



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

Opening Address, Easter/Aries Solar Festival

Tuesday, 7 April 2020; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this year's Easter Festival in the fiery, initiating and creative sign of Aries—the manifestation to which Christ referred when He said, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 152)

Thank you for being here. Truly, these are unprecedented times. We are gathering at a time that is daily becoming an increasingly challenging global crisis—a crisis bringing disruption to the daily life for many throughout our world, a disruption that has brought grief, heartache and financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of most of us.

However, as esoteric students, we understand that this current planetary crisis is also significantly, a great opportunity for the transformation of planetary consciousness. Together with our group brothers and sisters everywhere throughout the planet, may we do all we can today and throughout this high spiritual time of the year to invoke and evoke the needed beneficent energies and help to create those needed thoughtforms of healing and renewal for humanity and all life on our planet.

Today, in spite of the difficulties all around us, it is with Joy that we celebrate this first major Spiritual Festival of Easter, to be followed next month in May by the Wesak Festival of the Buddha or the Festival of Illumination, and followed in June by the Festival of the Christ, known by many other names, including the Festival of Unification.

Each of these Three Spiritual Festivals of Spring in the zodiacal signs of Aries, Taurus and Gemini, respectively, carries its own extra planetary, solar and cosmic forces and energies. These beneficent energies are transmitted from the so-called “vault of heaven,” cumulatively contributing to a crescendo of revelation that will see humanity moving out of the darkness of the past into the Light of a creative new way of loving cooperation.

Forming the high point in the annual cycle, these Festivals represent a basic divine purpose and the unique annual approach of man to God and of God to man, establishing and developing a relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm; between God Imminent and God Transcendent. They establish the “divine aspects” reflecting the underlying trinity of Will or Purpose, Love and Wisdom, and Light or Creative Intelligence.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2020 Easter/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>

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this first Easter Festival in the sign of Aries occurs later this evening at 10:35 p.m. Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we are propitiously meeting on the sacred day of Safeguarding, a day of inner peace and silent solemnity—one in which we hold ourselves steadily in the Light as we focus on the needs of humanity.

At this most consequential and critical time on our planet, let us strive as never before 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 and intensifying our intention 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 image on your screen is that of the enormous and beautiful spiral galaxy M101, the Pinwheel Galaxy in the constellation of Ursa Major, or the Great Bear, which is about 25 million light-years away. It is the largest northern constellation, with its brightest stars forming the Big Dipper. It comes to us courtesy of NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day.

At 170,000 light-years across, it is twice the size of our own Milky Way Galaxy. The scientific community tells us that Ursa Major is one of the oldest constellations in the sky, with a history dating back to ancient times, referenced by Homer and also in the Bible and catalogued by the Greek astronomer, Ptolemy in the 2nd century AD.

This constellation is related to the sign of Aries because Aries is the agent of the first Ray of Will or Power and this first ray energy emanates from the divine Prototype in the Great Bear, under the guidance of Mars, Mercury and Uranus, the exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical rulers of Aries (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 99). In *Esoteric Astrology* Ursa Major is referred to as the sevenfold Emanating Cause to which Sanat Kumara, the Ancient of Days, the Lord of the world responds, as He carries out the objectives of our 2nd Ray Solar Logos. (*Ibid.*, p. 612)

This photo also reminds me of the dynamic, Electric Fire transmitted by the sign of Aries. It also brings to mind our need to beautify, electrify, strengthen and deepen the Planetary Antahkarana connecting Humanity, the planetary Hierarchy of Love and Wisdom and Shamballa, the planetary center of Purpose, Power and Will. My wish is that this symbolic photo may ignite within us that fiery will-to-good which is today exceedingly needed in our world.

With these thoughts in mind, can we now move forward with 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]**

Emphasizing the rule of manas, the principle of the mind, the esoteric keynote of Aries is an indomitable affirmation, declaring: “I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule.”

