

Tesla, Master of Lightning

WHO COMES TO MIND when you think of the word *uranian*: Edison? Einstein? How about Tesla? Nikola Tesla, inventor *extraordinaire*?

Uranian traits, when not optimally manifesting as pure altruism, include a tendency to eccentricity and unconventionality, impatience with restraint, great independence, and given to investigation of the unusual.

One word in particular is associated with Tesla—electricity. Max Heindel interprets the uranian ray as coming “like a bolt out of the blue.” A modern myth might say that is how Tesla came to Earth: riding a bolt of lightning! He took to bolts of volts like a duck to water. At the 1893 World Fair in Chicago, the tall “merlin-like figure” stepped onto a stage in thick rubber shoes and invited two million volts of electricity to pass through him, surround his body with a halo of electric flame.

This man who had something of the wizard about him was a loner, courteous but aloof, brilliant and enigmatic. He was an intimate of cosmic forces.

When he was about ten he saw a steel engraving of Niagra Falls. In his mind there appeared a huge waterwheel being turned by the Falls’ powerful currents. He told his uncle Josif that he would go to America one day and capture energy in the way he envisioned. Thirty years later he did exactly that—at Niagra Falls. Definite prevision working here!

Children are born to parents and in an environment that best promotes their soul growth. Tesla’s mother was herself an amateur inventor. She made practical devices that helped with her household chores and farm work. Tesla’s father, a distinguished clergyman, joked that if all the classics of literature were destroyed, he would be able to restore them from memory. He assigned Nikola such exercises as guessing other’s thoughts, repeating long sentences, and performing mental calculations to strengthen his memory and reason and to develop his critical sense.

Young Tesla performed calculations in his head more rapidly than his teacher could write them on the board. He knew entire books by heart, including Goethe’s **Faust**.

That Tesla had certain supernormal abilities was evident from an early age. He was clearly open to

intuitions from the world of Life Spirit. He would picture people, scenes, and objects so vividly he was sometimes unable to distinguish between external and imagined reality. Strong flashes of light often accompanied these images, which remained fixed before his eyes even when he pushed his hand through them. Clearly he was seeing etheric images.

Arguably more inventive and certainly more cerebral than Edison, Tesla did ground breaking work with alternating current motors and dynamos, though the big money had backed Edison’s direct current energy generation and transmission, which delayed the implementation of Tesla’s more practical and economically efficient proposals.

Tesla’s biographer, Margaret Cheney (*Tesla, Man Out of Time*) has also written, with Robert Uth, a more general account of his life and inventions, which incorporates over 250 photographs (*Tesla, Master of Lightning*, Barnes and Noble, 1999). What particularly strikes the reader of this book is Tesla innovative genius, his remarkable conceptualizing ability which almost always was accompanied with working models and then pressed into the service of concrete and useful applications.

Not only did he pioneer hydroelectric power, the resonance coil that carries his name gave rise to radio transmission, though to this day the popular mind credits Marconi with inventing the first radio. Tesla’s discoveries spawned neon light and radar. Indeed, x-rays, television, satellite transmission, and advance defense systems (S.D.I.), which today are a priority concern of military strategists and scientists, are all foreshadowed in Tesla’s work. He also made the first practical remote-controlled robot, an iron-hulled vessel equipped with “a borrowed mind.”

In his personal life Tesla was semi-ascetic and fastidious of person. He did not smoke and both practiced and propounded vegetarianism for both health and ethical reasons. He maintained that abstention from meat gives superior strength and recommended that “every effort should be made to stop the wanton and cruel slaughter of animals, which must be destructive to our morals.”

Tesla thought big. He wanted to collect the sun’s energy to make large-scale wireless transfers of electricity. Though the ionosphere (that region of the atmosphere that traps charged solar particles)

was not discovered until 1926, yet in 1900 Tesla filed for a wireless transmission of power through this region because he intuited its energetic potential. It is, in fact, a huge electrodynamic circuit. This swirling energy or plasma can be seen at night over the magnetic poles as the aurora borealis and the aurora australis.

