

# The Meaning Behind Shakespeare's Comets and the Coming of C/2022 E3 (ZTF) – A Warning to the World?

Dr. Peter D. Matthews

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Figure 1 - C-2022 E3 (ZTF) Comet taken 16 February 2023 from Stanthorpe Observatory heading towards the Conjunction of Jupiter and Venus. <https://telescopius.com/pictures/view/143955/comet/by-stanthorpe-observatory>

In the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, comets were viewed as significant omens in the sky, especially by a number of early London astronomers, though this thinking dates all the way back to the ancient Greeks with a story from Antoninus Liberalis' *Μεταμορφώσεων Συναγωγή* (Metamorphoses Synagogue), where two young women, Metioche and Menippe, sacrificed themselves to stave off a plague upon their people and Persephone and Hades took pity on them.<sup>1</sup> They metamorphosed Metioche and Menippe into comets with curved tails.<sup>2</sup> London astronomer and poet Leonard Digges (1588-1635AD), son of Muster-Master General and astronomer Thomas Digges (1545-95AD), and grandson of scientist and astronomer Leonard Digges (c. 1515 – c.1559),<sup>3</sup> published his father's manuscript, *Pantometria*, and wrote of the many telescopes his father was involved with, including his father's earliest reflecting

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<sup>1</sup> Antoninus Liberalis and Francis Celoria, *The Metamorphoses of Antoninus Liberalis: A Translation with a Commentary* (Routledge, 1992), sec. 25.

<sup>2</sup> Liberalis and Celoria, 25.

<sup>3</sup> 'National Archives: Leonard Digges (1515-1559)', n.d.

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telescope,<sup>4</sup> and early works growing up in the household of John Dee.<sup>5</sup> Leonard Digges also wrote his own work of astronomy, meteorology, and astrology called '*A Prognostication euerlasting of right good effect, fruitfully augmented by the Author, containing plaine, briefe, pleasant, chosen rules to iudge the weather by the Sunne, Moone, Starres, Comets, Rainbow, Thunder, Clowdes, with other extra-ordinary tokens, not omitting the Aspects of Planets*' dedicated to the Honourable Sir Edward Fines with principles used by mariners for centuries.<sup>6</sup> In this work, Digges wrote on the significance of comets: "**Comets signifie corruption of the ayre. They are signes of Earthquakes, of wars, changing of kingdomes, great dearth of Corne, yea a common death of man and beast**".<sup>7</sup> This is an interesting phrase considering Digges was the neighbour of Shakespeare, who would have known Shakespeare was a convicted thief, extortionist (hoarding grain and selling during famine), and tax evader,<sup>8</sup> yet in the First Folio, Digges "allegedly" honoured Shakespeare as a bard with the verses: "*Be sure, our Shake-speare (also hyphened like the Sonnets), thou canst never die, but crown'd with Laurel, live eternally*" knowing full well the laurel tree was an emblem of the Bassano family.<sup>9</sup> Emilia Bassano wrote in *Salve Deus Rex Judæorum* (Hail God, King of the Jews): "*The never changing Laurel, always green*".<sup>10</sup> In Jewish Kabbalah, green means *Netsah* — Mercy, the conjunction of Venus, prophecy, the power to overcome, a means to an end — even a turning point in our history.<sup>11</sup>

### Prophetic Understanding of Astronomy in the Sonnets

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The wonderful verses of *Shake-speares Sonnets* teach us that the poet had a thorough understanding of astronomy, the numerous comets, and how these comets have influenced the heavens, the earth, and her people — most likely gained from Antonio Bassano's merchant business that continued for many generations after him:

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<sup>4</sup> Colin A. Ronan, 'The Origins of the Reflecting Telescope', 1991, 335, [https://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/nph-iarticle\\_query?bibcode=1991JBAA..101..335R&db\\_key=AST&page\\_ind=0&data\\_type=GIF&type=SCREEN\\_VIEW&classic=YES](https://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/nph-iarticle_query?bibcode=1991JBAA..101..335R&db_key=AST&page_ind=0&data_type=GIF&type=SCREEN_VIEW&classic=YES).

<sup>5</sup> Adam Mosley, 'Chamber, John (1546–1604)', in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 2004, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/5044>.

<sup>6</sup> Leonard Digges, '*A Prognostication Euerlasting of Right Good Effect, Fruitfully Augmented by the Author, Containing Plaine, Briefe, Pleasant, Chosen Rules to Iudge the Weather by the Sunne, Moone, Starres, Comets, Rainbow, Thunder, Clowdes, with Other Extra-ordinary Tokens, Not Omitting the Aspects of Planets*' (Felix Kyngstone, 1605), [https://ota.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/repository/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.12024/A69046/A69046.html?sequence=5&isAllowed=y#index.xml-body.1\\_div.1\\_div.3](https://ota.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/repository/xmlui/bitstream/handle/20.500.12024/A69046/A69046.html?sequence=5&isAllowed=y#index.xml-body.1_div.1_div.3); Laura Orsi, *Stars and Comets in Shakespeare*, 1st ed. (Scuola Superiore per Mediatori Linguistici, Padova (Italy), 2016), 303–4, [https://www.academia.edu/35219698/Stars\\_and\\_Comets\\_in\\_Shakespeare](https://www.academia.edu/35219698/Stars_and_Comets_in_Shakespeare).

<sup>7</sup> Digges, '*A Prognostication Euerlasting of Right Good Effect, Fruitfully Augmented by the Author, Containing Plaine, Briefe, Pleasant, Chosen Rules to Iudge the Weather by the Sunne, Moone, Starres, Comets, Rainbow, Thunder, Clowdes, with Other Extra-ordinary Tokens, Not Omitting the Aspects of Planets*', 5.

<sup>8</sup> Dr Peter D Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, vol. 1 (Stanthorpe, Australia: Bassano Publishing House, 2020), 21–22.

<sup>9</sup> Katherine Chiljan, 'First Folio Fraud', *Brief Chronicles - First Folio Special Issue*, 2016, 69–87; Dr Peter D Matthews, 'The Bassanos: Jewish Guardians of the Ancient Arts', 2003, 11–12, <http://petermatthews.com.au/the-bassanos-jewish-guardians-of-the-ancient-arts/>.

<sup>10</sup> Dr Peter D Matthews, '*Salve Deus Rex Judæorum (Hail God, King of the Jews): Expositor's Edition*' (Stanthorpe, Australia, 2015), To all vertuous Ladies in generall, 23.

<sup>11</sup> Rabbi Shimon Leiberman, 'Kabbala #20: Netzach and Hod: Means to an End', 2023, [https://aish.com/kabbala\\_20\\_netzach\\_and\\_hod\\_means\\_to\\_an\\_end/](https://aish.com/kabbala_20_netzach_and_hod_means_to_an_end/).

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NOt from the stars do I my iudgement plucke,  
And yet me thinkes **I haue Astronomy**,  
But not to tell of good,or euil lucke,  
Of plagues,of dearths,or seasons quallity,  
<sup>200</sup> Nor can I fortune to breefe mynuits tell;  
Pointing to each his thunder,raine and winde,  
Or say with Princes if it shal go wel  
By oft predict that I in heauen finde.<sup>12</sup>

For those who do not know, I discovered Emilia Bassano wrote *Shake-speares Sonnets*, drawing from her family's mastery of Jewish Kabbalah, teaching from the *Zohar of Mantua 1568-60*, printed by Rabbi Isaac Bassano of Mantua and *Zohar Hadash (New Zohar)*.<sup>13</sup> My three-volume major academic work is titled, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS*. Even the title of *Shake-speare Sonnets* is a prophetic warning from Isaiah teaching us on the World to Come.<sup>14</sup> "Not from the stars do I my iudgement plucke, and yet me thinkes I haue Astronomy" which refers not only to her knowledge of astronomy, but to the Masters of Mishnah — a lineage of Kabbalistic Masters, great Luminaries, many of Emilia's ancestors throughout history recorded by Abraham Zacuto (1452-1514) in ספר יוהסין ('*Sefer Yohassin*' - The Book of Lineage), passed down from their ancestors in Babylon to Hieronymus de Bassanus (Jeronimo Bassano), to Baptista de Bassanus (Baptist Bassano), and now in present day from Emilia Bassano to you as the reader of her works.<sup>15</sup>

Emilia doesn't "tell of good, or euil lucke, of plagues, of dearths, or seasons quality, nor can I fortune to breefe mynuits tell; Pointing to each his thunder, raine and winde, or say with Princes if it shal go wel by oft predict that I in heauen finde".<sup>16</sup> Emilia is very clear: she is not a fortune teller, "but from thine eies my knowledge I deriue".<sup>17</sup> What Emilia is referring to is the light the God at Creation, one could gaze from the beginning of time, right through to the end of the world, through blessings, wars, corruption – all things imaginable. This is the radiance of wisdom concealed for the righteous in this world and the World-to-Come, often delivered by the prophets in season,<sup>18</sup> for it is written: "When the ram's horn blows a warning, shouldn't the people be alarmed? Does disaster come to a city unless YHVH has planned it? Indeed, Adonai YHVH never does anything until he reveals his plans to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:6-7).<sup>19</sup>

## Comets Viewed as Foretelling the Death of Princes and the Rise of a Tyrant

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The play of *Julius Caesar* is the finest example of a comet foretelling the death of Princes (Leaders), though they are often followed by tyrants. Caesar himself in talking with his wife Calpurnia, questioned whether the deadly omen was for himself or for the world in general in Act 2, Scene 2, and whether it can be avoided:

What can be auoyded  
<sup>1015</sup> Whose end is purpos'd by the mighty Gods?

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<sup>12</sup> *SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS*, 1st ed. (London: G. Eld, 1609), Q1, Son 14.196-203.

