



**Transforming Planetary Consciousness
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity**

Opening Address, Aquarius Solar Festival¹

Saturday, 8 February 2020; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this month's Solar Festival Webinar in the electrifying, universal sign of Aquarius — the sign of brotherhood and world service. Thank you for being here. I look forward to our work as we together create the crucially needed thoughtforms of uplift and renewal for humanity and all life on our planet.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs in the early hours of tomorrow morning at 2:33 a.m.

Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we are meeting on the second and last day of Preparation. As it has been requested of us, let us then cooperatively hold the attitude of dedicated service as we seek to become receptive to that which our soul will impart, which will make us of use to the Hierarchy, at this momentous juncture in our planet's evolutionary journey.

As we strive to become custodians of as much of the inflowing force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity, let us identify, as best we can, with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” affirming 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, the Hierarchy 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.

Dear Friends, we live in a sea of energies. These energies impact each of us individually as they impact the collective center of the One Humanity, and all planetary and systemic expressions of life. They stimulate movement in our inner spiritual lives, which in time produces outer objective manifestations, impacting the forms through which the inner essence expresses itself.

The image on your screen is one such source of energy, one that is especially pivotal in today's evolving planetary consciousness. As you may have already recognized, it is a photo of the ringed planet Uranus, the seventh planet from the sun, the first to be discovered by scientists, four times the size of earth.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2020 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 and from the Agni Yoga Society at <http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php>

Taken with the Hubble telescope, this photo comes to us courtesy of NASA and the European Space Agency. It is entitled, "Uranus Wider View."

Uranus has an important relationship with Aquarius, ruling this sign both exoterically as well as hierarchically, albeit veiled by the form of the moon. And, as we know, Uranus is playing a significant role in ushering in our New and evolving Age of Aquarius.

Esoteric Astrology informs us that Uranus is the planet through which zodiacal energy reaches our planet from one of the stars of the Great Bear. This planet embodies the energy of the seventh ray, which relates spirit and matter, bringing together electric fire and fire by friction, thus producing manifestation, insuring that abstract ideas and spiritual energies are anchored in our daily lives. (pp. 98, 100)

Uranus is of profound importance in the transformation of planetary consciousness because it rules the occult Way and it is, esoterically connected with the Hierophant of the Mysteries of Initiation. It leads the soul to the burning ground during the final stages of the Path, when the fires engendered through the potency of Uranus produce the flaming heart of the final burning ground, through which the initiate must eventually pass. (ibid., p. 100)

In the esoteric wisdom, a poetic description of this occult planet indicates that it veils "that which is essential; it hides that which must be discovered and, at the right moment, it transmits knowledge of the hidden mystery." Although today, for the masses, occultism is non-existent, for aspirants and disciples, occultism is rapidly becoming a source and system of revelation as they (we) strive to penetrate into the wisdom of the Hierarchy. (ibid., p. 438)

Along with Neptune and Saturn, Uranus is one of the three synthesizing schemes through which the energies of Sirius, that brilliant star of sensitivity, reaches and influences our entire solar system, which is negatively polarized and therefore receptive to this greater sun, in which are hidden the mysteries of our cosmic evolution and incidentally, therefore, of our solar system. (*A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 378)

Keeping these thoughts in mind, can we now move forward in our work as we together 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]

For the person who is upon the Mutable Cross of the hidden Christ, as he and she passes through an Aquarian cycle, the keywords for the sign of Aquarius are the following: "And the Word said, Let desire in form be the ruler."

It is explained that while undergoing the Mutable Cross experience wherein the personality is built up, constructed, developed and integrated — before the seeker has earned a place upon the Fixed Cross of the Heavens, desire becomes gained knowledge and the knowledge of that which is hidden at any stage upon the path of evolution, will relate the individual to Uranus.

From the disciple's position upon the Fixed Cross of Discipleship, the Soul can then sing, "Water of life am I, poured forth for thirsty men."

Is it helpful here to recollect that throughout its aeonian journey, humanity's consciousness unfolds through six stages of development — in response to the signs that constitute the six pointed star of the human or fourth Creative Hierarchy? These are: Cancer, Leo, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces.

