

## Leo Solar Festival Webinar 2016\*

Wednesday, August 17, 2016

Dear Friends, Good afternoon and Welcome! Thank you for being here and for taking the time from your busy lives to participate in this planetary service. Let's see how much Good we can accomplish here today!

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact time of this year's Festival of Leo occurs early tomorrow morning at 5:26 a.m. Thus, we are meeting on the last day of Preparation—a day of dedication and upward striving as we intend to become the recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

The photo on your screen is that of the "Bright Star Regulus"—the alpha star of the constellation Leo. It comes to us, courtesy of NASA's [National Aeronautics and Space Administration] "Astronomy Picture of the Day."

The influences of Sirius, the esoteric wisdom tells us, are three in number—and these are focused in Regulus, a star of the first magnitude, frequently called "the heart of the Lion." (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 300)

It is anticipated that in the near future, the influences of this star, in configuration with others, will be of great planetary usefulness in legislating a better future for the children of the world. We see the sowing of these seeds already in, for example, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force in 1990 and other activities of UNICEF as well as of the UN Human Rights Council (currently headed by Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein).

Holding in our consciousness the purpose of this radiant star—this star that is "the heart of the Lion," can we now begin the group's ascent into a deeper, more inclusive consciousness, as we usually do, by uniting in loving cooperation with all those who are similarly working throughout the planet, consecrating and dedicating ourselves to the work of planetary transformation by sounding, with heart-felt dedication, the Noon-time recollection?

"I know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch my heart anew with love that I too may love and give."

[PAUSE]

"I am That and That am I." —such is the esoteric keynote for the sign of Leo.

Friends, this keynote brings front and center, what the Agni Yoga Wisdom refers to as "the pull of the Cosmic Magnet", explaining that the "the Mind of Cosmos is omnipresent. In all Space its rule is manifest." (*Infinity I*, par. 28, Agni Yoga Society, NY)

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\* Opening Address, presented by Ida Urso, Ph.D., President, Aquarian Age Community for the Leo Solar Festival Webinar.

Within that context, this keynote also points to the fact that on our planet there is but the One basic school of Occultism, operating, as it does, "under the watchful eye of the One Initiator."

As esoteric students, we know that the outstanding characteristic of humanity is intelligent sensitivity to impression.

The ancient records recount how the first great Invocation was uttered by our planetary Logos when He expressed the desire to manifest and thus invoked and brought to Himself the substance needed for His designed expression. It was that action that started the chain of being or of hierarchy; inter-relation was then set up between all the "substantial" units of life.

The more potent and the more dynamic in that chain could then impress the striving ones until gradually—as the aeons swept by—the Centres of Shamballa, the Hierarchy and Humanity were created.

In Shamballa, as well you know, we have the dynamic electrical energy of Life itself or divine potency, of embodied Purpose, expressing through evolutionary manifestation the divine Will.

Knowledge of this Will and Purpose comes to the student who is constructing the antahkarana and who is, therefore, coming under the control of the Spiritual Triad, the threefold expression of the Monad.

In the Hierarchical Center, we have a focus on the attractive magnetic solar energy to which we give, according to the Tibetan Master, the quite unsuitable name of *Love*.

It is this energy which creates the cohering, unifying force that holds the manifested universe or planetary form together, and it is this energy that is responsible for all relationships—the soul of all forms, beginning with the anima mundi and reaching its highest point of expression in the human soul—the constituent factor in the fifth kingdom of Souls.

And, of course, through Humanity, we have the intelligent activity of fire by friction—the energy which emanated originally in the first solar system. This third energy is the basic energy expressing itself in the three worlds and in the four kingdoms in nature, climaxing its expression in the creative energy of the human kingdom, playing upon and through all atomic forms.

Thus, a great alignment is being achieved through the relationship and the ceaseless interplay between these three major planetary centres, producing a constant inflow of energies from several different sources, galvanising these three centres into new and increased activity and producing a consequent evocation of impressing energies. (*Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, pp. 129-133)

Humanity, in other words, is an inherent part of the life of Cosmos, and indeed, as a recent *Diamond Light* article, based on this Ageless Wisdom indicates, "Humanity is the beneficiary of planetary and cosmic manas".

I am That and That am I.

Of course, for humanity, how much of *That* and “*That am I*” is recognized, let alone perceived as an inherent part of themselves, is the work of the Ages! It is the work of the transformation of human consciousness—and the fiery life of Leo is here this month to help us in this quest.

It might here be helpful to recollect that throughout humanity’s history, manas, the mind principle, has been predominantly applied to understanding the objective, physical plane environment—the material world.

However, as we know, in this dawning Age of Aquarius, the trend of activity is towards an understanding of the subjective side of manifestation and towards the comprehension of the esoteric spiritual principles.

The priority is the achievement of Soul consciousness and the scientific construction of the Antahkarana, which unites the soul and the permanent manasic atom on the inner abstract levels of the mental plane.

Of course, it is this work that we, month after month and year after year, and for most of us, day after day, along with other esoterically focused groups, are anchoring and cultivating. As we follow in the footsteps of those we recognize as the Hierarchy of Spiritual Teachers, so we pave the way and make it easier for others to follow that same path.

Leo, the esoteric wisdom informs us, is one of the birth signs of the zodiac; it epitomizes the birth of self-consciousness and it is this self-consciousness, which, when fully realized, can eventually lead to the realization of Soul consciousness. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 442)

To better understand the energies of Leo in our current time period, it’s necessary to recognize Leo as one end of the horizontal arm of the Fixed Cross of discipleship, with Aquarius as its opposite end.

