Dear Friends, Good afternoon and Happy New Year to each of you. Welcome to this month’s Solar Festival work with the energies of the inspiring and electrifying sign of Aquarius!

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact moment of the Solar Festival is shortly after the new day begins at 12:15 a.m. tomorrow morning. Thus, we’re meeting on the second and last day of preparation in the five day cycle of the Aquarius Solar Festival.

In opening our hearts and minds to the possibilities in front of us, we recognize ourselves to be part of the world-wide group through which the spiritual energies now available on our planet are being poured forth for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

Identifying with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” let us affirm our intention, as we do every month, to act as a living, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa and radiated into our planet by the Great Brotherhood of Love-Wisdom.

After this opening address, we’ll move to the focus of our meeting, which is group meditation. Following this, you’ll have the opportunity to voice any thoughts and ideas you might like to share.

The photo on your screen is the *Ring of Stellar Fire*. The galaxy pictured here is named NGC 1291, which is about 12 billion years old. It comes to us courtesy of NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope. If you bear with me for a moment, I would like to share with you some information provided by NASA about this photo, which I think provides a good reminder of the esoteric axiom, “as above, so below.”

That is, levels and stages of development are well indicated in this photo, wherein the outer ring, colored red in this view, is filled with new stars that are igniting and heating up dust that glows with infrared light. The stars in the central area produce shorter-wavelength infrared light so that these stars are colored blue.

The central area is where older stars live, having long ago gobbled up the available gas supply, or fuel, for making new stars. Over time, as the star-making fuel runs out, the central regions become quiescent and star-formation activity shifts to the outskirts of a galaxy. And, just as the arc of active

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2019 Aquarius Solar Festival Webinar Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Aquarian Age Community. The books cited in parentheses are copyrighted, published and available from the Lucis Trust at [www.lucistrust.org](http://www.lucistrust.org) and from the Agni Yoga Society at [http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php](http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php)*
life is followed by Samadhi, or abstraction into beingness for us humans, so the same cycle exists for the life of stars.

Also, I think this is quite an electrifying and beautiful image to accompany our work in Aquarius and I hope you agree.

Before moving forward in that work, can we pause for a moment and, together, as a group, sound the noon time recollection?

“We know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch our hearts anew with love that we too may love and give.”

[PAUSE]

Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men. Such is the esoteric keynote, the joyful song of the soul, sounded by forward looking Aquarius.

Identifying with every form in every kingdom, the Aquarian recognizes the underlying bond which holds all together. Working with others in a subjective, telepathic and synthetic manner, the Aquarian consecrates her/himself to the welfare of humanity and the planet, ever seeking the good of the whole, and ever seeking to bring consciousness of the whole, unifying that which is above and that which is below.

Dear Friends, as we are rapidly moving into the Age of Aquarius, it’s important that we seek a clear understanding of the universal energies of Aquarius and its esoteric keynote, so that we may better cooperate and apply this understanding to the daily work of transforming planetary consciousness.

*The Secret Doctrine* informs us that the “water of life” is equated with electricity—the ONE Life at the upper rung of Being, which is described as the sacred generator of fire, light, heat, adhesion and sound as well as the foundation of *all* manifestations which lies back of all evolution.

In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, we learn that the influence which emanates from the Pole Star, the directional, guiding star for our planet—and which is such a potent factor in our solar system, reaches our planet via the sign of Aquarius. The reasons for this, affirms the Tibetan Master, is that:

“Aquarius is a force centre from which the adept draws the ‘water of life’ and carries it to the multitude. This force from the Pole Star, via Aquarius, is of special power at this time and the day of opportunity is therefore great. It is,” the Tibetan Master tells us, “one of the agencies which makes the coming of the Great Lord a possibility." (p. 1263)

In the Aquarian Age, it is the Risen Christ Who is referred to as *The True Aquarian* and the *Water-Carrier*. We are given to understand that this time this beloved World Teacher will not demonstrate the perfected life of a Son of God, which was His main mission two thousand years ago. Rather, He will appear as the supreme Head of the Spiritual Hierarchy, meeting the need of the thirsty nations of the world — thirsty for truth, for right human relations and for loving understanding.

