



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

Opening Address, Leo II Solar Festival

Saturday, 21 August 2021; Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon, welcome and thank you for being here, as we once again take up our challenging, though joyous labor of the Ages.

As was mentioned in the newsletter preparing us for our work today, this month, planet earth is not only the recipient of the intensified fiery energies of a second Leo Festival, which we are observing today, but also because the month of August is ruled by the brilliant star of Sirius, the bright star of sensitivity and of initiation, so we are impacted by the compelling and deeply spiritual energies of that sun, through which the cosmic Christ works upon the Christ principle in the solar system, in our planet, in humanity and in all forms of life expression.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs tomorrow morning, August 22nd at 8:02 a.m. Thus, we are meeting on the second day of preparation, a day of dedication and upward striving as we prepare to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

Can we, dear friends, respond to these available energies by intensifying our own strivings by seeking to align with them and assist in the best way possible to this sustained and focused opportunity for planetary healing and redemption?

As we take up the responsibility and challenge of our work, can we strive to identify with the highest planetary center of Purpose that ever seeks to “guide the little wills of men?”

Let us then recognize our profound and compelling opportunity to create a living, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and transformative energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa, and this month most powerfully radiated into our planet from that distant sun Sirius, via the beloved Hierarchy of the Masters of Love-Wisdom?

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.

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

The image on your screen is the “Bright Star Regulus.” It comes to us courtesy of NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD). Referred to also as Alpha Leonis and the Lion’s Heart, Regulus is the brightest star of the constellation Leo and among the brightest in Earth’s night sky.

Over time and across cultures, this star has been almost universally associated with royal or kingly power in such ancient cultures as Babylon, Arabia, Greek, Persian, the Akkadians of Mesopotamia, the Hindus of India, and more.

Esoterically, the influences of Sirius, are focused in Regulus, which acts as a lens for Sirius. Although the influence of Sirius is not consciously felt until after the third initiation, when the true nature of the spirit aspect begins to dawn upon the liberated, intuitive perception of the initiate, the Masters of the Wisdom use this energy while training their disciples beginning with the second initiation.

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 a sacred planet, although this fact is ever so slowly changing. Here, it helps to remember that on the inner planes and subjectively considered, our Earth *is* a sacred planet and it is humanity’s destiny to fully demonstrate this fact on all planes of daily living.

Interestingly, it is not with Shamballa, but with the Hierarchy that the relationship with that stupendous Sun exists. The energy evoked in response to this relationship enters the Hierarchy via the *Heart of the Sun*, creating, as a consequence, a triangle of spiritual energy of enormous power among Sirius, the Hierarchy and the Heart of the Sun.

At this point, it is helpful to consider the two major streams of energy impacting our planetary life: one stream comes from the cosmic mental plane and carries the life principle of our planet and centres itself in Shamballa. From this Highest Centre, it is dispersed throughout all forms upon the planet and we call this energy LIFE as it embodies the will and purpose of THAT which overshadows Sanat Kumara, just as the soul overshadows the personality.

A second stream of energy comes from the sun, Sirius. This energy enters directly into the Hierarchy and carries with it the principle of buddhi, or cosmic love. In a mysterious way, this principle is found at the heart of every atom of substance. (*The Rays and the Initiations*, pp. 414-421)

Atma-buddhi thus becomes the blended reality which is brought to full unfoldment as evolution proceeds, uniting and blending the way of the heart and the way of the mind; the path of the mystic and the path of the occultist, which eventually must merge.

It was the Christ – that Great Messenger of Liberation; the Embodiment of Freedom and the Magnetic Point of Love for the Entire Planet (among His many titles), who, over two thousand years ago, first revealed the Sirian influence to humanity – what we now refer to as the “Love of God.” He, we are told, is the expression, par excellence, of a Sirian initiation, and, it is to that high place that in due course, He will proceed. (ibid, p. 415)

The profound influence exerted on our planet by the great sun Sirius is to us inscrutable and it will remain one of the realizations of the higher initiations. For example, the esoteric wisdom points out that the principle of freedom is as a leavening energy which permeates all substance in a unique

manner and it is this divine principle, which represents an aspect of the influence which Sirius exerts on our solar system and particularly on our planet. (ibid., p. 416).

