



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

Opening Address, Leo Solar Festival

Wednesday, 14 August 2019; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this month's Solar Festival, in the sensitive, courageous sign of Leo. Thank you for being here. It is with Gratitude and Joy that I look forward to the good work we will together accomplish.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone the actual time of this Festival occurs tomorrow morning at 8:29 a.m.

Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we are meeting on the second and last day of Preparation. With dedication, let us, then, strive to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf 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 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 comes to us courtesy of NASA and SOHO—the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory, and some of you may recognize it from one of the [web pages](#) of the Aquarian Age Community website.

As the center of our Solar System, the sun is the source of all life and energy here on planet Earth. Since the beginning of history, human beings have understood the vital importance of this life giving star, and thus, from the Aztecs, the Mayans and Incas to the ancient Sumerians, Persians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Druids, and more, the Sun was recognized as a central deity because it was seen as the bringer of all light and life.

According to the website, [Universe Today](#), the Sun is by far the brightest object in the sky. It is about 13 billion times brighter than the next brightest star, which is Sirius.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2019 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 and from the Agni Yoga Society at <http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php>

It is featured here because, as we know, the Sun is the ruler of all the three dimensions of Leo—exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical, although as the esoteric and the hierarchical ruler, it veils the planets Neptune and Uranus, about which I will say more in a short while.

Keeping this life-giving image in mind and recognizing our oneness with its magnanimous inner and outer Life, 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 am That and That am I.” Such, is the esoteric keynote, the song of the Soul within this sign of Leo—the sign under which disciples are rapidly gaining higher consciousness and preparing for fresh and universal expression in the opposite sign of Aquarius.

Dear Friends, the “Tenth Great Joyful Realization” in *A Buddhist Bible* reminds us that “it is [a] great joy to realize that the Path to Freedom which all the [Enlightened Ones]... have trodden is ever-existent, ever unchanged, and ever open to those who are ready to enter upon it.”

In the ancient night of time, a date so ancient that it is not possible to say when He truly lived, the hero-teacher Hercules presented to the world, through the form of a pictorial and world drama, the concept of a great objective, only to be reached as the result of struggle and difficulty. He pointed to a goal toward which all mortals must make their way, no matter how difficult the obstacles. These, as most of us here know, are portrayed for all time as the Twelve Labours of Hercules.

Through these labours, Hercules depicts the tests and trials which all disciples, aspirants and initiates have to face and which all Those Who today compose the spiritual Hierarchy have already faced and overcome.

It is through this timeless and never-ending journey that the disciples of all ages eventually discover and, in time, appropriate the gifts of insight and wisdom, held in trust by each of the twelve zodiacal signs.

In his fifth labour, under the sign of Leo, Hercules was unsure about the necessary task he was to accomplish and the obstacle that he was to overcome. When he questioned, “What do I here do and how do I seek to pass this Gate?” his Teacher replied with a response that I think resonates with familiarity and one that I think you will find to be most applicable to the situation that many disciples face today. The Teacher tells Hercules:

“A call has sounded forth, O Hercules, a call of deep distress. Your outer ears have not responded to that call, and yet the inner ear knows well the need, for it hath heard a voice, aye, many voices, telling you of need and urging you to venture forth. The people of Nemea seek your aid. They are in deep distress....They seek that you should kill the lion that devastates their land, taking its toll of men.” (*The Labours of Hercules: Labour V, “The Slaying of the Nemean Lion,”* p. 96)

And thus, with the skill and wisdom at hand, Hercules sets forth, and after several attempts, he finally understood and determined how to slay the Nemean lion, as described in the following passage:

“Feebler and feebler grew the roars of hate and fear; weaker and weaker grew the enemy of man; lower and lower sank the lion. And thus [Hercules]...killed the lion with his two hands, without his arms and through his own great strength. ‘The lion is dead,’ they cried, ‘the lion is dead. We now can live and till our lands and sow the needed seeds and walk in peace together. The lion is dead and great is our deliverer, the son of man, who is a son of God, named Hercules.’” (Ibid., p. 99)

Thus, Hercules returned in triumph to the One Who sent him forth to test his strength, to serve and meet the need of those in dire distress. The deed was done. Fear was gone and the people now stood free. With his own hands Hercules strangled thus the lion.

