



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

Opening Address, Leo Solar Festival

Sunday, 2 August 2020; Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the creative, fiery sign of Leo—the pre-eminent fire sign of our times; that sign of the zodiac which signals the height of achievement of the human soul.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs tomorrow morning, August 3rd at 11:59 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—a time of dedication and upward striving—a time for us to hold the intention of becoming recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

Our world continues to be in turmoil. The energies and forces from all sides are intensifying, bringing much pain and suffering, but also presenting continued opportunities for breakthroughs and transformation. Thus, at this most consequential and critical time on our planet, let us today work in unison with the Beloved Community, throughout the world, to ensure the tipping of the planetary balance, in the direction of the freedom of the human soul and the expression of brotherhood and right human relations.

Let us strive with all the tension of our forces 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 comes to us courtesy of NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day. It is the bright star Regulus, the alpha star of the constellation Leo, also called *Alpha Leonis*. As a star of the first magnitude and the brightest star in Leo, it has been universally associated in ancient cultures with the concept of royal or kingly power.

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

Recognized as “the heart of the Lion,” it is through this bright star that the influences of that greater, stupendous sun, Sirius, reach our planet. I’ll say a bit more about Sirius in a short while, but, for now, can we pause for a moment, as we normally do, and together dedicate ourselves to this month’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]

“I am That and That am I.” Such is the esoteric keynote of the Leo individual who is rapidly gaining the higher consciousness, and preparing for a fresh and universal expression in Aquarius, the polar opposite of Leo.

Dear Friends, we live in a universal sea of energies. Each of us, on the one hand are an integral part of humanity, yet we each lead our own lives, reacting to our own impressions, responding to exterior influences and impacts and in turn, emanating influences and sending these forth in some form of personal radiation, expressing some particular quality or qualities.

We each, in some measure, affect our environments and those we contact. Yet, all the while, we remain part of the One Humanity.

We can extend this same idea to the solar system, which itself is part of a still greater life, expressing Itself through seven solar systems, of which ours is but one.

All the energies—zodiacal, systemic, and planetary—have a definite effect upon each of us and *all* the lives in *all* forms in the various kingdoms of nature. Nothing can escape these radiatory and magnetic influences.

As we know, it is the goal of evolution for humanity to become consciously and livingly aware of the nature of these energies and begin to know them and to use them, applying them to the daily life. Whereas the challenge for the disciple is to become consciously aware of the planetary influences and begin to use them for the carrying out of soul purpose, the challenge for the initiate is to become aware of the zodiacal influences which emanate from outside of the solar system altogether. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 22)

For example, the disciples of the world in the senior ranks of the New Group of World Servers are definitely reacting to the energies coming from the great Sun Sirius, which is to our solar Logos what the Monad is to the spiritual individual. (The Rays and the Initiations, p. 413) Sirius, the esoteric wisdom teaches, is the source of logoc manas—the fire of mind. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 679)

The month of August, which is ruled by Leo is, in fact, the month of Sirius, the Dog-star, which thus brings Sirius into close relation to Leo that, in a cosmic sense, apart from our solar system altogether, is ruled by Sirius — 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) teaches that later, when the new world religion is founded and is working, we shall find that the major, monthly festival in August, held at the time of the full moon, will be dedicated to the task of making contact, via the Hierarchy with this Sirian force. At that time, each of the months of the year will be dedicated, through accurate, astrological and astronomical knowledge, to whichever constellation in the heavens governs a particular month, as Sirius governs Leo.

Of course, this refers to a time when humanity that is aware of, in alignment and cooperatively working with the “greater Light,” the “stream of Love Divine” and the “fiery Will of God.” And, it is this destined potential that monthly Solar Festival meetings such as this one and the many others held around the world at this time, are working to help bring about; are we not?

Whether we know it or not, each of us are points of light within that greater Light; each of us are strands of loving energy within the stream of Love Divine and each of us are points of sacrificial Fire, focused within the fiery Will of God.

Dear Friends, you may recognize these concepts from “The Affirmation of the Disciple”— that Affirmation, which the Tibetan Master transcribed, as he tells us, from words so ancient that they predate both Sanskrit and Senza — an Affirmation that we are encouraged to use with our “whole heart” and, “as a soul.” (*Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II, p. p. 175*)

The relationship between our Lord of the World, Sanat Kumara, and the Lord of Sirius, is of a very ancient date and this exists in spite of the fact that our planet is not a sacred planet. However, this *is* changing and our planet is rapidly passing out of this category. It’s important for us to keep this in mind, realizing that on the *inner* planes and subjectively, it *is* considered as a sacred planet. (*The Rays and the Initiations, p. 414*)

Interestingly, this relationship expresses itself between the Hierarchy and Sirius and not between Shamballa and Sirius.

The energy evoked in response to this relationship enters the Hierarchy via Regulus the *Heart of the Sun*, creating as a consequence, a triangle of spiritual energy of enormous power. Thus, we have two major streams of energy entering our planetary life.

One stream of energy is coming from the cosmic mental plane and from that focal point which is to Sanat Kumara what the egoic lotus, the soul is to the spiritual individual. This carries the life principle of our planet and centers itself in Shamballa, that highest planetary center where the Will and Purpose of our planet are held in trust. From there, this energy, which we call LIFE, is dispersed throughout all forms upon the planet. It follows then that this life principle embodies or is impregnated with the will and purpose of THAT which overshadows Sanat Kumara, as the soul overshadows the personality.

A second stream of energy is coming into our planet from the sun, Sirius. This enters directly into the Hierarchy and carries with it the principle of buddhi or cosmic love. This, in a mysterious way, is the principle found at the heart of every single atom.

