

## 2018 Order and Barack Obama

Order is our final power of the 12 powers described by Unity co-founder Charles Fillmore. Fillmore gives the order of the powers as beginning with faith and ending with life but I've chosen a more random order. Based on how we began the 12 powers, the power of order has to go last as I will explain later.

I think most of my generation learned what we think we know about the power of order by watching television in the 1960's. Two characters could activate the power of order. Samantha, on "Bewitched", wiggled her nose. Jeannie, on "I Dream of Jeannie" blinked her eyes and nodded her head. Instantly, a room or a situation would be restored to clean, orderly calm. It was miraculous! And when Unity students affirm the power of order, it is generally a request for situations to order themselves *to our liking and to our expectations*. Just like Samantha could do. That is sort of the trouble with spiritual powers. We sometimes don't really understand them.

In the book, 12 Powers, Fillmore says, "[One] can never exercise dominion until one knows who and what one is and, knowing, brings forth that knowledge into the external by exercising it in divine order, which is mind, idea, and manifestation." Fillmore is saying that order is principle. Order is the unfolding of divine law in action. Samantha could wiggle her nose and produce a bowl of apples on a clean table. Fillmore says we grasp the idea of the fruit, we plant the seeds, tend the orchard and in due time, we harvest the apples. Or we grasp the idea of the fruit, we are guided to purchase an orchard or we drive by a fruit stand or a thousand other ways, we end up with apples. In the chapter on Order and Spiritual Law, Charles says, "If in your path toward the light you have fixed a point of achievement that attainment of which you think will satisfy you, you have made a limitation that you must eventually destroy. There is no stopping place for God; there is no stopping place for [hu]man[kind]." One challenge in our understanding of order is that once we grasp the idea, we have to allow Spirit the freedom to manifest it in its own way—not limited to **our** way!

Fillmore points to an evolutionary process at work in and through humanity. He says "There is a law of spiritual and mental growth constantly at work in the mind, a law that is raising [hu]man[ity] from sense consciousness to spiritual consciousness. As applied to the universe, this upward trend of all things is called by material science 'the evolutionary law'. In our spiritual

interpretation we *observe* the working of the law in the individual because by that method we can bring home the lesson...and apply the lesson to ourselves with great profit.”

So **order**, the power of order, is really seeing and cooperating with the divine principles always at work. It is knowing principles work with or without our knowledge or cooperation to move us in the direction of our spiritual growth and deepening understanding. Right now we are in the midst of spiritual growth and deepening understanding. I-I-still kind of prefer Samantha’s order but let’s see about spiritual order.

Divine Order expresses through me as perspective. Most of the time, if I am calling for divine order, I need to step back from a place of chaos and confusion and get some perspective on what is going on. The view of a hurricane from a point of impact is very different than the view from flying 1,000 feet above it. Perspective allows me to put a situation in the bigger context of my life. Have you ever done a timeline of your life? Start with “I was born” and mark milestones and events that altered the course of your life. When you get to a certain age, you will begin to see how far you have come. How much you have grown through, survived, started over, matured, triumphed and failed. And here you are! Perspective allows you to see beyond the winds of this particular storm and to breathe into knowing this condition is just as temporary as the others. You have within you all that you need to move forward and to apply the lessons of this experience to expand the gifts you have to share. As we have looked at American history, we have seen this country conceive a concept of democracy and freedom; survive being torn apart; endure wars and economic disasters; step forward and slide back. This current storm is just that—this current storm.

Which leads us to: Divine Order expresses through me as trust. Often, if I am calling for divine order I am also screaming silently inside my head, “Trust the process!” Screaming silently, while not noisy, can give you a pained expression on your face. Clenched teeth. Frowning. “Trust the process” is my mantra when I am unhappy with how things are going. Trust is an interesting word. One definition, as a noun or verb, relates to “the reliability, truth or strength”. I have not found as much reliability in the material world as in the spiritual laws. To “trust the process” is really to move to understanding that Divine Order expresses through me as principle or law.