And here we have portrayed the labour that when accomplished, transforms the individual into what is occultly called the five pointed star—the symbol of individualisation, the symbol of the human being who knows him and herself *to be an individual* and who becomes aware of him and herself as the Self, the Soul.

As Alice A. Bailey writes, “It is in this sign that we begin to use the words, ‘I’, and ‘my’, and ‘mine.’ [However, at a higher turn of the spiral,] in Leo, we [also] see cosmic mind working out in the individual as the lower reasoning mind, and this lower aspect has likewise to be sacrificed and the little mind of man must be subordinated to the universal mind.” (Ibid., pp. 101-104)

Leo is a fire sign. It is upon the reversed wheel that fire takes the place of water and burns away all dross. Purification of the entire nature is thus achieved gradually, and the individual becomes sensitive to the influences, which can be brought to bear upon him and her when the fiery triplicity of Aries-Leo-Sagittarius begins to re-orient the individual towards universality, self-consciousness and the one-pointed attitude of the disciple.

Esoteric Astrology (p. 288) tells us that this sign of Leo is of paramount control in the life of the aspirant who “has to know himself through self-awareness before he can know that divine spirit which is his true Self and know also his fellowmen.”

Here, we are reminded that the understanding and reasoning powers of the soul are complete and developed. However, souls—oriented towards incarnation and thus, the will-to-sacrifice—have not, as yet, the necessary forms in the objective three worlds which are adequate for the expression of the knowledge, which the soul has on its own plane and level of awareness.

In the evolutionary process there is, therefore, first the form, gradually prepared, adjusted, aligned and oriented during many aeons of time; behind this active form, as it steadily improves and becomes more responsive to environment and contact, stands the slowly awakening consciousness.

This is the thinking, intuiting, loving soul, which tightens its hold over its response apparatus, avails itself upon every possible occasion of every advance made by the form, and employs every influence for the perfecting of the great work which it undertook under the Law of Sacrifice. *Esoteric Astrology* describes the process in this way:

“Mass consciousness in Cancer gives place to individual consciousness in Leo. Out of the mass or the herd emerges the self-sufficient unit which becomes increasingly aware of its oneness, its aloneness and its isolated attitude as the ‘one in the centre’ of its small cosmos.

“This attitude continues to develop and to become emphatic and dynamic..., leading to the pronounced ego-centric consciousness of the selfish, intelligent man and to the ambitious display of selfish power of the man who desires place and position.

“But eventually the time comes when the nature of the Fixed Cross begins to dawn upon the consciousness of the man, and the influence of Aquarius (the polar opposite of Leo) begins to balance that of Leo.

“Then, there comes the gradual shift of the focus of attention away from the ‘one who stands alone’ to the enviroing group, and an equally important shift away from selfish interests to group requirements.” (Ibid., pp. 292-293)

Thus, the Fixed Cross upon which Leo stands—that is, the cross of light and liberation, has attained its objective. In Leo, the Lion of Self-assertion becomes the Light of the Soul, while in Aquarius, the polar opposite of Leo, the Chalice of Self-Service, becomes the Light of the world.

Playing through this fixed Cross of light, are the “fires of God”—cosmic, solar and planetary, producing purification, the intensification of the light and eventual revelation to the purified individual who stands in light. From Aries comes cosmic fire; from Sagittarius comes planetary fire; and from Leo comes solar fire. And, each of these fires "clears the way by burning."

Such is the scientific basis for the yoga of fire, applied by the fully self-conscious individual to the reflection of the three divine aspects in the three worlds. And, thus, we hopefully better understand, the reason for the need to use the Mantram of the Deva Lord Agni, the Mantram of Fire. Before the Door into the Holy Place of Initiation lies the burning ground, which all disciples and initiates must eventually tread. All the dross must be burnt.