<sup>13</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, 1:7, 14, 71–72.

<sup>14</sup> Matthews, 1:7, 14, 71–72.

<sup>15</sup> Zacuto, Abraham b. Samuel; Shamir, Israel (Ed) (2005), *The Book of Lineage*, Zacuto Foundation, ISBN 141968938, pp. 490-561.

<sup>16</sup> Q1, Son 14.198-203.

<sup>17</sup> *SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS*, Q1, Son 14.204.

<sup>18</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, 1:184–85.

<sup>19</sup> *Bible: New Living Translation*, Biblehub (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2004), Amos 3:6-7, <https://biblehub.com/>.

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Yet *Caesar* shall go forth: for these Predictions  
Are to the world in generall, as to *Caesar*.<sup>20</sup>

The famous reply of Calpurnia is quite wonderful: "*When Beggars dye, there are no Comets seen. The Heauens themselues blaze forth the death of Princes*".<sup>21</sup> Here the poet believes the comets blaze forth on the death of Princes (the שָׂרִים *Sarim*, "Great princes", Chieftains, Commanders), one of the twelve orders of angels,<sup>22</sup> but also referring to earthly rulers, princes, presidents, prime ministers, kings, governors, premiers, officials, and military commanders.<sup>23</sup> Historically speaking, this comet references the Great Comet of 44BC (C/-43 K1) also known as *Caesaris astrum* (Latin: "Star of Julius Caesar") seen in the skies as a sign of the death of Julius Caesar, for the Roman Historian Suetonius wrote of Caesar and the comet: "*He died in the fifty-sixth year of his age, and was ranked amongst the Gods... For during the first games which Augustus, his heir, consecrated to his memory, a comet blazed for seven days together, rising always about eleven o'clock; and it was supposed to be the soul of Caesar, now received into heaven: for which reason, likewise, he is represented on his statue with a star on his brow.*"<sup>24</sup>

In the opening scene of *Julius Caesar*, we find the Roman tribune, Gaius Epidius Marullus (Marullus) directing those around him to run to their houses, fall upon their knees, and pray to God to intermit (Hebrew: "relent" or "suspend") the plague:

Be gone,  
Runne to your houses, fall vpon your knees,  
Pray to the Gods to intermit the plague  
That needs must light on this Ingratitude.<sup>25</sup>

The poet opens the scene with an ancient prophecy by a seer (Maggid, Prophet or "Soothsayer" in the play) who warned Caesar of his impending death on the Ides of March, as recorded by the Greek historian and philosopher, Plutarch:

A certain seer warned Caesar to be on his guard against a great peril on the day of the month of March which the Romans call the Ides; and when the day had come and Caesar was on his way to the senate-house, he greeted the seer with a jest and said: "Well, the Ides of March are come," and the seer said to him softly: "Ay, they are come, but they are not gone."<sup>26</sup>

It speaks of a prophecy given to Julius Caesar of his demise; however, he fobbed it off as mere foolery and superstition. He was naive to ignore the prophecy, because he was assassinated on 15 March 44BC on his way to the Senate. In the play Caesar is depicted as an atheist, denying the existence of God:

If I could pray to mooue, Prayers would mooue me:  
But I am constant as the Northerne Starre,  
Of whose true fixt, and resting quality,  
<sup>1015</sup> There is no fellow in the Firmament.

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<sup>20</sup> *First Folio*, 1st ed. (London: William Jaggard, Edward Blount, and W. Aspley, 1623), F1, JC 2.2.1014--7.

<sup>21</sup> Shake-speare (pseudonym) and Bassano family, F1, JC 2.2.1018-9.

<sup>22</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, 1:238.

<sup>23</sup> James Strong, 'Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible' (BibleHub, 2004), 8269-Sarim, <https://biblehub.com/strongs/>.

<sup>24</sup> C. Suetonius Tranquillus, *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*, ed. Thomas Forester (Gutenberg, 2004), Caesar, LXXXVIII, <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/6386/pg6386.html>.

<sup>25</sup> *First Folio*, F1, JC 1.1.59-62.

<sup>26</sup> Lucius Plutarch and Bernadotte Perrin, *Plutarch's Lives*, Perseus (William Heinemann Ltd, 1919), Caesar, 63, <http://data.perseus.org/citations/urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0007.tlg048.perseus-eng1:63>.

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The Skies are painted with vnumbred sparkes,  
They are all Fire, and euery one doth shine:<sup>27</sup>

However, the poet was certainly a Jewish Kabbalist by the following lines of *"The Skies are painted with vnumbred sparkes — they are all Fire, and euery one doth shine"* from the Jewish Kabbalistic doctrine of *Tikkun Olam* - to repair the World before Satan can turn it into endless darkness with a howling golden calf in honour of him.<sup>28</sup> Below is an excerpt from Volume Two of my Commentary of the Sonnets in relation to the Chinese Year of the Golden Ox (2021, 2033):

Emilia teaches us we must be forever vigilant to follow the ways of the Lord, and under no circumstances do we ever engage in the worship of the Golden Calf, including such Chinese Golden Ox (Golden Calf) festivals, for the result of such sin will be *"crooked eclipses"*, where we will be taken to the *House of Learning*, meaning handed over to the Angel of Death. The Haggadah tells us: אַנְּיָן לְשׁוֹחֵט מִלְּאָךְ הַמַּנְחֵה וְשׁוֹחֵט לְשׁוֹחֵט ("Then came the Angel of Death, and slew the slaughterer that killed the ox"), in this case referring to the מִלְּאָךְ הַמַּשְׁחֵה (mal'ak ha-mashhit, Destroying angel) who kills all of the enemies of Israel — Michael or Azrael from the right, and Satan or Dumah from the left. If the leader of any country is an enmity with God or Israel, and steps over this line, woe to that leader and the citizens of that country!<sup>29</sup>

To this day, the Ides of March are celebrated as the day Caesar was assassinated. Augustus rose to power and four years later he had 300 Roman senators and equites (knights) executed for allying with Lucius. Sound familiar? Augustus' reign was filled with war and rebellion: war with Pompey, war with Antony and Cleopatra, war with Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Bavaria, Austria, Slovenia, Germany (with his brother), along with Israel and Judah.

Now we shall return to the open verses of the play, where Marullus says: *"Runne to your houses, fall vpon your knees, pray to the Gods to intermit the plague"*.<sup>30</sup> This is reminiscent of God's plagues against Israel in the case of King David taking a Census in 2 Samuel 24, where God gave David a choice: *"Will you choose three years of famine throughout your land, three months of fleeing from your enemies, or three days of severe plague throughout your land? Think this over and decide what answer I should give the LORD who sent me"* (2 Samuel 24:13). David chose three days of severe plague instead of having the judgement fall upon himself. *"A total of 70,000 people died throughout the nation, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south"* (2 Samuel 24:15), *'but as the angel was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD relented and said to the death angel, "Stop! That is enough!"'* (2 Samuel 24:16).<sup>31</sup> How did the poet know this coincided with the coming of *Comet Encke* in 964 BC? This is because it is recorded in the Jewish Zoharic portion of Pinchas 65:385 as follows:

Rabbi Pinchas said, These comets are known by the understanding of the friends, that the Holy One, blessed be He, created all these stars of the firmament, both great and small, and they all give thanks and praise to the Holy One, blessed be He. And when their time to sing praises comes, the Holy One, blessed be He, calls them by name, as it is written: *"He calls them all by names"* (Isaiah 40:26). And then they run and hold out a sceptre of light to go and praise their Master in the same place where they were numbered, as it is written: *"Lift up your eyes on high and behold who has created these things"* (Isaiah 40:26). Meanwhile the light dawned. They arose and went.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> *First Folio*, F1, JC 2.2.1267-73.

<sup>28</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, 1:122.

<sup>29</sup> Dr Peter D Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 2 of 3)*, vol. 2 (Stanthorpe, Australia: Bassano Publishing House, 2023), 68.

<sup>30</sup> *First Folio*, F1, JC 1.1.60-61.

<sup>31</sup> *Bible: New Living Translation*, 2 Samuel 24:15-16.

<sup>32</sup> Rabbi Shim'on bar Yochai and Rabbi Michael Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 21* (Kabbalah Centre International Inc., 2016), Pinchas 65:385.

