

## Foreword

It was 1998 and my book, *Painting From The Source: Awakening The Artists' Soul In Everyone* was just published by Harper Collins in English-speaking countries around the world. On a dark cold winter night near Hudson, New York, I watched a video movie about the life of Michel de Nostredame, better known as Nostradamus, the 14th-century French astrologer, physician and reputed “seer,” who accurately predicted future devastating events such as plagues, the French Revolution, and World War I and II. At the end of the movie, I was deeply touched by his agony witnessing mankind’s endless destruction—humans never learning from their mistakes. I experienced a compelling passion to help in some way, as if Nostradamus was personally calling to me across the centuries. His plight got me thinking about the *root cause* of endless wars, cruelty, destruction, and what I could do to contribute to a shift in the collective human psyche, which is what I knew was required—that is, a quantum shift in the collective human psyche. All my varied life experience (and possibly Karma) seemed to come together with an idea... we need an international block buster movie, a Hero’s Journey

about a powerful, ruthless, charismatic American business man whose industry is harmful to the environment. In this movie, our hero must go through hardships and ordeals from which he emerges redeemed and transformed... with a radical change in behavior. He must go on a “vision quest” in wilderness, and the audience must go through this transformational experience with him.

I could see the movie in my mind, scenes and characters, but I am not a writer, and try as I did, I was not able to write the contemporary story with believable characters and plot. But a strange thing happened. When I wrote the story in the form of a dreamscape fairytale it began to flow: “Once upon a time there was a powerful King...”

Over the years I wrote the fairy tale story in fits and starts. I procrastinated. I moved to Ojai, in southern California in 2006. I thought the movie should be screened before the end of the Mayan calendar (2012) so I went back to work on the story in 2010. I looked for a screen writer to write the screen play. After all, I did live in the backyard to “movie land.” But no luck. The end of the Mayan Calendar came and went. I watched the world sink deeper into disaster, repeating and escalating the same mistakes as in the past.

In 2016 I moved to Oracle, Arizona and after renovating my new home studio, I turned again to the story that was haunting me. I realized in 2019 that I just needed to get the fairytale version self-published so I had something

tangible to show a movie producer. But still my painting workshops, needs of the home and family took precedence.

Now in 2022, two years into the pandemic I feel the isolation; with global warming escalating I feel the extreme erratic weather; with political polarization I feel the pain of losing friendships. In the summer of 2021, the ending of a brief intense love affair threw me into a soul spin. Personally, all the unconscious sins of the past came back to bite me, while at the same time, all the collective sins of the past are further threatening existence in our world. Now, there is no choice, no place to hide, no place to run. No excuses. It is my Soul duty. The story must be completed, the baby must be born so I can move on. And so it is.

I don't know where the story will go, if it has merit or not, but as steward of the story, I must launch it into the world sink or swim. Maybe it is worthy of inspiring a skilled movie producer or director. As Victor Hugo famously said, "*There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.*" Be it so!!

About why it took me 23 years from conception to actually get this story out into the world: Perhaps on some unseen energy level, the escalating unconscious shadow events in my inner life and the events in the outer world needed to be made ready, intensified for this story/movie idea to emerge. And now the perfect time has arrived.

Synchronistically, I recently heard about a

phenomenon that might explain another reason why this is the perfect time for the story and movie to surface into the world of pop culture. According to Astrology, the USA is in its “Pluto Return” phase, which peaks in 2024. This means that the 247th birthday of the USA is exactly how many years it takes for Pluto to make a full rotation around the Sun and solar system, and move into the same position in the heavens where Pluto was at the birth of the USA.

From the astrological point of view, Pluto relates to the way power is wielded, as well as a nation’s traumas, from war and destruction to social injustice and oppression. The “Pluto Return” we are now entering after 247 years is a time when all the dark deeds of the past surface, get really intense, implode, and hopefully transform into a new beginning. I was not aware of this event when writing the story, but you will see how this astrological event serendipitously relates to *The King Who Sang the Song of the Grandmother*. All the stars are in the right place.