

Compilation of comments on world events by Benjamin Creme in the year 2005 as published in *Share International magazine*

Jan/Feb 2005

Q. Why didn't the Masters warn all those innocent people about the tsunami? How can Maitreya's predicted suffering of the people of the USA for re-electing Bush compare with that of the South Asian people in the wake of the tsunami?

A. The Masters saved many thousands from certain death. They are the Masters of Wisdom and the Lords of Compassion. They do what is possible for Them to do. Warnings were given to seismic authorities but in many cases were ignored to 'protect the tourist industry'.

My Master, not Maitreya, made the predictions on the US election sequel. It is not a question of comparison. In each case the events are a result of the Law of Cause and Effect — the Law of Karma.

Q. (1) Was Maitreya able to stop the tsunami? (2) Will Maitreya go to the affected areas, and (3) please see that the women and children are not raped in the midst of this catastrophe.

A. (1) No. The forces of nature had to be released. (2) He did, indeed, go and saved many lives. (3) The Masters do all that is possible within the Law of Karma.

Q. Could the disaster which has devastated so many poor countries, and yet has also tragically affected tourists from so many rich countries as well, be viewed as a 'wake up' call for humanity?

A. Yes, in the sense that it shows that humanity is one family and should share as a family does. If that means expenditure on early warning systems of disaster in poor countries then all must share the cost.

Q. Could the immense outpouring of aid, not only from rich countries but even from the poorest countries, be seen as the world working as one in a way never achieved before?

A. Yes, yes, yes!

Q. Will the swift and generous response of people around the world to the devastation caused by the tsunami in Asia have any effect on hastening Maitreya's emergence?

A. I do not think so but it does show Maitreya (as my Master writes in His article in this issue) that people are ready to share (and not only in an emergency) and are therefore ready for Maitreya's teachings.

Q. Many people are asking if God exists, how can He allow the terrible Asian tsunami disaster, which has caused so much death and destruction?

A. The answer is that it was the result of the living forces of the Earth, the movement of the tectonic plates in the area and nothing directly to do with 'God'. It is the nature of the planet to erupt through earthquakes and, if under the ocean, to produce tsunamis as a consequence. The Masters warned several seismic authorities of the danger.

Unfortunately, the warnings were ignored for commercial, touristic reasons.

The Masters saved the lives of many thousands of people who otherwise would have perished in the tragedy. The Masters also warned of the 9/11 events in America but, once again, no action was taken.

Q. Was the Asian tsunami disaster caused by man's interference such as bombardment in war, nuclear explosions or withdrawing oil from the seabed, etc?

A. No, it was a purely natural movement of the tectonic plates of the Earth which caused the very powerful earthquake which, in turn, caused the tsunami.

Q. How would Maitreya advise those of us in America, who are horrified by the abuses of our government, to help the cause of peace, restoration of the environment and social justice? I want to be of help and a source of light but I am greatly dismayed and discouraged that so many Americans were duped into supporting a government that is so destructive. How do I engage others in meaningful dialogue when we seem so far apart and unable to communicate? Please advise.

A. Remember that you are not alone. Make contact (the internet is full of information) with individuals and groups who feel the same. You represent half the population of the USA. Talk about sharing and social justice for all peoples as the only way to peace.

Q. So terrible is the situation in Iraq with constant killings in the run up to elections, would partition, such as settled the conflict in Yugoslavia, be a better solution?

A. Partition may be the only solution to the problem, not as separate countries, like Yugoslavia, but as three (Kurdish, Shiite and Sunni) spheres of influence. The American/British coalition are finding that only the hated dictator, Saddam Hussein, could (to some extent), by an iron hand, unify the country.

Q. What do you and your Master think of the banning of the wearing of religious symbols in France?

A. It is ridiculous and petty.

March 2005

Q. Watching George Bush's recent State of the Union speech I was amazed at some of the things he said which seemed like blatant lies or a completely deluded sense of what his administration are doing; for example their so-called desire to create peace in the world, which the US government are clearly not doing. I was also amazed at all the people jumping up and down to applaud him. It gave me chills and reminded me of footage of the Nazi rallies in Germany. Does Bush actually believe his words or is it all a huge exercise in manipulation?

