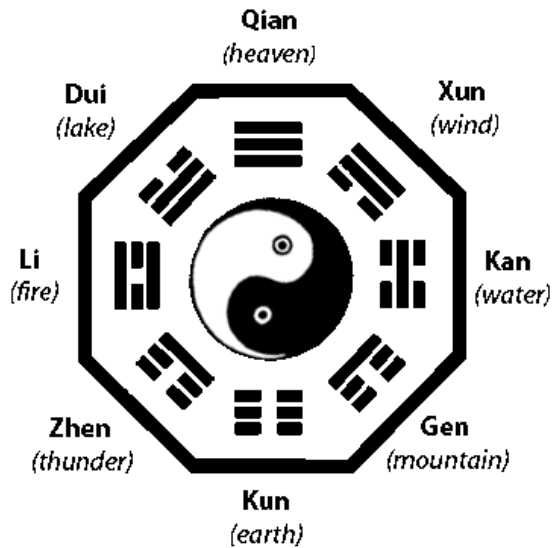


Glossary for the Audio Book 'Duel of the Sorcerers' by Patrick Dransfield

Part One: The Road from Liverpool

Chapter One: No ordinary Lantern



*At the beginning of each Chapter for 'The Duel of the Sorcerers' is the I Ching Divination for each day for Paul Tian-Kermode during the period from January 30th 1916 to April 17th, 1917 (the time duration of the novel 'The Duel of the Sorcerers'. For example, '**Qian, meaning Heaven, Qian, meaning Heaven**' represents the I Ching Divination for Paul Tian-Kermode for 30th January 1916 and is taken from The *I Ching* or *Yi Jing*, (usually translated as *Book of Changes* or *Classic of Changes*), is an ancient Chinese divination text and among the oldest of the Chinese classics. Originally a divination manual in the Western Zhou period (1000–750 BC), over the course of the Warring States period and early imperial period (500–200 BC) it was transformed into a cosmological text

with a series of philosophical commentaries known as the "Ten Wings", attributed to Confucius. After becoming part of the Five Classics in the 2nd century BCE, the *I Ching* was the subject of scholarly commentary and the basis for divination practice for centuries across the Far East, and eventually took on an influential role in Western understanding of Eastern thought. *

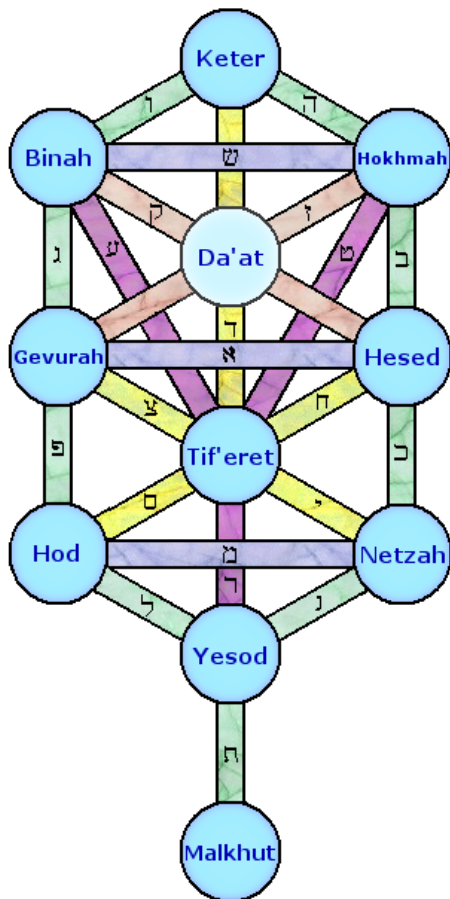
***Wu Xing** (Chinese: 五行; pinyin: *wǔxíng*), usually translated as **Five Elements, or Five Phases**, is a fivefold conceptual scheme that many traditional Chinese fields used to explain a wide array of phenomena, including cosmic cycles to the interaction. The "Five Elements" are **Fire** (火; *huǒ*), **Water** (水; *shuǐ*), **Wood** (木; *mù*), **Metal** or **Gold** (金; *jīn*), and **Earth** or **Soil** (土; *tǔ*). Their harmonious interactions of the Wu Xing keep the tremendous forces of Yin and Yang in equilibrium.



If the forces of Yin and Yang are out of equilibrium this can bring about the destruction of the Earth, and even the end of the present Universe as we know it.

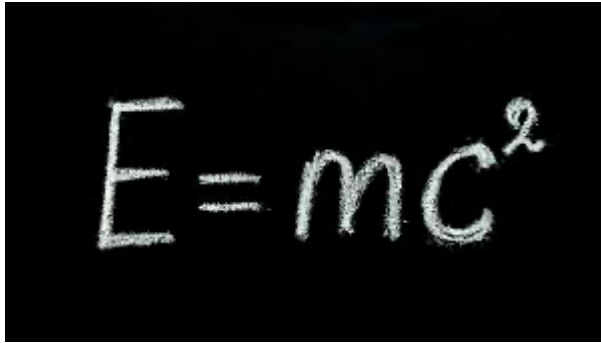
In the world of the 'Inner Circle', each of the Five elements is represented by a 'Guardian', along with a 'Protector'. Each 'Guardian' uses an 'Elemental Portal' to 'Time Surf'. For example, Yi Ling is during the course of Book One is the 'Guardian of the Fire Element', her 'Protector' is Xiao Lung, the 'Dragon-Dog', and her 'Elemental Portal' is the Lantern.

Father Xavier is the 'Master Guardian' of the Wu Xing.



*The Kabbala - "Sphirothic System of Ten Divine Names" from the 'Book of Brightness', presenting a series of Ten 'spheres', or 'emanations' of Divine Power (Sefirot). Arranged in descending order. From 'Crown' (Keter) to 'Kingdom' (Malkhut). 'The Book of Brightness' asks: "What are these ten utterances with which the world was created." See "Kabbalah: The Untold Story of the Mystic Tradition" by Kenneth Hanson, Council Oak Books (1998) proved to be a root text: other sources regarding the Kabbalah include: Simon Schama's 'The Story of the Jews' Volume 2, Vintage, 2017, and the TV series), various on-line articles including 'Tikkun in Lurianic Kabbalah' by Dr Lawrence Fine on <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/tikkun-in-lurianic-kabbalah/> and 'The Kabbalah Handbook' by Gabriella Samuel.

*Published in 1905, Einstein's 'Special Theory of Relativity' was part of his quest in life to find a unified foundation of physics, believing strongly in nature's inherent harmony.



Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955) published this equation on September 27, 1905 in 'Annalen der Physik (Annals of Physics) while living in Bern, Switzerland. See 'The New Physics' chapter in Fritjof Capra's 'The Tao of Physics', Shambhala Publications, 1975 as well as anything by Richard Feynman (1918 – 1988), a student of Einstein's.

