



Dawning. Illumination.

First light.

Are we, who live in the Bay, destined to be the forerunner of a dawning of consciousness?

The first Light of the world's new day illuminates us here in the Bay, Te Matua a Maui, before any other country or place on the globe. It's a place of new beginnings. The first alternative schools and Rudolf Steiner teacher training. (Queenswood and Rudolf Steiner schools) The first biodynamic farming and training. The first alternative adult education (Taruna) and the first ethical finance organisation. (Prometheus) In Havelock North the first Community newsletter (The Lantern), and Shakespearean

pageants which involved the whole community. Pelota was the first Natural Health Centre. Hohepa, the first residential community for IHC and Autistic spectrum people. All are blessed with the taonga of the first light of the world's new day.

On Millennium eve I was about to head for bed when my daughter phoned from Copenhagen. She sounded very close and clear. My heart leapt to hear her warm and loving voice. I went to bed happy. Many neighbours were partying so I moved my mattress into the study and napped a bit until I woke to the midnight sound of a huge cannon blast and half an hour of fireworks.

Eventually I dozed and woke abruptly at 5.30am. It was light. As if on automatic, I dressed and ran past the neighbours and down the two hundred steps to town. It was full of parked cars and an eerie silence. Swarms of families walked towards the beach and the lightening horizon. Sombre, grey, still; thousands and thousands of groups of people sat huddled together on the pebble beach, as far as the eye could see. It was an uncanny atmosphere. Difficult to define. Something was happening. Faces all pointing to the clear strip of horizon between the sea and a band of low, wispy cloud. We waited in silence.

At 5.47am a fiery, molten, golden ball of great beauty and light heralded the world's new millennium. Instantly, vast rays gilded sea, sky, hills, plains and people's faces. Couples turned from their kissing, huge Maori men stood up straight, weary children and amorphous families swathed in rugs, opened their eyes wide, thousands and thousands and thousands of faces along the stony beach turned golden and light as they looked to the East. Most stood in silent awe as form and colour reappeared.

Something dawned in me, my golden heart, my feet of burning gold. Subtle shapes reformed. Inner knowing. Lost colours, ancient treasures to cherish, worthy of care.

A karakia sounded, a lone trumpet and an exclamation of 'You Beauty!' Everyone seemed to stay still in their emotionally transported, miraculous moment. For some this was the first sunrise they had seen. For some it would be their last. There were hugs and kisses, popping of champagne corks, photos of the rising sun and cups of tea from a thermos. Some stayed for hours. Others wandered back to the events of the first perfect day of the year 2000.

Helen Clark had become Prime Minister, the green party hugged on parliament steps in a wave of optimism and positivity. An unforgettable, silver blonde Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, cloaked in blue silk with floating white feathers, poured out, through sound, a refined heart of aching beauty. The young Maori chorus watched her, transfixed. Children and elders alike, when asked for a millennium wish, answered with a smile, "I wish for peace and harmony everywhere." "I wish for us all to be happy." "To love and care for each other."

There was a collective awakening at that dawn. Illumination. The mystery of earthly life together. In the quantum reality we are making life up, thought by thought. Is today's volatile ride a test? Yes. Our heart-mind thoughts qualify ourselves as conscious co creators, or not.

As the Artist/Poet William Blake wrote c. 1803

*"To see the world in a grain of sand.
Heaven in a wild flower.
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand.
And Eternity in an Hour."*

except from Skye's Memoir 'If I Wake before I die.'