Remember we started with Fillmore saying order is this idea of law. Thoughts held in mind produce after their kind, which is the principle of attraction. As I give, I receive; which is the principle of flow.

Mind, idea, manifestation; which is the principle of creation. No one can serve two masters; which is the principle of focus and means you cannot hold two thoughts in mind at the same moment. You are being love or being not love. These spiritual laws or principles operate, like gravity here on earth, whether I like it or not. Whether I pay attention to it or not. We are moving in the direction of spiritual growth. The Universe is for us. God is love. These are principles also. Truth you can rely on and trust.

Often you many hear people say, "It's all good in the end and if it's not good, it's not the end."

This tests our interpretation of "good" and requires it to be that absolute good without an opposite but rather a potentiality. The farmer's horse runs away and all the neighbors say, "What bad luck". The farmer says, "Good luck, bad luck, who is to say." The horse comes back leading two wild mares. The neighbors say, "What good luck!" The farmer says, "Good luck, bad luck, who is to say." The farmer's son breaks both his legs breaking a wild mare. The neighbors say, "Now there is no one to help with the harvest. What bad luck." The farmer says, "Good luck, bad luck, who is to say." The army comes to town and takes all the young men away to fight, except the farmer's son who has two broken legs. Good luck, bad luck, who is to say. Our problem with divine order is in those moments the neighbors are howling, "What bad luck", we want to *change* things by wiggling our noses. The interesting thing about that is, who would have changed circumstances the way the story worked out? When the horse ran away, we'd order the situation by simply bringing the horse back, alone. When the boy broke his legs, we'd simply heal his legs and what would the outcome of that be? He would be in the army. Principle says, "Look at the thoughts you are holding to know what you manifest." What is your perspective? Do you anticipate *God's good*? Are you willing to open to *unanticipated possibilities*? Or, have you set a limit for God that attempts to **demand** a certain outcome? Open to the outworking of spiritual order and see what possibilities unfold that you have not considered! Open up to uncertainty, vulnerability and the creative void as you align yourself the power of Order to create through you. This is the path to even more than a Jeannie in a bottle can give you!

So why does the power of order have to come last as I am doing the 12 Powers this summer? We started the series in July with the power of Power and the Constitution. We began by considering the power of our words to activate manifestations. The Constitution begins “We the People of the United States”. At that time many “people” who lived in the United States were not allowed to participate in our country’s governance. Yet we spoke those words, “**We** the people” and the power of Order began to unfold. People were recognized, one by one, as included in We the People. Slowly, the picture of WE evolves to be more and more inclusive. Let’s look at one aspect of our participation: Voting.

At our inception, there were a number of restrictions on who could vote, many of them within the states or commonwealths. For the most part it was white males who owned land in our country. That is a very skinny, narrow WE.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, ratified December 6, 1865 abolished slavery but this, in and of itself, did not give blacks the right to vote. Pennsylvania was one of the states who took action to take away the right to vote from free blacks. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment established citizenship for those born in the United States but the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment, ratified February 3, 1870, provides: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any **state** on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” You would think that maybe blacks could vote. The need to oppress, the fear of others having equal power, motivates a great deal of creativity. State polling places, primarily in the South, instituted literacy tests applied only to blacks. Often these were tests the white voters could not have passed. In 1965, Lyndon Johnson, on the heels of a landslide election, instituted the Voting Rights Act. From [History.com](http://History.com), “The act banned the use of literacy tests, provided for federal oversight of voter registration in areas where less than 50 percent of the non-white population had not registered to vote, and authorized the U.S. attorney general to investigate the use of poll taxes in state and local elections. In 1964, the 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment made poll taxes illegal in federal elections; poll taxes in state elections were banned in 1966 by the U.S. Supreme Court.” Yet today, we continue to see controversy over restrictions and criteria related to voting that results in suppressed voting by the poor and minorities.