Aries is one of the four constellations of the Cardinal Cross of the heavens. This is the cross of God, the Father, and, therefore, of the incarnating monad. It is the expression of will or power as it

expresses itself through the great creative process. When the initiate transfers him and herself on to the Cardinal Cross (from which he and she descended when first coming into incarnation, mounting then the Common or Mutable Cross), he and she no longer identifies with form or even with soul, but with the will of divinity and with the eternal Plan and Purpose.

At this point, the identification is such that it becomes his and her plan and purpose. S/he then enters into the council chamber of God and becomes a part of the conclave at Shamballa and can now function through all the three world centres—Humanity, the Hierarchy and Shamballa, Of course, this can only begin to occur after the third initiation.

Aries initiates the cycle of manifestation. All souls, as individual entities, come into human incarnation for the first time in the sign of Cancer, emerge as mental entities in the sign of Aries, as emotional-desire entities in the sign of Taurus and as vital entities in the sign of Gemini, taking then physical form in Cancer. This is the involutionary, subjective cycle. Thus they emerge into the ocean of physical plane existence, into the world of matter. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 92)

Dear Friends, is it here helpful to pause and remember that esoteric teaching is "that which destroys ignorance, and thus produces liberation of the spirit, through the knowledge of the supreme though *hidden* truth"?

Aries, we are told, 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. Think, for example, of the blade of grass bursting through the dark of earth or piercing the hardness of the concrete.

The first ray aspect of the Monad, responds to the first aspect of deity, evokes response from the first ray aspect of the soul and the first step towards incarnation is then taken on the mental plane.

Aries "awakens the will to reach the lowest and there control, to know the uttermost and thus to face all experience"—thus runs an ancient statement.

The keynotes of this sign are four in number, all conveying the same idea. They can be expressed in the following four injunctions which are given, symbolically, to the incarnating soul:

1. Express the will to be and do.
2. Unfold the power to manifest.
3. Enter into battle for the Lord.
4. Arrive at unity through effort.

Creation, Being, Activity, Strife and, Synthesis, these are the nature of the Lord of the first Ray constellation, which enable Him to influence our planet to these results.

And thus the great cycle of struggle towards expression begins and the foundational words of *The Secret Doctrine*, with which you are all so familiar, expresses the goal and the purpose of this first sign of the Cardinal Cross:

"Matter is the vehicle for the manifestation of soul on this plane of existence, and soul is the vehicle on a higher plane for the manifestation of spirit, and these three are a trinity synthesised by life which pervades them all."—S.D. I. 80.

As was mentioned earlier, Aries is also the purveyor to our solar system of Electric Fire and of the dynamic nature of God which has in it the qualities of fostering and nourishing heat, providing also, the fire which burns and destroys.

It is no surprise then that Aries, at different points along the Path of Life forces the soul on to the burning ground and subjects it to a purifying process during incarnation. The Old Commentary teaches that it is through the lesser 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 Mars, the exoteric, planetary ruler of Aries, also known as the "the God of War", a needed purification takes place.

Dear Friends, is this not what we see playing out today; does this not describe the underlying cause of our current global crisis?

The same purification, but this time through *vision*—and not through war and strife, comes to the disciple through the activity of the subjective, esoteric ruler of this sign, the planet, Mercury—the illuminating principle which releases the mind, directs the way of the individual through life and enables him and her to become aware of the divine Plan, which underlies all the fiery experience.

In the words of the Old Commentary, "The fire blazed forth and through that fire I died to life and so was born to death. And then again I died to form."

As has been mentioned, this death by fire or burning in Aries releases the prepared individual into the highest center on our planet to which we give the name Shamballa.

This liberation is, in reality, twelve-fold in nature, for liberation, victory and triumph have to be experienced in *every* sign, just as captivity, defeat and failure have been experienced in all the signs of the zodiac, while the individual is functioning as a personality.

Dear Friends, as *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* indicates, "the lunar Lords have had their day; now Agni, as the solar Lord of life and energy, will assume due importance in human life."

