



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

Opening Address, Aries Solar Festival

Wednesday, 20 March 2019; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good afternoon and welcome to this month's meditation work under the fiery sign of Aries, which, in the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the sun will enter in just a few hours at 5:59 p.m.—with the exact moment of the Solar Festival occurring a few hours later, at 9:43 p.m. tonight.

Thus, we are meeting on the sacred day of Safeguarding and on this day of the Vernal Equinox, we can together welcome the season of spring—a time of renewal, new beginnings and regeneration; a time of joyous exuberance and vitality when the hours of sunlight increase, fresh buds bloom, animals awaken and the earth responds to the sun's increasing warmth and light with new signs of life. It is a time when we can begin to reconnect with the Earth and create opportunities for positive changes in our own lives and in the world.

At this most opportune time, let us then respond by opening our hearts and minds widely to the possibilities in front of us; let us 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 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.

The photo on your screen is entitled *Zodiacal Light* which comes to us from the “Real Time Image Gallery of the Space Weather Gallery.” It was taken last month in Denmark at 8:30 p.m. local time.

To me it seemed a fitting metaphor of the spiritual journey upon which we are embarking, as the sun enters the sign of Aries and we begin a new cycle, with the new Light breaking and dawning and all of the wonders and possibilities, which this portends.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2019 Aries 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>

Can we pause for a moment, taking in the beauty of this scene and carry the inspiration into our group sounding of 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]

“I come forth and from the plane of mind I rule.” Such is the esoteric keynote, the song of the Soul in this dynamic and fiery sign of Aries.

Dear Friends, is this a good time to recollect the fact that all the energies—zodiacal, systemic and planetary—have a definite effect upon all the lives in all forms in all kingdoms of nature? And, further that the goal of evolution for humanity is to become consciously and livingly aware of the nature of these energies and begin to know them and to use them? And, that, whereas the disciple has to become consciously aware of the planetary influences and begin to use them for the carrying out of soul purpose, the initiate has to be aware of the zodiacal influences which emanate from outside of the solar system altogether? (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 22-23)

It's significant and auspicious that this year, we have two solar Festivals in the sign of Aries, especially in that beginning with the coming Wesak/Taurus Festival of May, in the three-year cycle of the New Group of World Servers, we will enter the “Year of Emergence and Impact on Public Consciousness.” Also, this cycle coincides with the seven year Festival of the New Group of World Servers, occurring at the end of this year from December 21st-28th.

Is it here important to call attention to the fact that today, the role and function of the New Group of World Servers as group forerunner is the same as that of St. John the Baptist over 2,000 years ago?

What then, will the intensification of these energies of Aries portend for the Plan of Light and Love and Power? And, what will be the consequences for humanity?

Let us consider the role of Aries in our planetary life and see if this provides us with any helpful answers.

Firstly, it's important for us to keep in mind the fact that Aries is the constellation through which initiating conditions stream into our solar system. Aries embodies the will-to-create that which will express the will-to-good.

Esoteric Astrology (p. 619) explains that this ray of will and power is the transmitting ray of our planetary Logos and thus, the reason why the will plays such an important part in our evolutionary process, wherein Mars and Mercury—respectively, the orthodox and esoteric rulers of Aries, are of paramount importance. Mars brings conflict and the death of the form while Mercury brings illumination and the development of the intuition—as a result of that conflict and death.

Although in the future it will be different, for now, new cycles of being and of consciousness are initiated by conflict. This, as the Tibetan Master tells us, yet seems to be the law of life and the governing factor in evolution, stating that “If...the result of this initiating, energising will is to produce such beneficent effects of intuitive understanding and the activity of Mercury as the messenger of the Gods, it can be seen how truly, through conflict, the will-to-good can be wrought out.”(Ibid.)

Aries is one of three signs, which carry this first Ray of Will and Power to our planet. This Triangle is made up of Aries, the Initiator, Leo, the Self, and Capricorn, the transfiguring Agent.

