



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

Opening Address, Leo I Solar Festival

Friday, 23 July 2021; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, I wish you a joyous Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the creative, magnanimous and 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, currently stimulated by the Shamballa force now flowing into the centre of humanity.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs later this evening at 10:37 p.m. Thus, once again, as last month, we are meeting on the sacred day of Safeguarding, a day of inner peace and silent solemnity – one in which we focus on the needs of humanity.

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

As we do, can we intensify our intention to act as a living, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and transformative energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa, and radiated into our planet by the Great Brotherhood, the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom? And, to the best of our abilities, can we strive to facilitate an open, unimpeded flow of divine energy upon the physical plane of daily living, as we endeavour to forge an alignment among the three divine centers of Shamballa, Hierarchy and Humanity.

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.

The image on your screen is that of the most glorious and powerful Sun. According to the esoteric wisdom, the mystery of the sun is the grandest of all the innumerable mysteries of occultism.

Science, it seems, is beginning to agree. It was on August 12, 2018 that NASA launched the Parker Solar Probe, the first-ever mission to "touch" the Sun. About the size of a small car, this spacecraft is yet traveling directly through the Sun's atmosphere – ultimately to a distance of about 4 million miles from the surface. This photo comes from one of the websites reporting on this mission.

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

As a huge magnet, the sun's "Interplanetary Magnetic Field," is vast. It reaches beyond the sun's immediate vicinity and impacts the entire solar system. A giant, spinning ball of very hot gas, the Sun's energy is produced within its core wherein the density and high temperature of 27 million degrees F create just the right conditions for nuclear fusion reactions, which can be likened to the process of initiation. (See, e.g., the on-line *Diamond Light* article on [Solar Fusion and Initiation](#).)

Since the days of antiquity, the sun, the source of light and life on our planet, has symbolized the source of reality. One of the most ancient of spiritual prayers, the Gayatri invokes the Conscious Intelligence of this Great Star:

O Thou Who givest sustenance to the universe,
From Whom all things proceed,
To Whom all things return,
Unveil to me the face of the true Spiritual Sun
Hidden by a disc of golden Light
That I may know the Truth
And do my whole duty
As I journey to Thy sacred feet.

The Sun, as we know, is the ruler of all the three conditions of this Leo sign — exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical. Because the purpose of this solar system is the unfoldment of consciousness, so the goal of every human being is self-consciousness. Indeed, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* (p. 511) indicates that the long-term goal set before humanity is that of becoming Masters of the Wisdom, or, esoterically understood, as “conscious units in the Body of the Dragon of Wisdom or of Love.”

Thus, the Sun must obviously rule, for the sun is the source of not only physical consciousness, which is exoteric and symbolic of the personality, but also of soul awareness, which is esoteric, and spiritual life, which is hierarchical.

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? This, of course, is that time of day when the sun is at its most radiant and effulgent. 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, on the involutionary path, following 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 Path of Discipleship, the esoteric keynote is “I am That and That am I” for 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 of Leo.

Leo is a fire sign and *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 287) teaches that it is the pre-eminent fire sign at this time. Esoterically, “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.

It is in Cancer that the purificatory waters of experience begin their beneficent work. This is begun upon the Cardinal Cross because that cross deals only with wholes and, therefore, with mass experience.

In Scorpio, the purificatory waters of testing and trials are applied. This takes place upon the Fixed Cross of Discipleship and their effect intended to bring about the liberation of the soul, is drastic in the extreme.

In Pisces, the waters of purification are applied through daily life and the processes of incarnation. They apply to the "fish swimming in the waters of matter and finding there its sustenance." Thus, the influence of the three crosses is continuously brought to bear upon the incarnated Sons of God as we travel this way, the ways of Earth.

Upon the evolutionary wheel, the 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 when the fiery triplicity plays its part and the influence of Aries-Leo-Sagittarius begins to re-orient the individual towards universality, towards self-consciousness and towards one-pointed attitudes.

Dear friends, the ancient Delphic injunction to "Know Thyself" reverberates mightily throughout all time. And it is Leo that is of paramount control in the life of the aspirant who has to know him and herself through true self-awareness before s/he can know that divine spirit which is the true Self and to thus, also know one's fellowmen.

The reason for this is that Leo is the polar opposite of Aquarius, and the interplay of energies between these two is currently far more powerful than at any previous time in humanity's history. It is because of this fact that we have today the appearance of the many dictators in different countries, and it is because of this fact also that in this advancing Age of Aquarius, we have the extreme authoritarian attitudes of these dictators.

Eventually, this leads to a synthesis of the aims and intentions of the national life, producing fusion, and blending together the various elements of a people within a nation. Although it may be difficult to understand and experience, the motivating impulse behind such attitudes *is* Aquarian in nature — although it is expressing in its lowest and most undesirable aspect.

Here it might be helpful to consider that *Esoteric Astrology* makes a clear distinction between the many people who consider themselves to be self-conscious and those who truly are. Most people who thus consider themselves are actually only swayed by desire and they are oriented towards the satisfaction of that desire, recognizing themselves as the dramatic centre of their universe.