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Clearly in the case of Julius Caesar, the poet depicted a Seer (Prophet) delivering a word to Caesar before his demise, and the comet as a bad omen for the death of Princes in the world, with the rise of a tyrant worse than the former. This is most evident in the opening lines of the play *Henry VI, Part 1*, where the Duke of Bedford announces the death of King Henry V with a comet ushering in a great time of change, with a coming “scourge” (judgement):

HVng be ye heauens with black,yield day to night;

<sup>10</sup> **Comets importing change of Times and States,**

Brandish your crystall Tresses in the Skie,

And with them **scourge** the bad reuolting Stars,

That haue consented vnto *Henries* death:

King *Henry* the Fift,too famous to liue long,

<sup>15</sup> England ne're lost a King of so much worth.<sup>33</sup>

Later in Act 3, Scene 2, Charles, King of France waits for Joan la Pucelle (Joan of Arc) and four soldiers to sneak into Roan disguised as poor sweet corn farmers. Joan was to hold out a torch from the turret or a window in a tower showing the best point of attack.<sup>34</sup> Charles says, “*Now shine it like a Commet of Reuenge, a Prophet to the fall of all our Foes*” and the French take the city,<sup>35</sup> though Burgundy and Talbot recapture it, with the death of the Duke of Bedford — who opened the play with the comet and coming judgement. In the timeline of Henry VI, civil war broke out in 1455, leading to years of conflict now known as the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487). In his early days, he suffered from mental health issues. In 1456, Henry recovered enough to retake control of the realm. This coincides with Halley's Comet (1P/Halley) of 1456AD. “*Now shine it like a Commet of Reuenge, a Prophet to the fall of all our Foes*” is also a Zoharic imagery of Daniel 12:3-4, “*Those who are wise will shine like the stars forever. But you, Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase*” (Daniel 12:3-4). Now if we translate this from the earliest Hebrew Bible, the Aleppo Codex, we find the below literal translation, connecting to the Bassano silkworm, the Zohar, and the Jewish Essene view of Jesus Christ, the Justifier, a *Tzaddik*, who brings many to righteousness:

Hebrew: והמשכלים--יזהרו כזהר הרקיע ומצדיקי הרבים ככוכבים לעולם ועד

And the enlightened - will shine like the זהר (Zohar, meaning “radiance”) of the heavens, and the “Justifier” (ומצדיקי), a *Tzaddik*, who brings many to righteousness) of the many as stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3).<sup>36</sup>

This refers to the Star of Bethlehem (Star of David) where Saturn and צדק (*Tzedek*, meaning Jupiter, the Justifier!) align, where three Astrologers saw the star 2,000 years ago, and came looking for Jesus: “*Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him*” (Matthew 2:2). Who is the Justifier, the star of Jupiter? He is revealed in Sonnet 49 as the Son of Man (Christ). It is the Son of Man where the righteous will see, “*a Commet of Reuenge, a Prophet to the fall of all our Foes*” on Judgement Day as prophesied by

<sup>33</sup> *First Folio*, F1, 1H6 1.1.9-15.

<sup>34</sup> 1H6 3.2.1448, 57.

<sup>35</sup> F1, 1H6 3.2.1457-8.

<sup>36</sup> Aleppo Codex: Daniel 12:3 and my own translation, coupled with parts from Dr Daniel C. Matt below. <https://biblehub.com/ale/daniel/12.htm>

Matt, Dr Daniel C. (2002-2014), *The Zohar*, Pritzker Edition, Stanford University Press, Shemot 2:2a in Vol 4, p1.

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Daniel.<sup>37</sup> Daniel himself confirmed he was disturbed by his visions,<sup>38</sup> and his face went pale with fear, but he kept his fear to himself while delivering the interpretations of King Belshazzar.<sup>39</sup> This is a similar prophetic theme of the destruction of Nebuchadnezzar II.

There is an article titled *'Of a Bull and a Comet'* by John Gerard S. J. and published in *The Month* in London in 1907 that stated, *"the prevailing opinion of the scientific men of the time was the comet (could be one of five comets in 1907, C 1907 a-e) foreboded calamity on the earth"* yet in 1907, the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Dimitar Petkov, was assassinated; King Oscar II of Sweden died; 11,000 people died in the Romanian Peasants' Revolt; over 2,000 people were massacred by the Chilean Army at the Santa María School massacre; 362 coal miners died in an explosion at Monongah, West Virginia; and most importantly the Balkan crises and the outbreak of war, 1907–14 when the agreement expired in 1907 and resulted in the Young Turk Revolution of 1908.

In fact, when any major war started, there was often a comet involved. A periodic comet originally recognized as 1939 d (now known as 40P/Väisälä) was first discovered on 8 February 1939, and it was Hassel who sighted it in orbit on 16 April 1939 in Andromeda at the conjunction with the Sun, thus it was a conjunction,<sup>40</sup> just as the one ushering in the End of Days. On 1 September 1939, Adolf Hitler as the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party declared war on Poland, mounting a joint attack with Russia. Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany in response to the German Nazis invading Poland, murdering Jews, Roma, Serbs and Christians (the first stages of the holocaust during WWII). We should have seen the signs of the times, because in 1949, there were six comets leading into the Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953), with the final comet 1949/f (P/Reinmuth 1) appearing in the skies two days before the war began.<sup>41</sup>

The destruction of the Second Temple of Jerusalem was forecasted by Halley's Comet circa 66 AD, as recorded by Josephus: *"Thus there was a star resembling a sword, which stood over the city, and a comet, that continued a whole year (referring to the war, beginning 66AD). Thus, also before the Jews' rebellion (confirmed 66AD), and before those commotions which preceded the war, when the people were come in great crowds to the feast of unleavened bread, on the eighth day of the month Xanthicus, 2 [Nisan, Spring] and at the ninth hour of the night, so great a light shone round the altar and the holy house, that it appeared to be bright day time; which lasted for half an hour."*<sup>42</sup> Even as far back as 1460BC, the Pharaoh of Egypt witnessed Comet Encke (2P/Encke) and viewed it as an omen. In 372 BC, the Greek philosopher Aristotle recorded seeing a *"great comet we mentioned before appeared to the west in winter in frosty weather when the sky was clear, in the archonship of Asteius. On the first day it set before the sun and was then not seen. On the next day it was seen, being ever so little behind the sun and immediately setting. But its light extended over a third part of the sky like a leap, so that people called it a 'path'. This comet receded as far as Orion's belt and there dissolved,"* which is now known as Comet Encke (2P/Encke) that appeared on 31 December 372 BC.<sup>43</sup> Throughout history, there are countless examples of comets coinciding with

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<sup>37</sup> *First Folio*, F1, 1H6 3.2.1457-8; *Bible: New Living Translation*, Daniel 7:13-14.

<sup>38</sup> *Bible: New Living Translation*, Daniel 7:15.

<sup>39</sup> *Bible: New Living Translation*, Daniel 7:28.

<sup>40</sup> 'Comet Notes: Comet 1939 d; Comet 1939 e; Comets 1939 b and c', *Popular Astronomy* 47, no. July 1939 (n.d.): 331.

<sup>41</sup> G. Merton, 'Council Report on Comets in 1949', *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* 110 (n.d.): 176, <https://articles.adsabs.harvard.edu//full/1950MNRAS.110..173M/0000176.000.html>.

<sup>42</sup> Flavius Josephus and William Wiston, *The Wars of the Jews (Book VI)* (A.M. Auburn and Buffalo, 1895), 6.288.

<sup>43</sup> Aristotle and E. W. Webster, *Meteorology* (Digireads.com, 2006), Book 6; Göran Henriksson, 'Aristotle, King David, King Zhou and Pharaoh Thutmose III Have Seen Comet Encke', *Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry* 20, no. 1 (2020): 29, <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3605658>.

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the death of princes, and the rise of tyrants, with the exception of a few others I will mention shortly. Below are some examples of comets lining up with major events:

Year	Comet	Event
c.1460BC	Comet Encke (2P/Encke)	The Battle of Megiddo between Pharaoh Thutmose III and the Canaanite the King of Kadesh. <sup>44</sup>
964BC	Comet Encke (2P/Encke)	Angel over Jerusalem after King David chose three days of judgement (2 Samuel 24). <sup>45</sup>
372BC	Comet Encke (2P/Encke)	The great earthquake in the archonship of Asteius (false god), and a divine force destroyed two entire cities (Eborac and Helice). <sup>46</sup>
44BC	Caesar's Comet C/-43 K1	Caesar Assassinated. Augustus rose to power and had 300 senators and equites executed. <sup>47</sup>
44BC	Comet Encke (2P/Encke), although Chinese allege it was the same comet (Caesar's). <sup>48</sup>	Appeared during funeral games of Julius Caesar. <sup>49</sup>
66AD	Halley's Comet (1P/Halley)	Forecasted the destruction of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. <sup>50</sup>
180-230AD	Halley's Comet (1P/Halley) <sup>51</sup>	"Rabbi Chiya looked up and saw those comets: Namely stars that carry along a tail of light behind them, streaming in the sky." <sup>52</sup> In 203AD, Judah HaNasi relocated the Lower Sanhedrin from Beth Shearim to Sephoris for "pure air".
24 July 729AD	Unknown	King Oswulf of Northumbria died on the same day of the comet: " <i>In the year 729, comets appeared; the holy Egbert departed; and Osric died.</i> " <sup>53</sup>
Nov 838 - Apr 839AD	Halley's Comet (1P/Halley)	Death of Crown Prince Li Yong of the Tang Dynasty. Bran mac Fáeláin, King of Leinster, Ireland died.

<sup>44</sup> Henriksson, 'Aristotle, King David, King Zhou and Pharaoh Thutmose III Have Seen Comet Encke', 29.

<sup>45</sup> Henriksson, 35.

<sup>46</sup> Diodorus Siculus and C. H. Oldfather, *Diodorus Siculus: The Library of History*, vol. 7 (Harvard University Press, 1935), Book 6.

<sup>47</sup> Tranquillus, *The Lives of the Twelve Caesars*, Caesar, LXXXVIII.

<sup>48</sup> John Williams, *Observations of Comets from BC 611 to AD 1640 Extracted from the Chinese Annals, Translated with Introductory Remarks* (Strangways and Walden, 1871), 9, <https://archive.org/details/observationsofco00willrich>.

<sup>49</sup> Henriksson, 'Aristotle, King David, King Zhou and Pharaoh Thutmose III Have Seen Comet Encke', 33.

<sup>50</sup> Josephus and Wiston, *The Wars of the Jews (Book VI)*, 6.288.

<sup>51</sup> *Babylonian Talmud*, 2nd ed. (Venice: Daniel Bomberg, 1519), Horayot 10a.

<sup>52</sup> Yochai and Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 21*, Pinchas 65:384.

<sup>53</sup> 'On This Day in July', *Da Engliscan Gesiðas* (blog), n.d., <https://www.tha-engliscan-gesithas.org.uk/events-in-anglo-saxon-times/on-this-day/on-this-day-in-july/>.



