

Foreword

I am pleased that **The Wednesday** is going from strength to strength. After about nine months, we have published Volume One of the cumulative issues (0 – 12) and we are now printing Volume Two with issues (13 – 24). But we are also preparing Volume Three (issues 25 – 36) for publication. The credit goes, of course, to all those who contributed to the magazine and all the friends who believed in the project and encouraged me to carry on. They have been difficult months but the effort has been worthwhile, thanks to the Wednesday group and all the writers and readers who communicated their works and views via the e-mail. I am so indebted to them for their support. I normally e-mail the weekly issues just after Tuesday midnight to all my mailing list. Shortly after, or by the next day, I receive thanks and support from friends and readers. I would like to mention in particular: Stephen Clark, Tomi Kushner, Chris Norris, Carol Keene, Dennis Harrison, Michael Hennessey, Erica Warburton, Livio Rossetti, Sara Berti, Faris Nori, Mufada Kamal, Scharlie and Wim Meeuws. They have been good friends and supporters.

I wrote in Volume One that the name Wednesday suggested itself to me when I thought of this project. However, I didn't really know what the name connotes until my friend and teacher Stephen Hirtenstein pointed out its relation to the Norse mythology and that it has some association with mysticism and alchemy. It turns out that in Norse myths Woden is the name of the god Odin and in modern German Wotan appears in Wagner's musical drama *The Ring of Nibelung*. In Middle English the word was 'Wooden', a name of the same god. The same god is Meircoles in Spanish and Mercury in Latin. Wednesday (and the planetary sphere of Mercury) is also associated, by the Islamic mystic Ibn Arabi, with Jesus. He also calls Wednesday the 'Day of Light'. Mercury (Utarid) is also associated by Ibn Arabi with the imagination. All these connections are useful and can be expanded on. Also Wednesday is the middle of the week. Most newspapers and weeklies are named after Saturday and Sunday. But it is good to have a cultural content that provides food for thought at mid-week.

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and to encourage them to increase their support with good articles, poems and artwork so that **The Wednesday** increasingly serves a wider readership as well as the more specialist readers. Thank you all and I look forward to meeting you again on this page in Volume Three.

Finally, this volume is dedicated to my team of **The Wednesday**: Barbara Vellacott, Paul and Dianne Cockburn, David Clough, David Burridge, David Solomon, Ranjini Ghosh and Fred Cousins.

Dr. Rahim Hassan
The Editor