With the aid of the energies from these signs, humanity progresses from Instinct to Intellect to Intuition, Illumination, Inspiration and finally, Identification. Upon this journey, it is the sign of Aquarius that awakens the disciple to the stage of inspiration governing group consciousness; the motto here for the disciple is “I go forth” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 178), dispensing the water of life.

Under the influence of this sign, *Esoteric Astrology* delineates three levels of expression, which are easy enough to understand; however, on the reversing or the evolutionary wheel of life, they're most difficult to carry out and demonstrate.

On the involutionary wheel, which “rolls onward into illusion,” we have firstly, the service of the personality, the lower self, which eventually transmutes itself into the service of humanity.

Secondly, superficial and selfish activity is transformed into a deep and active intention to be active on behalf of the Hierarchy.

And, thirdly, self-conscious living is transformed into a sensitive humanitarian awareness.

Dear Friends, do we not recognize these tensions in current world affairs and do we not also note the latter expressions actively demonstrated within that Aquarian Institution, which we call the United Nations? Do we not also recognize our own past, present and perhaps future aspirations and intended actions herein described and enumerated?

As we can see, the quality of these keynotes changes from a petty and superficial nature to one of deep purpose and profound conviction. The undeveloped Aquarian upon the Mutable Cross manifests through a superficial self-awareness. This matures in Leo, the polar opposite of Aquarius, and becomes a deep-seated self-consciousness and a profound interest in self and its need and wishes. As the interplay goes on between Aquarius and Leo, there comes a deepening of all qualities and the superficialities disappear until — upon the reversed wheel — the intensive self-consciousness of Leo expands into the brotherly awareness of Aquarius.

The individual becomes the universal. Wo/Man, alone and separative, becomes humanity in his and her reactions and awareness and yet, at the same time, preserves his and her individuality. The individual is no longer *just* a human being, self-centred and separative, but s/he becomes humanity itself, losing one's personal identity in the good of the whole, yet retaining his and her spiritual identity. From self-service, the disciple proceeds to world service and yet is always the individualized Son of God until after the third initiation.

The symbol for this sign is a glyph of two wavy lines, indicating that Aquarius is a dual sign of two vibrations. It is here that its relation to Pisces emerges, for just as Pisces on the Mutable Cross stands for substance and bondage, in Aquarius, substance and the anima mundi or imprisoned soul begin to work in mutual tolerance, and in the higher Aquarian individual, soul and spirit are expressing themselves through substance.

There is consequently an astrological relation between the band of stars in the constellation of Pisces, which unites the two fishes, and the quality and nature of Aquarius which relates and binds together into one working and synthetic whole. (pp. 136-137)

Whereas the energy of relationship in Pisces constitutes an imprisoning experience, which confines and holds captive, as the symbol for this sign indicates, the Aquarian recognises the bond which holds all together subjectively and in truth. Here, it's helpful to keep in mind that Aquarius is connected with the physical permanent atom which exists upon the etheric level, and it is this etheric web which is the medium of relationship to the whole.

Thus, as an air sign, Aquarius has the potential to express the universal consciousness emanating from the seven stars of the Great Bear – only in so far as the individual etheric body is in conscious relation with the etheric body of humanity, the planet and the solar system. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 303)

It is for this reason that the keynote of all spiritual progress in this evolving Age of Aquarius is a *love of humanity*.

The exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical rulers of Aquarius are respectively, Uranus, Jupiter and the Moon, veiling Uranus.

Uranus brings in the influence of the seventh ray, which gives innate spontaneous activity, producing evolutionary development as a result of the urge to better conditions. This becomes understandable when we consider that the seventh ray is the focussed differentiated energy of the first ray as it expresses the will of the first aspect of divinity on earth, through the power to relate and bring into objective manifestation – by an act of the will, both spirit and matter. Uranus causes the great transference in the human consciousness from intellectual perception to intuitive knowledge, possible only when the plane of Buddhi is engaged.

