



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

Opening Address, Cancer Solar Festival'

Thursday, 24 June 2021; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the nurturing, complex and watery sign of Cancer— that Zodiacal Door through which streams the “magnetic, magical light which guides the soul into the dark place of experience,” within the world of form.

Our point of meditative focus as we work with this sign of Cancer and its attendant energies is to consider how to anchor and express in the daily life, the energies and ideas generated and inspired throughout the last three months of the three High Spiritual Festivals of Spring, at the time of the Aries, Taurus and Gemini Solar Festivals.

Just as the Festivals established the three divine aspects, so the following nine solar festivals will establish the divine attributes in the consciousness of humanity.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs just a few hours from now at 2:39 p.m. Thus, we are meeting on the sacred day of Safeguarding, a day of inner peace and silent solemnity – one in which we focus on the needs of humanity.

Here in the Northern Hemisphere, we work today with the added benefit of the increased, vital energies of the Summer Solstice, that point in the spiritual year when we are closest to our sun, what the esoteric wisdom refers to as the grandest of all the innumerable mysteries of occultism, worshiped in ancient Egypt as the "glorious King of the gods," used by Plato to teach the idea of the One, the Good and the Beautiful, and the One we recognize as the all-giving Life that materially and spiritually sustains our solar system.

Taking up the responsibility and challenge of our work, can we strive to identify, as best we can, with the highest planetary center of Purpose that eternally seeks to “guide the little wills of men?” Let us then intensify our intention to act as a living, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and transformative energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa, and radiated into our planet by the Great Brotherhood, the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2021 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>

As most of you know, 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 image on your screen comes to us courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania – the result of a study on *Neptune and Trans-Neptunian Objects*. Some of you may recognize this photo from our work at last year's Festival of Cancer. Although I considered several other possible photos of Neptune for our meeting, this seemed to be the best choice because of its beauty of color, clarity and the surrounding field in which it exists – and I hope you agree.

Back in 1846 when European astronomers quarreled over what to call the newly found eighth planet, they eventually settled on Neptune, after the Roman god of the sea. The name turned out to be most appropriate for later it was discovered that indeed, as you see here, Neptune is colored a deep oceanic blue, with white flecks and deeper blues playing across its clouds.

In relationship to Cancer, Neptune is both the esoteric and hierarchical ruler, and in fact, it is also the exoteric ruler, if we consider the fact that the Moon, the orthodox ruler of Cancer, veils Neptune. We thus have a close relationship between the Moon as the Mother of Forms and Neptune, the God of the Waters.

Esoteric Astrology teaches that “in this esoteric marriage” between these two planets, we have pictured for humanity a major synthesis of form and of desire-sensitivity and, consequently, a true expression of that Atlantean stage of consciousness, indicating as it does, mass emotional sensitivity and mass identification with the material world of form.

Within this esoteric treatise, the Tibetan Master also teaches that in the mass mind, of which Cancer is the truest expression, it's fortunate that Neptune is veiled by the Moon and that the form fails to register or step down many of the impacts to which the spiritual individual is sensitive. “Average humanity,” he states, “is not yet fully equipped to bear the full range of these impacts, to handle them constructively or to transmute them and interpret them accurately.”

As we so well understand, upon the Path of Discipleship and along the line of esoteric development, one of the major difficulties and great problems of the disciple is...extreme sensitivity to impacts from every side and...[the disciple's] rapid ability to respond to contacts coming from "all points of the compass, from every angle of the zodiacal wheel and from that which is within as well as from that which is without, from that which lies above, below, and upon every hand."

As the Moon and Neptune bring their direct influences to bear upon the Cancer subject, so this leads to the unfoldment of the form and the development of the emotional-astral body. The supreme usefulness of these aspects can be understood when we consider that without the form and without the ability to respond sensitively to the environing conditions and circumstance, the soul would never awaken to knowledge in the three worlds and, therefore, would never know God in manifestation.

