



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

Opening Address, Cancer Solar Festival

Tuesday, 16 July 2019; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this month's work, in this sensitive and complex sign of Cancer. We missed connecting with many of you last month and we are happy for this opportunity to work together today. *Bienvenidos a todos.*

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone the actual time of this Festival occurs later this evening at 5:38 p.m.

Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we are meeting on the Day of Safeguarding—a day of inner peace and silent solemnity—one in which we focus on the needs of humanity as we strive to keep the channel open between the Soul and the personality, between the Hierarchy and Humanity, sacrificing, as best we can, all that shuts out the light and eclipses the divine circulatory flow.

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, 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.

The photo on your screen is entitled “The Sun During Totality.” It is a photo of the total solar eclipse of this past July 2nd as it passed over La Silla Observatory in Chile—a part of the network of the European Southern Observatory (ESO). Here, you see the Sun completely covered by the Moon, revealing only the solar corona. While totality only lasted about two minutes, the eclipse overall lasted over two hours and was visible across a narrow band of Chile and Argentina.

I chose this photo as I think it is a striking symbol for our work in Cancer. As students of the esoteric wisdom, we know that in space and time, for long aeons, *form* controls and hides the *soul*. The inner spiritual structure has been and always is present but it has been heavily overlaid by humanity's material desires. Just as in this photo, the form of the moon eclipses the brilliant sun, in humanity, it's as if a thick crust of thoughtforms veils and hides the inner realm of beauty, meaning, quality and spiritual consciousness.

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

Esoteric Astrology teaches that there will come a day in the experience of humanity when we will look back on our warring, competitive proclivities and be shocked by our selfish and materialistic past and bewildered by our ignorance and blindness. This certainly describes the experience of many spiritual workers today; does it not?

However, this same wisdom prophecies a future, which will shine with an added glory. The reason for this is that humanity is most definitely emerging from the thralldom of matter and it is beginning to awaken to the imperative need to apply the higher spiritual values to the daily life.

Dear Friends, as we apply ourselves to the service work of these monthly Festivals, and in our daily lives, so we are striving to awaken into fuller activity an aspect of human nature, which is always present—as in this photo, but which has hitherto been subordinated to selfish or ambitious ends.

In the fourth book of *Illumination*, in his Yoga Sutras, the ancient Sage, Patanjali refers to the solar Logos, God, as the sum total of every state of consciousness and awareness. “Man,” he states, “humanity as a whole, or as an individual unit—is part of that total.” The many minds, from the mind of the atom, to the mind of God Himself, through all grades of thinkers and stages of awareness, all forms are dependent upon some life, endowed with the capacity to think. And it is through *thought impulse* that all sentient substance and all forms are constructed, influenced and modified.

We see what we are ourselves and we become aware of that in other forms. Thus, the moment we contact our own soul and live by its light, we then see the soul of our sister and brother, and our entire approach then changes.

Herein, lies the clue to our limitations and herein lies the promise of our success. When developed and brought to full expression, the hidden powers of the soul will reveal to us a new world, a scheme of life and a kingdom of being hitherto negated and unknown. Herein, we are faced with the dire necessity *and* the responsibility each of us carries to wholeheartedly and intensely apply ourselves to the process of Soul unfoldment. (*The Light of the Soul*, pp. 407-409)

The Agni Yoga wisdom teaches that “The essential nature of man can be transmuted by the invocation of better vibrations....At the present time, humanity is found to be continually in the vibrations of the lower spheres; therefore [it is] the lower Manas [which] motivates life.” However, contact with the Ray of the higher spheres will truly give that vibration, which will rouse the consciousness. “Perception of the spark of Divine Fire in the seed of the spirit will lay the foundation for a new humanity.”

This Wisdom continues, “Precisely, it is necessary to establish in the spiritual structure that in which religion has not succeeded, and to apply to each affirmed manifestation, the law of attraction. For realization of the Light in the heart will propel toward the Light, but darkness will dwell in darkness.” (*Fiery World III*, 253) As we think in our hearts, so we are.

