



Occupy Wall Street takeover of Times Square, autumn 2011. Photo by Eric Francis.

The Awakening for Leo **Of Love and the Robot**

By Eric Francis

OVER THE PAST DECADE there has been a little trend of movies that address the theme of love and the robot. Two that come to mind are *Ex Machina* directed by Alexander Garland (UK, 2014) and *Her* directed by Spike Jonze (US, 2013).

In *Ex Machina*, a high-tech mogul has created a lifelike replica of a woman, and a young man who works for him wins the chance to conduct what is called the Turing test to determine whether the device is real enough to convince him that it's human. The Turing test was devised by the inventor of the computer, Alan Turing, since he knew even in the 1930s that more advanced models would be able to provide companionship.

In *Her*, a lonely single man installs an operating system on his phone in the guise of a personal assistant app, but which is really an emotionally intelligent program designed to provide companionship and meet his every need (except that for which requires her to have a body).

For simplicity, I will refer to both of these devices as robots —which is what they are — whether or not they take physical form. In hindsight, these were both visionary films that took up one of the most important questions of life in the digital age, which is what robots are doing to relationships. But instead of the robots being all consuming, ubiquitous and inescapable, they are presented as charming, highly intelligent female human replicas that both male characters relating to them find highly engaging.

And they would be, in a time when actual, real-life relationships seem extremely perilous — and at a time when loneliness and isolation are at pandemic levels and nobody wants to talk about it. They would be, in a time when the intentional stoking of hostility between the sexes has been turned into a drug or a blood sport. People will look for empathy anywhere they can find it, including in a robot.

Everyone's Relationship to Everyone and Everything

I would note that the films depict individual relationships to robotic devices and do not broach the wider topic, which is everyone's relationship to everyone and everything.

This state of isolation described in both films is the direct product of living within robotic consciousness everywhere, all the time. Because the problem involves what the technological environment does to consciousness (rather than the content of the devices), it's so pervasive that it affects people who have never once touched a computer or a phone. We are "all connected," and yet those who do not have socialization built into their lives (such as big families, involvement with churches and other institutions) are more isolated than ever.

We are fond of asking, "Why are things so crazy?" and not so willing to even conceive of a problem that is unlike anything humanity has ever faced. No technology before has subsumed the entirety of every society, every government, all of commerce, all of navigation and every relationship.

When Cortés' ships appeared on the Yucatán horizon in 1519, nobody among the Aztecs except maybe a very advanced shaman had a clue that it would

soon be all over. We are long past that moment, but we still don't understand what, exactly, is all over, because it's disappearing down the memory hole so fast.

Recently I hosted an interview on Planet Waves FM with a woman describing a dream of going back in time and warning her high school classmates about the imminent arrival of "the squares," which she warned them would alter or take away everything about the world that they loved.

Pluto in Aquarius: Your Relationships to Partners, and to Existence

I raise the topic of the robot and our relationships apropos of Pluto arriving in Aquarius to stay until 2034-44. This transition has been underway since March 2023 and completed in November 2024, so you already know a little about it.

Aquarius is your 7th place, whether you have Leo Sun or rising. The 7th is about your relationships to people (romantic partners, spouses, business partners, potential partners and open enemies).

The 7th also describes one's relationship to the everyday society we walk around in. I've never read this in an astrology book; I have deduced it from observation. When you look around the world, the filter you are looking through is your 7th house. This includes the sign involved, natal planets and transiting planets.

With Aquarius on the 7th, your baseline reality is that you prefer a structured social world and you want to live in a society that is dependable. You are not a loner, a nomad, a drifter or a recluse. While Leo is one of the most individualistic signs, you want to be at or near the center of a community that functions in a predictable and dependable way.

In terms of partners, you are more the type to have an actual friend in your spouse or significant other, and to be one. There are a lot of other options. Aquarius is the sign of groups (which includes all social patterns). Leo is ruled by the Sun, which is the central body that holds together the "group" known as the solar system. This is a metaphor for your role of holding it all together — or feeling like you do. When this goes out of control, it can manifest as egotism, but most Leos are busy in their coordinating roles and a great many of you are happy working behind the scenes. You want to be \

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