Within this Triangle, Aries, we are told, is the closest in relationship to the Great Life Who employs all three signs as transmitting agencies for first ray activities. It is explained that the reason for this relation has to do with the inherent nature of the informing Lives of the particular constellations—a good reminder for us, I think, to acknowledge the Great Beings who embody the outer seeming of all that exists within the solar system and beyond.

Very reasonably and practically, these constellations are themselves the *expressions* of the will-to-good and, therefore, they constitute the line of least resistance for the dissemination of the first ray energy throughout our solar system.

Interestingly, from the angle of human relations, this Triangle rearranges itself and becomes Leo, the giver of self-consciousness, Capricorn, the sign wherein initiation can be taken, and Aries, the incentive towards a new beginning. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 621)

It might here be helpful to take to heart the Agni Yoga wisdom which also indicates the indispensable nature of the will. “When we strive to the Supermundane World,” states this wisdom, “we must gather all our will in order to courageously conquer all the lower strata, which nail people to a state of ignorance.” (*Supermundane*, 729)

As we know, Aries, along with Libra, Capricorn and Cancer, is one of the arms of the Cardinal Cross—the cross of God, the Father; the Cross of the Risen Christ: As the Tibetan Master teaches, when the initiate transfers him and herself on to the Cardinal Cross from which he and she descended when first coming into incarnation and mounted in its place the Common or Mutable Cross, the initiate then no longer identifies with form or even with soul, but with the will of divinity and with the eternal plan and purpose—which then becomes his and her plan and purpose.

As referenced within *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 556), the following quotation from *Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrine* (p. 12) brings further understanding and appreciation of the significance of this Cardinal Cross as a consummating influence, while revealing also that which lies ahead of those who attain such hierarchical standing:

"All beauty, all goodness, all that makes for the eradication of sorrow and ignorance upon the Earth must be devoted to the Great Consummation. Then when the Lords of Compassion shall have spiritually civilised the Earth and made of it a Heaven, there shall be revealed to the Pilgrims the Endless Path which reaches to the Heart of the Universe. Man, then no longer man, will transcend nature and impersonally, yet consciously, in at-one-ment with all Enlightened Ones, help to fulfil the Law of the Higher Evolution, of which Nirvana is but the beginning,"

Thus, we can better understand why this is described as the Cross of “widespread arms, the open heart and the higher mind,” can we not? The energies of these signs blend with *cosmic energy*, meaning they carry the quality of the One about Whom Naught may be Said and are, I quote, “tinctured with the Light of the seven solar systems” of which our solar system is but one. (*Ibid.*)

Is it necessary to add that the full scope and cycle of its influence in the life of the initiate is yet utterly unknown? (*Ibid.*, pp. 556-7)

Initiating the cycle of manifestation, the first impulse for human incarnation is awakened in Aries. This because Aries is the place where the initial idea to institute activity takes form, It is the birthplace of ideas, and a true idea is in reality, a spiritual impulse taking form—subjective and objective.

An ancient statement quoted in *Esoteric Astrology* indicates that Aries "awakens the will to reach the lowest and there control, to know the uttermost and thus to face all experience." (Ibid., p. 92)

Indeed, "I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule."

In its lowest manifestation, Aries is the creator of those activities, conditions and processes which lead to the manifestation of the soul through the medium of form, and later, of those higher creative undertakings which lead in due time to the manifestation of spirit through the soul. (Ibid., p.95)

As was mentioned in this month's newsletter, Aries is also the purveyor to our solar system of Fire (Electric Fire) and of the dynamic nature of God which has in it the qualities of fostering and nourishing heat and also of the fire which burns and destroys. At different points along the Path of Life, Aries forces the soul on to the burning ground and subjects it to a purifying process during incarnation.

The Old Commentary tells us that it is through the fire of mind, that the 'jungles of experience are set on fire and dissolve in flames and then the Path stands clear and unobstructed vision is achieved."