Additionally, the building of adequate forms and learning to consciously use and control them are essential if there is to be wise cooperation with the Plan of God. Love, as relationship to divinity, and wisdom, as relationship to form ever lie behind the soul's intention.

Interestingly, the Moon, as a ruling planet, also relates Cancer to the signs of Virgo and Aquarius and in this combination, we have, not only the sign of mass-consciousness, but also the sign of the Christ-consciousness *and* the sign of universal consciousness — all closely related to each other through the influence of Neptune, which, for this time period, the Moon veils.

As a sacred 6th Ray planet of idealism, devotion and struggle, Neptune presides over and makes possible the second initiation, which marks the release of the soul from the prison of the astral body, so that the soul can then use the astral body, molding it to divine purpose. Along with Uranus and Saturn, Neptune is one of the three synthesizing planets, gathering to itself eventually all those egos who attain primarily through the correct handling of sixth ray energy. No disciple begins to coordinate the buddhic vehicle until he/she comes under the influence of Neptune.

Whereas a non-sacred planet affects primarily life in the outer three worlds of daily living, a sacred planet will aid in the processes affecting the fusion of soul and body, of consciousness and form, producing also the development and quickening of the intuition. All of this makes Neptune a very important influence at this time in humanity's evolution.

Keeping these thoughts in mind, can we here pause for a moment, as we normally do, and together dedicate ourselves to today's work by sounding 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]

Dear Friends, in this sign of Cancer, the keynote for the involutory cycle is “Let isolation be the rule and yet – the crowd exists.” Herein, we are alerted to the important distinction between mass consciousness and group consciousness.

The keynote of the Soul, indicating the objective of the Cancer experience affirms the familiar keynote that, under the influence of this sign, we, and all spiritual workers strive to accomplish for ourselves and for humanity, "I build a lighted house and therein dwell."

Cancer, as we know, is the sign of birth; it is the door into incarnation and the sign of generation. It is in Cancer that souls pass into outer, objective manifestation, appropriating the material substance, fashioning it into a suitable form, and subsequently identifying with that form for many long cycles.

Esoteric Astrology (p. 312) tells us that Cancer “is ‘the gate which stands wide open, broad and easy to pass through and yet it leads unto the place of death and to that long imprisonment which precedes the final revolt.’ It is allied with material nature, and with the mother of forms, just as the other gate, Capricorn [the polar opposite of Cancer] is allied with spirit, the father of all that IS.”

As one of the arms of the Cardinal Cross, a true understanding of this sign is only possible to the initiated disciple who alone can “fathom the true meaning of these zodiacal influences as they pulsate throughout the manifested universe because they are primarily the expression of spirit or life more than of soul or body.” Therefore, although we have been given much helpful information about this sign, as one of the arms of the Cardinal Cross, Cancer is that “mysterious essence which is divinity in motion.” (Ibid., p. 313)

Recognized and established as an influencing factor by ancient humanity, Cancer is one of the oldest of the zodiacal signs. Aroused by the impact of divine desire and impelled by the divine Breath, the divine Life or Spirit, in Cancer – the essential substance of manifestation, awoke to renewed activity and, in Cancer, this living substance assumed a triple differentiated relationship made up of *Life* emanating from Aries, *Consciousness* emanating from Taurus, and *manifested duality* from Gemini. Blended together, these three subjective aspects came into outer manifestation in Cancer, completing then the esoteric quaternary that is humanity.

It might here be helpful if we briefly consider these cycles of involution and evolution; of incarnation and initiation. During the stage of involution, or of appropriation, and of construction of the vehicles of expression upon the downward arc, the emphasis is upon the *building, growth* and *appropriation* of the form – the bodies, and not so much upon the indwelling, conscious Entity. (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*, p 329)

On the evolutionary path or the path of return, as the forms are appropriated and used, so these become purified and refined and consciousness of how these can best be used steadily grows. For the evolved human being, the goal is a clear and conscious appropriation of that which has been built and use of the form is then dedicated to service of the Plan.