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1066	Halley's Comet (1P/Halley) <sup>54</sup>	Omen of William the Conqueror to invade England, and God would back his claim to the throne. <sup>55</sup> England saw it as a bad omen — great change for the kingdom ruled by King Harold. <sup>56</sup>
1456	Halley's Comet (1P/Halley) <sup>57</sup>	Henry VI
27 Oct 1607	Halley's Comet (1P/Halley) viewed by Johannes Kepler	7 Nov 1607 – death Ana de Velasco y Girón, Mother of King John IV of Portugal. 8 Nov 1607 – death Elisabeth of Anhalt-Zerbst, Electress of Brandenburg. 24 Nov 1607 - death Juan de la Cerda, 6th Duke of Medinaceli, Spanish noble. 31 Dec 1607 – death Edmund Shakespeare, brother.
1729	Comet Sarabat (C/1729 P1), considered largest parabolic comet (1 August 1729). <sup>58</sup>	The Battle of Damghan concluded with Nader Khan Afshar killing 12,000 Afghans. The Natchez massacre of kill 138 men, 35 women, and 56 children, all French colonists.
Aug 1858	Donati's Comet (C/1858 L1) visible by naked eye. <sup>59</sup>	Tokugawa Iesada the 13 <sup>th</sup> shogun of Japan died on 14 August 1858. Chief Oshkosh of the Menominee Native Americans died on 31 August. An earthquake destroyed Mexico City and much of Texcoco. Johann II, Prince of Liechtenstein reigned from 1858 – 1929 after his father Aloys II, Prince of Liechtenstein died in 1858.
1867	9P/Tempel Comet, periodic comet in Jupiter	Battle of Inlon River was a major armed uprising in the Nian Rebellion in Northern China, whose slogan was “kill the rich and aid the poor”. <sup>60</sup> The Fenian Rising of 1867 was a rebellion against British rule in Ireland, organised by the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). The Dominion of Canada was formed. Alaska was purchased by the US from Russia. Britain ends convict ships. The Angola Horror occurred with 49 dead from a train derailment. Yellow fever kills over 3,000 in New Orleans.
1880	Great Southern Comet <sup>61</sup>	Battle of Kandahar won by the British, and the beginning of First Boer War.

<sup>54</sup> Karen Jean Meech, 'Comets in History', *Astronomy* (blog), 2023, <https://home.ifa.hawaii.edu/users/meech/education/psr/History.html>.

<sup>55</sup> Cecilia Bogaard, 'Halley's Comet Prophesized the Battle of Hastings in 1066', *AncientOrigins.Net* (blog), 2022, <https://www.ancient-origins.net/weird-facts/halleys-comet-0017039>.

<sup>56</sup> John Uri, '955 Years Ago: Halley's Comet and the Battle of Hastings', *NASA Johnson Space Center* (blog), 2021, <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/955-years-ago-halley-s-comet-and-the-battle-of-hastings>.

<sup>57</sup> Meech, 'Comets in History'.

<sup>58</sup> Meech.

<sup>59</sup> Meech.

<sup>60</sup> Pamela Kyle Crossley, *The Wobbling Pivot, China since 1800: An Interpretive History*, 1st ed. (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 108.

<sup>61</sup> Meech, 'Comets in History'.

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1907	C 1907	The Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Dimitar Petkov, was assassinated; King Oscar II of Sweden died; 11,000 people died in the Romanian Peasants' Revolt; over 2,000 people were massacred by the Chilean Army at the Santa María School massacre; 362 coal miners died in an explosion at Monongah, West Virginia; and most importantly the Balkan crises and the outbreak of war, 1907–14 when the agreement expired in 1907 and resulted in the Young Turk Revolution of 1908.
Jan 1913	Comet Lowe (near the star Spica in the constellation Virgo and through Hydra and Scorpio). <sup>62</sup>	Just prior to World War I.
Sep 1914	Campbells' Comet	"World War I" officially began in September 1914, although it was precipitated by earlier events.
Feb 1939	40P/Väisälä (85.4 years)	Just prior to World War II.
Mar 1939	Comet Pons-Winnecke (7P/Pons)	Just prior to World War II.
April 1939	Comet Jurlof-Achmarof-Hassel	Large tail "due to a cataclysm" just prior to World War II.
	8P/Tuttle Comet	
July 1939	Kaminsky's Comet	Just prior to World War II.
July 1939	35/Herschel-Rigollet	Just prior to World War II.
Nov 1939	Comet Friend, moving south-easterly through the constellation Hercules.	Queen Elizabeth II called women to work during the war. The British armed merchant cruiser HMS Rawalpindi was sunk by German warships north of the Faroe Islands, where 238 of the 286 crew died. Chinese forces launched the 1939-40 Winter Offensive against the Imperial Japanese Army. The Nazis burned down the Ezras Israel Synagogue in Lodz, Poland. The Nazis ordered all Jews over the age of ten residing in Poland to wear white armbands bearing a Star of David in the leadup to the holocaust.
May 1950	Comet Minkowski was discovered on 19 May 1950, and was viewable between January and May 1951.	The Korean War between North Korea and South Korea began on 25 June 1950 until an armistice was agreed on 27 July 1953. Americans became involved from July 1950 in the Battle of Osan. Only one comet was seen this year.
1955-75	Fifteen comets were observed in 1955, including five new comets: 1955a Harrington & Abell, 1955b	The Vietnam War was a conflict in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1 November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975. With so many comets this

<sup>62</sup> B. Lowe, 'A New Comet: Discovered by a South Australian', *The Register*, 16 January 1913.

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	Abell, 1955c Ashbrook-Jackson, 1955d Whipple, 1955e Mrkos. <sup>63</sup>	year, surely philosophers should have postulated the validity of the war.
Apr-Oct 1997	Comet Encke (2P/Encke), best viewed on 15 July 1997, though can still be viewed into October by a deep space telescope.	A warning prior to the death of Princess Diana died on 31 October 1997.
July-Nov 1997	Comet Hale-Bopp (C/1995 O1) visible by the naked eye, the great comet of 1997, coinciding with Comet Encke. Best viewed in the southern hemisphere between 29 Sep and 13 October, and final viewing for northern hemisphere.	Princess Diana died on 31 October 1997. Retired MI5 agent John Hopkins admitted to her murder on his death bed, because she <i>"knew too many Royal secrets"</i> and <i>"had a huge grudge and she was going to go public with all sorts of wild claims"</i> . <sup>64</sup> It was alleged Prince Philip directly ordered the assassination, and Hopkins <i>"had to make it look like an accident"</i> , where <i>"a [high-power strobe] light was shone in the driver's eyes"</i> . <sup>65</sup>
Jan-Apr 2005	Between 11 January and 10 April 2005, we saw seven new comets discovered by the Lincoln Laboratory Near-Earth Asteroid Research project: 392P/2004 WR9, P/2004 V5, C/2004 RG113, C/2004 YJ35, C/2003 T4, C/2005 A1.	On 9 April 2005, Prince Charles (now King Charles III), married Camilla Parker Bowles in a civil ceremony at Windsor Guildhall (Town Hall).
Sep 2001	Comet Petriew (185P/2001 Q2) was seen in our skies on 1 September 2001, one of 71 comets that year. Comet Leonard (396P/2002 E4) occurred on 11 September 2001.	The 9/11 (9 September 2001) attacks, where four suicide terrorist attacks were carried out by al-Qaeda against the United States on the World Trade Centre in New York.
1 Sep - 7 Oct 2001	There were seven comets between 1 September 2001 and 7 October 2001: 2009 KF37, Gibbs 229P/2001 Q10, Helin 151P/2001 M1, Didymos (65803), Neat C/2001 Q1, 19P Borrelly,	On the day War started officially began in Afghanistan on 7 October 2001, comet 2009 KF37 was seen in our skies.

<sup>63</sup> 'Reports on the Progress of Astronomy', 1956.

<sup>64</sup> *Retired MI5 Agent Confesses on Deathbed 'I Killed Princess Diana'* (Naija9icevibes TV, 2020), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0WB6koOcPE>.

<sup>65</sup> 'Princess Diana "Killed by Bright Light Shone by SAS into Car She Was In"', *Mercury*, 16 September 2013, <https://www.themercury.com.au/news/world/uk-police-say-they-are-examining-new-information-on-princess-dianas-death/news-story/ff64cd2b4ae1cbbd40610b64ebd9ea6b>.

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	Leonard 396P/2002 E4, Gehrels 3 82P.	
July-Nov 2022	255P/Levy (2022) is a periodic comet every 5.25 years. Reached its perihelion to the earth on 7 September 2022, the day before the Queen passed.	Discovered on 2 October 2002, when Queen Elizabeth II travelled to Canada for 12 days for her Golden Jubilee. Our beloved Queen departed this world on 8 September 2022, with a warning beforehand.
Feb-Mar 2023	C/2022 E3 (ZTF)	Discovered comet 2 March 2022 by the Zwicky Transient Facility, and reached its perihelion on 12 January 2023, with capturing until March 2023. ZTF's discovery preceded the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, and its perihelion occurred before Charles III coronation. This occurred during the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus.
Feb-Mar 2023	Comet C/2022 U2 (Atlas)	Discovered on 25 October 2022 by the Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System search program, and reached its perihelion on 14 January 2023. Its nearest approach was 28 January and can still be captured in March 2023 with a deep space telescope. This occurred during the great conjunction of Jupiter and Venus.
Feb-June 2023	C/2021 Y1 (Atlas)	Discovered on 26 December 2021 by the Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System search program, and will reach its perihelion to the earth on 30 April 2023, six days before King Charles III coronation.
2 May 2023	P/2023 B1 (PanSTARRS)	Discovered 21 January 2023 by the Pan-STARRS 2 telescope, and will reach its perihelion to the earth on 2 May 2023, four days before King Charles III coronation.
4 May 2023	291P (Neat), a periodic comet of 9.68 years, will be in the constellation of Pisces (RA: 01h27m, Dec: +11°03' from my observatory) on 4 May 2023, when it will be closest to the earth.	Discovered 29 July 2003 (on the anniversary of Charles III marriage to Diana) by the Near Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) NASA program, and will reach its perihelion to the earth on 4 May 2023, two days before King Charles III coronation.
27 September 2024	C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS)	Discovered on 22 February 2023, and will be seen by the naked eye as one of the largest comets in a decade on 27 September 2024, being its first ever passing of the earth. What will it usher in?