A. Mr Bush is working under the illusion that he is 'guided' by God and that therefore the idealistic picture that he presents of his government's intentions is noble and factual, no matter how far that may be from reality.

He does not write his speeches, however, and there are those in his entourage who do, and who have a cynical and calculated aim to manipulate American public opinion to accept government policy.

Before and during the war, Dr Goebbels in Germany used the same technique of lies. He even said that the bigger the lie, repeated often enough, the more it would be believed. "Germany has no more territorial ambitions", repeated endlessly, was followed time after time by invasion of its neighbours.

Q. (1) Do you think it's true to say that since the Tsunami disaster the atmosphere in the world has changed? It feels, to me, as if the world in general has turned a corner or become more serious and realistic about making necessary changes. (2) Were people shocked into a new realism and practicality?

A. (1) Yes. (2) Yes, the energies of Maitreya are affecting humanity more and more.

Q. Do you think the troops — British and US — should be withdrawn from Iraq now that the elections have been held?

A. If they were withdrawn now, having created chaos and mayhem, they would leave greater chaos behind.

Q. What is your opinion of the so-called elections in Iraq?

A. America is attempting to impose a representative democratic system on Iraq, but how can the people of Iraq elect representatives when there has been no discussion of policies and aspirations, no opportunity to meet and question candidates, when they are

asked to vote for unknown people with or without policies or ideas? It is a farce. A sad farce when 59 per cent of those who had the opportunity, at least, to vote set such store by this opportunity.

April 2005

Q. Many Lebanese are thrilled at present with what looks like another show of popular power — the “cedar revolution”, as it has already been dubbed. The situation seems very complex — with Israel and the USA, Syria, Hezbollah and possibly others all having a stake in what happens. (1) How do you see this working out? (2) Who killed Rafiq Hariri?

A. The crisis in Lebanon is both complex and manipulated. The “cedar revolution” is indeed another example of ‘people power’ making its impact on events. But the Syrian-Lebanese reality should not be oversimplified.

It is the current US policy to put maximum pressure on Syria and my information is that the CIA murdered Rafiq Hariri, thus triggering the call for Syrian troop-withdrawal from Lebanon, implying and sowing the rumour that he was killed by Syria despite the fact that it would not have been in Syria’s interest to do such a thing.

There is a long-standing interdependence between these two neighbours: Lebanon needs Syria to protect her from further Israeli invasion, and as a huge open market for her exports, Syria needs Lebanon’s modern financial facilities to trade abroad. There is a genuine mutual interdependence which is, of course, now threatened by these recent events. Syria, it should be understood, has no weapons of mass destruction. They do support Hezbollah and see it as a legitimate Arab force fighting to aid its poor, oppressed, Palestinian brothers against an aggressive Israeli regime.

Q. Was Israel involved in any way with the assassination of Rafik Hariri, former Prime Minister of Lebanon?

A. They were not involved in the deed but they knew about it in advance. My information is that the assassination was the work of the CIA.

Q. Israel is now blaming Syria for an attack in Tel Aviv — is this opportunism, making Syria the scapegoat and thus creating pretexts for possible future attacks on Syria?

A. Yes.

Q. Was the killing of Nicola Calipari, the Italian military intelligence officer escorting the released Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena in Iraq, an accident — or was it planned? If it was planned, what was the reason and who was behind it?

A. Giuliana Sgrena is a reporter for Il Manifesto, a far left, communist daily in Italy. It is to be expected that the US authorities in Baghdad were not enamoured of the reports which she was sending home to Italy, in particular, her recent investigations into the Abu Ghraib prison abuses. The US check-point soldiers had instructions not to let her leave Baghdad which they interpreted in the most extreme fashion. She was lucky to escape alive, protected by Sr Calipari who, unfortunately, was killed.