Jupiter brings in the influence of the second ray, which gives soul expression and spiritual consciousness as well as the power to pour out love and wisdom upon earth. Jupiter gives an inherent tendency to fusion which nothing can arrest. Thus, the achievement of ultimate synthesis is inevitable, and this, Jupiter promotes.

The moon brings in the energy of the fourth ray, indicating that humanity is the field of service and insuring that harmony through conflict will be the method of attainment.

It is these rays, the seventh, second and fourth, which are the rays that determine both the final stages and happenings of the Path of Initiation as well as the initial, beginning stages.

The third ray also expresses itself powerfully through Aquarius as it reaches our planet through Uranus and the Moon which, as the hierarchical ruler hides or veils Uranus.

Is it any wonder then that we refer to integration, unity and synthesis as the defining characteristics of this Aquarian Age?

As a sign of constant movement, and changing activity, the Aquarian can experience the depths of depression and of self-depreciation or s/he can know and pass through the exaltation of the soul and the sense of spiritual power which soul control gives, and additionally know them to be the interplay and the action and reaction which are necessary for growth and comprehension. The law of such action and reaction is the actually the law with which the Aquarian works.

Given the immense possibilities of this evolving Aquarian Age, it is inevitable, is it not, that a point of crisis should be reached. As we know, it is the purifying and electrifying energies of this sign that are largely responsible for the changes now being effected in our planetary life in all the kingdoms of nature, and, because it is an air sign, its influence is all pervasive and inter-penetrating.

Here it might be helpful to consider the three decanates of this sign that are ruled by Saturn, Mercury and Venus, bringing inevitable difficulty, 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; however, as far as the consciousness of humanity is concerned, Mercury is becoming increasingly active. A steady illumination is taking place and light is being thrown on all problems of daily living – light on government and politics; light on the material nature of the world through all the many branches of science; light on humanity itself through education, philosophy and psychology. This light is spreading down to the very darkest places in the human psyche and in our planet and its many forms of life. All is out there to be recognized and addressed – the ugly and the immoral and corrupt; as well as the Good, the Beautiful and the True.

Let us remember here that initiation and liberation are not the achievement of the human kingdom and the attainment of humanity. This is not the case. Rather, initiation is an achievement and the attained success of the soul, which has at last succeeded in dominating the personality and in manifesting its true nature and character, in spite of the personality and the antagonism of the human being intent upon his and her own purposes. It is literally the attainment of certain desired objectives, towards which the units of the fifth kingdom in nature have been working for aeons, and expresses the end of the enforced task and sacrifice and planetary service. This achievement reaches its goal at the third initiation and from that time on, the individual – liberated and free, serves from free choice and as a soul, conscious of intent and purpose upon the physical plane. In concurrence, the Agni Yoga wisdom points out in its usual succinct way that to be of true service, “One must free oneself from many burdens.” (*Fiery World III*, 127)

I would like to end my remarks by sharing a passage from *The Destiny of the Nations*, wherein the Tibetan Master refers to two important episodes as retold within the Gospel story; one precedes and one follows immediately after the apparent death of the Christ. There is the story of the upper chamber in which the man carrying the water pot and typifying Aquarius led the disciples, and in which the first communion service was held, foretelling of that great relationship, which is beginning to distinguish humanity and this evolving age, after the tests of Pisces.

The second episode of the upper chamber is the one in which the disciples met and arrived at a true recognition of the Risen Christ and at a perfect and complete understanding of each other in spite of the symbolic diversity of tongues. The Tibetan Master tells us that the disciples then had a prevision, of prophetic insight, and foresaw a little of the wonder of the Aquarian Age.

“The vision in men's minds today, he tells us, “is that of the Aquarian Age, even if they recognise it not. The future will see right relationships, true communion, a sharing of all things (wine, the blood, the life and bread, economic satisfaction) and goodwill; we have also a picture of the future of humanity when all nations are united in complete understanding and the diversity of languages – symbolic of differing traditions, cultures, civilisations and points of view – will provide no barrier to right human relations. At the centre of each of these pictures is to be found the Christ.” (*pp. 151-152*)

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