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Dates to watch are 22 October 2023 when Comet Encke (2P/Encke) reaches of Perihelion on earth,<sup>66</sup> though it is viewable with a deep space telescope (magnitude 20.44) even now in March 2023 in the constellation of Pisces.<sup>67</sup> In March 2024, there are 11 comets forecast so far in our skies, followed by March 2025 with 13 forecast comets, especially the period between 9-14 March 2025 when three new periodic comets are seen in our skies, and one returning comet. As an update to this paper, since writing comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) was discovered on 22 February 2023, and will be seen by the naked eye as one of the largest comets in a decade on 27 September 2024, being its first ever passing of the earth.<sup>68</sup> This is a comet to watch! September 2026 has 10 forecast comets.<sup>69</sup> On 28 July 2061, Halley's Comet is due to reach Perihelion on earth.<sup>70</sup> This date should be watched with caution.

### Comets Ushering in Great Blessing or Darkness?

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The variations found in this list that I have not mentioned is the year of 1925, where eleven comets were seen, which was reported as an *Invasion of Comets* in The Advertiser in Adelaide, Australia on 6 March 1926, "Never before have there been so many comets in a single year as there were in 1925" covering both short-periodic comets and non-periodic comets, often termed long-periodic comets — defined as comets that only pass through our solar system once or take over two hundred years to orbit our Sun.<sup>71</sup> There were five periodic comets: *Encke's Comet* that returns every 3 ½ years, the new discover of 43P/Wolf-Harrington comet that moves slowly away period (currently 9 years), 14P/Wolf that returns every 6 ¾ years, and a couple of minor comets not mentioned specifically.<sup>72</sup> I note the 14P/Wolf comet "reached magnitude 14.5 during the 1925 apparition, it has never become brighter than 17 since".<sup>73</sup> Another notable comet was *Schain's Comet*, a non-periodic comet published on 7 November 1925 around 600 million kilometres (four time the distance of the Sun) from the earth, which has the largest perihelion distance known, and is slowly receding from the Sun, but rapidly approaching the earth.<sup>74</sup>

Why have I harped on about these eleven comets? The year 1925 was a difficult political year worldwide with Benito Mussolini proclaiming himself Il Duce (Dictator) of Italy, Hitler re-established the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP in German) and the SS (*Schutzstaffel*, or Protection Squads), the USSR and Japan signed the Basic Convention, a trade agreement was struck between USSR and Germany, and the USSR signed a pact with Turkey against the *League of Nations*.<sup>75</sup> Whilst in a great time of upheaval, eleven comets were seen in the skies above the earth by astronomers. Following this incredible event, was the birth of a great lady, Queen Elizabeth II was born on 21 April 1926, soon after the document was published regarding these sightings in November 1925. We all know QEII was the longest reigning British

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<sup>66</sup> Seiichic Yoshida, *Comet Catalog in Order of Day of Perihelion (on Earth)*, 2023, 2023, <http://www.aerith.net/comet/catalog/index-T-earth.html>.

<sup>67</sup> 'Comet Encke (2P/Encke)', *The Sky Live* (blog), 2023, <https://theskylive.com/encke-info>.

<sup>68</sup> Chris Oberholtz, "Comet of a Decade" to Whiz Past Earth in Likely First Visit in 4.5 Billion Years', *FOX Weather* (blog), 11 March 2023, <https://www.foxweather.com/earth-space/comet-c2023-a3-october-2024>.

<sup>69</sup> Yoshida, *Comet Catalog in Order of Day of Perihelion (on Earth)*.

<sup>70</sup> Yoshida.

<sup>71</sup> 'Invasion of Comets', 6 March 1926.

<sup>72</sup> 'Invasion of Comets'.

<sup>73</sup> Gary W. Kronk, Maik Meyer, and David A. Seargent, *Cometography: Volume 6 - 1983-1993 - A Catalog of Comets*, 1st ed., vol. 6 (Cambridge University Press, 2017), 40, 60.

<sup>74</sup> 'Our Astronomical Column', *Nature* 116, no. 690 (7 November 1925), <https://doi.org/10.1038/116690a0>.

<sup>75</sup> Rebecca Twitchen, 'A Year in History: 1925 Timeline', *Historic Newspapers*, 14 December 2021, <https://www.historic-newspapers.co.uk/blog/1925-events/>.

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monarch of 70 years and 214 days, and was no doubt the most loved monarch the Commonwealth has ever known.<sup>76</sup> This historic event shows us that some comets can actually foretell times of great blessing for the world, and her death was preceded by *255P (Levy)* on 7 September 2022, the day before she passed.<sup>77</sup> Only time will tell what sort of king Charles will become. We can only hope he follows in the footsteps of his mother.

During my almost twenty years of researching *Shakespeare Sonnets*, I discovered an underlying principle of astronomy, connecting to the Zoharic epochs of the world, which are also reflected in Emilia Bassano's *Salve Deus Rex Judæorum* (Hail God, King of the Jews):

From your bright spheare of greatnes where you sit,

Reflecting light to all those glorious stars

That wait vpon your Throane; To virtue yet

Vouchsafe that splendor which my meannesse bars:

Be like faire *Phoebe*, who doth loue to grace

<sup>30</sup> The darkest night with her most beauteous face.<sup>78</sup>

I revealed in my commentary of the Sonnets, the “*two must be twaine, although our vndeuided loues are one*” from Sonnet 36 refer to the days of the Messiah and the Resurrection of the Dead are One.<sup>79</sup> These are epochs of light that also bring darkness, which explains why we received COVID in 2019 on an epoch of light, differentiating this age from any previous age since the birth of Christ. We will experience both extremes: great revelations of light, and opposing darkness – a picture of both love and war. I will release a later paper showing how these epochs of light occur each 60-70 years, as Professor Frédéric Bettex observed, “*interrupted by equal intervals of darkness*” that have been evident since the Creation of the multiverse.<sup>80</sup> I have collected extensive historical data and proved it alongside the Shakespearean works and these epochs of light and darkness, which interestingly correspond with the arrival of comets. In the words of Marina to her father Pericles in Act 5, Scene 1, we find the usage of the comet with “*endured a grief*” and “*wayward fortune*”:

*Mar.* I am a maid, my Lorde, that nere before inuited  
eyes, but haue beene gazed on like a Comet;She speaks

<sup>2070</sup> my Lord, that may be, **hath endured a grieffe might equall  
yours**, if both were iustly wayde, though wayward fortune

did maligne my state, my deriuation was from ancestors,

who stood equiuolent with mightie Kings, but time hath

rooted out my parentage, and to the world, and augward

<sup>2075</sup> casualties, bound me in seruitude, I will desist, but there is  
something glowes vpon my cheek, and whispers in mine

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<sup>76</sup> ‘Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee’, *Monument Australia* (blog), 2023, <https://monumentaustalia.org.au/themes/government/imperial/display/121264-queen-elizabeth-ii-platinum-jubilee->

<sup>77</sup> Yoshida, *Comet Catalog in Order of Day of Perihelion (on Earth)*, 7 Sept 2023.

<sup>78</sup> Matthews, ‘Salve Deus Rex Judæorum (Hail God, King of the Jews): Expositor’s Edition’, To the Queen’s Most Excellent Majesty, 25-30.

<sup>79</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKESPEARE’S SONNETS (Tome 2 of 3)*.

<sup>80</sup> Prof. Frederic Bettex, *Modern Science and Christianity*, trans. Edmund Simpson (London: Marshall Brothers, 1903), 190–91; Rabbi Dovid Markel, ‘The Multiverse in Jewish Thought’, *Merrimack Valley Havurah* (blog), n.d., <https://merrimackvalleyhavurah.wordpress.com/2019/02/01/the-multiverse-in-jewish-thought/>.

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eare, go not till he speake.<sup>81</sup>

This sounds very much like Emilia Bassano's *Salve Deus Rex Judæorum* (Hail God, King of the Jews), where she alludes to comets capturing the eyes of all men, like a beautiful woman entering a ball room — she puts herself in great peril by going out at night, not understanding the creatures and cretins of the night who seek to deflower her, which is the focus of *Shakespeare's Sonnets*:

That pride of Nature which adorns the faire,

**Like blasing Comets to allure all eies,**

Is but the thred, that weaves their web of Care,

Who glories most, where most their danger lies;

<sup>205</sup> For **greatest perills** do attend the faire,

When men do seeke, attempt, plot and devise,

How they may overthrow the chastest Dame,

Whose Beautie is the White whereat they aime.<sup>82</sup>

Emilia compared the comet to Helen, daughter of Zeus, whose beauty became legendary and every man desired her. Helen was seduced by Paris and even raped, according to the late 5<sup>th</sup> century AD Theban poet Coluthus, which resulted in war between Sparta and Troy.<sup>83</sup> In discussions between Marina and her father Pericles, she speaks of *endured grief* from the visit of a comet, because it often foretells of what is to Come.