Q. I have a question about Make Poverty History, this enormous coalition of individuals, groups and organizations who want to make that happen. It is very diverse and wide. Do you think it has got the potential to speed things up in terms of the demonstrating of the people?

A. Make Poverty History is another example of the ‘voice of the people’ rising throughout the world, joining together worldwide, using the internet and other means of communication, which were not possible before, to strengthen and make clearer and more powerful their call for justice. Everything of that kind helps, is a step towards that fulfilment, and every step in that direction means a step quicker that Maitreya can take into the everyday world.

Q. Is this year [2005] particularly significant for the UK because of its hosting the G8 meetings as well as holding the presidency of the European Union.

A. I hope 2005 will be very, very significant. It will be significant in that it follows 2004 which was one of the poorer years from one point of view, although great steps forward have been made in 2004 towards what will be more fully realized in 2005. The 'voice of the people' is growing in power all the time and also the skill of the groups who work through the 'voice of the people'. It is their voice after all. There is a growing ability of the groups to work together, and to find means of contact and action. This will gather momentum and very soon something really extraordinary will happen, beyond your expectations; in the beginning surprising, because people do not on the whole look forward to the good amidst all the noise of the bad.

Q. Why do we not hear anybody talk about the causes of terrorism?

A. Because the cause is not understood. I am not surprised, because it is quite a sophisticated view to see that there is a cause even behind terrorism. People are so frightened of terrorism, especially in the United States since the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. The Americans are psychologically shocked to the core. It has transformed the thinking and feeling in America more than any other action since the World War. It is as if something terrible, absolutely unbearable, an affront to their ascendancy, their invincibility, had happened, instead of saying, "that was a terrorist attack and we must build up our defences against terrorism" and move onto the next thing. Not vengeance on the people of Afghanistan, who were not, on the whole, terrorists; and not against the people of Iraq, who were not terrorists and who have not invaded anyone for a decade (then it was against their neighbours and not America).

It is a very difficult concept for people to grasp, that there is a cause for terrorism. It is to do with the injustice which prevails in the world. That is a very difficult concept for Americans above all, and even for people of other nations, to take on board — the concept that justice is as real and important as freedom.

May 2005

Q. People power is a trend that the media is beginning to notice increasingly. Kyrgyzstan is the latest instance. (1) Was it 'helped' by agents provocateurs? (2) Was the Ukraine 'orange revolution' fuelled by agents provocateurs? (3) Will the Kyrgyzstan example trigger a domino effect across the region, just as each previous example of people power seems to inspire the next uprising?

A. (1) No. (2) Yes, on both sides. (3) Yes, most likely.

Q. John Bolton is George Bush's choice for US Ambassador to the United Nations. Bolton has always been fiercely (not to say fanatically) opposed to the UN and might realize the fears of many by undermining the UN from within. (1) Is this the US intention? (2) If true, what would be the consequences for the UN?

A. (1) I am afraid so, yes. But the US has always seen the UN as a vehicle, only, for the implementation of US interests. (2) For a time the US will continue to dominate the UN or act unilaterally — but its time is running out.

Q. Is it true that US soldiers — particularly those who are seriously injured, permanently maimed and/or traumatized — are being brought back to the US as secretly, as low-key as possible?

A. Yes.

Q. There is a group of countries — India, Japan, Brazil and Germany — which would like to become members of the Security Council. Is this a sign that the UN Security Council will change or is it just nationalism on the part of those countries?

A. It is both. It is nationalistic, of course (they want a greater say in the world), but it is also an understanding that the veto which a small number of countries — the five original

members of the Security Council — hold really distorts UN action. For instance, Iraq had 19 UN resolutions outstanding, not fulfilled, and that was one of the reasons given for the attack. If it had no outstanding resolutions, they still would have been attacked. That was just a ploy — Israel has 63 resolutions still outstanding to which Israel has not responded because the veto of the United States prevents any action being taken against Israel.

At long last some nations are getting more and more impatient with the overwhelming dominance of the Security Council, so it now has 25 members instead of 15. They enlarge it so that they are allowed a voice, but still the veto-power only applies to the original five members.