*The Tao Te Ching, introduced by Martin Palmer and Jay Ramsay, Element (1997): also please see 'The Tao of Physics: An exploration of the parallels between Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism' by Fritjof Capra, Shambhala Publications (1999).

*See 'The Chinese in Britain: 1800-Present' by Gregor Benton and Edmund Gomez, Palgrave, 2008

*There are numerous accounts of Sun Yat Sen's fund raising in Britain, including Barclay Price, and he visited Liverpool in January, 1897: the funds were transparently for revolutionary activities to depose the Manchu occupation of China ('the Qing Dynasty') and establish a Republic of China.

*'The Blue Funnel Company', founded in Liverpool in 1866, became a major employer of Chinese mid shipman. The company, along with John Swire & Sons, another Liverpool-founded company, co-owned 'Holt's Wharf in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon.

**Tung Meng Hui* was a Chinese secret society and underground resistance to Manchu rule, founded by Sun Yat Sen.

*In late 19th century, the British Empire gained 'Wei Hai Wei', present-day Shangdong in another of the 'unequal' treaties with Qing Dynasty China. A great many 'sappers', diggers of trenches for the Allies on the Western Front, came from there.

*Shanxi-based merchants became extremely wealthy in the Ming and Qing dynasties of China and as a consequence some of China's finest antique furniture hails from there.

*See 'The Chinese in Britain', by Barclay Price, Amberley Press, 2019.

*The Green Flag triad gang was based in Shanghai, members of which were loyal to the Qing Dynasty.

*Dr Fu Manchu', the fictional villain created by Sax Rohmer, first appeared in print in 1916.

*The Jesuit Mission was founded by the Priest Matteo Ricci: he was the first European to enter 'The Forbidden City' of Peking in 1601 when invited by the Wan Li Emperor (Qing dynasty).

*Actually, the dictionary was begun by another Portuguese Jesuit, Alexandro Valignano in Macau around 1577.

*See Benton & Gomez.

*'The Slater's Detective Agency' was hired by the Chinese Legation to 'follow' Sun Yat Sen, who was staying near 'Gray's Inn' at the time. Various stories cover this episode and it appears that Sun Yat Sen was so confident about his 'cover' in London that he went into the Chinese Legation. But a 'salon' photo taken in San Francisco had been seen by 'The Slater's detectives so they knew what he looked like. Involved in the kidnapping was Sir Halliday Macartney, relative to the 'Macartney Mission' to Peking of 1792, George Macartney, 1st Earl Macartney. Finally, word was smuggled out to Sun Yat Sen's friend Dr Castle and a Habeas Corpus judgment was reported to the Old Bailey. But it was not until the obscure 'The Globe' newspaper ran a story of Dr Sun's kidnap that 'The Times' also reported on his kidnapping. Dr Sun had laboured under relative obscurity, but through the kidnap became a global celebrity.

*'The 1911 Revolution', led by Dr Sun Yat Sen, ended not on the Qing Dynasty, but the run of Chinese Imperial dynasties, period.

*Evidence suggests that the scroll is from 'The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom' period, 1851-1864. Landscape paintings from this period and geography were notable in that they depict no humans.

*Yang Wan-li is considered to be one of 'The Four Masters' of the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1206): he lived in Hangzhou.

*Lieutenant Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband entered Lhasa in 1904, heading a British expeditionary force in 1904. In later life he moved away from Imperialism and turned to eastern mysticism. Based on his experiences in Tibet he became convinced that 'all men at heart are divine'. See Patrick French's fascinating biography, 'Younghusband'. 1994, Penguin.

Chapter Two: Meetings with 'Remarkable People'

*'Sarmoung Brotherhood' was an alleged esoteric Sufi brotherhood.

*'Malik Tawus' is otherwise known as 'The Peacock Angel', a central figure in the Yazidi religion. He is one of the 7 angels God, according to the Yazidis, put in charge of the world. It is easy to see why he has become synonymous with 'Lucifer'.

*1916 was indeed a liminal year in western civilization – see John Berger's brilliant essay 'The Moment of Cubism' in 'Landscapes: John Berger in Art', Verso, 2016.

*I made up 'the rain of fire' before doing any research on the basis of a letter by Henrietta Barnet, the co-founder of Whitechapel Art Gallery in the east end of London in which she provides an excuse to miss a meeting due to 'zeppelin raids'. I was very gratified to learn that indeed Liverpool was a target of a zeppelin raid on January 31st, 1916 – the raid missed Liverpool by some measure and scattered its incendiary bombs over Carlisle.

* The bizarre and entirely unfounded musings of the late James Churchward (1851 – 1936). He conjectured that human civilization was now in decline and had reached its zenith 70,000 years ago during 'The Mu Civilization'. All our present myths and symbols are mere echoes of this lost civilization which, according to Churchward, sunk somewhere beneath the waves close to Papua New Guinea.

*Heraclitus (535-475 BC) was a Greek philosopher pre-dating Socrates remembered for his theories of cosmology in which Fire forms the basic material principle of an orderly universe.

* Zimmerwald Conference, Switzerland, September 1915. Lenin attended. It was here that the division between the (moderate) Menshevik wing of the Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party began to split with the Bolshevik wing the latter, headed by Lenin, advocated illegal means and armed violence against the presiding powers and also being against the 'Imperial' war.

* In 1891, 'The Ouija, wonderful talking board' was advertised in Pittsburg USA. Woolworths, founded in 1912, began to stock them in 1916.

Chapter Three: 'Mr Do's 'Oriental Antiques and Curios Emporium''

* Chinese Porcelain, Volume 1 – by W G Gulland, Chapman & Hall, 1902

* 'The Complete Map of the Great World' was created for the Kangxi, Qing Emperor and gifted in 1594 by Matteo Ricci.

* Edison Disc Player was first available in 1912.

* Sir Edmund Backhouse forged the diaries of the Empress Dowager Ci Xi, who died in 1908. Through his connection with Backhouse, Do is claiming to have the original, hand-written edition.

* Thomas Manning (1772-1840) was the first English man to enter Lhasa, in 1811. He was from Norwich.

Chapter Four: "The Duel of the Sorcerers"

* Adverts appeared in many of the major newspapers for the tincture of opium under the brand name 'Laudanum'. The bottle had a white and pink label, had a Skull and Crossbones picture and 'Poison' written very clearly.

* In reality, 'The Duel of the Sorcerers' was a cheap publication which my father, Philip Brook Dransfield (1925-2004) had read in the 1930s and retold to me, with his own embellishments, during a coach holiday in Austria in around 1972. And yes, sad to say Daffy the Dog did fart at that precise moment when my father first read 'the penny dreadful' in the pitch black of a Yorkshire moor night!

