

## SUNSPOTS AS A CAUSE OF WAR

The subject of planetary influence is so vast that it is certainly beyond the comprehension of one human brain. Therefore, we have never attempted the study of mundane astrology, which deals with the planetary influences on nations, but have confined our observation entirely to the effect of the planets upon man as an individual. Nevertheless, one cannot at times help coming in contact with the cosmic aspect of planetary influences, and certain facts have thereby become definitely established in our mind. Among others, the truth of the assertion made by ancient astrologers that celestial disturbances produce terrestrial catastrophes. The macrocosm, consisting of the Sun, planets, and their satellites within our solar system, are so indissolubly bound to one another, and to the Beings who inhabit them, that as an aching toe or tooth is felt by our whole body and unsettles our system to a degree commensurate with the severity of the affliction, so the planetary disturbances in one heavenly body are felt by all the other members of the solar system.

It needs no argument either that disturbances in the Sun would make themselves more acutely felt than conditions on any of the other planets, because the Sun is so much larger in bulk than the marching orbs which circle around him. Science has established the fact that there are periodic disturbances of the Sun, which they call "sunspots." These were first discovered by Galileo and Scheiner, but then people would not believe that the Sun could have defects on its surface; they thought it was too pure altogether for that. However, it was soon proved that they did exist and it was also found that they were subject to changes, that they varied greatly in size and changed from place to place. Sometimes a spot has been observed so large that it may be seen by the unaided eye. It was also observed that at certain times there were few sunspots and at other times there were many, covering vast areas, and finally it was found that the cycle of sunspots is eleven years.

But it is one thing to observe a phenomenon and another to determine the effect thereof. More than a century ago, Sir William Herschel went so far as to declare that the sunspot activity determined the price of wheat, so that during the years when there were few sunspots and the Sun emitted its full amount of heat, there would be large crops, and consequently low wheat prices. But at times when the solar disturbances were at their height, prices of the staples of life would soar. Nor is this assertion altogether without foundation; in fact, particularly in view of the high prices prevailing at the present time, which is a period of abnormal sunspot activity. And as the sunspots do not appear and disappear suddenly, but have a gradual rise and decline, we may look for several cold winters and summers with a consequent low productivity and high prices.

But is this the only result of the solar disturbances that we see in the failure of crops and the rise of prices? Are there no other effects traceable to these solar disturbances? We think, yes; in fact, we know that the planetary influences have an effect upon humanity, and this sunspot activity, recurring in cycles of eleven years, is really the inbreathing and outbreathing of this vast composite cosmic body. It is comparable to the systole and diastole of the cosmic heart, sending at one time the full force of the solar vitality to the furthestmost confines of our system, and at another drawing it in contaminated with the poison of passion generated by billions of beings in the struggle of existence in all the different worlds.

Thus, this force is, by analogy, similar to the arterial blood that issues pure and clean from our heart and is sent to every part of our body, but returns through the veins laden with the poisonous carbon dioxide, generated by the process of decay going on in every part of our body. What wonder, therefore, that the periods of low sunspot activity, when the maximum solar force is sent out, and flows over the solar system like wind that has been wafted across fields of clover or new mown hay, laden with a perfume that is grateful to our senses, instills a feeling of joy and well being.

On the other hand, what wonder if, at the time when sunspots are largest and most numerous, the solar force, returning from its visit to the various planets and carrying with it a sense of the sorrow and suffering of the various beings there located who are struggling through the process of evolution; what wonder if this solar stream coupled with the failure of crops, of extreme cold, and other added discomforts, generates in humanity a sense of added ill feeling. And not knowing the cause of the new discomforts, what wonder that one blames the other and distrust and dislike for our neighbors is generated.

Furthermore, with the recurrence of this feeling at certain periods, a number of times, what wonder if this feeling of dislike and distrust acts as a saturated solution of salt, crystallizing when the last grain is added? So the universal distrust and dislike generated by the returning solar forces at the time of highest sunspot activity may also at a period when humanity becomes saturated with ill feeling, result in an outbreak, as has been the case in this present great world war.

If anyone doubts these general planetary effects, it is quite easy to make an experiment to prove that they exist. All that is necessary is to take an Ephemeris and ascertain on what days of the month the Moon is in conjunction with Mars, the war god, and then watch people on that day. It will then be found that they are more short-tempered, more ready to take offense, and easier hurt in their feelings than at any other time. On the other hand, if we select a day when the Moon is in conjunction with Jupiter, the planet of benevolence, or with Venus, the planet of love, we shall find that people generally are in a different mood, much more easy to get along with and much more disposed to be jovial and kind; and if such effects are observable in the individual and his actions, why not in the masses and their actions?

All this is, of course, what was to be expected, and harmonizes perfectly with the esoteric teachings that the planetary spirits, which are the rulers and guiders of evolution, provoke war and similar, from our viewpoint, seeming calamities, when it is necessary for the evolution of their charges.

And so in all our sorrow and suffering we have at least the knowledge that this is for our good, and that ultimately blessings will accrue from the present sufferings, and we are hoping that the veil which divides us from the realm of the living dead may be rent so far as a very large number of people are concerned, that the testimony of the few of us who see at the present time may thus be strengthened by this added testimony, to the end that our word will carry more weight than it does now in the minds of most people who think that we are either mad or dishonest. In the meantime, we wonder if the war being brought about by the sunspot activity must continue for another year or two, until it has fully abated. We pray not.