Good afternoon, dear Friends and Welcome! It’s Monday, the start of what is probably a busy work week for you, so thank you for taking time to be here. We appreciate it and I look forward to the good work that we are about to accomplish together in the next little hour.

As is our practice at these monthly meetings, after this opening address, intended to unify, stimulate and prepare our group mind, so that we can hold it “steady in the light”, allowing us then to become part of the planetary alignment, responding to impressions and contacts emanating from the subjective and spiritual planes, we will move to the focus of the meeting, which is Group Meditation. Following this, you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas, if you like.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact time of the Leo Solar Festival is today in just a couple of hours at 2:10 p.m. Thus, we are meeting on the day of Safeguarding, in the five-day cycle that makes up each of the 12 Solar Festivals. Our focus today is on the needs of humanity as a whole, while recognizing ourselves as part of the world-wide group through which the available spiritual forces can be poured throughout the whole body of humanity. Identifying with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” our intention is to become as a living bridge, bringing humanity closer to the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom and to the energies of Light, Love and the Will-to-Good.

The photo on your screen comes to us courtesy of NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day and it is entitled “Sirius—The Brightest Star in the Night.” In this photo, Sirius is visible on the far left and to the left of the constellation of Orion. NASA informs us that Sirius is over 20 times brighter than our Sun and over twice as massive; however, it is 8.7 light years away from Earth, whereas, by comparison, our sun is 0.00001581 light years away, which is 93,000,000 miles away and 109 times larger than Earth. Astounding facts that are hard to fathom, are they not?

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2017 Leo 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.
As we know, Sirius is often called the Dog Star because of its prominence in the constellation of *Canis Majoris*, also playfully known as the “Big Dog.”

For esoteric students, Sirius calls forth our highest respect, reverence and awe. For us, in terms of its cosmic role and its meaning, it is truly a star of wonder, beauty and brilliance. Although it is difficult at our stage of development to fully appreciate the magnitude of its importance, the Tibetan Master does offer us some insights, with the intention that these will stretch our minds and our imagination. As he states,

> I have frequently hinted in my various books that the Sun, Sirius, is closely related to our planetary Life and much is known in the Hierarchy about this connection, but little can be communicated to the general public. He continues, “I may, however, tell you certain things which may make your imaginative rangings…creatively profitable to you.” *(The Rays and the Initiations, p. 413)*

So, in the spirit of both humble and courageous cooperation, let us ponder some of these insights and practice stretching our minds!

There are three major influences which find their way from far distant Sources into our planetary life and produce definite effects upon the individual and humanity as a whole. One of these is Sirius. The other two are the constellations of the Great Bear and the Seven Sisters of the Pleiades.

Sirius is called the star of initiation because our planetary Hierarchy is under the supervision or “*spiritual magnetic control* of the Hierarchy of Sirius. *(Esoteric Astrology, p. 197)*

This great Sun is to our solar Logos what the Monad is to the spiritual individual and there is a relationship of very ancient date between our Lord of the World, Sanat Kumara and the Lord of Sirius and this exists in spite of the fact that our planet is not yet a sacred planet. Although, it is helpful to remember that our Earth is rapidly passing out of this non-sacred category and subjectively considered, on the inner planes, it has already achieved this status. And, it is our work here to help achieve this status on the three levels of the physical plane; is it not?

Thus, Sirius, the “brilliant star of sensitivity”, as it is called, is one of the major controlling influences whereby the cosmic Christ works upon the Christ principle in the solar system, in the planet, in the individual and in the lower forms of life expression. *(Esoteric Astrology, p. 197)*

A stream of energy coming from Sirius enters directly into our planetary Hierarchy and carries with it the principle of buddhi—of cosmic love. And, in a most mysterious way, this buddhic principle is found at the heart of *every atom* on our planet. *(The Rays and the Initiations, p. 415)*

Dear Friends, can we pause for a moment to let this truly sink in? Love-wisdom *in potential* is at the heart of every atom, eternally circulating *within* us and *all around* us—waiting to be recognized, evoked, invoked and manifested!