Chapter Five: Rain of Fire

* Sima Tan (190-110 BC) was the father of 'The Grand Historian', Sima Qian (145BC -91BC). Sima Tan, a Daoist according to Hugh Scogin, famously demanded on his death bed: 'You must remember! You must remember!' Sima Qian subsequently kept a record of the despicable actions of the Emperor Wu of the early Han period, even surviving castration as a punishment for disagreeing with this despot. The accounts survive to this day and inspire 'historians' throughout China's turbulent history.

Chapter Six: 'Quinta Do Vallado'

* Quinta Do Vallado, founded in 1716, is one of the most recognized Qinta Port in the Douro Valley.

* The account of the 'Ding' is inspired from 'Living with the Gods' by Neil MacGregor (Penguin, 2018), wherein he examines an inscription on a bronze 'Gui' dating from the Zhou dynasty which invokes 'The Mandate of Heaven'.

* In having adopted a young owl, Father Xavier is similar to Alfred Jarry (1873-1907), the French symbolist, writer and creator of *Ubi Roi*. Jarry, a friend of Picasso, was notorious for many things, including having a pet owl on his shoulders.

* Chuang Tzu, or Zhang Zhou (around 4th century BC), influential philosopher who invented the concept of '100 Schools of Thought'. 'It is difficult to say where the philosophies of Lao Tzu and Zhuang Zhi end and the most influential thinking of twentieth century German philosophy begins' Dag Herbjornsd (e.g. Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)).

* Martin Heidegger (1889 – 1976), the eminent German philosopher, believed that the I Ching was China's greatest contribution to human thought. It is true that by including both the 'observer' and the 'observed', the I Ching dispenses with the philosophical rabbit hole that obsesses quantum mechanics of nano particles behaving differently when observed. It also prefigures the sequence of 1/0 / 1/ 0 of modern computer logic.

Chapter Seven: The Lake of Tranquility

* The Welsh word '*Duthclas*' does not have a direct translation into English (which in of itself significant) and is defined as 'a world of natural affinities and connectedness that experiences people's love of land, water and earth and each other'. It is a visceral feeling of 'oneness' with 'place' – this definition is taken from a review of 'The sea is not made of water: Life between the tides' by Adam Nicolson, as reviewed by Casper Henderson in the Financial Times, 25 June 2021.

* The history and myths surrounding 'The Briolette Diamond' are legion and may well have inspired 'The Moon Stone', the famous Victorian novel by Wilkie Collins (1824- 1889). One such account includes 'Kohinoor: The Story of the World's Most Infamous Diamond' by William Dalrymple, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016

* Diane de Poitiers (1500 – 1566) was a French noble woman, related to 'The Cult of Dianna' that character Simon Whiggs / 'Hunter Bowes' alludes to later in the book.

* A community of Jews began in the Northern Song at the capital Kaifeng and continues to this day. Ai Tian did meet Matteo Ricci at the latter's mission premises in Peking. Ai Tian was not familiar with the New Testament and took Ricci's painting of the Mary, mother of Jesus, to be of Rebecca.

* The Donglin Academy was founded in the Northern Song period and was famous for teaching neo-Confucian scholars that swelled the ranks of the Imperial service. It is also noted for attempting to change Chinese society through education.

* The founder of the Taiping Republic was a Hakka, Hong Xiuquan. Hong had on several occasions failed the Imperial Examinations and, inspired by an American missionary's religious tract, decided to lead a righteous rebellion against the oppression of the Manchus. At its height, the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom occupied almost a third of China and lasted for over a decade. It was only the combined forces of the British, American and Qing armies that finally led to its defeat in 1864. What followed was a genocidal massacre of over twenty million Hakka men, women and children. Those lucky enough to escape settled in Southern China and hence spread to the four corners of the globe. See 'God's Chinese Son' by Jonathan Spence, W W Norton, 1997

* Throughout Chinese history there is little indigenous glass production. The Chinese were certainly aware of glass and examples from Roman times have been excavated, but valued their ceramics much more. The first significant art pieces to be made of glass were introduced by the Jesuits based on Italian methods and are variously referred to as 'Peking', 'Kangxi', 'Qianlong' or 'Tao Liao Ping' glass. Incidentally, the importance of scientific instruments and optical devices and lenses depend on sophisticated glass production and the lack of interest shown by the Ming dynasty may be an indication of their later demise.

* In Pu Yi's autobiography 'The Last Emperor' he admits to smuggling out pieces from the Imperial collection and selling them 'through the back door'. But it seems that Puyi (1906-1967) was simply continuing a tradition: according to a recent copy of 'Country Life' a collection up for auction was from shipping captain Charles Oswald Lidell who bought much of his collection from Zaifeng, Prince Chun (b. 1883) and father of Puyi. A moon flask discovered in Lidell's Welsh home sold for US\$1.5 million in 2014.

* Chuan Tzu is also alleged to be the source of the homophony (wu-fa wu-t'ien), famously later quoted by Mao Tsetung. The philosophy of Chuan Tzue also had a remarkable traction with Mao which is worthy of some further conjecture. The Belgian sinologist, Simon Leys (1935 -) interprets Mao's enigmatic comment to the American journalist and Mao hagiographer Edgar Snow on the eve of the launch of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 in the following, *"I am a monk holding an umbrella"*. "Some misunderstandings do acquire historical dimensions. In the celebrated interview he granted Edgar Snow, Mao Tsetung allegedly described himself as "a lonely monk walking in the rain under a leaking umbrella." With its mixture of humorous humility and exoticism, this utterance had a tremendous impact on the Western imagination, already so well attuned to the oriental glamour of "Kung Fu" TV series (circ. 1972, starring David Carradine). Snow's command of the Chinese language, even at its best, was never very fluent; some 30-odd years spent away from China had done little to improve it, and it is no wonder that he failed to recognize in this "monk under an umbrella" (ho-shang to san) evoked by the Chairman, a most popular Chinese joke. The expression, in the form of a riddle, calls for the conventional answer "no hair (since monks keep their head shaven); "no sky" (it being hidden by the umbrella)—which in turn means by homophony (wu-fa wu-t'ien) "I know no law, I hold nothing sacred." The blunt cynicism shown by Mao in referring to such a saying to define his basic attitude was as typical of his bold disregard for diplomatic niceties, as its mistaken and mawkish English adaptation by Snow is revealing of the compulsion for myth-making, of the demand for politico-religious chromos among a certain type of Western intellectual."

* See William Jenner's 'The Tyranny of History', published in 1993.

Chapter Nine: Mrs Brennan's eggs

* 'The Yuet Ben' was the first Chinese restaurant in Liverpool and the first one that the Dransfield's ever visited – on our first visit in the early 1970s we each took a large swig of the finger bowl.