Although the effects of this energy are not directly felt until after the third initiation, the Masters of the Wisdom use this energy in training disciples for the second, the fourth and the sixth initiations.

The entire work of the Great White Lodge is controlled from Sirius; the Ashrams are subjected to its cyclic inflow and the higher initiations are taken under its stimulation because the principle of buddhi, the principle of pure love, or love-wisdom, must eventually be active in the heart of every initiate.

Understandably, it is the Christ who brought attention to this Sirian influence. Before His ministry on our planet, wherein he revealed the love of God to humanity, the influence from Sirius was not recognized, and little of it was definitely focused in the Hierarchy. The Christ, we are told, is the expression, par excellence, of a Sirian initiation, and it is to that high place that He will eventually go.

As was highlighted in this month's newsletter, the principle of freedom, which acts a *leavening* energy, permeating substance in a unique manner *is* a divine principle, which represents an aspect of the influence exerted by Sirius on our solar system and especially on our planet.

Like will, love and mind, the principle of freedom is one of the attributes of Deity about which humanity is slowly becoming aware. To date, what humanity has understood about freedom is actually one of the lowest aspects of this cosmic freedom, which in fact is related to certain great evolutionary developments that enable the life or spirit aspect to free itself from the impact, the contact and the influence of substance.

From the occult point of view, the history of evolution is in reality 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 we know, the intention of the Hierarchy is ever to increase humanity's capacity for freedom, in order to function effectively with that "life more abundantly," which the Christ will bring. This will only be possible when the spirit of the individual is free; that is, free to approach divinity and free also to choose the Way of that approach.

The esoteric *Affirmation of the Disciple*, in mantric form, embodies this attitude — the attitude of the disciple who is striving, in cooperative endeavor with others, to link hierarchical intention with human aspiration, thus bringing humanity nearer to its spiritual destiny, nearer to its goal.

It is the theme of relationship therefore, which is the basic pattern in the evolutionary process of unfoldment in this, the second solar system wherein the quality of the second divine aspect, that of Love, is being perfected, and thus, the emphasis on brotherhood and right human relations.

In this perfecting process humanity participates unconsciously at first, during the long cycle of evolutionary unfoldment; however, when humanity begins to take its first steps upon the path towards spiritual maturity, it is through perfected service given selflessly to humanity as a whole that spiritual liberation then becomes possible. And, we are thankfully witnessing examples of this now occurring — in the work of the United Nations and elsewhere on the planet.

Passing as we are into the Aquarian Age in which the spirit of Aquarius will be exemplified in its universality, it's inevitable that a point of crisis should today be reached. As a result, we have the appearance of the dictators in different countries at this time, and it is also because of this fact that in this present cycle — the ante-chamber of the New Age, that we have the pronounced attitude of these dictators, who are expressing the lowest and most undesirable of the Leo-Aquarius energies.

As I mentioned previously, Leo is a fire sign, and it is the pre-eminent fire sign at this time. The Sons of Mind, the self-conscious Sons of God, are above everything else the Sons of Fire, for our "God is a consuming Fire." There is in them that peculiar quality which can burn and destroy and so eradicate all that hinders their essentially divine expression.

As we know, there are two elements in nature which are connected in the public consciousness with the thought of purification — one is water and the other is fire. Fire always carries forward esoterically that which water has begun.

In *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 288), the Tibetan Master teaches that upon the wheel reversed, the fire takes the place of water and burns away all dross:

Purification of the entire nature is thus achieved gradually, and the man[/woman] becomes sensitive to the influences which can be brought to bear upon him [and her] when the fiery triplicity plays its part and the influence of [the three fire signs,] Aries-Leo-Sagittarius, begins to re-orient him [and her] towards universality, self-consciousness and one-pointed attitudes.....Leo, is of paramount control in the life of the aspirant. He [and] she has to know himself [and herself] through true self-awareness before he [and she] can know that divine spirit which is...the true Self and know also...[one's] fellowmen.

“Fire,” the *Secret Doctrine* tells us “is the most perfect and unadulterated reflection, in Heaven as on earth, of the One Flame. It is life and death, the origin and the end of every material thing. It is divine Substance.” And, “the fire of knowledge burns up all action on the plane of illusion.”
(In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. xvii)

Whereas *Individualisation* marks one stage of the process in the intensification of “fire by friction,” *Initiation* marks a stage in the intensification of "solar Fire" — a point in the evolution of consciousness, through self-consciousness to group or universal consciousness, and “electric fire” results in *Identification* with the aggregate of all groups, expressing the final stages of the evolutionary process and begin *consciously* to work out the eternal Will. (Ibid., p. 731)

Under the influence of Leo, in the truly developed self-conscious individual, not only is direction, purpose and plan present, but also there is consciousness of the active agent of the plan and action. The Lion of Self-assertion becomes the Light of the Soul and in Aquarius, its polar opposite, the Chalice of Self-service becomes the Light of the world.

Leo and Aquarius, after all, are part of the Fixed Cross of light. And playing through this Cross all the time, and emanating from Leo, 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" for the expression of the three divine aspects: spirit (Aries), soul (Leo) and body (Sagittarius). 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. Such is the significance of the fact that before the Door of Initiation lies the burning ground which all disciples and initiates must tread. The Leo subject treads this burning ground with will and self-effacement. When he and she has reached full self-consciousness and mental integration and when he and she has attained personality effectiveness, then he and she treads it — undeterred by pain.
(*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 293-294)

There is much more to say about Leo, however, for now, I would like to close with a passage from the Epistle of James that I think is a fitting close to this part of our work. Former President Barack Obama recently included this passage in his eulogy of Congressman John Lewis.

James wrote to the believers, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.”

Dear Friends, May it be so! With these thoughts in mind, can we now take up our meditation?