritual connection will become possible. Friendship between the sexes will become the foundation upon which this change will come about and we can see this happening today. People will be much more likely to sacrifice their personal wants in favor of the greater good of their relationship and the family of which they are a part.

Relationships on a Higher Plane

We will eventually reach a point where the true expression of love between the sexes will be transferred to a higher plane of consciousness. True love will manifest through the spoken word, and not so readily through physical plane expression as is now the case. It is interesting to explore the strong correlation between creativity and sex. Many artists, for example, have a strongly developed sexual expression that highlights the relationship between the sacral center and the throat

center. In the years to come, as sexual energy begins to be transmuted and lifted to the throat, this will work out in an incredible flowering of human creativity, leading to new forms of art, poetry, music and philosophy.¹¹ This creative expression will increase dramatically after the year 2025 when the fourth ray comes into expression again.¹² Speech will eventually be the form through which creation will work out on all planes of manifestation. This can, of course, only happen as the energy which works out through the sacral center is transferred to the throat. Although this is a distant goal, even now some individuals can attempt to embody these future realizations through united service, loving cooperation and oneness in aspiration, thought and work.¹³

As we struggle and fight our way into a greater measure of light through the overcoming of our glammers, we eventually find ourselves entering into the freedom to be who and what we essentially are—beings capable of everwidening and deepening manifestations of ceaseless and boundless love. Love is not really a personality expression but rather a spontaneous outflow of mind and heart that embraces all it encounters. When we love truly, freed from the grasping of the separated self, we are released from so much the pain that has for so long affected the human condition.

How we manifest that love in our modern world is part of the transformative process that is underway upon our planet during this transition period. Love is the goal—in both the personal and universal sense. And while we're clearly not yet capable of expressing true spiritual love, we are irrevocably moving in that direction. As we traverse this way of compassionate unfoldment—which is the path of the bodhisattva warrior—we find that we need to summon the courage and strength of the inner warrior. This strength frees us to express the love of the bodhisattva without being crushed by the experience or deterred from its undertaking by the seeming obstacles and limitations that abound in our world.

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- ¹ Alice A. Bailey. *Glamour: A World Problem*. Lucis, 1950, p 76.
 - ² Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Astrology*. Lucis, 1951, p. 235
 - ³ Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Psychology*, I. Lucis, 1936, p. 306
 - ⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 306-07
 - ⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 298-299
 - ⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 293
 - ⁷ Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on White Magic*. Lucis, 1934, p. 132
 - ⁸ Alice A. Bailey. *The Reappearance of the Christ*. Lucis, p. 133.
 - ⁹ Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 286
 - ¹⁰ Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*. Lucis, 1925, p. 909
 - ¹¹ Alice A. Bailey. *The Rays and the Initiations*. Lucis, 1960, p. 552
 - ¹² Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology*, I, p. 26
 - ¹³ Alice A. Bailey. *Initiation: Human & Solar*. Lucis, 1922, p. 75.