He will be recognised this time by all and, by His presence, He will testify to the fact of the resurrection, demonstrating thus the paralleling fact of the immortality of the soul—the true spiritual man and woman.
It’s important to ponder deeply this concept of resurrection, which the Ageless Wisdom Teachings offers as “the new and most important revelation which is coming to humanity.” (*The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 318)

Whereas the keynote of the Christian religion throughout the Piscean era has been death, symbolized for us in the death of the Christ, and much distorted by St. Paul as a result of his effort to blend the new Teachings of the Christ with the religion of the time.

In contrast, during our evolving Aquarian cycle, “this distorted teaching on death will assume its rightful place and be known as the disciplining urge to relinquishment and to the ending”—by death, of the hold that matter has had over the soul. Today, the emphasis is on life and freedom from the tomb of matter and the resurrection of the spirit in man—and eventually, in all forms of life, from the lowest point in evolution to the highest monadic experience.

The shifting emphasis will focus our attention on the "livingness of the Christ nature"—the proof of which will be the Risen Christ—and upon the use of the will invoking this "living display." We are promised that the glory and the radiance of the Transfiguration initiation will eventually be relegated to its destined place, and what is meant by the "display of life" will dimly be sensed in its unimaginable beauty. (Ibid.)

“Forget not”, we are advised, “that karma is essentially the conditioned will of the planetary Logos as He orders all things toward the ultimate goal of life itself through the process of livingness, of loving understanding, and of intelligent activity.” (Ibid.)

Can we fully grasp the enormity of this truth—and its consequence in our life and the life of our planet? We are forgiven if we cannot, for as the Tibetan further teaches, “all these stupendous words with which we have been dealing relate to the cooperation of the initiate with the Will of Shamballa, and therefore, my brothers,” he states, they, “are only dim hints to you.” (Ibid., p. 319)

The Bible story of the upper chamber is one in which the disciples of the time, met and arrived at a true recognition of the Risen Christ and at a perfect and complete understanding of each other. The disciples of that day had a touch of prevision, a prophetic insight into the wonder of what is possible in this evolving Age of Aquarius.

It was a vision of the anticipated right relationships, true communion, a sharing of all things and of goodwill to all. It was a vision of all the nations of the world united in complete understanding with the diversity of languages symbolizing the differing traditions, cultures, civilizations and points of view.

Is this vision not fully alive within us and do we not hold to it with great passion and yearning; and albeit too slowly, are we not seeing it incrementally manifesting in our lives and in our world?

Do we not see this vision clearly reflected within the very first Article of the UN Charter that describes the purposes of the United Nations, which are:

*To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of [all] people...*

*To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and,
*To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Because of our esoteric insights, do we not recognize that at the centre of this work is the energizing, pulsating Heart of our Beloved Teacher, the Christ—that Great Messenger of Liberation, the Magnetic Point of Love and the Embodiment of Love-Wisdom for the entire planet?

It was in June, 1945 at the time of the Christ Festival that He definitely and consciously took over His duties and responsibilities as the Teacher and Leader during the Aquarian solar cycle.

As such, and as we know, He is the first of the great world Teachers to cover two zodiacal cycles—the Piscean and the Aquarian. (*The Reappearance of the Christ, p.82*)

Augmented by the energies of the Spirit of Peace, the Avatar of Synthesis and the Buddha, His outpouring love and spiritual vitality since then have been refocused and channeled into a great stream, pulled through into expression by the words of the Great Invocation, which He gave us,

"Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth."

In these three simple but powerfully pivotal words—light, love and power—the energies of His three Associates (the great Triangle of Force which stands in power behind Him) are described:

- The energy of the Buddha: Light, for the light ever comes from the East;
- The energy of the Spirit of Peace: Love, establishing right human relations; and,
- The energy of the Avatar of Synthesis: Power, implementing both light and love.