I would say that the true value of the United Nations is misunderstood; it has not yet been grasped by some nations and by humanity in general. The Masters call it “the hope of the world”. The United Nations is literally the future hope of humanity, and unless we can keep it going and shake out of it the things that hold it back in its action, the worse it will be for humanity. The first thing to go, I believe, should be the Security Council. It has done its work; it is outmoded and no longer functions in a truly useful or democratic way when solving dire problems in the world.

One of the most dire problems is the Israeli/Palestinian situation, and that is totally unchangeable because of the veto which America has over it. America is only interested in the United Nations so long as it can control it. In America you would be surprised, the UN is almost a dirty word among some people.

Many Americans, those who would automatically vote for Bush, for example, hate the very idea of the United Nations. On the other hand, those who would vote for Kerry or Clinton or any Democrat would have a different viewpoint, but even they would not understand fully the importance of the United Nations.

The American view of the UN is broadly that it is a place where they can make their viewpoint and their interests felt. It was they who insisted that Boutros Boutros-Ghali step down and the present Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, replace him. Kofi Annan is an American choice and as a compromise he was accepted by the other nations. The Americans thought he would be a weak person, but since he shows independence they now want him to go. He is wise and just. He does not want to offend America.

He knows that if America does not get its own way in the United Nations then it does not pay its dues. Each pays a proportion according to their Gross National Product. Because of the size of America and the hugeness of its Gross National Product America pays more than anybody else. So that when they do not pay, it curtails incredibly the activity of the UN. Kofi Annan, of course, is responsible, as he is the Secretary-General, for making sure that the countries pay their dues, so he is ‘blackmailed’ by the US and others. There are only about three who do so quickly and keep up-to-date, without being asked: Holland, Norway and Canada. The rest play power politics: “We will give it when you do what we say.” And so Kofi Annan is always having to steer a course that does not upset the balance of power.

The first thing to go, I believe, is the Security Council and the veto that goes with it. Then we will have all the nations, the society of nations, the talking-shop of the nations, the United Nations Assembly. The Security Council was put together to control, somewhat, countries like Russia — perhaps the Chinese, but certainly Russia — in the years that followed the end of the war when the Cold War was on. Being America and extremely dominant and combative, it has won the day and controls what Israel does to some extent, although Israel is largely out of control, but the USA at the very least makes Israel stronger. It controls what Israel does in the sense that they always use the veto, which otherwise would commit the Israelis to having to respond to the resolutions. There could be a threat, such as an economic embargo, but America makes sure that that does not happen because they work with Israel. America (that is, the Pentagon), Israel and certain states in Eastern Europe are the new Axis Powers in the world.

June 2005

Q. What do you think about the European Constitution?

A. The European Constitution is a fantasy. The whole idea of a great integrated state called Europe is a fantasy. It will not happen. Those who want it, imagine it, try to build it, do so — I am sure — with good reasons and motives; but it is wrong; it is against the natural order of so-called "states". There is a reason why Spain is Spain and not France. Why France is France and not Germany, and why Germany is not the UK. It is not to do with simple nationalism, it is energetic.

Every nation is created under certain energies. These have two levels of expression: soul and personality. The soul of the nation, of whatever quality, is expressed by the disciples and initiates of the nation.

Spain has a 6th-ray soul and a 7th-ray personality. The initiates and disciples of the country express the soul — 6th-ray — quality; the masses of people express the 7th-ray personality quality. Eventually, of course, the soul quality becomes the dominant characteristic. There are seven great streams of energy, coming from seven stars in the constellation the Great Bear; these are called the seven planetary rays. So, if we take a few countries in Europe, we will see how different they are. Spain has a 6th-ray soul, the Ray of Idealism and Devotion. The 7th is the Ray of Ceremonial Order, Ritual or Organization. Great Britain, for example, has a 2nd-ray soul and 1st-ray personality, so the disciples and initiates of Great Britain express more of the 2nd ray. The 2nd Ray of Love and Wisdom is also the ray of Maitreya. That is another reason why Maitreya is in London. The personality ray is the 1st Ray of Will, or Power, or Purpose, and it is expressed in Great Britain's parliamentary organization and long history of colonization. France has a 5th-ray soul and a 3rd-ray personality. The 5th ray is the Ray of Concrete Knowledge or Science, and the 3rd ray is the Ray of Adaptability or Higher Mind. Germany has a 4th-ray soul and a 1st-ray personality. The 4th ray is the Ray of Harmony through Conflict. Holland is 5th-ray soul and 7th-ray personality; Italy has a 6th-ray soul and a 4th-ray personality.

