

First published in the USA
by Sophia Perennis
© Lee Penn 2004

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced
or transmitted, in any form or by
any means, without permission

For information, address:
Sophia Perennis, P.O. Box 611
Hillsdale NY 12529
sophiapennis.com

Printed in the
United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Penn, Lee.
False dawn : the United Religions Initiative, globalism,
and the quest for a one-world religion / Lee Penn.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 1 59731 000 X (pbk: alk. paper)

1. Religions (Proposed, universal, etc.) 2. United Religions
Initiative. I. Title.

BL390.P375 2004
299'.93—dc22 2004021510

CONTENTS

FOREWORD • 1

**EDITOR’S FOREWORD: THE “COUNTER-INITIATION”
DOCUMENTED—A TRADITIONALIST PERSPECTIVE • 3**

AUTHOR’S INTRODUCTION, WITH AN APOLOGIA • 5

The Argument, in Brief • 5

Apologia: Replies to a Skeptic’s Questions • 8

A Road Map for Readers • 14

The Intellectual Precursors of Today’s New Age Movement • 18

Present-Day New Age Supporters of the United Religions Initiative • 21

Globalist Politicians and Businessmen • 23

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS • 28

METHODS • 29

**PART I: HONORING THE “SPIRIT OF THE AGE”:
THE UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE (URI)**

Point : Counterpoint • 33

CHAPTER 1: ONE ANGLICAN BISHOP’S DREAM • 35

CHAPTER 2: THE RISE OF THE UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE • 39

The Interfaith Movement of the 20th Century: Seed-bed of the URI • 39

Founding the URI: 1993–1996 • 44

Laying the Groundwork: 1997–1999 • 45

Establishing Global Presence: 2000–2002 • 47

The URI in 2004: “We Are Everywhere” • 53

URI’s Global Leadership: Diversity in Action • 55

URI Funding: Secular Foundations, Billionaires, and Theosophists • 57

“Appreciative Inquiry”: Molding Minds For A Post-Modern Religion • 63

Flexible Response: URI’s Changes in Strategy Since 1996 • 66

CHAPTER 3: THE IDEALS AND THE PRACTICE OF THE URI • 69

The URI Charter • 69

- Good Fruit: Works of Mercy by URI Cooperation Circles • 73
 - Africa* • 73
 - Asia* • 75
 - United States* • 76
- Seven Bad Fruit: URI Activists' Cultural Radicalism • 76
 - Equivocation on Radical Islam* • 77
 - Hospitality for a Convicted Rapist and Terrorism Suspect* • 79
 - SIECUS and the Sexual Revolution* • 82
 - The Dog That Did Not Bark: The "Gay Agenda" Goes Missing From The URI • 83
 - Huston Smith and "Entheogens"—Proposing Better Religion Through Chemistry* • 84
 - Bishop Swing's Condemnation of "Entheogens" • 86
 - Interfaith Indoctrination for Children* • 87
 - "Peacebuilding" by Muzzling the Press in Zimbabwe* • 89
 - Other Oddities: From Pseudo-Shamanism to the "Lowerarchy"* • 90

CHAPTER 4: THE URI'S FRIENDS IN HIGH PLACES • 93

- The United Nations • 93
 - The UN Environmental Program (UNEP)* • 96
 - UNESCO* • 97
 - The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)* • 98
- Politicians: From the White House to the State House • 99
- George Soros • 101
- Movements for "Global Governance" • 102
 - The State of the World Forum* • 102
 - The Earth Charter Movement* • 104

CHAPTER 5: AMONG THE NATIONS: THE NON-CHRISTIAN SUPPORTERS OF THE URI • 105

- Traditional Religions and the URI • 105
 - Jews* • 105
 - Muslims* • 106
 - Non-Abrahamic Faiths* • 107
- The Interfaith Movement and the URI—"Unity in Diversity" in Practice • 109
- New Religious Movements and the URI • 115
 - Sects and Cults* • 115
 - The Unification Church • 115
 - The Strange Religion of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon* • 116
 - The Unificationists' Work with the URI* • 124
 - Scientologists and the "New Cult Awareness Network" • 126
 - ISKCON—The "Hare Krishna" movement • 126

| | |
|--|-------|
| <i>Wicca and the Goddess Movement</i> | • 127 |
| The Benign Public Face of Wicca | • 128 |
| Transgressive Religion: From Polyamory to “Root-Based Sorcery” | • 129 |
| <i>Theosophy and the New Age Movement</i> | • 131 |
| The Lucis Trust: Followers of Alice A. Bailey | • 132 |
| Corinne McLaughlin and Gordon Davidson | • 132 |
| Robert Muller | • 133 |
| Barbara Marx Hubbard | • 134 |
| Neale Donald Walsch | • 135 |
| <i>Spiritual Odds and Ends</i> | • 136 |