Chapter Ten: 'A broken fan in a hot desert'

* In 1892 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Inspector Eduardo Alvarez used finger printing to prove the identity of a villain.

* The Jesuit Oath is: “From ear to ear rip my belly open, and sulphur burn therein, and all the punishments that can be inflicted on me on earth, and my soul tortured by demons in an eternal hell for ever.”

* Joseph Williamson Tunnels – a fascinating underground world created by the tobacco baron Joseph Williamson in Liverpool during the nineteenth century – see ‘The Joseph Williamson Society’ for more.

Chapter Eleven: The Enchanted Way

* Nothing of note.

Chapter Twelve: A sister’s intuition

* Nothing of note.

Chapter Thirteen: The train to Runcorn

* MI7 was a branch of the British War Office’s Directorate of Military Intelligence, established in 1915, and focused on UK matters. MI6 was founded in 1909 and focusses on the overseas collection of intelligence. In June 1940, Churchill personally set up the Special Operations Executive to wage a secret war behind enemy lines – the blue print for the USA’s CIA. Ever since the notorious and feared Sir Francis Walsingham (1532-1590), the British have excelled at intelligence gathering. Walsingham is remembered as Elizabeth I’s ‘spy master’ and the primary focus were Roman Catholics sympathetic to Mary, ‘Queen of Scots’.

* Herbert and wife Hedda Eulenberg were German translators and writers and exponents of ‘Monism’.

* Von Wangenheim has been mentioned in various accounts relating to the scheme to deport Lenin and his entourage into Petrograd and there is overwhelming evidence that the plot was hatched in Constantinople. Von Wangenheim had achieved great prestige at his successful conversion of ‘The Three Pashas’ who were ruling the Ottoman Empire at the start of World War One to the Axis Power’s cause.

* Ioseb Besarionis AKA Joseph Stalin was notorious for his skills in managing a gang of bank robbers and most of the money he stole went straight to Lenin and also helped pay for the newspaper that Stalin founded. The incident cited in Crimea is a real one. Stalin and another gang leader called Kamo founded ‘The Outfit’, that began their robbing spree in Georgia in 1907.

* The first known Chinese man to become a mason in China was Bro. Shan Hing Ying, a lieutenant in the Imperial Navy, who was initiated into Lodge Star of Southern China in Guangzhou in 1889, according to records at Zetland Hall, Hong Kong.

* Winston Churchill’s nick name during the Boer War was ‘Copper head’. He was acting as a war correspondent for ‘The Morning Post’ and was captured and imprisoned in a Prisoner of War camp from which he made a daring escape in 1889, helped by an English mine manager.

Chapter Fourteen: An ‘unfortunate escalator’ incident

* Founded in 1860, Diocesan Girls’ School was originally established as a school for Euro-Asian girls.

* Actually, brandy was regularly administered to those in shock after their first escalator ride in London during the 1900s. London's first escalator was installed at Earl's Court in 1911. A similar incident to Tian's was witnessed by me at Beijing railway station in 1986 – the escalator at the old station descended at least two hundred feet.

* James Whistler RBA 1834-1903 – 'Nocturne' was painted in 1875. Liverpool was the first English city that Whistler encountered (1843) and he had a life long connection and affection for the city. The Walker gallery exhibited his works frequently, beginning with some etchings in 1877. It is therefore quite possible that Paul would be familiar with Whistler, and also his contemporary, John Atkinson-Grimshaw (1836 – 1893).

Chapter Fifteen: 34 Ecclestone Square

* 'The Other Haig' – was Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig (1861 – 1928), commander of the British Army in WW1. Winston advocated for an 'Eastern Front' strategy that Haig vehemently opposed.

* This was the lowest point in Winston's career – he was 'Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster' at this time, a position he was very keen to relinquish. The Duchy of Lancaster' is actually a part of central London close to Westminster – the title has come to mean 'Minister without portfolio' – other incumbents have included Michael Gove.

* 'Plymouth Gin' was indeed the choice of Churchill and he did prefer it neat.

* A supremely dominant force was certainly Churchill's strategy for the 'Normandy Landings' in June, 1944.

* Vice-admiral Sir David Beatty was indeed Churchill's favourite admiral and became the First Sea Lord between 1919 -1927. His early career included relieving the Imperial forces at Tianjin during 'The Boxer Rebellion' of 1899-1901.

Part Two: The Road to Petrograd

Chapter One: “The beauty of the landscape resides in its melancholy”

* “The beauty of landscape..” is a quote by Turkish writer Ahmet Rasim (1864 – 1932) as cited in Orhan Pamuk’s masterful ‘Istanbul: Memories of a City’ Faber & Faber, 2005.

* My father’s family house in South Crosland was full of ‘self-help’ style encyclopedia on all manner of subjects.

* There are countless books on Constantinople. One of the best is John Julius Norwich’s ‘Byzantium’, published in 1989 by Knopf. Emperor Constantine (c.274 -337) moved the centre of his empire from Rome to Constantine in 330 AD.

* The Battle of Jutland, North Sea, May 31 1916; the Germans claim it as a victory and Churchill always blamed Beatty’s superior Admiral Sir John Jellicoe for his timidity. ‘

Chapter 2: ‘Ithaca’, Number 23 Tiyatro Caddesi

* I am indebted to ‘The Story of San Michele’ by Dr Axel Munthe, first published in 1929 by John Murray, not only for his descriptions of cholera-ridden Naples in the early 1900s, but for the fact that the Countess became his most unreliable tenant! I am also grateful for the late Eric Ambler’s descriptions of Istanbul in ‘The Mask of Dimitrios’, Hodder and Stoughton, 1939.

* On April 24th 1915, the Ottoman authorities arrested and deported hundreds of Armenian intellectuals and leaders in Constantinople. It is estimated that between 800,000 to 1.2 million Armenian women, children and elderly or infirm people were sent on death marches to the Syrian desert. The Ottoman government provided the first twentieth century example of a highly cynical and callous state sponsored genocide, and thus they provided a model for Adolf Hitler and ‘The Final Solution’ thirty years later which resulted in the deaths of over six million European Jews, as well as communists, gypsies, disabled and gay people, in the death camps. These death camps were located across German-occupied Europe, including present day Poland and Ukraine. ‘The Promise’, a 1916 film with Christian Bale and Oscar Isaac, based on the novel ‘The promise at the sea’ by Vitali Ianko, covers the Armenian experience in Constantinople graphically.

Chapter Three: “Colonel Thomas Laurent Parker at your service”

* Ahrida Synagogue is one of the oldest synagogues in Turkey and was built by the Macedonian Jews in the 1430s. Sephardi Jews arrived to Constantinople from Spain in 1492, having been expelled from Spain. The Ahrida Synagogue is known for its boat-shaped *tevah*, or Ark.