Adhering to the Cosmic Law of Service and striving to cooperate with Him “in Whom we live and move and have our being,” let us hold in mind the vision of becoming aware of “what the soul knows and what the soul sees. This, through the use of the key to soul vision, which is the *intuition*—a key that can be intelligently and consciously recognized and used when personality affairs are dropping below the threshold of consciousness. (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*, p. 122)

Keeping these thoughts in mind, can we now 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.]

“I build a lighted house and therein dwell.” Here we have the song of the soul, indicating the objective of the Cancer experience and the purpose for which incarnation has been taken.

And, thus, dear Friends, after working with the Three Spiritual Festivals of Aries, Taurus and Gemini, we once again embark on the yearly journey through the nine signs of attribute—nine signs, which carry the individual “from the stage of imprisonment in form to the freedom of the kingdom of God, from the state of embryonic consciousness to the full flower of divine knowledge, from the condition of human awareness to the conscious wisdom of the initiated disciple. These nine signs are strictly expressive of human unfoldment—conscious and superconscious...beginning with the mass awareness of Cancer.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 320)

This sign of Cancer makes up one of the four arms of the Cardinal Cross—that Cosmic Cross that presents a mystery to those who are below the awareness of the third degree Initiate. Quoting from *Esoteric Astrology*, we find that “Only the initiated Sons of God can grasp the significance of the four signs which comprise the Cardinal Cross, or understand the relation which exists between the four major divine energies which—pouring through the four arms of this Cross—produce the vortex of force...which constitutes the ‘pool of pure, fiery light’ through which all those who take the higher initiations must eventually pass.” (Ibid., p. 316) Can we even imagine this? “A pool of pure, fiery light!”

We are told that there are two words, which convey the purpose and intent of expression upon the Cardinal Cross. These provide the reason why Cancer and Capricorn—the two “Doors of the Zodiac,” open wide to the impulse and demand of the divine Spirit. One is the word “*self-preservation*.” This leads to the impulse to incarnate in Cancer—the Door to the physical plane expression of spirit.

The other word is “*immortality*,” which, is the divine aspect of self-preservation; it is the major conditioning factor in the creative process and leads eventually to the whole revelation of evolution, to the recurrent appearance of life in form, and to the revelation of life in form. In Capricorn, at the third initiation, this life aspect assumes primary importance.

The existence of these two zodiacal gates through which each human being passes untold times, brings humanity’s attention to the Law of Rebirth, to the cycles of involution and evolution, and to the science of service.

Do we truly understand the Law of Rebirth? *Esoteric Astrology* informs us that its modern presentation and the emphasis that has been placed on the small and unimportant details have distorted and diverted the wide sweep of the subject and ignored the true importance of this process.

Contrary to what many think, the esoteric wisdom teaches that the Law of Rebirth is not prompted by the desire to return, but, rather, it is prompted by the Divine Will and knowledge of the Plan:

It is not the need for achieving an ultimate perfection which goads the ego on to experience in form, for the ego is already perfect. The main incentive is sacrifice and service to those lesser lives that are dependent upon the higher inspiration (which the spiritual soul can give) and the determination that they too may attain planetary status equivalent to that of the sacrificing soul. It is in order eventually to negate the space-time concept and to prove it an illusion that the door in Cancer opens to the sacrificing, serving soul. (Ibid., p. 324)

Such terms as “cyclic impulsion” and “intelligent purposeful repetition” more accurately express this process of rebirth and reincarnation, as does the idea of a continuous and “conscious in-breathing and out-breathing.”

Esoterically, the point of greatest interest, and one which is seldom considered, lies in the fact that it is group rebirth which is taking place all the time and that the incarnation of the individual is only incidental to this greater happening.