And, at the centre of this Triangle, the Christ takes His stand; from that point in 1945, His Aquarian work began, and it will continue for another two thousand five hundred years.

At that time, the Christ also assumed two new functions—one, which is connected with the second mode of His physical appearance and the other, with the mode of over-shadowing.

Over the whole of humanity, light, love and power are being poured forth and the growth of the Christ-consciousness is, therefore, being constantly stimulated. By His physical Presence, He will become the "Dispenser of the Water of Life." Through the over-shadowing of those sensitive to His impression and of His focussed Mind, He becomes what is technically known as the "Nourisher of the little ones."

As He embodies these Roles, He enters upon His duties in the Aquarian Age, while as the centre of the Triangle above mentioned, He influences, enlightens, and produces right relations within humanity.

“The Point within the Triangle.” “The Dispenser of the Water of Life.” “The Nourisher of the Little Ones.” Such are the descriptive titles of His threefold duties to humanity, and of the work which is distinctive of His world service, throughout the Age of Aquarius. (*Ibid., p.83*)

The three decanates of Aquarius have been given to us as being ruled by Saturn, Mercury and Venus. Their influences bring inevitable difficulty, and, eventual illumination and brotherly love.

On the ordinary wheel, in all outer affairs, Saturn controls, and we consequently find ourselves today in a state of chaos and trouble, but as far as the consciousness of the race is concerned, Mercury is becoming increasingly active. A steady illumination is taking place and light is being
thrown on all problems—on government and politics, on the material nature of the world through all the branches of science, and on humanity itself through education, philosophy and psychology.

By the turmoil it engenders, we can see that this light is spreading down to the very darkest places in our planet and its many forms of life. This sign is one of supreme importance to our solar system and its influence is gaining in momentum and added potency with each vanishing decade.

It is this fact, which is largely responsible for the changes now being effected in our planetary life in all the kingdoms of nature. As an air sign, its influence is all pervasive and inter-penetrating.

The keynotes of this sign are three in number and although very easy to understand, when they make their note felt on the reversing wheel, they are most difficult to demonstrate. We have:

1. The service of the personality, which is to be transmuted into the service of humanity.
2. Superficial and selfish activity, which is to change into a deep and active intention to be active on behalf of the Hierarchy.
3. Self-conscious living is to change into a sensitive humanitarian awareness.

As we can see, the quality of these keynotes changes from a limited and superficial nature to one of deep purpose and profound conviction. The low grade and undeveloped Aquarian upon the Mutable Cross manifests through a superficial self-awareness. Upon the reversed wheel, this awareness expands to an appreciation and understanding of, and service to the Whole.

The individual becomes the universal. The formerly alone and separative individual becomes humankind in his and her awareness and reactions and yet, at the same time, preserves that individuality for he and she is no longer just a human being, individually self-centred and separative, but humanity itself—having lost one’s personal identity in the good of the whole, yet always retaining his and her spiritual Identity.

From self-service, the individual now proceeds to world service and yet is always the individualised Son of God until after the third initiation. (Esoteric Astrology, pp. 135-136)

Uranus, Jupiter and the Moon, veiling, in this instance, Uranus—respectively, the orthodox, esoteric and hierarchical rulers, all provide their unique gifts as the lenses through which the energy of Aquarius is anchored on our planet. Their influences lead to the will to be and to know on all planes of manifestation, they lead to the fusion of heart and mind, which, in the end, is the subjective purpose of manifestation and they lead to eventual harmony through conflict.

It’s important to note that Aquarius governs the blood system and its circulation. By means of the blood, the life force is distributed throughout the entire human body. This is, therefore, symbolic of the task of the liberated Aquarian who dispenses spiritual life throughout the fourth kingdom in nature, expressing thus the activity of the mind, which has been initiated into the purposes of the Universal Mind. (Esoteric Astrology, pp. 142, 495)

A final point I wish to mention is that Aquarius “is the light which ever shines within the dark...[It cleanses] with its healing rays that which must be purified until the dark has gone.” (Esoteric Astrology, p. 330).

With these thoughts in mind, can we now take up our work in meditation?