CHAPTER 6: A DIVIDED VERDICT—THE CHURCHES AND THE URI • 140

| | |
|---|-------|
| The Anglican Communion | • 140 |
| <i>Mainstream Anglicanism</i> | • 140 |
| <i>New Age Anglicanism</i> | • 146 |
| Lauren Artress and the Labyrinth Movement | • 146 |
| James Parks Morton and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine | • 150 |
| Matthew Fox and the “Techno Cosmic Mass” | • 152 |
| Other Protestants | • 156 |
| Latter-Day Saints | • 157 |
| Eastern Orthodoxy and the Oriental Orthodox Churches | • 158 |
| The Catholic Church | • 158 |
| <i>Vatican Opposition</i> | • 158 |
| <i>Catholic Dissent—Standing With the United Religions</i> | • 160 |
| The Archdiocese of San Francisco | • 161 |
| Catholics on the URI Global Council | • 165 |
| Other Catholic URI Leaders and Activists | • 166 |

CHAPTER 7: FOURTEEN REASONS TO STAND AGAINST THE UNITED RELIGIONS INITIATIVE • 175

| | |
|--|-------|
| [I] The URI Versus Christian Evangelism | • 175 |
| [II] Stigmatizing “Exclusive Religions” and Orthodoxy as “Fundamentalism” | • 182 |
| [III] Laying the Ground for a New Religion of the “Sacred Earth” | • 188 |
| <i>Bishop Swing</i> | • 189 |
| <i>Other URI Leaders and Proponents</i> | • 191 |
| <i>The United Communities of Spirit</i> | • 197 |
| <i>Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi: The Syncretic Language and Symbols of the URI</i> | • 198 |
| <i>Syncretism in Stone: Designing an Interfaith Temple</i> | • 201 |
| <i>The Implications of Religious Syncretism</i> | • 203 |
| [IV] Fostering Dissent Within Traditional Religions | • 205 |
| [V] A “New Ethic” for the New World Order: Hans Küng’s Global Ethic | • 206 |

- [VI] Secular Millenarianism • 211
- [VII] A Fanciful View of History • 214
- [VIII] Religious Relativism • 215
- [IX] Population Control • 217
- [X] A Worldly, Utilitarian View of Religion • 222
- [XI] The Political Agenda of the URI • 224
- [XII] Feminism and the Ordination of Women • 226
- [XIII] Promotion of the New Age Movement, Pantheism, and Theosophy • 227
- [XIV] The United Religions Is Not Required by the Christian Call to Unity • 229
 - The Documents of Vatican II* • 230
 - Papal Teachings Since Vatican II* • 232

CHAPTER 8: CLOSING THE CASE AGAINST THE URI • 235

PART II: SERVANTS OF THE SHINING DARKNESS: THE ANTI-GOSPEL OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

Point : Counterpoint • 239

CHAPTER 9: THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT: FRIVOLOUS IN APPEARANCE, SINISTER IN SUBSTANCE • 246

CHAPTER 10: HELENA BLAVATSKY AND THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY • 248

- Mankind and Nature as “Gods” • 249
- Sympathy for the Devil • 249
- Inverting Christian Tradition • 251
- Population Control—in 1888 • 252
- Evolutionary Racism • 252
- The Theosophical Swastika • 253
- Dragon-Worship: The Religion of the Ancients—and of the Future • 255
- Hatred for the Christian Churches • 256
- The Worldwide Influence of Blavatsky and of Theosophy • 256

CHAPTER 11: ALICE A. BAILEY AND THE LUCIS TRUST • 259

- Continuing Blavatsky’s Work • 260
- Praising the Fallen Angels and Re-defining “666” • 260
- Proclaiming Human Divinity and Denying Christ • 262
- Population Control • 263
- Astrological Racism • 264

Human Inequality in the New Age • 265
Anti-Semitism • 265
Equal-Opportunity Contempt for Traditional Religions • 269
The Coming New Religion • 270
Updating Freemasonry for the New Religion • 273
Dealing With “Reactionary Forces” • 274
Bailey’s New World Order: “A New Power of Sacrifice” • 274
World Wars and Atom Bombs: Engines of Human Evolution • 276
Praise for Communism: From Lenin to Mao • 279
Human Civilization: Destruction and Rebirth • 282
The End of the Theosophical Road: “The Center of Pure Darkness” • 283

CHAPTER 12: PRESENT-DAY FOLLOWERS OF ALICE BAILEY • 284

Pathways to Peace and its Theosophical Associates • 284
Corinne McLaughlin and Gordon Davidson • 285