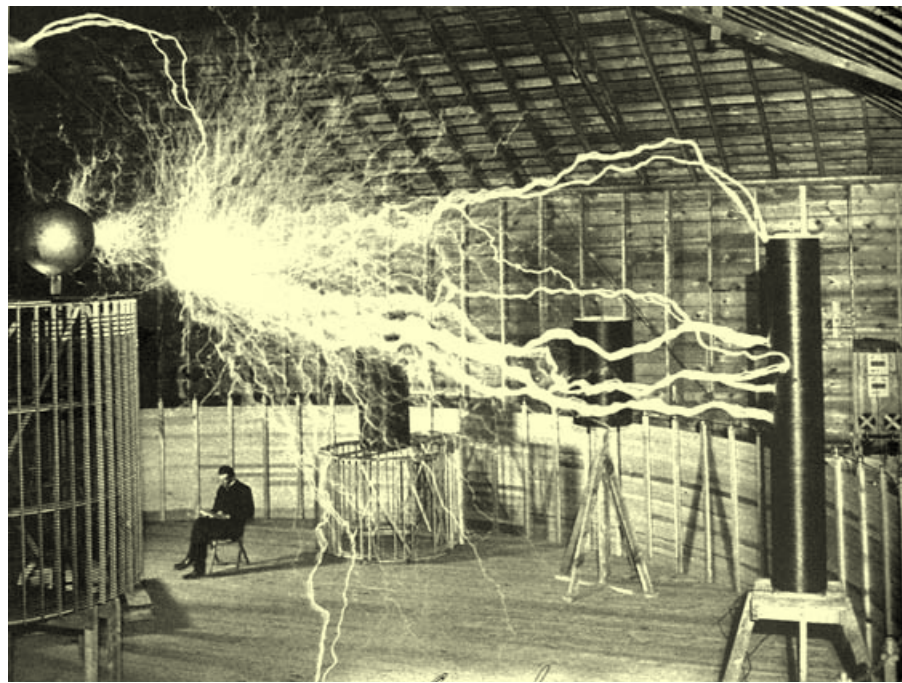
Tesla thought it was feasible to modify weather by producing artificial lightning. In 1908 he attempted to patent a device to precipitate water. Though the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1974 to prohibit actions that influence the environment or the climate, Tesla said of weather modification, “If I do not live to carry it out, somebody else will.”

While some of his proposals would raise serious doubts today among ecologists, Tesla had strong environmental concerns. To reduce the pollution of coal-burning plants he suggested the friendly alternatives of wind power (“Given a good breeze, I have estimated that there is as much as half a horsepower to every square foot of area exposed.”), solar power (using photo-electric cells), and geothermal power (harnessing the “sextrillion” tons of earth heated to 120° C).

Throughout his life Tesla never wavered in his belief that there was intelligent life on other planets. As Max Heindel makes clear (*Rosicrucian Philosophy in Questions and Answers, Vol 1*, pp 309-310), members of the human life wave do live on other planets, but not in dense physical bodies.

Tesla suggested directing the vibrations from an artificial earthquake into the earth to detect the presence of mineral deposits, a kind of dry land sonar. The technique of measuring reflected acoustic waves is used today in geophysical work.

Tesla’s last patent (1928) was for an Aquarian flying machine for “aerial transportation,” resembling both a helicopter and an airplane. The helicopter blade would pitch forward to become a propeller after takeoff. This is the progenitor of today’s tiltrotor or VSTOL plane. Sir William Crookes, discoverer of



Tesla Museum Archives, Belgrade

Tesla, something of the showman, poses in this double exposure publicity photo with his “magnifying transmitter” capable of producing millions of volts of electricity. The discharge here is twenty feet. His primary coil was fifty-one feet in diameter.

radiant matter and head of the Royal Society for Psychic Research, used a Tesla coil to help manifest poltergeists at seances. Though he flatly rejected mystics, Tesla often spoke like one.

After becoming acquainted with Swami Vivekenanda he began to incorporate Eastern philosophies into his writing. In 1930 he occultly observed that “Matter comes from a primary substance [in Rosicrucian parlance *gas* or *chaos*], of tenuity beyond conception, filling all space—the Akasa or luminiferous ether—which is acted upon by the life-giving prana or creative force, calling into existence in never-ending cycles all things and phenomena.”

One night Tesla’s mother came to him on an angelic cloud. He knew with certainty (later confirmed) that she had just died. For him telepathy was simply a special instance of the general phenomenon of wave transmission.

Nikola Tesla was a practical visionary. He processed intuitions and imaginations with disciplined abstract thought and willed that his images take tangible form to serve useful purposes. As we move into the Aquarian Age more Egos will be born with similar creative abilities. □

—C.W.