So, they are all different. To try to make one country called Europe out of these different ray qualities and structures is a mistake. These qualities are what make Spain as it is, Germany as it is; Great Britain, France, Holland, Italy, all these countries are different and are contributing something unique and individual. To try to make them into one country with one constitution, acting with a central government, is the wrong direction. It is entirely against the Plan. The European Union is an economic and trade union. Nothing more.

Q. Media headlines talk of a new oil crisis. If the world continues to consume as much oil as it does at present and if an increase in consumption is calculated into the sum, could your Master please say how long global oil stocks (including tar sands) are likely to last?

A. About 80 years. However, the need for oil will not last much longer. A new source of energy, direct from the sun, will be introduced probably within 10 years.

July/August 2005

Q. Could you say who is behind the recent bomb blasts in Iran just ahead of elections there? What is the reasoning behind this act?

A. A group of extreme, fundamentalist Shiites who consider that the government is not wholly committed to sustaining the purity of a religious state.

Q. (1) Does the resounding 'No' vote in EU referendums illustrate that the leaders are out of touch with the people? (2) Are the people rejecting the neo-liberal market-driven society? (3) Do you think this is yet another example of people power in that so many people seemed to make issues clear to politicians who had failed to consult them?

A. (1) Certainly in France and the Netherlands the governments seem to have been out of touch with the mood of the people. If Britain had had the Referendum I think the 'No' vote would have been 70 per cent. However, I expect that in the new member states the 'Yes' vote would be much stronger. They would, at the least, feel obliged to show enthusiasm for an EU Constitution. (2) No, I don't think so. (3) Yes. The Constitution runs (in full) to about 500 pages and few have the time and inclination to study such a document. Many people have the feeling (correctly) that they have not been consulted, that decisions have been made over their heads. Hence the strength of the 'No' vote. Some people feel that they have lost too much sovereignty already and have no desire for a United States of Europe, which, again correctly, they suspect lies behind the presentation of the Constitution. They feel manipulated by non-elected politicians with their own agenda.

Q. I remember Maitreya foretold the fall of Margaret Thatcher while she was at the height of her powers — the wheel of fortune or fate was starting to turn against her. Mrs Thatcher seemed to fall from grace and office quite swiftly. Is there a similar process beginning for George W. Bush and his close colleagues?

A. Unfortunately, no.

Q. It's as if many people really see that this year [2005], now, is 'crunch time' for tackling crucial issues — Africa, poverty, debt, AIDS, pollution, the environment and so on. How can we explain this widespread apparent 'awakening' and seeming maturity in our collective thinking?

A. What we are witnessing is the response of humanity to the energies poured into the world by Maitreya and His group. At last, the science of Maitreya is reaping its fruit. This is a clear lesson for humanity. Trends move simultaneously, on different wavelengths, and in different directions. The old patterns begin to break down and eventually, the new energies are absorbed enough by humanity to bring about change.

Q. In the Alice Bailey books the Master Djwhal Khul said that behind each problem in the world there was a religious problem. How will this problem be resolved — He said that it would take a long time?

A. It will take a long time. It is true that behind almost all the wars and fighting going on in the world is a religious division. There should not be any problem in a religious division. There have been places where Christians, Jews and Muslims have lived together in peace for hundreds of years. Spain was one of them. The religious division may be there, but as soon as there is an outer problem, for example on the political/economic level, then the religious division comes to the fore and takes precedence. It is dealing with people's religious beliefs which, for many, are the strongest emotional ties they have.