The fact that the Hierarchy is controlled from Sirius is a relatively new occurrence and this was not always the case. The Sirian influence was actually not even recognised, and little of it was focussed in the Hierarchy until some 2,000 years ago when Christ—the expression of a Sirian initiation, came and revealed the Love of God to humanity. *(Ibid.)*
Although the effect of Sirius is not directly felt until after the third initiation, we are informed that the Masters use this energy whilst training disciples for the various initiations, including for the second initiation, which makes it critically important in the work of transforming planetary consciousness. (Ibid.)

Additionally, because freedom and liberation are inherent in the life of Sirius, the life and energies of this great star are of special significance to this work that focuses on the Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the liberation of humanity.

And, I will say a little more about this later, but for now, can we keep these thoughts in mind, as we open our hearts and minds, uniting in loving cooperation with all co-workers who are similarly working, everywhere throughout the planet? And, can we sound aloud, with heartfelt dedication, the Noon-time recollection?

“I know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch my heart anew with love that I too may love and give.” [PAUSE.]

“I am That and That am I.”—such is the esoteric keynote, the song of the Soul in this sign of Leo.

Although the history of evolution upon our Earth—from the angle of humanity, is one of continuous progress, as we know, it is also one of revolutionary decisions, upheaval and climaxing crises.

Think, for example, of how the United States is the result of the 7-year American War of Independence, or, how the United Nations arose from the nightmare of a world war that took more lives and destroyed more land and property around the globe than any previous war.

The esoteric wisdom teaches that the history of humanity’s evolution is in reality and from the occult point of view, the history of the freeing of the spirit—by the mode of steadily developing forms which—in orderly unfoldment and at the demand of spirit—meet its requirements in any particular cycle and at every stage of growth, as a result of the response of substance to spiritual impact and impression. (The Rays and the Initiations, p. 418)

That is, the history of humanity’s evolution is the history of the freeing of the spirit by the mode of steadily developing forms—at the demand of spirit and upon the consequent response of substance to spiritual impact and impression.

If we consider Helena Blavatsky’s reference in the Secret Doctrine* to Electricity as the One Life—the foundation of all manifestations, behind all evolution, and, if we then consider the three primary forces of electricity—these being voltage, current flow and resistance, we might gain some new insight into this esoteric keynote—and what it is that precludes our full understanding and experience of such a developed consciousness.

In our esoteric literature, it is explained that the Law of Positive and Negative Relationships underlies all stages of discipleship; therefore, that which is higher, that is, more inclusive, is at first resisted by that which is lower and more circumscribed. (Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. I, p. 749)

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However, as the thinking, intuiting, loving Soul tightens its hold over its form—the response apparatus, so the pull of the lower nature—un-enlightened matter, is superseded and the attraction of that which is higher is then experienced.

Every initiation into heightened consciousness is the result of energy transmission from a higher centre of energy to a lower one: “every initiation charges the initiate with electrical force, and this charging and re-charging is related to what H.P.B. calls ‘the mystery of electricity.’” *(The Rays and the Initiations, p.735)*

As we know from our own experience, when the disciple becomes powerfully attracted by his and her soul, this produces a tremendous revolution in the entire life—a complete turning around in the life experience and expression.

Is this not what we are today undergoing on a planetary scale?

In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, we learn that:

“There times the cry goes out to all the Pilgrims upon the Path of Life: ‘Know thyself’ is the first great injunction and long is the process of attaining that knowledge.

“‘Know the Self’ comes next and when that is achieved, man knows not only himself but all selves; the soul of the universe is to him no longer the sealed book of life but one with the seven seals broken.

“Then when the man stands adept, the cry goes forth ‘Know the One’ and the words ring in the adepts' ears: ‘Search for that which is the responsible Cause, and having known the soul, and its expression, form, search for THAT which the soul reveals.’” *(A Treatise on Cosmic Fire, pp. 1239-1240)*

Leo is of paramount control in the life of the aspirant who has to know him and herself through true self-awareness before he and she can know that divine spirit which is the true Self and then know one’s fellowmen. *(Esoteric Astrology, p. 288)*

The Sun is the ruler of all three conditions of Leo—exoteric, esoteric, and hierarchical.