Dear Friends, the Agni Yoga Wisdom explains that “the bonds of the Teaching are like a saving rope in the mountains.” (*New Era Community*, 60)

“Daily we partake of food, and without it [we] regard the day as miserable. But our spirit also requires nourishment of thought, and it is a crime to pass one's day without it...think of the fundamental of Yoga as our bread and milk...because the Teaching itself attracts by taming all that impedes growth.” (*Agni Yoga*, 357)

It is a correct surmise, states the Tibetan Master that the purpose of our 2nd ray Solar System of Love Wisdom is the unfoldment of consciousness—the goal, as well of every single human being. In that the outstanding theme of Leo is the activity of the self-conscious unit in relation to its environment or the development of sensitive response to the surrounding impacts by the one who stands—as the Sun stands—at the center of its little universe, we can better understand why the Sun is therefore the ruler of all the three aspects of Leo—exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical.

Thus, the whole story and function of Leo and its influences can be summed up in the word "sensitivity"—a sensitivity that can be understood through four developmental stages. In the early stages of the Soul's journey into matter, Leo develops first,

1. Sensitivity to conditioning impacts from the physical plane environment; secondly, comes:
2. Sensitivity to the will, wishes and desires of the personality, the integrated self-conscious individual—the lower personal self; then, in the third stage of expansion, Leo develops,

3. Sensitivity to the soul as the conditioning factor instead of sensitivity to the physical plane environment; and finally, in the fourth stage of expansion and growth, we have,
4. The spiritual sensitivity of the fused soul and personality to its then vastly expanded inner and outer environment.

It is at this fourth stage of unfoldment that the liberated individual is no longer conditioned by his and her environment but, rather, here, at this point, s/he begins the arduous task of conditioning the environment in relation to the divine plan and purpose. And, at the same time, the disciple then begins to cultivate sensitivity to the higher impacts of those worlds which lead to the final goal of Initiation into higher consciousness.

Is this not the stage exemplified by our hero-teacher, Hercules, as he demonstrated wisdom and purpose throughout his fifth labour?

The three aspects of the Sun—the physical Sun, the heart of the Sun and the central spiritual Sun, are of importance because influences flowing through and from them bring the entire subjective and latent world consciousness to the forefront, producing eventually, at the final revelation and liberation, the full expression of the consciousness of the indwelling Deity.

It is these three aspects of the Sun which bring consciousness to the birth and make the ultimate goal attainable because these are rooted in the Sun, symbolically speaking and are therefore an inherent aspect of the greater whole.

In the case of Leo, as was earlier mentioned, the Sun focusses its energy or influences—like a lens, through the planets of Neptune and Uranus. The "heart of the Sun" employs Neptune as its agent, whilst the central, spiritual Sun pours its influences through Uranus, which is only registered at a very advanced stage of development upon the Path.

In summary, then, before the individual can achieve initiation, s/he must be fully self-conscious, mystically oriented and occultly developed. S/he must be aware of him and herself as a soul involved in form which is itself developed and unfolded through soul activity; s/he must be a developed mystic, capable of pure vision, motivated by spiritual intent and able to perceive the uses of inherent sensitivity; s/he must also be a trained occultist, mentally polarized and profoundly aware of the realities, forces and energies of existence and, therefore, free from the ordinary glamours and illusions which colour the reactions and life of the average individual. S/he 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.

A tall order to be sure; a vision for many lifetimes.

Throughout, at every turn, the aspirant and the disciple progresses upon the path as a result of self-initiated effort and increasing contact with the inner fire that blazes forth ever more fully. I would therefore like to close my remarks with the following Agni Yoga wisdom which emphasizes this needed understanding:

“To each one is entrusted the finding of the path to the higher sphere; but when humanity thinks that the work designated for the transmutation of the spirit and of all accumulations can proceed from without, then the lever of Cosmos will devastate the accumulation. Only by one’s

own hand, only by one's own will, only by one's own striving, only by one's own work can the spirit become a conscious co-worker of the Infinite." (*Infinity I*, 33)

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