Chapter Four: The ‘Red Apple’

* Mogra flower is the Arabian jasmine (*Jasminum sambac*), native to India the distilled flowers create a heady perfume: the essence of which is available at Attar Mohammed Ayub & Co, in Mumbai.

Chapter Five: The Sea Beast

* One source had Churchill in Constantinople in 1908 (Jonathan Harris ‘Constantinople: Capital of Byzantium’). If so, it was most likely during his ‘Grand Tour’ honeymoon with new bride Clementine, around May, 1908.

* Sale Pavilion Hotel – guests of this the most luxurious hotel in Constantinople include Sir Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, and a section was added in 1889 to accommodate Kaiser Wilhelm II state visit.

* According to Walter H Thompson, Churchill's bodyguard from around 1921 to 1950, Churchill referred privately to him on numerous occasions that he had been spared death because of Churchill's Divine Mission. Indeed, if there is one man responsible for destroying the Nazis then it his Sir Winston Churchill. (Acord Media, 2005)

* The books that Nathan refers to are: Leon Pinsker's 'Judeophobia' and Theodor Herzl's 'Der Judenstaat'. Pinsker (1821 -1891) was a professor of law at Odessa University; Herzl (1860 – 1904) was also a lawyer studying at University of Vienna. Both are considered to be fathers of Zionism. See Simon Schama's 'The Story of the Jews', Volume 2, 2017, Vintage.

* Le Corbusier (1887 – 1965) visited Constantinople in 1911 and the Turkic vernacular architecture fascinated him: he produced copies drawings and also photographs. Le Corbusier's early commissions (including Villa Savoye) include features inspired by the buildings and streets he encountered in Constantinople.

* Churchill's personal conviction that the Jews of Europe needed a permanent homeland began in 1908. He was instrumental in supporting 'The Balfour Declaration' of 1917 that called for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people, a letter written by the British foreign secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lord Rothschild (Lionel Walter).

* See 'The Cubist Moment' – John Berger.

* The Netherlands remained neutral during WW1 and Dutch tourists were a common site in Constantinople.

* German influence on the Ottoman Empire was increasing throughout the beginning of the twentieth century and 'The Three Pashas' sided with the Axis Powers in 1914.

* A holocaust of over 20 million people is the aftermath of the fall of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom in 1864.

* Cavafy lived in Therapia between 1882 and 1885 and wrote some of his earliest poems there (some yet to be published). I am most grateful to Gregory Jusdanis for his blog 'Searching for Cavafy's house in Istanbul'.

Chapter Six: Unity of Three

* For a detachable funnel on an Ottoman steam ship, see Orhan Pamuk, photo on page 256 of the page back edition of 'Istanbul'.

* I understand from my friend Professor Hugh Scogin, Professor at NYU School of Law, that a typical page of 'The Tora' would have the original Hebrew texts without the verbs: surrounding it would be 'The Masorah', which is an explanatory text which could be in Hebrew, Aramaic or sometimes both.

* See 'Kabbalah: The Untold Story of the Mystic Tradition' by Kenneth Hanson, Council Oak Books, 1998.

Chapter Seven: “Learning to mobilise the English language”

* The Times of Israel, May 16, 2019, has a fascinating account of when Ricci met Ai Tian, by Nicholas Zane.

* See ‘The Story of the Jews’ volume 1, Simon Schama, Vintage 2013

* Edward R Murrow of CBS News first used this phrase in the 1950s. It got famously picked up by President John F Kennedy.

* Churchill’s ‘Bamboo sketch’ from this time was auctioned at Sothebys in 2021.

* Sir Gerard Lowther was the British Ambassador to Constantinople between 1908 -1913, during which time he translated and distributed anti-Semitic texts.

Chapter Eight: “The Eye of the Day Verses the Heat of the Night”

Nothing of note

Chapter Nine: A spectral visitor

Nothing of note

Chapter Ten: A fine residence

* Fred Pagnam (1891 – 1962) was a football legend, playing for Huddersfield Town, Blackpool, Liverpool and Arsenal before becoming a football manager.

Chapter Eleven: “Mata Hari is unwell”

* The phrase “Mata Hari is unwell” is a borrowing from ‘Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell’ a play by Keith Waterhouse about real-life journalist Jeffrey Bernard (1932 – 1997) famous for his ‘Low Life’ column in the Spectator magazine which frequently mentioned his alcohol abuse.

* Schrodinger’s Cat – in quantum mechanics: a hypothetical cat may be considered simultaneously both alive and dead.

* Margaretha Zelle had spent time in the Dutch colony of Java (‘The Netherlands East Indies) and learned to dance from some of the Javanese dancers – it is usually associated with courtly and the refined and sophisticated culture of the Javanese court.

* See Richard Elman’s majestic biography of ‘Oscar Wilde’, Hamish Hamilton, 1987. Wilde did perform at the Frascati Amusement Park, Mobile, Alabama on 28th June, 1882: he was much taken with the gunslinging and said sign on the piano player’s back.

* This was originally performed by ‘Memphis Slim’ (1915-1988, Paris) in the 1950s on whom Alabama Slim is loosely based.

* Kuroda Bushi is a Japanese drinking song that my father Philip Dransfield was happy to perform, especially fueled by plenty of Sake!

* ‘Mata Hari’ was executed by firing squad on 15 October 1917, aged 41, by the French authorities. The French accused her of spying (specifically leaking to the Germans the details of ‘the tank’ – another of

Winston Churchill's contributions, curiously) although there is only circumstantial evidence to support this. Her Russian parachutist lover had been captured and was in a Prisoner of War camp on the German side of the Western Front and thus provided them with leverage over her.

* Eugene Morand's play 'Les Cathedrales, was performed in 1916, starring Sarah Bernhardt.

* Contessa Luisa Stampa di Soncino counted 'Coco Chanel' as one of her friends – at this time Coco was in Biarritz where she owned a milliner's shop. Chanel did make her first short dresses out of material cut up from gentlemen's under garments.

* 'The Tired Hedonists' is originally an Oscar Wilde description (see Ellman) – the Contessa did rent Dr Munthe's villa on Capri, much to his shame, and did hold lavish and licentious parties there from around 1917.

* The Ottoman frigate 'Ertugrul' sunk off the coast of Japan at Kushimoto Wakayama in 1890 – many Turkish sailors were saved by the Japanese villagers there.

* Winterreise is a song cycle for voice and piano by Franz Schubert based on the 24 poems by Wilhelm Muller.

Chapter Twelve: Sanctuary

Nothing of note

Chapter Thirteen: The Conspiracy

* Neurasthenia was one of those fashionable complaints fashionable among the rich in Europe in the early part of the century. Even Axel Munthe mentions it in his autobiography. Like many medical fads it had largely disappeared as a diagnosis by the 1930s.