We are told that the interplay of energies between these two signs is far more powerful than at any previous time in humanity’s history. And, it is for this reason that in this ante-chamber of this New Age of Aquarius, we have the pronounced attitude of the dictators of our age, who represent the lowest and most undesirable aspect of the blend of Leo self-awareness and the Aquarian attitude which leads to a synthesis of the national life, while creating a unity of a people, and producing a fusion.

Mass consciousness in Cancer gives place to individual consciousness in Leo. Out of the mass or the herd emerges the self-sufficient unit which becomes increasingly aware of its oneness, its aloneness and its isolated attitude as the "one in the centre" of its small universe.

This attitude continues to develop and to become emphatic and dynamic, leading to the pronounced ego-centric consciousness of the selfish, intelligent individual and to the ambitious display of selfish power of the one who desires place and position.

However, eventually, the time comes when the nature of the Fixed Cross begins to dawn upon the consciousness of this individual and the influence of Aquarius—the polar opposite of Leo, begins to balance the Leo energies. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 293)

There comes then the gradual shift of the focus of attention away from the "one who stands alone" to the enviroing group, and an equally important shift away from selfish interests to group requirements. Recognition comes of the value of the individual and the fact of the One Humanity—and responsiveness, sensitivity and responsibility are awakened.

And, so we arrive at an understanding of the concise objective that can be attained upon the Fixed Cross—the engendering of light and the experience of liberation.

Leo, the Lion of Self-assertion becomes Leo, the Light of the Soul.

Playing through this Fixed Cross of Light, and emanating from Leo, are the "fires of God"—cosmic, solar and planetary—clearing the way by burning, producing purification and the intensification of the light, which brings eventual revelation to the purified individual who now stands in light.

Is it necessary to declare that always, before the Door of Initiation lies the burning ground which all disciples and initiates must tread?

“It is necessary to recognize,” states the Tibetan Master that “the stimulation of consciousness” is “the objective of all the astrological influences.” The outstanding theme of Leo is the activity of the self-conscious unit in relation to its environment or the development of sensitive response to surrounding impacts by the one who stands—as the Sun stands—at the centre of its little universe.

Thus, the whole story and function of Leo and its influences can be summed up in the word "*sensitivity*," and this sensitivity is experienced in four stages. There is:

1. *Sensitivity* to the conditioning impacts coming from the environment—that is, to the impacts of the world of human evolution, through the medium of the three aspects of the response apparatus of the soul; then, there comes:
2. *Sensitivity* to the will, wishes and desires of the personality, the integrated self-conscious lower self; then, follows:
3. *Sensitivity* to the soul as the conditioning factor instead of sensitivity to the enviroing world as the conditioning factor; and finally, the disciple arrives at that:
4. *Spiritual sensitivity* of the fused soul and personality—the God-man, if you will, to the environment. It is in this latter stage of unfoldment that the liberated individual begins the arduous task of conditioning his and her environment in relation to the divine plan and purpose and at the same time, cultivating sensitivity to the higher impacts of those worlds which lead to the final goal.

Because Leo is connected with the astral permanent atom, the quality of desire is of fundamental importance in this sign.

Here it might be helpful to consider the Agni Yoga wisdom, which states that “Desires are like sparks igniting motion.” Anticipating the question, this wisdom asks, “Then what does it mean to say that a yogi is free of desire?”

The answer? “A yogi is free, not from desires as such, but from their burden.” The yogi knows this freedom because he and she are not slaves to desires.” This wisdom elaborates: “Desire can be worms and chains, or sparks and wings.” The one enslaved by desire wails in despair. However, the liberated one soars in realization. (Agni Yoga, par. 259)

“Desire,” states the Tibetan Master, “or the power to go forth and occultly touch that which is desired is the basis of all responsiveness and the underlying cause of progress or evolutionary movement forward.”

Desire “is the keynote of the individual who has achieved that true "self-centred" attitude which makes him or her an individual.”

Later, as responsiveness grows and the world of small affairs is converted into the world of ever larger values and reality, desire changes into aspiration and finally into spiritual will and purpose. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 301-303)

Before the individual can achieve initiation, he and she must be fully self-conscious, mystically oriented and occultly developed. He and she must first be self-aware, recognizing him and herself as a soul involved in form which is itself developed and unfolded through soul activity—and herein lies a key to our understanding of Pain as a medium of human evolution; of Pain as that upward struggle through matter which eventually brings the disciple to the Feet of the Logos. (*Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. I*, p. 677)

Yet, the Leo energies allow for the treading of this burning ground, upward through matter, with will and self-effacement—undeterred by pain.

Working with the Leo energies, the disciple must become a developed mystic, capable of pure vision, motivated by spiritual intent and able to perceive the uses of inherent sensitivity; he and she must also be a trained occultist, mentally polarised and profoundly aware of the realities, forces and energies of existence and, therefore, free from the ordinary glammers and illusions which colour the reactions and life of the average person.

Such a one is then governed by the physical Sun, motivated by the energies pouring from "the heart of the Sun" (via Neptune) and bringing about at-one-ment through the forces which are reaching him (via Uranus)—Such is the promise coming to us from the sign of Leo. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 307-308)

I am That and That Am I—and with this recognized potential, can we now take up our meditation?