It is interesting that so many refer to our current crisis by comparing it to humanity's experience during World War II.

In *Esoteric Astrology*, we learn that one of the causes lying behind World War II is to be found in a premature contact — a contact made by certain selfish minds of a relatively high quality, aided by the Black Lodge. To offset this and eventually bring about the elimination of the influence of the dark forces from our planet must come the active, conscious use of the Shamballa force by the White Lodge, *aided* by the men and women whose will-to-good is strong enough to safeguard them from personal peril in their work and from being deflected on to wrong and dangerous lines.

The effective use of this will-to-good requires a certain definite and planned contact and interplay between the two centres of Creative, Lighted Intelligence; that is, Humanity and the centre of Loving Wisdom; that is, the Hierarchy.

When this is better understood and established, loving understanding and cooperation can be organized and the members of both great centres will then "stand together with massed intent."

This massed spiritual intent is the correspondence upon the mental plane of the massed intent of the general public who stand with the power of appeal upon their lips and in their hearts. To this appeal must be added the focussed will of the world thinkers and intuitives who can use their minds and brains in the affirmation of right human relations. (p. 588)

Helena Roerich writes that sublime energies are born only of the greatest efforts. And, only increased activity and intensified strength will bring the achievement of beauty. (*Letters I*, 1929)

Are we effectively playing our part? Can we intensify our efforts and labor with all the tension of our forces to be of greater aid to humanity at this time?

Dear Friends, as we know, each expansion of consciousness is preceded by a burning, through the medium of the inner fire and by the destruction, through the sacrifice of all that separates. As the lower (that which would hold back and limit) is destroyed, so the greater is assimilated. Fire acts not only as a purifier—gradually breaking through and destroying the confining walls, but it also acts as a great connector.

What was separate in consciousness is now whole. The divine circulatory flow by which all energies move freely and are distributed throughout the etheric body of the planet and the individual is established. Thus, the great chain of contact and the great channel for the inflow of spiritual energy reaches from Shamballa to humanity and then, through humanity, to the three subhuman kingdoms. The separating walls are no more. The Plan of Light and Love and Power can be implemented.

Does this help us work through our own individual crises, knowing the purpose and goal of these crises? Can we not apply this wisdom and understanding to the situation that humanity is today confronting?

The expression of what has been potential will be the result of the impact of the fiery first ray force, of the will-to-good, induced by the efforts of the disciples of the world.

So many are the messages in response to this pandemic reflect the recognition and realization of how truly interconnected the whole of humanity truly is and also how groups and nations are cooperatively working together in unprecedented ways, never before thought possible.

As we know, *Homo sapiens* is on an evolutionary journey, with the purpose of unfolding or expanding the consciousness.

Through past civilizations and their eventual catastrophic destruction, our planetary Logos has gradually prepared the field for the future destiny of humanity, which we are told, is currently in the fifth of the seven major phases of its intended unfolding. Over the millennia, as it demonstrated readiness, humanity has been initiated into succeeding phases of divine consciousness through applied stimulation. Each phase has brought the original divine purpose of our planetary logos closer into manifestation. Today, as we proceed into the Age of Aquarius, the unfolding of the love petal of humanity's egoic lotus is beginning to open.

The United Nations, is a living testament and reflection of humanity's nascent attempt to "unfold the love petals" and to thus move into a New Age of wider possibilities—a New Age of brotherhood.

The Agni Yoga Wisdom asks, "How can one intensify energy if not by an extreme situation? Such situations should be regarded not as end points but as beginnings....For some people everything is definitely an end, but for Our students everything is a beginning." (*Heart*, 30)

Dear Friends, if an impact is to be made, the intensity of the spiritual energies must far outweigh those being replaced. In its true expression, the Spiritual Will is today needed as a propelling, expulsive force, and also as a clarifying, purifying agent. With these thoughts in mind, can we now take up our meditation?