It is explained that a truly self-conscious person is one who is aware of purpose, of a self-directed life and of a developed and definite life plan and programme. Understandably, when these are present, this indicates that the individual is capable of mental perception and has attained some measure of integration. Not only is direction, purpose and plan present, but so also is there an awareness of the active agent of the plan and action.

As we note in current affairs, this tendency to fusion, blending, amalgamation, and the spiritual counterpart of this unity is stronger today than at any time in history and the individuals who are able to forge such a unity have Leo in a prominent position in their charts.

As the fifth sign of the zodiac, Leo is part of the mysterious number, ten — the number of perfection, although it is a relative perfection, prior to entering into a new cycle of progress. This links Leo consequently with Capricorn, the tenth sign of the zodiac, for it is the processes of initiation, which makes the self-conscious person the group conscious individual.

Interestingly, upon the reversed wheel, Leo is the eighth sign, the sign of the Christ and of the indwelling Reality, which therefore marks, once again, a new cycle. And, here, dear friends, we realize the astounding interrelatedness and interdependence of all life because this numerical significance additionally links Leo with Scorpio — the eighth sign of the Zodiac, creating thus, the important triangle of Leo-Scorpio-Capricorn, indicating the three important crisis points of the awakening individual.

Under the influence of Leo, we develop self-consciousness or human awareness, leading to unity; in Scorpio, we become aware of the warring dualities, leading to discipleship; and, in Capricorn, we have the developed group consciousness of the initiate, leading to a higher expression of unity.

Here, it might be helpful to consider that there are two subsidiary yet powerful keynotes inherent in this sign. These are the will-to-illumine, which provides the driving urge towards self-knowledge, self-perception and intellectual positivity, and also the will-to-rule and to dominate, which is of such a controlling nature in this sign and such a subtle influence in the Leo nature.

The Agni Yoga wisdom places great emphasis on self-mastery, stating simply and profoundly, “Grant me O Lord, the mastery of Self.” (*Leaves of Morya’s Garden*, Vol. I, 25)

And, it is this will-to-rule which leads humanity to eventually achieve self-mastery and to attain the control of the personality — for either a good and beneficent motive or for a selfish one. At an advanced stage this becomes the expression of the fusion of Leo energy and Aquarian potency.

Thus, 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 individual resulting in the ambitious display of selfish power of the one who desires place and position. However, eventually the time comes when the nature of the Fixed Cross begins to dawn upon the consciousness of the individual and the influence of Aquarius begins to balance that of Leo.

A gradual shift begins to take place from the "one who stands alone" to the envioning group, resulting in an equally important shift away from selfish interests to group requirements, which is the objective of the Fixed Cross that ever seeks to bring light and liberation.

This can be clearly seen if we contrast the energies of the four arms of the Cross as they are demonstrated by the individual both before and after the long and drastic experience upon this Cross, wherein, for example, the Lion of Self-assertion becomes the Light of the Soul, and the Chalice of Self-service in Aquarius becomes the Light of the world.

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).

And 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.

Dear friends, do we thus better understand why we are taught that before the Door of Initiation lies the burning ground which all disciples and initiates must eventually tread?

Succinctly, *Esoteric Astrology* teaches that the whole story and function of Leo and its influences can be summed up in the word "*sensitivity*," and it is this purifying process that fosters this sensitivity in four specific stages. The last two of which bring about sensitivity to the soul as the conditioning factor instead of sensitivity to the environing world as the conditioning factor and, in the final stage, we have the spiritual sensitivity of the fused soul and personality to the environment.

Is it an understatement to say that the jewel of divine wisdom comes not quickly or easily?

It is at this final stage of unfoldment that the liberated individual begins the arduous task of conditioning the environment in relation to the divine plan and purpose and at the same time to cultivating sensitivity to the higher impacts of those infinite worlds of ever unfolding consciousness.

Is it not this final stage that will ultimately allow the United Nations to be successful? Is it not this final stage that will effectuate the transformation of planetary consciousness?

Today, on the one hand, we see so clearly evidenced the aggressive cruelty and blind selfishness of those who seek the separation of exclusivity, dominance and authoritarian oppression, and on the other hand, we have the UN Charter that addresses itself to "we the people," indicating a recognition of the One Humanity, and the interrelatedness of all life; we have the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the conscience of the world, that calls for individuals to act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood.

It is this latter worldview which will ultimately prevail because throughout the universe, it is the soul which is the conscious, sensitive theme of the divine plan – the eternal soul whose nature is ever consciousness and inclusive love.

Dear friends, the esoteric wisdom teaches that the microcosm is as the macrocosm; the human being is made in the image of God. We can take encouragement from the fact that humanity is the manifestation of spirit and matter; there is in humanity that which is akin to God and which recognises its own when it appears. Such is the unshakable reality in the depth of the human heart, and recognition of this is the inevitable reward and result of revelation: "I am That and That am I."

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