In fact, it is groups of souls who come into incarnation cyclically and together in order to further the Plan and permit the interplay to proceed between spirit and matter, which makes manifestation possible and which extends the working out of the divine ideas as they exist in the Mind of God. Dear Friends, does this not deepen our understanding of group work and does this not provide a greater appreciation and a recognition of the need to better practice right human relations among co-workers?

Rebirth is, in truth, a magical interplay between the form side of life and life itself. This interplay is consciously undertaken by the soul, which is the product of the two related factors. The Old Commentary provides the following compelling summary:

"Those who are demanding to be saved have cried aloud. Their voices penetrate into the formless world and there evoke response.

"Those who in distant aeons have pledged themselves to save and serve respond. Their cry too rings forth and, ringing, penetrates into the dark and distant places within the worlds of form.

"And thus a vortex is established and kept alive by that constant dual sound. And then a touch is made and for a space and during time, the two are one—the Saving Souls and the Units to be served.

"Slowly the vision of the Saving One becomes a light which guides the Crying Ones into the place of light." (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 326)

As was mentioned in this month's newsletter, the whole story of astrology is, in reality, one of magnetic and magical interplay for the production or externalisation of the inner reality; it is the story of the response of form—vast as in a solar system, microcosmic as in a human being, and minute as in an atom or a cell—to the urge or pull of foci of energy and of streams of force. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 336)

The controlling factor and the determining condition is ever the sensitivity of the incarnated soul to form life, leading to incarnation through the door of Cancer, or to soul life, leading to initiation through the door of Capricorn.

The objective is always the building of adequate forms and the use and control of the form in order that there might be wise and right cooperation with the Plan of God. And this, indeed, is a most challenging objective—and one that requires many incarnations.

In this sign of Cancer, Saturn produces those difficult conditions and situations which will lead to the needed struggle. This makes Cancer a place of symbolic imprisonment with an emphasis on the pains and penalties of wrong orientation. This takes the form of a conflict between the soul with its environment—consciously or unconsciously carried on, thus providing those conditions of suffering which the soul has willingly undertaken when—with open eyes and clear vision—the soul chose the path of earth life with all its consequent sacrifices and pains, in order to salvage the lives with which it had an affinity. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p.342)

Here, it might be helpful to recollect that when an individual literally walks in the light of the soul and the clear light of the sun pours through him or her—revealing the Path,—it also reveals the Plan. As a result, the awareness dawns that the Plan is very far as yet from consummation.

The dark becomes more truly apparent; the chaos and misery and failure of the world groups stand revealed; the filth and dust of the warring forces are noted, and the whole sorrow of the world bears down upon the astounded, yet illuminated, aspirant. Can the aspirant stand this pressure? Can he and she become acquainted with grief and yet rejoice forever in the divine consciousness? Does he and she have the ability to face what the light reveals and yet move forward with serenity—sure of the ultimate triumph of good? Will he and she be overwhelmed by the surface evil and forget the heart of Love which beats behind all outer seeming?

Thankfully, this Blessed Light of the Soul also brings with it an awareness of the realm of the mind—the new field of opportunity. We discover that we can differentiate between the emotional nature and the mental. We discover the efficacious role of pain and discrimination and we learn to wield the power of choice. We discover “the light of reason,” which when seen and known, can help us learn what to avoid and what yet needs to be cultivated. We thus eventually arrive at that place of full liberty and understanding.

As disciples focus themselves on the mental plane, which of course is the primary intention of the meditation work, so they recognize that they can turn the searchlight of the mind in two directions—into the world of human endeavour and into the world of soul activity.

Just as the soul makes a way for itself by projecting itself in a thread or stream of energy into the three worlds, so the disciple begins consciously to project him and herself into the higher worlds. The disciple’s energy goes forth, through the medium of the controlled and directed mind, *into* the world of the higher spiritual mind and into the realm of the intuition.

A reciprocal activity is thus set up and the "lighted way" comes into being between the personality and the spiritual Triad, via the soul body, just as the soul came into definite contact with the brain via the mind. And, thus, is created the illumined bridge of Light.

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