It is clarifying and illuminating to know that this principle of freedom lies behind the Spirit of Death and forms the motivating power of that great releasing Agency. It provides a “pathway of power” between our planetary Hierarchy and the distant sun, Sirius, while providing the incentive towards the “culture of freedom” or liberation which motivates the work of the Masters of the Wisdom and plays therefore an important role in this work of transforming planetary consciousness.

It is also this energy, which produced the ferment and the vortex of conflict in far distant ages and which has been recognised in the present through the results of the Law of Evolution in every kingdom in nature, "substanding" all evolutionary progress as the following quotation makes clear:

The history of evolution upon the Earth, from the angle of humanity is one of progress, emphatic revolutionary decisions and climaxing crises. Without such a history we should not realise the progress made and the steady though gradual growth of sensitive response to environment, to contact and to impressions – [both] mental and spiritual.

The history of 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, consequent upon the response of substance to spiritual impact and impression. (Ibid., p. 419)

Quite a lot to take in; isn't it?!

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? Let us also keep in mind that it is the free and unimpeded circulation of energy among the three planetary centers of Shamballa, Hierarchy and humanity - *that through this monthly work, we are striving to achieve* - which is the underlying motive behind this mantra.

“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, as I mentioned last month, and, as many of you know, on the involutory path, traversing the ordinary wheel of life, the keynote of Leo is “And the Word said: Let other forms exist. I rule because I am.”

On the evolutionary path – the Path of Discipleship, the esoteric keynote is “I am That and That am I.” At this time, the individual is rapidly gaining the higher consciousness and preparing for a fresh and universal expression in Aquarius, the complementary polar opposite to Leo.

This keynote indicates that just as the microcosm holds ever the clue to the Macrocosm, so the Macrocosm, in turn, eternally reflects itself in the microcosm. Within the self, the individual ever has the possibility and the potentiality of total comprehension: “I am That and That am I.”

It is this fact which accounts for the gradual growth and development of the individual. At first it is the force of the plane substance, which directs the individual, causing him and her to identify with the grosser substance, identifying only as a member of the fourth Kingdom of humanity, convinced, that s/he is the Not-Self, the personal form or the personality.

Later, as force from the Soul pours in, the individual begins to realize that s/he is the Soul, the Thinker and the One who uses the form. Later still as energy from the Monad – the Spirit aspect of the human being begins to be responded to, the individual begins to recognize and understand his and her true nature, eternally present and waiting to be known. (*A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, pp. 1157-1158).

“I am That and That am I.” Having groped his and her way through the *Hall of Ignorance* during many ages, and having labored through the *Hall of Learning*, the initiate eventually enters the *Hall of Wisdom*.

The interplay between Leo and Aquarius, its polar opposite, is far more powerful today than at any previous time in humanity’s history. As this interplay goes on, there comes a deepening of all qualities and superficialities disappear until – upon the reversed wheel, the intensive self-consciousness of Leo expands into the group awareness of Aquarius. The individual becomes the universal.

He and she is no longer only a human being, individually self-centred and separative; he and she identifies with the whole of humanity, losing one’s personal identity in the good of the whole yet retaining spiritual individuality. Self-service is transformed into world service while remaining an individualised Son of God until after the third initiation.

Do we not recognize this interplay reflected in today’ world events at both global and local levels, wherein aggressive dominance and authoritarianism are pitted against right human relations, unity and brotherhood? Do we not recognize the tug and pull between those who yet covet world domination and those who recognize the need for freedom, collaboration and cooperation? On the one hand, we have, for example, the United Nations working to ensure that no one will be left behind and on the other, we are horrified by those who resort to brute force, war and cruelty in order to advance ideological and personal agendas.