### How Do We Interpret These Omens Today?

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What are we to understand of our future with China declaring itself the new world power, with a vision of a new '*European Silk Road*' of around 11,000 kilometres from Milan, Italy, to Volgograd, Russia (through Ukraine, Hungary and Slovenia), and Milan to Constanta, Bulgaria — with Russia and China as the central benefactors?<sup>84</sup> The other major route of concern to Egypt, Israel, Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia with their grand plan of traversing from the Mediterranean Sea through Egypt, down the Red Sea, across the Indian Ocean to (Singapore, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea) the tip of Queensland in Australia.<sup>85</sup> It should be noted that across the Torres Strait between Australia and New Guinea, it is only 150.79km (93.70miles), with numerous islands in between, including Prince of Wales Island, Horn Island, Wednesday Island, Thursday Island, Badu Island Moa Island, Mabuiag Island, and a number of smaller islands. There is a further route affecting Taiwan and the Philippines, which has been the main contention between the west and east in recent years. Too many leaders throughout history believe their own narrative, and refuse to accept there is another perspective in every situation. This is called *ideological blindness*, especially when their own ideologies come under attack, where then they double-down and refuse to negotiate. Our former Australian Prime Minister doubled-down his attack on Anthony Albanese and eventually was voted out of office for his strong views.<sup>86</sup> Do not

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<sup>81</sup> *Pericles, Prince of Tyre (The Late, And Much Admired Play, Called)*, Q1 ed. (London: Henry Gosson, 1609), Q1, Per 5.1.2068-77.

<sup>82</sup> Matthews, 'Salve Deus Rex Judæorum (Hail God, King of the Jews): Expositor's Edition', *Salve*, 201-8.

<sup>83</sup> Coluthus of Lycopolis and William Beloe, *The Rape of Helen, From the Greek of Coluthus*, 1786.

<sup>84</sup> Philipp Heimberger, Mario Holzner, and Kochnev Artem, 'A European Silk Road' (ResearchGate, 2018), Abstract, [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327155831\\_A\\_%27European\\_Silk\\_Road%27](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327155831_A_%27European_Silk_Road%27).

<sup>85</sup> Heimberger, Holzner, and Artem, 9.

<sup>86</sup> Eliza McPhee and Charlie Moore, 'Scott Morrison Doubles down on His Attack on Anthony Albanese's Makeover - as Labor Attacks Him for His Own Change in Appearance', *Daily Mail Australia*, 15 March 2022, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10613829/Scott-Morrison-doubles-attack-Anthony-Albaneses-makeover.html>.

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misinterpret my philosophy: I am apolitical; I do not believe in either extremes — we need a balanced perspective moving forward in this new age.

It was reported, *“Beijing listed 14 grievances with Australia ranging from its call for an international inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus, a ban on China’s telecommunications giant Huawei building a 5G network, and screening foreign investment for national security risks”* after trade sanctions were placed upon us and a number of Australian journalists were detained in China, one even being formally charged with *“suspicion of illegally supplying state secrets overseas”*.<sup>87</sup> Needless to say, tensions are high, and Yahoo News released information about former diplomat claimed Australia will be embroiled in a military showdown between the United States and China possibly as early as 2025.<sup>88</sup> We should never forget the *17-point agreement* China forced upon Gyalwa Rinpoche, 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama under duress on 24 October 1951 with 30,000 Chinese troops on his doorstep, which was later repudiated on the grounds that it was executed under duress.<sup>89</sup> In July 1959, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) found that *“evidence points to a prima facie case of systematic intention...to destroy in whole or in part the Tibetans as a separate nation and the Buddhist religion in Tibet”* and it has been reported that 1.2 million Tibetans perished through genocide, which is roughly 16.6% of the population.<sup>90</sup> To quote a Hong Kong citizen after Chinese occupation in 1997, *“We’re in a kind of hellish place... We are not free”*.<sup>91</sup> Schools are required to teach on Chinese patriotism and national security, and *“some new textbooks deny Hong Kong was ever a British colony”*.<sup>92</sup> We simply cannot allow this to happen to Taiwan or Australia.

According to former diplomat John Lander, who served as Australia's Deputy Ambassador to Beijing during 1974-76, *“The United States is not preparing to go to war against China. The United States is preparing Australia to go to war against China” if he is to be believed*.<sup>93</sup> Australia remains part of the Commonwealth and the United States had an alliance during both World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, the Afghan War, and both are part of NATO. Australia supported NATO in Afghanistan, and was *“one of the largest non-NATO troop*

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<sup>87</sup> Kirsty Needham, ‘Australia’s Prime Minister Says China Should Lift Trade Sanctions; Welcomes Talks’, 14 June 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/australia-pm-says-china-should-lift-trade-sanctions-welcomes-talks-2022-06-14/>; Reuters, ‘Australian Journalist Tried behind Closed Doors in Beijing Court’, *NBC News*, 31 March 2022, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/australia-cheng-lei-trial-china-rcna22335>.

<sup>88</sup> Nick Whigham, ‘US Preparing Australia “to Go to War with China”, Former Official Claims’, *Yahoo News*, 13 February 2023, [https://au.news.yahoo.com/us-preparing-australia-to-go-to-war-with-china-former-official-claims-060825591.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAANqP\\_MkkAjdqM4aNS-MZ9DY4FJwW5BeiA3i72PDOy6xdL6gc90SONk-agoq5CVR7XU9b0a043iKJ-SiStLms74igc1lhHVXZLJoRFUBtclEkmmlFAwbIDfP8kBuwKkSj9M1EEApNjivbDYpqfMJ1tfXZrJ2cJTYime3uyHLS2UBH](https://au.news.yahoo.com/us-preparing-australia-to-go-to-war-with-china-former-official-claims-060825591.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAANqP_MkkAjdqM4aNS-MZ9DY4FJwW5BeiA3i72PDOy6xdL6gc90SONk-agoq5CVR7XU9b0a043iKJ-SiStLms74igc1lhHVXZLJoRFUBtclEkmmlFAwbIDfP8kBuwKkSj9M1EEApNjivbDYpqfMJ1tfXZrJ2cJTYime3uyHLS2UBH).

<sup>89</sup> ‘The Chinese Occupation of Tibet’ (Oregon Government, 2023), <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/standards/socialsciences/Documents/chineseoccupation.pdf>; *Why China Is Destroying Tibet?*, 2023, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYhMROtjXdY>.

<sup>90</sup> ‘The Rule of Law in a Free Society: A Report on the International Congress of Jurists, New Delhi, India, January 5-10, 1959’ (International Commission of Jurists, 5 January 1959), <https://www.icj.org/rule-of-law-in-a-free-society-a-report-on-the-international-congress-of-jurists-new-delhi-india-january-5-10-1959/>.

<sup>91</sup> Zen Soo, ‘Hong Kong in Limbo 25 Years after British Handover to China’, *AP News*, 30 June 2022, <https://apnews.com/article/voting-rights-china-hong-kong-932009be8d2a91ef2f84e6e406d290b4>.

<sup>92</sup> Soo.

<sup>93</sup> Whigham, ‘US Preparing Australia “to Go to War with China”, Former Official Claims’.



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contributors to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)".<sup>94</sup> If the United States want to enter a war with China, they will stand side-by-side as we have done with them for more than a century. The question on everyone's mind is: will we win? Nobody knows the answer to that question, but I will say: never underestimate the will of the Australian people backed by a supportive government!

The 5<sup>th</sup> century BC historian and general in first stage of *The Peloponnesian War*, Thucydides wrote his account in Northern Greece as the Greek world plunged into 27 years of war, "*The growth of the power of Athens, and the alarm which this inspired in Lacedaemon, made war inevitable. Still it is well to give the grounds alleged by either side, which led to the dissolution of the treaty and the breaking out of the war.*"<sup>95</sup> In the case of the Athens, Pericles advised the Athenians not to confront them directly in an open battle on land, but to rely upon the naval fleet, and lost miserably.<sup>96</sup> Unfortunately, their plan came to ruin when a quarter of the population died of the plague (typhus fever): "*there were great droughts in sundry places and consequent famines, and that most calamitous and awfully fatal visitation, the plague. All this came upon them with the late war.*"<sup>97</sup> Thucydides is the perfect example of why countries or cities are destroyed throughout history, because he paints the picture of a cosmic punishment for a society's ethical decline, just as we have turned away from God, even legislating against the laws of God. Why was Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed? Why was Pompeii destroyed? Countless others have run the gauntlet and suffered the punishment. Often, politicians do not count the massive cost prior to declaring war. It is the people of the country who pay the price of civic leader's sins.<sup>98</sup> "*Once the fire is lighted under it, there is no limit to the power it can generate,*" Churchill said, thus we must remember there is no turning back.<sup>99</sup> We will have to see it through until its conclusion.

We must also remember there is a שרִים (*Sarim*, "Great Prince") above, who is empowered over the Prince (Leader) below.<sup>100</sup> They do not fight against a man, a country, but a Prince entrusted by the Creator. Our Creator sees everything that occurs every single day, including the secret meetings, the secret handshakes, and all the deals done behind closed doors. He sees the heart motive behind every decision, whether for good or for evil, or foolishness, or even ideological blindness. He knows beforehand exactly what you will do, though the Princes do not know the mind of God. Only our Creator knows the time, the place, and exactly what will happen. We, like the Princes, can only see what our Creator will allow us to see, nothing more, nothing less.

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<sup>94</sup> 'NATO: Relations with Australia', *Relations with Australia* (blog), 10 February 2023, [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_48899.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_48899.htm).

<sup>95</sup> Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, trans. Richard Crawley (New York: J. M. Dent, E. P. Dutton, 1910), Thuc. 1.23, <http://data.perseus.org/citations/urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0003.tlg001.perseus-eng3:1.23>.

<sup>96</sup> Thucydides, Thuc. 1.111.