When India was divided there were terrible massacres. Trainloads of Indians (Hindus) would be massacred by Muslims (and vice-versa) while Pakistan was only being formed. They came from India and they were used to being Indians but they were not Hindus, they were Muslims. So there was conflict between Muslims and Hindus rather than between India and Pakistan. Then Bengal, which was part of Pakistan, became involved and, again, there was conflict between Muslims and Hindus. Then Bangladesh was formed and the same thing happened.

Whenever the outer political/economic pressures cannot be resolved relatively easily, it always turns into a religious divide. And it will go on. It was and still is so in Northern Ireland, although the fighting has stopped; it is so in Nigeria and other parts of Africa. It will be the last of all the big intolerances in the world to be resolved. The religious beliefs of a people are closer to them than anything else, which is another way of saying that the relationship of humanity to what we call God is stronger than we admit it to be. It is the strongest thought in the minds of most people in the world. Only the sophisticated intellectuals of Europe and a few other countries take a broader view and are not committed to any particular religion.

Only if you have given up religion early in your life do you take this stance. Otherwise the fear of being separated from the country which you identify with your religion is paramount. Until we learn to be more tolerant, this will continue.

There are three big associations of mankind: political, economic and religious, which if wrongly handled become a corrupt ideology or totalitarianism. There are the political ideologies: Democrats, Fascists and Communists and so on. Political totalitarianism has waned and is really in decline.

Economic totalitarianism at the moment is rampant. That is what Maitreya will be addressing more than anything else because it is the key to the others, to the tolerance which is needed to deal with the others. Last to go, but now at the height of its power and influence, is religious totalitarianism. If you are at the top there is only one way you can go, and that is down. Gradually its influence will lessen, but it will take time.

September 2005

Q. (1) Were the terrorists in the recent London attacks suicide –bombers? (2) Were they part of a larger group with foreign connections? (3) Had they planned more explosions than actually succeeded?

A. (1) My information is that one was: the one who destroyed the Number 30 bus. (2) Yes. (3) No.

Q. How can the government and the police forces in any country make their cities and public places safe from terrorist attacks?

A. It is not possible except by changing the economic balance in the world. The economic imbalance between the G8 nations and the poorest is the chief cause of terrorism. It is the result of a spiritual problem focused through the economic/political field.

Q. Would attacks be more likely to occur in countries which supported the US-UK attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq?

A. Yes. I think that is obvious although denied by the British government officials and others.

Q. What can local communities do to bridge the potential divide between ethnic groups?

A. Make every effort to work with all ethnic groups in common endeavour. Combat prejudice and separation.

Q. What role could moderate Muslims play around the world?

A. They could be more pro-active in advocating right relations between different groups. I think their leaders could be more active in building tolerance, as, of course, could the leaders of all faiths and societies.

Q. What do you and your Master think of the present situation in Afghanistan which seems to be getting worse again?

A. The Taliban were extremely fanatical and narrow in their approach to religion and social behaviour but they were not, on the whole, terrorists. Since the US attack in Afghanistan, the Taliban are regrouping and many are now joining terrorist groups. To them it seems the only door open to them. You cannot win a war against terrorism — especially by means of terror. You can only change the conditions in which terrorism becomes the only way to fight injustice and poverty.

Q. The people are saying and calling for the right things, but our leaders don't quite seem to 'get it'. Is that a fair way of describing the political scene? Or are some leaders really beginning to see what needs to be done?

A. No. Some of the people are calling for the right things, but so far not enough. Their ranks must grow into an unstoppable force to which the leaders of the old and the past

must give way. A few politicians are beginning to wake up to the inevitable. The others are really only reacting to events as they occur.

Q. What do you think of the outcome of the G8 summit?

A. A few gains, forced out of reluctant hands: cancellation of debts for 18 poorest countries and promises (!) of increased aid over the next five years. On the environment, nothing from the US, as was to be expected. The other signatories to the Kyoto Protocol should press forward themselves to implement their resolve.