* Baron Otto von Bismarck (1815 – 1898) unified Germany in the 1870s. The German Embassy in Constantinople was the first foreign embassy built by the new united Germany and hence was designed to make a statement about Germany's perceived importance in the world.

* The Panopticon was first designed by English philosopher Jeremy Bentham (1748 - 1832) for modern prisons. It became a useful metaphor for the French philosopher and historian Michel Foucault (1926 - 1984) to describe the function of the modern surveillance state.

* See Sean McMeekin's 'The Russian Revolution: A New History', Profile Books, 2017

* See Sean McMeekin's 'The Russian Revolution'.

Chapter Fourteen: "The coral eagles"

* The slogans of Ataturk's campaign against the Ottomans: the campaign began around 1917. Ataturk had been a military officer during the Dardanelles campaign and is credited with turning the course of the Gallipoli offensive the Turkish way by singlehandedly leading a charge that repelled the Australian advance. He was also known to consume at least one bottle of Raki a day.

* An account of the German Embassy mentions the six eagles, and their mysterious disappearance during WW1.

* Parker is being prescient – see Pankaj Mishra’s ‘From the ruins of Empire: The Intellectuals who remade Asia’ (2012, Penguin), for a non-western-centric account of what those who were under the yoke of the British empire actually thought and wrote about it.

Chapter Fifteen: The caves of the Medusa

* The experience of being flushed down a darkened pipe in fetid water happened to me at Rhyll’s ‘Sun Centre’.

* Theodosius Cistern – underneath Constantinople, and especially on the European ‘Old City’ side, are a system of beautifully preserved Roman cisterns.

Chapter Sixteen: The Quadrilateral Gardens of Paradise

* Mevlevi Monastery – DK Eyewitness Travel Guide to Istanbul mentions Georges Gurdjieff, ‘*refugee of the Russian Revolution, mystic, wily business man and sometime spy*’, having stayed at the Mevlevi Monastery between 1920 -21. The monastery belonged to the sect of Sufis known as ‘The Whirling Dervishes’.

Chapter Seventeen: “A Time of Gifts”

* “A Time of Gifts” – this title by Patrick Leigh Fermor is taken from the poem by the Irish poet Louis MacNeice (1907 – 1963), ‘Twelfth Night’.

* Reading ‘The Shape of Ruins’, 2018, Riverhead Books, by Juan Gabriel Vasquez (1973 -) in 2019 provided me with an incentive to re-read William Shakespeare’s ‘Julius Caesar’. Brutus is perhaps the best example of a character in Shakespeare who ends up in hell, but with the best of intentions. Naturally, an assassination quest must, at the very least, be ambivalent. ‘The Shape of the Ruins’ proved also to be the starting off point regarding the unpublished research paper undertaken at Senate House and SOAS libraries by me in February 2020: “‘You must remember’: How scratchings in the top soil of the ruins of two pasts got us to where we are: An inquiry into the origins of western and Chinese history”, which forms the foundations upon which ‘The Inner Circle’ is constructed.

* Iznik ceramics, manufactured from 15th century onwards. The co-mingling of influences between China and the Ottoman empire is fascinating and both cultures created beautiful tiles and pottery ware. Cobalt from the Ottoman Empire became the glaze of choice during China’s Ming dynasty. Many of the iconic shapes of Chinese Ming ware have their origins in Islamic mosque-ware.

* The African death’s head hawk moth (*Acherontia Atropos*) does make a loud, chirping noise via the means of the structure of their wings. The shepherd in William Holman Hunt’s (1827 – 1910) ‘The Hireling Shepherd’ is holding a similar moth to the lady he is cavorting with, while his sheep are led astray. It is rumoured that Holman Hunt meant his picture to be a parody of the Church of England. It hangs at Manchester Art Gallery.

Chapter Eighteen: “First we take Cracow – Then we take Berlin”

* Much is owed to David MacNeil Doren’s fine book, ‘Winds of Crete’, 1974, John Murray, for descriptions of Cretans and their history: my father’s favourite book. Its account of a bearded, proto-hippy American and his Swedish wife going back to a simple way of life in the rustic villages of Crete appealed to the wanderlust and desire for a life away from cities that my father sought. I notice that

one of the last foreign holidays that my mother and father embarked on was Crete – it looks like he finally got his way for once! See also Patrick Leigh Fermor’s short piece ‘The Mani Olive Harvest’, LRB, Volume 43, Number 15).

Chapter Nineteen: “Leaving Therapia”

* See ‘Searching for Cavafy’s House’, Gregory Jusdanis, Arcade.

* ‘The Broken Road’ by Patrick Leigh Fermor (2012, John Murray) provides the inspiration for some of the descriptions herein.

* ‘Belial – from ‘Kabbalah’ by Hanson.

* Indigo – the blue from this flower is used in dying clothes. They detect moisture in the air before rainfall.

Chapter Twenty: Entering the Pale

* See Schama, ‘The Story of the Jews’, Volume 2: From 1890s onwards and especially in 1905, the Jewish population of ‘The Pale’ was subjected to massacre after massacre, known by the Russian Cossacks who subjected countless men, women and children to their blades as Pogroms. Young Jewish men faced the prospect of forced recruitment to the Tsar’s army for up to twenty years. Many Jews from The Pale fled to North America. The population of Odessa in 1916 was around 1 million, 300,000 of which were Jews. The present Jewish population of Odessa is 3,000.

Chapter Twenty-one: Some secrets of ‘The Wu Xing- Kabbalah’ Synthesis are revealed

* Unfortunately, Nathan proved unsuccessful. The portrait of Lenin replaced ‘The Ten Commandments’ as the Brodsky Synagogue became requisitioned for secular use under the Soviet period.

* The Jewish religious community that created ‘The Dead Sea Scrolls’ lived at the Qumran Caves from third century BC to First Century AD: they were discovered in 1947, ‘The Dead Sea Scrolls’ proved to be the most important historical and religious find in the history of archaeology and include the oldest surviving manuscripts of entire Hebrew books which had fallen out of human memory.

* Qin Shi Huang – see references to Sima Tian and Sima Qian earlier.

Chapter Twenty-two: ‘Electric Shadows’ in Odessa

* Yiddish theatre groups were a common form of entertainment in Odessa. The early distribution of black and white movies would have been around since the beginning of the 20th century and inspired the Soviet film maker Sergei Eisenstein (1898 – 1948). Eisenstein’s masterpiece ‘Battleship Potemkin’ was filmed in Odessa in 1925. Early Hollywood has its roots in the Jewish population of Russia, with many of the Jews formerly of the Lower East Side of Manhattan Island being the cornerstone of the movie and entertainment business of the United States. For example, Louis B Mayer (1884 – 1957) founder of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios was born in Minsk, Russia in 1884.