CHAPTER 13: PIERRE TEILHARD DE CHARDIN • 286

The Emerging “Common Soul of Humanity” • 287
The Bleak Eschatology of the “Omega Point” • 288
“Faith in Progress” • 288
Apologetics for Totalitarianism • 289
Balancing “Laissez Faire” with “Firmness” • 293
A Pragmatic, Evolutionary Case for Euthanasia and Eugenics • 294
Darwinian Racism • 296
World War II as a “Crisis of Birth” for Humanity • 299
Atom Bombs: Heralding the Coming of the “Spirit of the Earth” • 300
The Coming “Separation” of Reactionaries and Progressives • 301
“The Age of Nations Has Passed” • 302
Exalting “Planning” and Use of Man’s Power • 302
Evolutionary Utopia: “War in a Naturally Sublimated Form” • 303
The Vatican’s 1962 Warning Against Teilhard’s Works • 304
A Present-day Vatican “Compromise” With Teilhard? • 304

CHAPTER 14: ROBERT MULLER • 306

Heterodox Theology and Cosmology • 306
Building a New World Order and Establishing “Proper
Earth Government” • 308
The Fate of Opponents: “A Special Corral of the Universe” • 312
Muller’s Theosophical Connections • 313

CHAPTER 15: BARBARA MARX HUBBARD • 316

- Inverted Theology: “We Are Gods!” • 316
- New Morality, From the Womb to the Tomb • 319
- The Coming “Selection” of Mankind • 320
- Atom Bombs and “Conscious Evolution” • 323
- The New Order: “The Next Stage of Individualism” • 324
- Barbara Marx Hubbard and Theosophy • 324
- A Well-Connected “Futurist” • 326

CHAPTER 16: NEALE DONALD WALSCH • 327

- Walsch’s Blob God, an Evolving “God” of Good and Evil • 327
- Demoting Jesus to “Highly Evolved Being” • 328
- Denying Death, Praising the “Cosmic Wheel” • 329
- “Hitler Went To Heaven” • 330
- A Relativist, Utilitarian “God” • 331
- Libertine Theology • 332
- Libertine Practice: Free Love, Communal Parenting, and Euthanasia • 333
- The Judgments of Walsch’s Tolerant God • 336
- Grains of Truth Amidst the New Age Sewage • 337
- Overthrowing the Churches and Proclaiming the New Gospel • 339
- The Apocalyptic Choice: Utopia or Doom • 341
- Communism and World Government, as the Extraterrestrials Do It • 342
- Walsch’s Heroes and Allies • 346
- Neale Donald Walsch and Theosophy • 347

**CHAPTER 17: THE INVERTED SPIRITUALITY AND POLITICS OF THE
NEW AGE MOVEMENT • 348**

**PART III: LEVIATHAN RISING: THE GLOBALIST ALLIES
OF THE URI**

- Point : Counterpoint* • 355
- The Coercive Utopians of the 21st Century • 358

**CHAPTER 18: MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, “MAN WITH A STILL-UNFULFILLED
DESTINY” • 359**

- “The Socialist Idea is Inextinguishable” • 359
- “Nature Is My God” • 361
- Gorbachev’s Smallpox Hoard • 361

The “Last Remaining Global Leader”? • 362

CHAPTER 19: THE STATE OF THE WORLD FORUM • 365

Aims: “Re-inventing the World” and “Global Governance” • 365

Out With Traditional Religions; In With the New Age • 366

“Progressive” Global Governance • 370

Implementing the “Population Plan” • 372

The Lighter Side of the Forum: Nude Marches, Tantric Sex,
and Entheogens • 373

“Simple Living” for the Global Elite • 375

Post-modern Shamanism • 376

The Forum’s Elite Supporters • 378

CHAPTER 20: THE EARTH CHARTER • 380

The Earth Charter: a Velvet Glove • 384

The Green Cross Philosophy: The Earth Charter’s Iron Fist • 386

CHAPTER 21: MAURICE STRONG • 389

CHAPTER 22: THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM • 393

**CHAPTER 23: ARE THE NEW AGE AND GLOBALIST MOVEMENTS A
CONSPIRACY? • 396**

**PART IV: IN CONCLUSION: FROM THE “ANTI-TRADITION”
TO THE “COUNTER-TRADITION”**

Point : Counterpoint • 401

CHAPTER 24: THE ASCENDANCY OF THE “ANTI-TRADITION” • 404

**CHAPTER 25: A SPECULATIVE POSTSCRIPT: AFTER THE “ANTI-TRADITION,”
THE FINAL “COUNTER-TRADITION”? • 409**

An Advisory • 409

Abnormal Times • 409

The End of the Age?—Papal Warnings Against the Left • 410

An Apocalyptic Threat From the Right, as Well? • 413

The Two-Fold Threat: Lessons From History • 415

The Two-Fold Threat: Warnings From Scripture and Patristic Tradition • 417

A False Hope: the “Great King” of the West and a Future “Holy Pope” • 419

Religious Sectarianism: Laying the Foundation for the Final Deception • 421

Spiritual Vulnerability: the Fetishes of Authority and Obedience • 431

Outside the Church, Two Witnesses to the Dual Peril • 432
The Nihilist's Dark Prophecies: Friedrich Nietzsche • 432
The Warnings of a Sufi Metaphysician, René Guénon • 436
What Is To Be Done? • 438
Sed Contra: Against Extreme-Right "Solutions" to the Crisis • 440
A Challenge: Is Orthodoxy Better Than Heresy? • 447