Leo has frequently been described as the "battlefield of the Forces of Materialism and the Forces of Light." It might here help to consider these two great groups of divine agents – the Great White Brotherhood of Light and the Lodge of Materialistic Forces. Both of these groups seek to divert energies into channels which will further the ends for which they work and for which they were formed and exist. “I would ask you to remember,” states the Tibetan Master, “that behind all the outer events are these two directing agencies.” (*The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 107)

The lines of demarcation remain ever entirely clear as far as the workers in these two groups are concerned, but are not so clear where ordinary human beings and the world disciples and initiates are concerned. There is much chaos on the plane of desire, and the world Arjuna is today sitting in bewilderment between the two opposing forces or camps, recognizing his and her relationship both to form and to soul and at the same time wondering wherein lies his and her duty. And, of course, one’s point in evolution determines the extent of the problem.

On the plane of desire, these two groups are working in opposition to each other and the materializing of the plans of these two groups proceeds steadily under the differing laws of their being – the laws of form life and the laws of spiritual living.

The battle therefore is being fought out in the realm of desire. Here, the major conflict is being waged, and all that is happening upon the physical plane is only a reflection of an inner conflict.

The forces of these two groups, working with the energies of the sixth and seventh rays, have brought about in the field of physical living, a state of complete cataclysm.

The economic situation and the religious hatreds are the two major instruments. Consequently, we have two groups, two objectives, two great formulated ideals, two streams of active energy and two rays predominantly in conflict, thus producing the differing ideologies. The result of this dualism is the external chaos, the differentiation of the two group ideals into the many human experiments, and the resultant ranging of the entire human family under many banners, which testify to the various viewpoints in the many fields of thought – political, religious, economic, social, educational and philosophical.

We are reassured by the Tibetan Master that the result of all this conflict is definitely good because, as a result, the consciousness of humanity has been definitely expanded and people are thinking, which in the evolutionary history of humanity is a totally new phenomenon and a fresh experience in the life of the human soul.

The first result of all the turmoil has been to shift the focus of human attention on to the mental plane and thereby nearer to the sources of light and love. (*The Destiny of the Nations*, pp. 107-9)

The power of the Dark Brotherhood is dominant on the physical and emotional planes. Not so is it on the mental, which is the plane on which the Brothers of the Light work. Mighty dark magicians may be located on the lower mental levels, but on the higher, the White Lodge of Brotherhood dominates, the three higher subplanes being the levels that They beg the evolving sons of men to seek; it is Their region, to which all must strive and aspire.

In *Letters on Occult Meditation*, the Tibetan Master explains that the Brothers of Light “plead as pleaded the Man of Sorrows for an erring humanity to rise upward to the light. The Dark Brother retards progress and shapes all to his own ends; the Brother of Light bends every effort to the hastening of evolution and...stays amid the fogs, the strife, the evil and the hatred of the period if, in so doing, He may by all means aid some, and (lifting them up out of the darkness of earth) set their feet upon the Mount.” (*Letters on Occult Meditation*, pp. 136-7)

Dear Friends, the Leo sign marks the height of achievement for the human soul, and this is stimulated by the energies impacting our planet this month by that bright sun, Sirius and fortified as well by the Shamballa force now flowing into the centre humanity, which will steadily increase as we advance into the Age of Aquarius.

Does it need to be articulated and acknowledged that the selfish materialistic tendencies we see today on the part of individuals and groups within all the nations of the world can only be offset by the Initiates, disciples and spiritual workers who can exemplify the countering spiritual qualities of magnetic, constructive and pure love?

These spiritual workers have a special responsibility in this Labor of the Ages. They are the vanguard and they pave the way. They indicate the vision, set an example and emphasize the ancient landmarks. In meditative communion with the Guides and Helpers of the race, who can only be found in the realms of higher consciousness, theirs is the responsibility to manifest the universal consciousness of which they are aware, making it thus possible for all minds to unite in harmony for the uplift of all.

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