

**The Story of Venus Awakening
By Nicola Wendrich**

Upon the journey into adulthood the ways of society can mould or lead us into areas of work or life situations which may not feel entirely fulfilling, especially if our focus becomes fixed upon how to earn money in order to survive in the world, rather than seeking out the deeper purpose of our time here on Earth. Therefore, it can be an interesting exercise to cast your mind back to the things which interested you as a child – the things you liked to play and do in the years before you started school, and in your free time once school became a part of your life. Our childhood interests can hold significant clues as to the means of finding fulfilment as adults.

For me, now comfortably past my Saturn return and settled in a family life where I work alongside my husband running our own business as artists and writers with a spiritual and magical leaning, it seems obvious that these modes of expression would feature in my life when I consider how I spent my hours of leisure as a child. For example, I loved to write and illustrate my own little books about woodland creatures (the hero of which was a hedgehog named Harry – the name of my husband-to-be!) In the fields behind my family home, I would invent games where my friends and I were witches who worked magic with colours, numbers and secret names – colour seemed to exist as a magical world of its own which entranced me. I loved to play shop, to make greetings cards, to plan gifts for friends and family. A love of reading extended into my teenage years, moving from novels into astrological books, while for play I would perform divinations with an assortment of objects to answer my questions about love.

Another area which had always delighted me was making music. From a very young age you could find me tapping glass jars filled with water of different levels to make my own xylophone, and the neighbours would laugh as they bent their heads towards my doll's pram to ask her name, only to find no doll (I hated dolls!) but instead my homemade percussion of socks and saucepans filled with seashells and stones. And when our family eventually acquired a cassette recorder, what joy! I spent years of my life recording my efforts on the harmonica and recorder, playing them back and creating harmonies, even though I never enjoyed or excelled in music lessons at school, finding the very idea of music 'lessons' quite repulsive – to own a small keyboard was a dream which came true for me at the age of sixteen, but to be taught how to play it, no thanks!

By the age of eighteen, when I acquired my first guitar, the self-conscious desire to fit in with my peers fuelled my determination to play only the songs of the popular bands of that time, and this continued until a most unusual thing happened to me three years later, while travelling in India – I dreamed a tune. It was so clear, that in the morning I noted it down and proceeded to put some lyrics to it – the first song that I had ever written. For several more years I continued to sing the songs of others, until the profound time of a life-changing spiritual awakening when Jesus Christ, my Higher Self and an angelic guide entered my life. From that time onwards, I began to realise that there were many songs which I could no longer sing, because the lyrics did not express my own feelings – something which I had never given any thought to before, being captivated solely by the tunes to which words were put.

In time, as I matured on my spiritual path, I began to feel a deep need to express the love I felt for the One whom I call 'God' in song, yet although I could physically feel songs as a pressure in the region of my chest, none would rise up out of my mouth in words. Bits of tunes sometimes, but never words, and this I found to be very frustrating. I became increasingly unhappy with the lyrics of the music of our collection, and eventually could only listen to instrumental pieces with any peace. And God bless Judee Sill, whose lyrical genius gave respite to my soul continuously for two years!

"Why don't you write your own songs?" Harry would suggest, but they just wouldn't come out. But that year, I decided that as a romantic Christmas present for Harry, I would write him a love song, only it ended up being a song of love for God through our experiences in meditation. Not what I had planned, but what an unexpected surprise, for both of us! I sang it to a friend, along with the other song I'd written in India some twenty-odd years before, and was most amused when he asked if I had written enough songs to record an album.

Then, out of the blue, Venus awakened....

In the following January, Harry began some intensive magical work with the planet Venus, which would last for a few months. The Planet Venus rules all aspects of love, attraction, marriage, beauty, sensuality, and fertility. It is associated with right brain functions of creativity, dance, singing, theatre and the arts in general ways of expression that are beyond words. The symbol of Venus is associated with the Goddess, Isis of Nature, because the Venus glyph holds within it all the Sephiroth on the Tree of Life, which in turn suggests that Love is the greatest influence in the act of Creation.

At the very minute in which he began this work (the planetary hour of Venus on the first Friday following the New Moon) I fell asleep and slept soundly for 24 hours. When I awoke I wrote three songs which expressed something of my walk with God – both music and lyrics flowed out of me. In the following two weeks, I wrote a further ten songs. I felt the need to bring forth songs which would both in lyric and musical arrangement capture or express something of the seasons of nature, to represent my experience of this aspect of Venus. The songs unfolded magically before me in a most exhilarating fortnight.

During those two weeks, I experienced some of the most difficult moments of my spiritual walk to date, which found their release (thus providing me with some comfort) in song. Most lyrics came in times of prayer and communion with my Higher Self.

The album includes the original song that I dreamed in Goa many years ago (which is the place where Harry and I were to meet, three years later) with some of the lyrics updated, thus making it more of the love song that I had planned to write for him; also a beautiful flute solo of Harry's – the only tune I have ever heard him play, which he always plays every time we sit around the fire in the garden. When I asked him when he learned that tune, he told me that he began to play it when I entered his life (there's romance for you!) so it had to go on the album.

I dreamed one song in its entirety, although I could not remember it upon waking, nor did I recognise it until it had been written (Track 15: Shekhinah). On another occasion, as had happened so many years earlier, I heard a tune in my dream, over and over again so that when I awoke I noted it down. Two days later, a set of lyrics came tumbling out, and when I sought to find a tune for them, I realised that the tune I had dreamt fitted the lyrics exactly. This song was the last to be written, and in the writing of it I knew that it was one of the key reasons for the need to produce this album, in that it put into song some prophetic dreams which I had received some nine years earlier. Thus music had entered our life as a further mode of expression for the prophetic dreams which we had already been told in meditation need to be shared via our artwork and website, in addition to the written and spoken word.

Realising that an album of songs had now presented itself, the next step was to find out how to go about recording them. Now, as parents of three young boys whom we home-school in a very small cottage upon a fairly tight budget, it seemed that if this album was to be recorded we would be needing some divine assistance, which we seek in all aspects of our life and work anyway.

Most conveniently, the wonders of modern technology (i.e. a computer, a microphone and a simple computer program) allowed me to record each track of every song in our own living room, at a total cost of £60 (the cost of a Behringer USB microphone which came with the music recording program 'Audacity'). A few tips from friends who had done this sort of thing before got me past the initial technical hurdles, and I was off, on the biggest play of my life since I tapped those jars and rattled those socks – I even made my own rice and lentil shakers! A couple of good friends generously lent their musical talents to some of the accompaniments while Harry took the boys off on numerous trips to the park, and the album gradually came into being.

Three months later, Harry's work with Venus came to an end and the recording was completed. We then discovered in true Venusian style that I had conceived, on the Vernal Equinox! So we just had to call the album 'Venus Awakening!' Divinely inspired, magically born and brought into being through continual inner guidance, making this album has been a humbling and extraordinary experience – something I never imagined I might do, though looking back to my childhood now, I guess it was obvious....

I hope that this story might inspire anybody who carries music in their soul to pray for or magically invoke its emergence...it is easier than you might think, and most fulfilling!