<sup>97</sup> Thucydides, Thuc. 1:23.

<sup>98</sup> *Bible: New Living Translation*, 1 Chronicles 21.

<sup>99</sup> Joshua Zeitz, 'How World War II Almost Broke American Politics', 6 June 2019, <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/06/06/how-world-war-ii-almost-broke-american-politics-227090/>.

<sup>100</sup> *Bible: New Living Translation*, Matthews 6:10 Aramaic "As Above, As Below", Ephesians 2:2, 1:21.

# The Meaning Behind Shakespeare's Comets and the Coming of C/2022 E3 (ZTF) - A Warning to the World?

Dr Peter D Matthews  
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## Present Time: C/2022 E3 (ZTF) and C/2022 U2 (Atlas)

There are 3,859 known comets in this universe at this present time, although astronomers have hypothesized there could be up to one trillion comets.<sup>101</sup> The interesting fact is that only around 78 comets were seen through telescopes per year up until 2012, many of them very distant, but in the last eleven years that has increased to over double the number of comets in 2021 during COVID-19.<sup>102</sup> Below is a table of comets I have prepared from data gathered by Japanese comet expert Seiichic Yoshida.<sup>103</sup>

Year	<u>Total Number of Comets</u>	Returning Comets	New Comets	Not Yet Observed Periodic Comet	Not Observed Periodic Comet Since Last Return
1995	29	12	9	0	8
1996	43	17	21	0	5
1997	54	22	26	0	6
1998	61	16	38	0	7
1999	66	19	41	0	6
2000	75	18	51	0	6
2001	71	25	45	0	1
2002	84	26	55	0	3
2003	88	18	66	0	4
2004	85	18	58	0	9
2005	88	27	58	0	3
2006	82	21	53	0	8
2007	90	25	56	0	9
2008	109	43	59	0	7
2009	106	38	59	0	9
2010	108	33	70	0	5
2011	90	29	52	0	9
2012	97	35	55	0	7
2013	118	42	70	0	6
2014	132	56	68	0	8

<sup>101</sup> 'Comets', *Solar System Exploration* (blog), 2023, [https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/asteroids-comets-and-meteors/comets/overview/?page=0&per\\_page=40&order=name+asc&search=&condition\\_1=102%3Aparent\\_id&condition\\_2=comet%3Abody\\_type%3Alike](https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/asteroids-comets-and-meteors/comets/overview/?page=0&per_page=40&order=name+asc&search=&condition_1=102%3Aparent_id&condition_2=comet%3Abody_type%3Alike); 'How Many Comets Are There?', *The European Space Agency* (blog), 2023, [https://www.esa.int/Science\\_Exploration/Space\\_Science/Rosetta/How\\_many\\_comets\\_are\\_there](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Rosetta/How_many_comets_are_there).

<sup>102</sup> Yoshida, *Comet Catalog in Order of Day of Perihelion (on Earth)*.

<sup>103</sup> Yoshida.

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<b>2015</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Average/Year</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

In the year 2014, we saw 132 comets, which should have triggered some discussions amongst philosophers, yet they have all stayed silent on the matter. The only mention was the European Space Agency on 23 October 2014 posted “Comet Activity is on the Increase” regarding comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko exhibiting “a gradual, but clear increase in activity” further stating “new active areas are waking up about one kilometre from the landing site”.<sup>104</sup> There was no other mention to my knowledge anywhere. The year 2014 was the actual year Russia actually began the invasion of Ukraine, where Vladimir Putin sent in Russian troops into the Donbas region of Ukraine under a barrage of lies and deception, though he later admitted, “we were forced, I want to stress, forced to defend the Russian-speaking population in the Donbass, forced to respond to the desire of the people living in Crimea to return to being part of the Russian Federation”.<sup>105</sup> In the west, we only heard about it when Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Thus, the increase of comets coincides with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and should have been a warning to Princes (leaders) around the world. The year 2022 marks another significant period, as does 2023, and 2025 coming. There are already 74 forecast comets for the year 2025, without any new discoveries between now and then. Therefore 2025 is a year to watch!

The year 2022 opened with the discovery of two major comets. The first was C/2022 E3 (ZTF), named after the Zwicky Transient Facility who discovered the comet on 2 March 2022 and was seen in our skies by the naked eye between 4-12 February 2023, although it is still available to be captured on a deep space telescope in March 2023 — yet the philosophers stayed silent. C/2022 E3 (ZTF) occurred during the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus between 1 February – 3 March 2023, as you can see by my single stacked image overleaf as it approached Venus captured as it passed Venus on 17 February 2023. ZTF’s discovery preceded the death of Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022, and its perihelion occurred before Charles III coronation.

The second comet is C/2022 U2 (Atlas), discovered on 25 October 2022 by the Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System search program, and reached its perihelion on 14 January 2023. Its nearest approach was 28 January and can still be captured in March 2023 with a deep

<sup>104</sup> ‘Comet Activity Is on the Increase’, *European Space Agency* (blog), 23 October 2014, <https://blogs.esa.int/rosetta/2014/10/23/comet-activity-is-on-the-increase/>.

<sup>105</sup> Roland Oliphant and Rozina Sabur, ‘Vladimir Putin Admits: Russian Troops “Were in Ukraine”’, *The Telegraph*, 17 December 2015, <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/vladimir-putin/12054164/Vladimir-Putins-annual-press-conference-2015-live.html>; ‘Putin Claims Russia Was “Forced To Defend Russian-Speaking Population In Donbass”’, *The Interpreter* (blog), 12 October 2016, <http://www.interpretermag.com/day-968/#15291>.

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space telescope. This also occurred during the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, and yet philosophers have stayed silent.

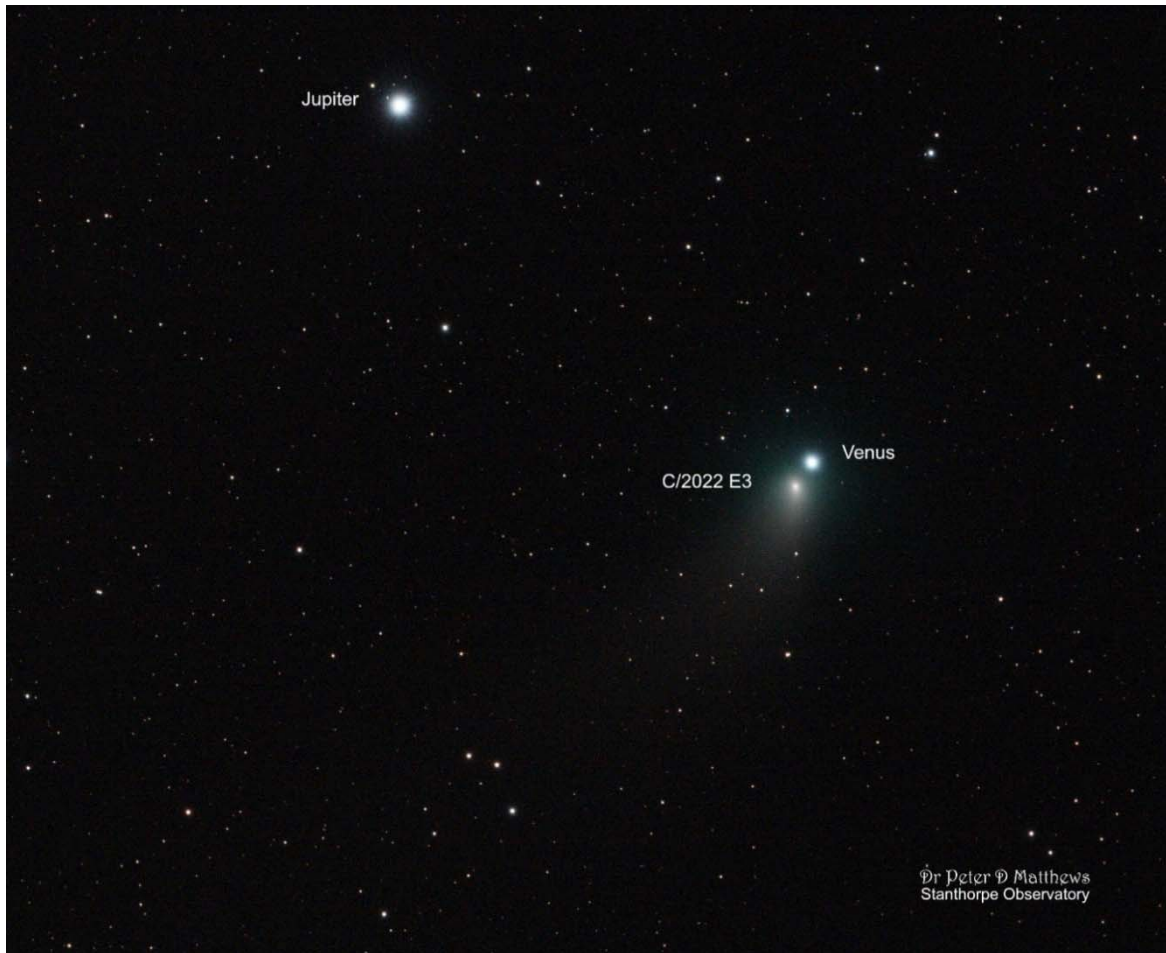


Figure 2 - C/2022 E3 (ZTF) occurred during the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus taken 17 February 2023 at Stanthorpe Observatory, Australia.

