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## A WORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

he Great Power Blackout of '03 is history but lessons remain to be learned. The more practical and technical we will leave to the engineers and the politicians (but don't miss Tom Valione on Nikola Tesla's plan for the wireless transmission of energy on page 32). It occurs, however, that a few points could be made about a different kind of infrastructure also in need of repair.

The most important of all energy networks-the web of life itself, or what the ancients called the antahkarana—seems in trouble on Earth and it has been that way for some time.

In the greater scheme of things, it has been said that subtle energy flows from the central sun-the main gener-



ating station—through a vast network of step-down transformers (organisms throughout the universe) ultimately to support life at all levels from the one-celled to the galactic. As creatures evolve in consciousness, the story goes, they advance to higher rungs of the ladder and at each successive stage are plugged into ever larger circuits. According to this school of thought, there was once a period of universal harmony when, as energy flowed freely from the greatest to the least, the life lights burned brightly and reliably in the remotest precincts of the cosmos. The age of reliable universal power distribution, unfortunately, was, at some point interrupted on Earth. Lights in many quarters went dark, it seems, while other areas experienced a kind of brownout.

Attempts, by an enlightened few, to get the grid back up have been going on for some time. But, in fact, some places have been dark so long, no one seems to remember what light was like or even that everything was once connected by a functioning network.

One of the most unsettling consequences has been the virtual disappearance of the uniting circuitry. As a result, many have ceased to understand or believe in the connectedness of things. In their minds actions have become separated from reactions, causes from effects—the behavior of the night before from the hangovers of the morning after. Losing sight, in the darkness, of the connective tissue which ties us to our source, many have come to believe that they are alone, and that life is absurd and without meaning—little more than a cosmic joke. The fear they feel is expressed in acts of rage which have only made the situation worse. And so it has gone for as long as anyone can remember.

The good news is, efforts to repair the damage are accelerating. Unfortunately, though, full power restoration will not come easily. The tattered power lines cannot take much voltage. Getting things back on line could require some serious infrastructure reconstruction. Some, however, including us, believe a few well-placed ideas here and a little information there could do a lot to get the lights burning again.

Publisher