**APPENDIX I: THE URI CHARTER'S "PREAMBLE, PURPOSE, AND
PRINCIPLES" • 449**

APPENDIX II: URI'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP • 452

A SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY • 455

AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY • 479

INDEX • 481

FOREWORD

False Dawn may be the most important book you read this year. Everyone, whether you consider yourself liberal or conservative, secular or devout, should heed its warning.

At a time when many of the religions are at war with each other, a simple notion is gaining popularity: that what humankind needs to save itself is a single über-religion and global governance that will bring humanity together in life-saving global harmony.

To understand why the idea of a one-world religion is such a bad idea, it may help to first understand why it can sound so good. Many supporters of a “one-world religion” have aims that, in fact, appear to be both visionary and vitally necessary. Throughout history, there have been endless divisive, bloodthirsty edicts from rabbis, Popes, ministers, and imams—demands for life-or-death allegiance to Yahweh, Christ, or Allah.

Now, our world is armed to the teeth, and members of all the great religions have access to nuclear weapons—weapons that we can use to act out the Apocalypse ourselves. There are teenaged Saudi fundamentalists who would happily immolate themselves to truck-nuke the White House, in order to avenge the Crusades. As some people see these dangers, they are creating a movement to unite the nations and the religions of the world, establishing a religious and political form of Esperanto in the hope for peace.

In *False Dawn*, Lee Penn reveals the history of this movement and its key contemporary champions—among whom are Mikhail Gorbachev and global power broker George Soros. (Strange bedfellows, indeed: Gorbachev, who seemingly fell on his sword to save Western civilization—and now wants to remake the world as a Green, and Soros, the tycoon who tanked the British pound and the Southeast Asian stock markets.) He also explains in chilling detail why the development of a “one-world religion” would be a disaster for us all.

I first became aware of *False Dawn* after reading Lee Penn’s stories about the threat of a “one-world religion,” articles that he had written for *New Oxford Review*, *Touchstone Magazine*, and the *Journal of the Spiritual Counterfeits Project*. I had known Lee for many years as a very perceptive and fair-minded scholar of religious issues, as someone who was suspicious of easy answers and who was not afraid to take unpopular stands. When I first read his accounts of the new world religion and its architects, Lee was helping me research a book, soon to be published by Grove-Atlantic, that traced mankind’s concepts of immortality and the hereafter. During our collaboration, he reminded me that typically faiths that were meant to serve God end up serving men—after the original beliefs are corrupted by the very leaders who had vowed to protect them.

A one-world religion is only the latest, and certainly the greatest, example of this corruption of faith. In the new global village of Gorbachev and Soros, there would be only one chapel—an “interfaith temple” where worshippers would take spiritual direction from a new, alloyed sacred text. Such a “Scripture” would, presumably, combine all the best aspects of the Torah, the Bible, the Koran, and the wisdom of the East. In the broadest sense, *False Dawn* speaks to the worst aspect of the communications age: the destruction of all cultures through homogenization. We live in a time that may soon see kids in Modesto, California and kids in Calcutta, India all wearing the same clothes, playing the same sports, watching the same movies, and even using the same slang. In this same vein, we can see a world approaching in which these children all come together to worship some great amalgamated “savior.”

2 FALSE DAWN

Notwithstanding the tortuous compromises of faith that would be required, the idea that one could create a single, superior global spirituality makes no more sense than the notion of making a “perfect automobile” by combining the best parts from a Mercedes, a Cadillac, a Ferrari, and a Rolls-Royce. In either case, the result would be a jalopy that goes nowhere. However, to understand why so many powerful world leaders, from the political left and right alike, feel that a one-world religion is a world-saving panacea, you will have to take up *False Dawn*.

Lee Penn explains how a religion meant to satisfy everyone will be doomed to satisfy no one; he also suggests some vital solutions.

MARK CHRISTENSEN

(Mark Christensen is the author of two novels, *Aloha* and *Mortal Belladaywic*, and of nonfiction books, including *Build The Perfect Beast*, *The Sweeps: Behind the Scenes of Network TV*, and *Wildlife*. He has been a media columnist for *Rolling Stone*, and his work has appeared in other national publications, from *Playboy* to *Wired*. He is completing *Forever Young*, a book to be published by Grove-Atlantic, about man’s search for spiritual and bodily immortality.)