Three comets have opened up for us to view with telescopes now preceding the coronation of King Charles II: C/2021 Y1 (Atlas), P/2023 B1 (PanSTARRS), 291P (Neat).<sup>106</sup> C/2021 Y1 (Atlas) was discovered on 26 December 2021 by the Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System search program, and will reach its perihelion to the earth on 30 April 2023, six days before King Charles III coronation. P/2023 B1 (PanSTARRS) was discovered 21 January 2023 by the PanSTARRS 2 telescope, and will reach its perihelion to the earth on 2 May 2023, four days before King Charles III coronation. 291P (Neat) is a periodic comet of 9.68 years, and will be in the constellation of Pisces (RA: 01h27m, Dec: +11°03' from my observatory) on 4 May 2023, when it will be closest to the earth. It was discovered on 29 July 2003, being the anniversary of Charles III marriage to Diana, by the Near Earth Asteroid Tracking (NEAT) NASA program, and will reach its perihelion to the earth on 4 May 2023, two days before King Charles III coronation.

The years 2022-2025 are of great warning to the world, although this began on 29 November 2019 when we entered the *Age of the Woman* (which began on 29 November 2020 PST), which ushered in the *Star of Bethlehem* (Star of David), seen in the skies in 15-21 December 2020.<sup>107</sup> As I mentioned previously, comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) was discovered on 22 February

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<sup>106</sup> Yoshida, *Comet Catalog in Order of Day of Perihelion (on Earth)*.

<sup>107</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, 1:39.

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2023, and will be seen by the naked eye as one of the largest comets in a decade on 27 September 2024, being its first ever passing of the earth.<sup>108</sup> This is a comet to watch closely. This age will usher in scientific advances, revelation knowledge, for it is written: “for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD (YHVH) as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9). In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, Emilia Bassano forecast the conjunction of Mars and Jupiter on 29 May 2022, and the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus of 1-2 March 2023, separated by only 0.5° while separated from the Sun by around 25° — which is extremely rare and allows viewing by the naked eye.<sup>109</sup> These were soon after the return of the *Star of Bethlehem*, which should have shouted volumes to philosophers around the world.

On 8 December 2022, “the first-hand account of Harry and Meghan’s story” was seen on Netflix, followed by Prince Harry’s novel *Spare* of “two young boys, two princes, walking behind their mother’s coffin as the world watched in sorrow—and horror”... Now, unfortunately, the rift has widened between Prince Harry and his brother and father, King Charles III, who is to be crowned King of the Commonwealth on 6 May 2023. Where will it end? Could it result in reconciliation or will it result in the death of a Prince, like his mother? Heaven forbid! However, it might be a wise move for Prince Harry to skip the coronation... I might add that Harry has not been unfaithful to his wife, yet both his father and the crown Prince William have accused of being unfaithful to their wives, with William following in the footsteps of his father.<sup>110</sup> Both chased ugly ducklings instead of their beautiful wives, fulfilling Sonnet 139, usually interpreted as unfaithfulness, though it has a distinct connection to comets and falling stars in the *Babylonian Talmud, Berakhot 58b* on the destruction of the world: “and we learn through tradition that a comet does not pass the Orion constellation, and if it does pass Orion, the world will be destroyed”.<sup>111</sup> Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) is currently passing the constellation of Orion after leaving the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus, as you can see in the image overleaf.

Comet C/2021 Y1 (Atlas) has already passed Orion. P/2023 B1 (PanSTARRS) is currently heading into Leo, due east of Orion. Therefore, two of the four comets in this period leading up to King Charles III coronation passed Orion. A Jewish rabbi, talmudist, and astronomer, Ḥayyim Selig ben Ya'akov Slonimski, wrote a Hebrew book called *Kokhava Deshavit* (The Comet), and it was published in Vilna in 1835, describing Halley’s Comet precise coordinates for the inhabitants of Bialystok, Poland, as well the nature of comets and their orbits.<sup>112</sup> Talmudology explained, “Slonimski explained Kepler’s three laws of planetary motion, outlined Newton’s law of universal gravitation, and described the discovery of stellar aberration by the British astronomer James Bradley... and ended with a depiction of the expected path of the comet.”<sup>113</sup> So it seems the

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<sup>108</sup> Chris Oberholtz, “Comet of a Decade” to Whiz Past Earth in Likely First Visit in 4.5 Billion Years’, *FOX Weather* (blog), 11 March 2023, <https://www.foxweather.com/earth-space/comet-c2023-a3-october-2024>.

<sup>109</sup> Matthews, 1:359,484; Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 2 of 3)*.

<sup>110</sup> Catie Powers, ‘Who Is Rose Hanbury? The Woman Tied to Prince William Cheating Rumours’, *New Idea* (blog), 21 September 2022, <https://www.newidea.com.au/rose-hanbury>.

<sup>111</sup> Dr Peter D Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 3 of 3)*, vol. 3 (Stanthorpe, Australia: Bassano Publishing House, 2026), Sonnet 139; *Babylonian Talmud, Berakhot 58b*.

<sup>112</sup> ‘Horayot 10a ~ Halley’s Comet, or Rabbi Yehoshua’s Comet?’, 10 April 2018, <https://www.talmudology.com/jeremybrownmdgmailcom/2018/4/8/horayot-10a-halleys-comet-in-the-talmud>.

<sup>113</sup> ‘Horayot 10a ~ Halley’s Comet, or Rabbi Yehoshua’s Comet?’

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talmudists are so far in front of many of us in predicting what the future may hold, and maybe we are heading for some significant conflict in the future?



Figure 3 - Map showing Comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) in Eridanus on March, 14 2023. Copyright 2023 TheSkyLive.com <https://theskylive.com/c2022e3-info>

The conjunction of Jupiter and Venus is a special time for these two comets to arrive, especially with two brothers separated. Jupiter is our inspiration to live a higher purpose with new pathways, and Venus connecting with Jupiter is an opening for blessing.<sup>114</sup> It must always depend on our own heart, and whether we tend to let go of our ego, or let our ego (evil impulse) dominate us (like being unfaithful). My former bible college professor said the three “G’s” can bring a man undone: *girls*, *gold* (money), and *glory*. Will the two brothers rise to occasion and allow one to live peacefully in each country, embracing each other’s desire to live on as their mother would hope? I pray for them both. This brings me to final mention of a comet by Petruccio in Act 3, Scene 2, of *The Taming of the Shrew*:

<sup>1475</sup> But where is *Kate*? Where is my lovely Bride?  
How does my father? Gentles methinks you frowne,  
And wherefore gaze this goodly company,  
As if they saw some wondrous monument,  
**Some Commet, or vnusuall prodigie?**

In this case, Baptista [Bassano] has words with Petruccio turning up to his daughter’s wedding late, dressed like he just came from the *Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras*, and Baptista asked him to change his clothes. Petruccio jokes about her not marrying his clothes and asks where his

<sup>114</sup> *Lessons from the Venus-Jupiter Conjunction w/ Astrologer Jaime Goldstein, 2023*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP7BUOt4gXw>.

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bride is, boasting of seeing some wondrous monument, which was actually a slap in the face to William Shakespeare and nobody picked it up! The monument in question was not his burial monument with four pitiful lines by William Shakespeare,<sup>115</sup> but his “*Great House*” purchased in 1597 at the same time as *The Taming of the Shrew* was written of Christopher Sly’s (Shakespeare’s) rise to fame.<sup>116</sup> To keep up with the Jones’ (Bassanos), he bought the largest mansion in Stratford-upon-Avon, at 22 Chapel Street — and the only one with a courtyard, topped off with a Bassano mulberry tree — a smaller version of the Bassano family mansion in Mark Lane, London.<sup>117</sup> Petruchio compared his clothes to the multi-coloured monument of Shakespeare’s home in Stratford, then compared Kate’s genitalia to “*some comet*” as if he could take a preview before the wedding. Maybe the union will make some unusual children, with Petruchio slapping Baptista in the face for his remarks about his attire. This is a wonderful example of late 16<sup>th</sup> century Shakespearean sexualised satire, also known as *Commedia dell’arte* with colourful characters, originating out of the ancient *Carnivale di Venezia* (Carnival of Venice), which Hieronymus de Bassanus (Jeronimo Bassano) was *Guardian da Mattin* (Director of Processions or Chairman).<sup>118</sup>

## Conclusions

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There are seven references to comets within the Shakespearean works, showing the poet had a thorough understanding of astronomy, the numerous comets, and how these comets have influenced the heavens, the earth, and her people — most prominently as an omen of blessing or more often impending judgement. The primary source of *Shake-speares Sonnets*, the *Zohar of Mantua 1568-60*, explains the “*streaking comet ignites ‘praises’ to the Creator on our behalf. A ‘praise’ denotes our connection to the Light, which allows divinity to flow [in]to our realm of existence*” although it also warns of wars if we choose to follow our own ego (evil impulse of Satan).<sup>119</sup> It challenges us to choose mercy each day, and maybe we can turn a comet of judgement into a comet of mercy, attracting the eye of the Creator. One of the seven examples of comets was a slap in the face to Shakespeare’s new colourful monument, being his new home in Stratford, followed by a sexualised satire spin, teaching us not to be angry with a person’s appearance, but to rise above it like an eagle and embrace the heart of a person. Choose love over war wherever possible.

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<sup>115</sup> Matthews, *A Comprehensive Commentary of SHAKE-SPEARES SONNETS (Tome 1 of 3)*, 1:Inside Cover.

<sup>116</sup> ‘New Place, Stratford’, 2023, <https://nosweatshakespeare.com/stratford-upon-avon/new-place/>.

<sup>117</sup> Dr Peter D Matthews, *Shakespeare Exhumed: The Bassano Chronicles* (Bassano Publishing House, 2013).

<sup>118</sup> Matthews, ‘The Bassanos: Jewish Guardians of the Ancient Arts’, 24.

<sup>119</sup> Yochai and Berg, *The Zohar: Volume 21*, Pinchas 65, Relevance.



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