* ‘The Dream of Radcliffe’ from the opera ‘Guglielmo Ratcliff by Pietro Mascagni. The tune is remarkably similar to ‘Somewhere over the rainbow’ by Harold Arien and E Y Harburg, both New York Jews with ancestors from ‘The Pale’. (See Schama – TV series of ‘The Story of the Jews’). The film sequence is inspired by ‘The Fall of the House of Usher’ directed by Jean Epstein, 1928.

* Simon Whig is loosely based on William Henry Pratt (1887 – 1969). I always wondered why there is a practice net at the Oval Cricket Ground dedicated to ‘Boris Karlof’, but of course it turns out that he as a local boy made good. Pratt was born of an English father and an Indian mother and he changed his name for the many Hollywood movies he starred in to prevent embarrassment to his brothers who were all dignified members of the British Foreign Services.

* Kathlene is loosely based on Kathlene Royds, born 1883, a relief worker, quaker and scholar of Coleridge who was brought up in the south of England but was an heiress to a fortune amassed through cotton manufactured in Lancashire. The Second World War is often lauded for the emancipation of women in the United Kingdom but this has its roots in World War 1. Agatha Christie (1890-1976), like Kathlene Royds, volunteered for the Red Cross during WW1. Sally Drake, my own maternal grandmother, stepped up to do the accounts at F Drake & Co. during the 1920s.

Chapter Twenty-Three: Beyond The Pale – “A whole empire walking”

* See London Review of Books – Volume 43, Number 19: Thomas Jones’ review of ‘Hearing Homer’s Song: The brief life and big idea of Milman Parry’ by Robert Kanigel

Chapter Twenty-Four: “In the middle of the Journey”

* Under Emperor Hadrian (76Ad – 138 AD) , Romans occupied the southern parts of modern day Ukraine – coins similar to the ones described have been found there. Athena was the Goddess of the arts, and later of war and is related to Minerva.

Chapter Twenty-Five: In Danzig

* The best source on Lenin’s sealed carriage journey I found is by Simon Hewitt on ‘The Railway Hub’ blog, 13 April 2020. Many other accounts get confused regarding a ‘sealed train’ as opposed to a ‘sealed carriage’. Actually, the locomotives changed countless times as Lenin’s entourage of about thirty were sitting in a single carriage. Both the Germans and Lenin himself were evasive about the particulars of the journey but it does seem clear that Lenin had a lay-over outside of Berlin for twenty-two hours and was visited by senior members of the Kaiser’s government to be briefed on the coming battle against the Tsar and his forces.

* Bob Dylan’s autobiography ‘Chronicles’ (Simon & Schuster, 2004) evoked my own memories of the Manchester Ship Canal on New Years Days during the 1970s and also my days as an asthmatic child.

* Kaiser Wilhelm 11 and George V of England were grandsons of Queen Victoria: Tzar Nicholas II’s wife, Alexandra, was the granddaughter of Victoria. Thus, the outbreak of World War 1 on one level looks like the culmination of a family feud. The murder of Tzar Nicholas, Alexandra and their children was ordered directly by Lenin and looks like fratricide when you consider it was a direct and predictable consequence of Kaiser Wilhelm’s sponsorship of Bolshevism. (See ‘Russian Revolution: A New History’).

* As explored earlier, Sun Yat Sen got caught out in a similar way by the Slater Detective agency through a salon photograph: Nathan has one of the most ethnically advanced cameras of the time – Kodak having a near monopoly on the rapidly developing amateur photography hobby.

Chapter 26: Becoming a Submariner

* The account of C32 and its journey to the Baltic is accurate in every way.

* Sigmund Freud's 'The Unconscious' was published in 1900 and would have been available to Nathan in Danzig: similarly Albert Einstein published 'Annalen der Physik' in 1905, which would have been available in Danzig via Bern, Switzerland.

* 'The Dreyfus Affair' – see Robert Harris's novel 'An officer and a spy', 2013 and also Simon Schama's 'The Story of the Jews' volume 2.

* See Radcliffe's Dream earlier – the idea that there is a perfect world 'over the rainbow' has its roots in the Kabbalah.

Chapter 27: Vladimir Ilyich Lenin goes shopping

154. Various historians over the years have over-leaped each other in their attempts to express the horrendous consequences of Lenin's entry in Russia in 1917. On one level the whole of World War One can be characterized as a family feud: Kaiser Wilhelm II and George V of England were grandsons of Queen Victoria: Tzar Nicholas II wife Alexandra was the granddaughter of Victoria – the outbreak of World War I on one level looks like the culmination of a family feud. Therefore, the murder of Tzar Nicholas, Alexandra and their children, as ordered by Lenin, looks like a case of fratricide when you consider it was a direct and predictable consequence of Kaiser Wilhelm's sponsorship of Bolshevism. On another level, '100 million souls died as a consequence of this single action. "the most colossal case of political carnage in history. The most important single event of the twentieth century, leading to the Russian Revolution, without it there would have been no national socialism, no second world war and no cold war." One could add there would be no Chinese Revolution and no Chinese Cultural revolution, either. Interesting sources include Sean McNeekin's 'A New Russian History' (cited earlier), Richard Pipes' 'The 3 Whys of the Russian Revolution' (Pimlico, 1995), and Paul Kenger's "The extraordinary untold story of the 20th century' (essay).

Chapter 28: Dog biscuits

* Nordiska Kompaniet department store – Lenin and part of his entourage did go shopping in April 1917 and Lenin did buy not only a suit, but also the famous Breton flat cap and a pair of brogues. He did balk at the offer of a coat and was heard to have said that 'I am embarking on a revolution; not a shopping exhibition'. It is possible that Greta Garbo's sister may have served him: she was working there at the time. Greta Garbo herself worked as a sales girl there in the early 1920s.

Chapter 29: In the footsteps of Rodion Romanovich Rashonnikov, crossing 'Liteynyy Most' Bridge

* Dante Alighieri is believed to have met his Beatrice on only two occasions; the second of which she apparently spurned him. He was married to another woman, Lulu.

* When Trotsky met with the Allies at Bret-Litovsk in 1917 and used the opportunity to default on Russian overseas obligations (including its bonds), he also gave up all Russia's international assets. According to Paul Kenge, this has impoverished Russia to this very day. It was certainly not the mistake that the Chinese Communist Party wished to follow. Various overseas deposits from Shanghai-based Chinese banks, including those held by Chase Manhattan in New York, were placed in interest bearing escrow accounts until the normalization of relations between America and China. The money became available in the early 1990s and contributed to the creating of a new city in Shanghai's Pudong area.