Through the fiery processes of war and strife, brought to the individual through the influence of the planetary ruler, Mars, a needed purification takes place. The same purification, but this time through vision, comes to the developed individual through the activity of the subjective ruler, Mercury, who is the illuminating principle which releases the mind, directs the way of the individual through life and thus, enables him and her to become aware of the divine Plan which underlies all of his and her fiery experience.

Fire acts not only as a purifier, gradually breaking through and destroying the confining walls, but it also acts as a great connector.

With regard to the fact that Aries is the agent of the first Ray of Will or Power, I wish to mention the originating source of this energy, which is the divine Prototype in the constellation of the Great Bear. From there, it becomes transmuted into the force and activity of the planetary Logos of the first ray, and then, it works out as His triple activity under the guidance of the three planets ruling Aries: Mars, Mercury and Uranus—the exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical rulers.

We have seen that Aries is the sign of beginnings—the beginning of the creative process, the first step of the soul towards incarnation, the beginning of recurring and constant cycles of experience, the beginning of the period wherein the soul changes its direction, its purpose and its method, and finally enters upon that definitely defined process, which we call spiritual regeneration and initiation. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 106)

Experience leads to rulership and in this sign the individual who is embodied first ray force develops the power of organisation, of control over forces, particularly over the energy of death, over the power of destruction applied with love, of dominance over multitudes, of cooperation

with the plan, and the practice of the Will in rightly and correctly guiding and directing planetary affairs. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 108)

Dear Friends, do we not clearly understand how essential are these dynamically beneficent energies of Aries? How necessary it is for us, in the words of the Tibetan Master, “to become consciously and livingly aware of the nature of these energies and begin to know them and to use them” at this time of transition on our planet? Is it not this indomitable energy of will and power that is needed within our own lives so that we may overcome inertia and fear and thus, more fully accomplish on behalf of the Plan? Is it not this first ray, dynamic energy that is needed at the United Nations to overcome the intransigent aggressive selfishness, materialism and greed that continue to deflect and obstruct the will-to-good in the plans there being formulated and carried out?

Here, let us recall that the secret of the will lies in the recognition of the divine nature of the individual and, only the soul, as it dominates the human mind and controls the personality, can evoke this will. It is not a whipping up and stimulating desire so that it can be transmuted into will; it is not the immovable focusing of all energies in the need to triumph. Rather, the secret of the will is closely tied to the recognition of the unconquerable nature of goodness and the inevitability of the ultimate triumph of good. Can we find reassurance and strength and confidence in this *unconquerable* nature of goodness and the *inevitability* of the ultimate triumph of good? (*The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, pp. 342-343)

In the ancient mysteries of Egypt and India it was said that wisdom can be like acid which instantly eats away everything false. It was recognized that when we have gained realization of the spiritual way of life, our personal consciousness is ready to blend with the universal consciousness. We then realize our oneness with God and Goodness and our unity with the whole of humanity. This state of consciousness begins with a mental grasp of the real world, and we begin to identify ourselves with the One Reality, the Source, the Originating Cause of all.

The Agni Yoga wisdom affirms that truth is not a relative abstraction, but, rather, it is the realization of cosmic laws based upon direct experience. (*Agni Yoga*, 156)

As we continue in our journey upon the Path, it becomes increasingly obvious that the evolution of consciousness is a voluntary process. It cannot be gifted nor can it be imposed and people cannot be forced to evolve spiritually. It is always and completely a self-initiated effort.

The transformation of the individual cannot be achieved automatically, and it is this transformation that is the chief aim of all the true Teachings and the urgent need of our times. “Bear in mind”, states Helena Roerich in one of her Letters, “that all the Great Teachers are concerned with the inner [spiritual wo/]man, whose realm is in the sphere of motives and thoughts.” (Letters of Helena Roerich, Vol. I, 21 July 1934)

With this thought in mind, can we now take up our meditation?