even the tiniest of particles a degree of curvature of motion dependent upon mass and energy, which is what General Relativity is all about, when understood correctly.

This may sound very complicated but I will explain it in very simple terms shortly. The thing to realise I am saying is that something which spins very fast must have a very tight orbit, but if some of the energy of all that spin can be transformed into faster motion with less curvature as my theory suggests, it would appear that part of the orbit of a planet is determined by its rate of spin. I have to say that the effect is likely to be small, but if we could predict far enough in advance when a devastating collision might occur, we may just be able to alter the Earth's rate of spin to change our orbit to effect a near miss.

This may sound to many as a ridiculously hazardous fantasy, but there is evidence to suggest that the Earth has stopped spinning before, and more than once in recorded history. I now must refer again to *The World Atlas of Mysteries* and to one Immanuel Velikovsky. Francis Hitching describes him as follows:-

"By any standards, he was always an extraordinary man. Born in Vitebsk, Russia, on 10th June 1895, he learned several languages as a child, travelled widely for his studies, which included law and ancient history, before graduating in medicine in 1921. A distinguished European and Israeli academic and medical career, particularly in psychoanalysis, brought him to America in 1939. Here, during researches into early Israelite history, he became convinced that certain sections of the Old Testament of the Bible were literally true; they described the catastrophic events caused by Earth's near collision with another heavenly body. Either the Earth's rotation stopped briefly, or its axis tilted, causing floods and disasters. Joshua was reporting the accurate truth when he said "The Sun stood still in the midst of Heaven and did not go down the whole day." For this to be proved he had to find similar legends elsewhere, except that on the other side of the globe these would logically be about a time when the Sun failed to rise. And find them he did, in ancient documents from pre-Columbian

America, China, India, Iran, Babylon, Iceland, Finland, Greece and Rome. Mexican manuscripts told how the Sun did not appear for a four-fold night."

Velikovsky had linked these events to strange descriptions of the planet Venus. In an account from China, in the reign of Emperor Yao, the Sun did not set for ten days. In Yoa's reign "a brilliant star issued from the constellation Yin". As stated by Hitching, Velikovsky's conclusion was that Venus was a new addition to the Solar System, having spun off from Jupiter, had near misses with Earth an Mars between the 15th and 8th/9th centuries BC, and finally settled in its present orbit thus less than 4000 years ago (should this say "less than 3000 years ago?). He predicted that Venus would be very hot, have a dense atmosphere, with hydrocarbons, and probably an anomalous rotation. Apart from the presence of hydrocarbons all these predictions were later shown to be true. Venus is the only planet with a clockwise rotation (as seen from above) and it rotates very slowly, only once in 243 Earth days. These predictions were just a few of many that Velikovsky made, most of which have been shown to be true.

But when he made them he was vilified by his contemporaries, but his fiercest critics had not even read his book and made a point of saying so. I have to wonder if any of my work has been read, except by Professor Sir Hermann Bondi. He said that he had not worked in this field for many years, but confirmed my view that relativity does not imply that nothing can go faster than the speed of light, only that a body cannot be accelerated past this speed. That is, of course, because Einstein thought that mass must increase with speed and it would thus take infinite energy to accelerate past c.

It has to be remembered how this came about, however. Einstein was stuck with the problem that the speed of light always seemed the same to all observers. He had also worked out that heat had mass. Heat is vibration (a type of motion) so he thought that all motion meant increased mass, which was the reason why there was a maximum speed beyond which nothing could accelerate. I