Q. What is your opinion on the uncommitted response on the part of the G8 meeting to the dire problem of climate change and ecological destruction?

A. It is abysmal, short sighted and weak.

Q. What do you think of the UK government's efforts to introduce identity cards in Britain?

A. If the aim is to make it more difficult for terrorists to live among us, then I think it would be useless. False passports and identity cards are (at a price) available worldwide. Any professional terrorist would have no difficulty in getting them. If the aim is to have a greater control over the lives of ordinary people, then I think it is a backward step in government thinking.

Q. In the present world climate is it necessary to sacrifice personal freedoms to national security?

A. I do not think it is a choice of one over the other. Common sense teaches that national security must be sought with the least intrusion on personal freedoms. I am talking about those countries which at least aspire to a free democratic society.

Q. What can African or world leaders do to change the situation with Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe?

A. It is really up to Africa's own leaders to break ranks of support and say in public what they think and say in private.

October 2005

Q. Why did Hurricane Katrina happen in this area, and why so intensely? Is it a gigantic releasing/cleansing of certain patterns, or massive movement of energy leaving/transitioning? What is the underlining cause?

A. The US Gulf Coast is, of course, a hurricane area and this is the season, but the extraordinary intensity (the worst in living memory) of this storm has a karmic cause. The unbelievable destructiveness of this tragic event is related to the equally destructive results of the Iraq and Afghanistan invasions. It is a cleansing, dissipating massive destructive force. People must learn the law of cause and effect.

Q. Could you please say how many people died due to Hurricane Katrina?

A. My information is the death toll will reach 12,000.

Q. (1) Why has the disaster relief been so disorganized? (2) What is George Bush's mindset about not accepting aid from countries who have offered to help after hurricane Katrina? What are the ramifications of this?

A. (1) There is to be an investigation of what went wrong, directed by President Bush, so we can expect little that throws a bad light on the Bush administration, but there can be little doubt that had the crisis been in California or New York, or elsewhere than in a traditionally poor, black, area, the aid would have been prompt, adequate and efficient. (2) I do not imagine that he likes the idea of America receiving aid but he must realize it would look bad if he refused help when it is offered. Many people want to help.

November 2005

Q. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast of the USA; tropical storm Stan hit Central America and Mexico. China and Taiwan have been battling extreme weather conditions. I read that Katrina was a result of US foreign policy and the fear and tension resulting from it. (1) Was Rita also a part of the same process? (2) Could you please explain the causes of hurricane Stan? Is it the tail-end of the Katrina phenomenon?

A. (1) Yes. (2) Yes.

*Q. Recently in **Share International** you said the death toll from hurricane Katrina would be 12,000 instead of the approximately 1,200 now confirmed. Should we assume that Mr Creme misheard the number from his Master? I honestly am astonished how he keeps the massive amount of information straight in his head.*

A. No, up to 12,000 is accurate. The figures have been manipulated by the US administration (more lies). A large number of bodies, even now, have not even been counted. The Mayor of New Orleans himself said, at the time, that they must expect at least 10,000 deaths.

Q. I wonder about the information about 12,000 dead people after the Katrina disaster. Is that the right information? I heard that approximately 1,200 are found now and there are probably no more bodies to find, definitively not 11,000 more to find. I also wonder about the information that Saddam Hussein captured a while ago actually is not Saddam himself, but a look-alike. Is this still the right information?

A. Both answers are accurate. Saddam Hussein is dead. The number of deaths in the Gulf Coast area has been manipulated by the US administration.

Q. With all the lies and manipulations being uncovered in the last few years I can hardly believe a word that Tony Blair, George Bush or their governments say. Recently security on New York's subway was stepped up after city officials said they had received a "credible security threat". At the same time George Bush held a press conference announcing how the US and its allies had foiled 10 major terror plots since the 11 September attacks, in a speech designed to boost support for the so-called 'war on terror'. The BBC wrote: "The sketchy details provided by the White House make it hard to assess how serious or advanced the plans were." The situation is very confusing. Is this yet more manipulation and propaganda from the US government?