* It seems that the Kaiser's generous funding, US\$4 billion in present day money according to McMeekin, allowed Lenin and his entourage to 'live big' in one of the most opulent of palaces, as well as conduct a well-oiled propaganda machine to try and win the hearts and minds of the citizens of Petrograd. The first attempt failed and Lenin retreated back to Zurich, only to return for the successful November Revolution. The Tzar and his family were assassinated on July 17, 1918 – at the direct instructions of Vladimir Lenin.

* Exerts of Lenin's speech: "The people need peace; the people need bread; the people need land. And they give you war, hunger, no bread. ... We must fight for the socialist revolution, fight to the end, until the complete victory of the proletariat. Long live the worldwide socialist revolution!"

Chapter 30: 'Black Wednesday', April 17th: Murder in the Cathedral

* I am indebted to Eisenstein's pen and ink sketches for his movie 'Ivan the Terrible 3' which were included in an otherwise disingenuous Soviet documentary of the 1950s tagged on to the end of a DVD of 'Battleship Potemkin'.

* See 'Kabbalah' by Hanson

* See a fascinating account of the summoning up of a Golem by the Jewish community in Prague in 1580 on which this account is derived ('Kabbalah' – 168-176). This account also includes an interesting epitaph to the fate of Nazi soldiers who disturbed the remains of the Golem on their occupation of the city in March 1939. Once you summon a 'golem', it is hard to exorcise it, it would seem!

End note: on 'The Key to All Mythologies'

The fictional character of Reverend Edward Casaubon was certainly on to something and, while a failed attempt, the very ambition of finding the common cause of all human mythologies certainly resonates with me. The human consequences relating to the mixing up of various mythologies has fascinated me ever since when I was eleven and accompanied my parents to a 'Saga' holiday to the Northeast of England called 'In Search of the Boggarts'. As the Dransfields, and one lone Goth woman in her forties, were the only 'takers' for such an investigation into 'Supernatural England' in the entire UK, we joined a very nice group of Liverpoolian Roman Catholic widows on their sedate coach tour of 'English Heritage'. We visited the old churches and sacred sites of Northumberland. In these ancient churches, not reached by Thomas Cromwell's hench men during 'The Restoration' of the 1540s, were minstrel galleries, Druid altar stones (still acting as the altar of medieval churches), and 'protective eye' stained glass, and perhaps even a 'Great Jessye' or two. Thus, educated 'in the field', my anthropological studies continued in a more academic way with an MA in the discipline at SOAS and also in a more ad hoc manner with re-readings of Carlos Castaneda's 'The Teachings of Don Juan' (Uni of California, 1968) and J G Frazer's 'The Golden Bough', first published in 1890. Other important studies include 'Chinese Religion: An anthology of sources' edited by Deborah Sommer (Oxford Uni Press, 1995), 'The Kabbalah: The Untold Story of the Mystic Tradition' by Kenneth Hanson (Council of Oak, 1998), 'The Great Cosmic Mother: Rediscovering the religion of the earth' by Monica Sjo and Barbara Mor (Harper One, 1987), 'Man, God And Magic' by Ivar Lissner (Putnam & Sons, 1961) and 'The White Goddess' by Robert Graves (Farrar Straus and Giroux, New York, 1975). Investigations into Asian ghost stories included the seminal work of Lafcadio Hearne (1850-1904) in Japan. I also becoming familiar with Dutch anthropologists of the 1950s, who collected fascinating ghost stories based on Indonesian folklore. Some of these sources got incorporated into a draft film script called 'Shadow', co-written with the actor Ric Young in 1990. During this period, I spent so much time requesting esoteric books in Senate House library that I was asked by one of the harassed-looking senior librarians why I needed a particular volume. Apparently, all my requested books came from 'The Aleister Crowley Collection', the darkest and creepiest wing of Senate House library!

Reading Carl Jung's (1875-1961) research into Asian culture and beliefs, which included an account of his pilgrimage to India in the 1930s, proved for me the starting off point of an interest of the transference of eastern ideas into the west that continues to fascinate me to this day. The phenomenon of 'the pull of the east is embodied in the fascinating character of Francis Younghusband (1863 – 1942), who started out as a British army officer but ended up in the west coast of America in the 1930s expounding Buddhist philosophy, pantheistic beliefs and an hypothesis based on the Greek-derived concept of 'Gaia'. The baton of these progressive beliefs got passed on to 'The Beats' (Ginsberg, Burrows, Kerouac), Leonard Cohen, Richard Brautigan and hence to that great flowering of the arts during 'The Age of Aquarius' (Dylan, Hendrix, the Beatles). They in turn owe figures like Younghusband, Jung and perhaps even the more delusional James Churchward (1851 -1936), a significant debt. There have been a few false prophets and charlatans along the way: in my opinion Georges Gurdjieff (1866-1949) being one of them. But the opening up between the west and the east has more recently allowed genuine spiritual masters to share their knowledge with the seekers in the west, most especially Geshe Kelsang Gyatso ((1931 -). Geshe Gyatso arrived in the United Kingdom from exile in West Bengal in 1976, having studied

at all the significant Tibetan monasteries before 1959 (for references to 'The New Kadampa Tradition please go to: <https://kadampa.org/buddhism/new-kadampa-tradition>)

When I read Andrew Graham-Dixon's (1960 -) account of the British 'Cultural Revolution' in his 'A History of British Art' (1996, BBC Publications), it connected with me in a profound way as it indicated that China was not the only culture that had suffered through a 'Cultural Revolution'. My experience of living with a Chinese academic family in Beijing during 1986 was deeply significant to me as the short period between 1984 to 1987 was a cathartic period in China when many of the older generation of Chinese intellectuals wanted to unburden themselves of their bitter experiences during Mao's 'Cultural Revolution' to a sympathetic foreign ear. It seems that most civilizations encounter at various times seismic changes to their culture (always traumatic) which finds their echoes in our own mindset and our psyche to this very day. In a similar manner, the trauma for the tragically common occurrences of genocides in Human History, finds its resonance in 'the living' even generations later. 'The Inner Circle: Book One' refers to three genocides specifically – the genocide inflicted on the supporters of 'The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom' during 1864 by both Qing dynasty soldiers and colonial troops; the Armenian Massacre from 1916 onwards and the pogroms perpetuated on the Jews in Eastern Europe during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. While the linear time events through which the novel takes place are January 1916 through to April 17th 1917, 'The Holocaust of 1938 to 1945 has its origins during this period and casts its dark shadow. However, the underlying truth that asserts its self through all human mythology is that 'Good triumphs over Evil in the end'. This is a truth that I fervently believe in. After all, Samuel Beckett's (1906 – 1989) chosen mantra was: "Try again. Fail again. Fail better" It's the trying that counts.