“It is a correct surmise,” states *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 294) “that the purpose of this solar system is the unfoldment of consciousness, and if…self-consciousness is the goal, then the Sun must obviously rule, for it is the source of physical consciousness (exoteric and symbolic of the personality), of soul awareness (esoteric), and of spiritual life (hierarchical).”

The outstanding theme of Leo, then, is the activity of the self-conscious unit in relation to its environment or the development of sensitive response to surrounding impacts by the one who stands as the Sun stands—at the centre of its little universe.

*Esoteric Astrology* clarifies how this sensitivity is experienced in four stages, beginning with 1)sensitivity to the conditioning impacts from the environment to 2)sensitivity to the will, wishes and desires of the personality, to 3)sensitivity to the soul as the conditioning factor, and finally, in the fourth stage, 4) there’s the spiritual sensitivity of the God-Man (that is, the fused soul and personality) to the environment. (pp. 294-295)
At this fourth stage of unfoldment, the liberated individual is then not conditioned by his and her environment, but, rather, begins the arduous task of conditioning that environment to the divine plan and purpose while cultivating sensitivity to the higher spiritual impacts which will lead eventually to the final goal—and thus, the process of planetary transformation moves forward.

Considering the role of Sirius in this process might here prove helpful. August, as we know is the month of Sirius, which thus brings this great sun into close relation to Leo. In the cosmic sense (and apart from our solar system altogether), Leo is ruled by Sirius—the home of that greater Lodge to which our fifth initiation admits the Initiate and to which it brings him and her, as a humble disciple. (Esoteric Astrology, p. 299)

The influences of Sirius, three in number, are focussed in Regulus, a star of the first magnitude, frequently called "the heart of the Lion," leading the individual to achieve that true “self-centered” attitude which makes him and her a unique and true individual. Later, as responsiveness grows and the world of small affairs is converted into the world of ever larger values and reality, worldly desires change into aspiration and finally into spiritual will, purpose and intent.

"The principle of freedom is a leavening energy which can permeate substance in a unique manner”, states the Tibetan Master; He continues, “this divine principle represents an aspect of the influence which Sirius exerts on our solar system and particularly on our planet.” (The Rays and the Initiations, p. 416)

It is this principle of freedom, which enables Sanat Kumara to dwell on the Earth and yet stand free from all contacts; it is that which enables the initiate to eventually achieve a state of "isolated unity"; and it is this principle which acts as a great releasing Agency, providing a “pathway of power” between our Hierarchy and the distant sun, Sirius.

This mysteriously “exerted influence” this “pulling away” from form gives the incentive towards the “culture of freedom” or of liberation which motivates the work of the Masters of the Wisdom.

Before the individual can achieve initiation, states Esoteric Astrology, he and she must be fully self-conscious, mystically oriented and occultly developed. This individual must be aware of him and herself as a soul involved in form which is itself developed and unfolded through soul activity; he and she must be capable of pure vision, motivated by spiritual intent and able to perceive the uses of inherent sensitivity; additionally, he and she must also be mentally polarized and profoundly aware of the realities, forces and energies of existence and, therefore, free from the ordinary glamous and illusions which color the reactions and life of the average individual.

A tall order and a truly aspirational vision for most of us, wouldn’t you say?

Such a developed human being is then governed by the physical Sun, motivated by the energies pouring from "the heart of the Sun" (via Neptune) and bringing about at-one-ment through the forces which are reaching him and her (via Uranus). (pp. 307-308)

_I am That and That am I_—the perfected Leo consciousness expresses a synthesis of all triplicities: the personality, the soul and spirit; the physical sun, the heart of the sun and the central spiritual sun; fire by friction, solar fire and electric fire.

Dear Friends, with these recognitions in mind, can we now take up our meditation?