Gradually, as the aeons have slipped away, humanity's instinctual nature has receded steadily into the background, below the threshold of consciousness, while the intellect has become more and more dominant and increasingly powerful, eventually controlling the emotional nature. This stage is superseded when the light of the soul illumines the intellect and intuition supplants the intellect.

The emphasis is ever upon the struggle of the personality to release itself from the grip of lower desire in the first case, and in the second, to release itself from the surrounding world glamour which is revealed when soul light is thrown into it, via the reflecting and illumined mind.

This cyclic pattern is entirely the result of the interaction of active matter and the molding Will of Spirit. In each incarnation, through the utilization of the vehicles, the life forces gain a.) an increased activity, which is stored in the physical permanent atom; b.) an added coloring, which is stored in the astral permanent atom; and c.) a developed quality of strength, or purpose in action, which is stored in the mental unit. (*A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 275; p. 736)

For the disciple who practices soul alignment, meditation and discipline, the goal of life is for the Inner God, the soul, to function in full consciousness and to wield full control on the physical plane, for only in this way, will humanity be helped and group concerns furthered. (ibid. p. 1149)

Steadily, the unfolding purpose of our own souls – those "angels of persistent and undying love," must gain fuller and deeper control over each of us and life on our planet.

Always the motivating factor is one of group love, group understanding, group relations and group conduct, facilitated by the law of sacrifice and the allied law of compensation.

It is here helpful, dear friends, if we consider this all pervasive, though largely misunderstood law of sacrifice, which "governs the appearing and the disappearing of universes, solar systems, races and nations, world leaders and world rulers, incarnating human beings and revealing Sons of God." At its heart, this law of sacrifice is actually *the impulse to give*. (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II, p. 88*)

We are told that the symbolic activity of the great Teacher of Nazareth will be properly understood and its significance will be properly appreciated only when group implications are more carefully studied, when the meaning of sacrifice and death come into their rightful place in the human consciousness, and the *law of giving* is correctly understood and applied. (Ibid., p. 89)

"The Solar Deity who gave His life to the universe, to the solar system, to the planet, and the manifested worlds consequently appeared. The cosmic Deity has likewise done the same. It was His impulse, His will, His desire, His incentive, His idea and purpose to appear....The Cosmic Christ was crucified upon the cross of matter, and by that great sacrifice, opportunity was offered to all evolving lives in all kingdoms of nature and in all created worlds." (Ibid.)

We may not fully understand this process, however, we can realize the effects: for example, from the instinctual life of sense consciousness in material forms, humanity has progressed to the intellectual life of self-conscious human beings and to the intuitive realizations of those who are beginning to function at super mundane levels of consciousness.

This Law of Sacrifice and the impulse to give can also be traced throughout every kingdom in nature. The essential qualities of the minerals and chemicals of the earth also operate in this way. They are needed by other forms of life and are given to humanity through the medium of the vegetable kingdom and through the water we drink, and thus, even in the first and densest kingdom in nature, whose consciousness is so far removed from our own, does this process of giving manifest.

Dear Friends, it is not the need for achieving an ultimate perfection which propels the ego to experience in form, because the ego is already perfect. Rather, 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.

“Esoterically speaking,” the Tibetan Master states, “the point of greatest interest 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.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 325)

Groups of souls come into incarnation cyclically and together in order to further the Plan and permit that 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.

Do we not see examples of this all around us? Are *we* – gathering here, in cooperation with other co-workers throughout the planet not a manifestation of this truth? Are those who for example, strive and selflessly labor at the United Nations for the whole of humanity and the planet not also exemplars of this truth?

Does this recognition, dear friends, shift our perspective and attitude about the meaning of our lives and the service we render to each other, to humanity and the planet?

The Tibetan Master tells us that rebirth is “a magical and magnetic 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 expresses this truth in the following poetic words with which you are familiar:

"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)

Dear Friends, humanity's role is to learn to transmit and handle force. In wo/man's achievement and spiritualization lies the successful transformation of planetary consciousness. And, true it is that "the whole creation travaileth in pain until now, waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God." (Romans 8:22)

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