Now the amendments don’t really speak to gender but until the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, ratified August 18, 1920, women were generally not allowed to vote. It had much to do with the state law. For instance, single women owning property “worth fifty pounds” were allowed to vote in New Jersey

between 1776 and 1807 before the right was restricted to white males. An unexpected place of gender equality was Wyoming. In 1869 William Bright, a saloonkeeper and president of the upper house of the Wyoming Territory, introduced a bill granting all female residents 21 years and older the right to vote. According to the Wyoming State Historical Society, the territorial legislature had already passed progressive measures guaranteeing women teachers the same pay as men and granting married women property rights apart from their husbands. Still, in the East, women's suffrage or fight to obtain the right to vote, was surprisingly bloody and brutal.

Missing from most history accounts are the issues of our indigenous people. Native Americans fought to retain land and culture and have paid a price. Because reservation land is considered excluded from federal and private land, Native Americans were not "born in the United States." Until the 1924 Citizenship Act, they were **not** considered citizens under the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. After the Citizenship Act, many states, much like the South, instituted criteria intended to exclude Native Americans and those living on tribal land from voting. **1962** New Mexico became the last state to repeal state laws prohibiting Native Americans from voting. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has also been used to gain greater voter participation for Native Americans.

Against this evolutionary backdrop of the changing face of "We the people" we look at Barack Hussein Obama. Obama was elected President in November of 2008 and held that office from January of 2009 until January of 2017. Whatever your opinion is of his politics or policies or personality, it is undeniable that his face stands out in the picture of 45 presidents as the only man of color. Not from a family of wealth, social, political or economic power and privilege; at his election Obama embodied a new perspective on "We the people". Obama's mother exposed him to multiple cultures and taught him a way of valuing differences that many of us have never considered. His father is from Kenya. His step-father and half-sister are from Jakarta, Indonesia. His mother and maternal grandparents are from Wichita, Kansas.

The evolution of consciousness of this nation is ongoing, just as it is for each of us. Senator Tammy Duckworth was the first Asian American woman elected to Congress in Illinois, the first disabled woman to be elected to Congress, the first female double amputee in the Senate, the first Senator to give birth while in office, and the first member of Congress born in Thailand; her American father and Thai mother were working and living there at the

time. Duckworth is the second Asian-American woman serving in the U.S. Senate. The seed of a new generation of presidents is sprouting.

If we continue to stay open to change, each day “We the people” will manifest in our leadership and in our consciousness with greater and greater fullness. I pray we continue to celebrate **new** firsts related to gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, ability, religion, sexual orientation, and family status. I hope that we do **not** fix a point of achievement that we consider a stopping place and that we believe as Fillmore stated, “there is no stopping place for God” and there is no stopping place for us.

If we understand principle unfolds according to order then to affect manifestation we must change the ideas we hold in our minds and that we give energy and voice to. If what we see in the world right now is a mirror for what is unfolding in consciousness, then it is up to us to direct our thoughts, words and actions in a way to shape the future. What values, statements and actions do you align with?

The power of Order stands for the idea that we must step back from the frenzy of activity we see in the media or on our streets and get **perspective**. Has it looked like this before? What is new or different? What is being called for? We must hold with confidence and emotional energy our thoughts of love, peace, harmony and abundance as we **trust** the process to reveal a higher good than we can imagine. We must release our grip on the belief we know how it should be or how each event should unfold. We must be the farmer, trusting God to turn each page of the story with grace. Finally, we have to know that **principle** is at work. If you want apples, stop thinking about oranges. Accept that some of the apples have worms. Get over the instant gratification expectation and be willing to engage in the process for the long haul. New dreams are being grasped in the hearts and minds of our young. New possibilities are available and being manifest where we least expect them.

**Divine Order expresses through me as perspective, trust and principle.**