A. Yes. There was only one genuine terror attack which took place in London on 7 July 2005. The others were vague, sketchy and surmise.

Q. Is the group Al-Qaeda really as structured and organized as the US and UK governments lead us to believe when talking up their 'war on terror'?

A. No. It is a loose collection of people who share the same ideals and grievances but carry out their acts of terror on an *ad hoc* basis.

December 2005

Q. (1) The UN investigation into Rafiq Hariri's death implicates Syria; was the investigator 'leaned on' and if so, by whom? Is Syria being 'set up' to make it look as if it is hostile to the West? (2) At the same time Iran is being bated and badgered with regard to its nuclear programme. Could you please comment?

A. (1) Syria is certainly being pressured by the US which put pressure on the United Nations to implicate Syria in the assassination of Rafiq Hariri. The real culprit, according to my information, is the CIA. Not only had Syria no cause to kill Hariri, it would have been entirely against Syria's interest to contemplate such an action. Syria and Lebanon have mutual need of each other. US investigative journalist Seymour Hersh has published findings which support my information.

(2) Iran, of course, is similarly one of the so-called 'axis of evil', dreamed up by Mr Bush,

because it is thought to have ambitions to make a nuclear bomb, which is not the case. Iran is large, strong, and the US is bogged down in Iraq. It is, therefore, unlikely that the US would invade Iran but it might bomb the nuclear facility which the Iranians, so far truthfully, insist is for domestic use only.

Q. (1) What is your opinion of Tony Blair's efforts to 'fight terrorism', to introduce a 90-day period under arrest without charging the people held? (2) Do you think the defeat of this bill in Parliament spells the beginning of the end of Tony Blair's political career?

(1) I believe, and the majority of the British public appear to agree, that a period of 90 days without charge is totally unjust and excessive and perhaps counter-productive. (2) Perhaps, but he is a limpet when power is at stake and will probably engineer a crisis which 'demands' his continuing presence in power.

Q. Is the election of Amir Peretz as new Labour Party leader in Israel a sign of change for the better and reconciliation in Israel and the Middle East? Dare we hope that his policies might open real dialogue with Israel?

A. I wish I could say yes but I think it will make little difference. The forces against reason and compromise in Israel are still too strong.

Q. Who is behind the suicide bomb attacks in Amman, Jordan?

A. Al-Qaeda.

Q. (1) What are the root causes of the recent riots in various French cities? (2) How should the French authorities and society in general deal with this? All French citizens are, after all, equal before the law.

A. (1) The unfair treatment – socially and in employment – of the French immigrant community which is much less integrated into French life than elsewhere in Europe. Typically, young immigrants say: "My passport says I am French. The police say I am a foreigner." (2) Treat them as equals, of course.

Q. Is the new Palestinian leadership likely to give in to the Americans in order to bring about a ceasefire?

A. There is a ceasefire, although the Israelis are not holding to it, and therefore the Palestinians are not holding to it. The Israelis do not want to give up any of the West Bank, they want to prolong and prolong and are just hoping that more and more activists among the Palestinians will be found and shot, so that there would be fewer and fewer, and then they will just take over everything they want. They will put so many settlements on the West Bank — already it has shrunk to a fragment of the original West Bank. They are building this great concrete and metal wall, which takes great swathes of the West Bank belonging to Palestinian people as it cuts through their territory. They even make it so that a farmer is on one side of the wall and his farm or orchard is on the other. They cut off Palestinians from their everyday work, their farm, smallholding, orchards. They are without work, without any kind of subsistence. There is no way they can accept that kind of cruel and terrible oppression.

There is no people in the world that knows more about oppression than the Jewish people. They have been oppressed for years, not only in Germany during the war and the Holocaust, but for centuries, on and off, they have suffered pogrom after pogrom. Yet the Israelis meet out that same kind of oppression to the people of Palestine. It is a terrible thing that is happening there. I believe that it will take Maitreya to help them to achieve a just (and therefore lasting) peace.