



**Transforming Planetary Consciousness  
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations**

**Opening Address, Libra Solar Festival Webinar 2016\***

**Saturday, October 15, 2016**

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Dear Friends, Good afternoon and Welcome! Thank you for being here and for taking the time from your busy lives to participate in this planetary service.

For those who are here for the first time, my name is Dr. Urso, or, Ida, as I prefer to be called in these meetings. And, as I have mentioned before, it is thanks to the kind generosity of a co-worker that we are able to come together in this Webinar format.

As we do monthly, after a short address, we will move into directed group meditation—the highpoint of our work, followed by an opportunity for those of you who may wish to share any thoughts, or ask any questions.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact time of the Libra Solar Festival is early tomorrow morning, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 0:23 a.m. Thus, we are meeting on the second and last day of Preparation—a day of dedication and upward striving as we intend to become the recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

The photo on your screen comes to us, courtesy of NASA’s “Astronomy Picture of the Day.” It is entitled Uranus’ Ring System, which was discovered, only a few years ago, in 1977.

Uranus, as we know, is the esoteric ruler of Libra and it is of supreme importance in this sign for the seventh ray works through this planet and is the embodiment of the principle of concretion and the materializing of that which is in need of objective manifestation, through the bringing together of spirit and matter. And, for those of us who have been following the proceedings within this 71<sup>st</sup> cycle of the UN General Assembly, we see this influence playing out, in quite a promising way.

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\*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the Libra Solar Festival Webinar, sponsored by the **Aquarian Age Community**.

The advanced disciple who comes under the influence of this most occult and mysterious of planets and can focus and develop his and her spiritual will, *can* help bring about the desired changes and produce those new conditions, which will help the soul of humanity to express itself more freely, which of course, is the purpose of this meditation initiative, with its focus on the spiritual work of the United Nations *and* the liberation of humanity.

There is much more to say about Uranus, but for now, let us simply remember that it is this planet that will eventually cause the great transference in the human consciousness from intellectual perception to intuitive knowledge, moving us closer to the plane of Soul and to the experience of Loving Understanding.

Holding these thoughts in mind, can we now begin the group's ascent into a deeper, more inclusive consciousness, working in mental substance, as we usually do, in order to bring about planetary healing, redemption and transformation?

Let us open our hearts and minds, uniting in loving cooperation with all those who are similarly working throughout the planet, consecrating and dedicating ourselves to this work of planetary transformation by sounding, with heart-felt 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."

"I choose the Way that leads between the two great lines of force." Such is the esoteric keynote for the sign of Libra.

As one of the four arms of the Cardinal Cross, Libra rules the subjective and spiritual life.

Just as with the other three of the cardinal signs, it is difficult to comprehend the full nature of the Libra influence, but in making an attempt to understand and cooperate with the inflowing energies, so we elevate our minds and refine and sensitize the heart, as we practice the "As-if" technique that is so helpful to the spiritual worker and thus, cultivate the use of the imagination—the practice of which eventually leads to the state of samadhi.

As the keynote in this month's newsletter indicated, "a great deal remains unknown to us"...; however, as we apply ourselves and sincerely strive, "we do overcome our ignorance." [Infinity I, (On-line Introduction)]

"Inevitably," the Agni Yoga Wisdom indicates, "all will come to seek the eternal foundation." (Supermundane I, par. 73)

In this transition period through which the world is now passing and in this interlude between two activities—that of the Piscean Age which is passing and that of Aquarius, which is coming in—Libra's influence will increasingly become evident.

To better understand the energies of this sign, we are encouraged to study the Bhagavad Gita, considering Arjuna's problem when he sat down in despair between the two opposing armies.

The Ageless Wisdom tells us that the great battle which is recounted in that ancient scripture of India really took place in the first instance in mid-Atlantean days and in the sign of Libra.

During the vast interim between the Atlantean decisive happening and the present time, a great re-orientation upon the wheel of life has taken place. Millions of people have passed under the influence of Libra and, after a careful weighing of the scales, refocused their desire life towards spiritual aspiration and reinforced their determination to move forward upon the spiritual path.

Libra is not only the “point of balance” in the zodiac, it is also the sign of balancing, of a careful and judicious weighing of values, and of achieving the right equilibrium between the pairs of opposites—eventually leading to synthesis and harmony.

Under the influence of Libra, both the individual and humanity as a whole experience a tipping of the Scales in one direction or another until either *desire* or *spiritual aspiration* weighs the balances down sufficiently so as to indicate the way that the individual or humanity must go at the time, following either *selfish desire* or *spiritual aspiration*.

At the point of balance, opportunity comes and a situation is staged which makes a choice and a determination inevitable. Judicially and with intent and after due and careful reflection and a balancing of the various and multiple ways, the Libra influence necessitates that a choice be made.

Libra, the esoteric wisdom teaches, might be regarded as the sign in which the first real vision of the Path appears as the goal towards which the disciple must ultimately direct his and her steps. This Path runs between the pairs of opposites and, if it is to be safely traveled—requires the development of a sense of values and the power to utilize rightly the balancing, analytical faculty of the mind. The Libra energies are here helpful because, as an air sign, it is related to the mental unit.

Along with Gemini and Aquarius, these three air signs are pre-eminently signs of the *Mind of God* as it expresses itself *through* the individual; That is, “from the point of Light within the Mind of God, let Light stream forth into the minds of men.”

The lower mind dominates at first, causing the recognition of both the Self and the Not-self, or the essential dualism of spirit-matter, which underlies all manifestation. The higher mind, however, steadily increases its power and control, producing, eventually, the balancing of the pairs of opposites through the illumination, which it brings to the lower mind. At this stage, the Soul—the eternal Son of Mind, becomes the ultimate synthesis, focusing and relating the universal mind to the two lower aspects of the Mind of God. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 241-242)

We have, therefore, the activity wherein the personality grows and develops, and yet at the same time it veils and hides the hidden "man of the heart," which is the Christ life, within each human form. We have then the interlude wherein the point of balance is reached between these two and neither is dominant. The "scales tip back and forth" in either direction; the individual swings, as it were, *between* the pairs of opposites.

And, here we have the reason for the importance of this sign in the life expression of the individual and thus too, its peculiar difficulty, providing as it does, both a curious and difficult see-saw experience, which proves so distressingly bewildering first to the individual who seeks

to be entirely human but finds within him and herself impediments and urges which drive him and her on to something which is higher than the human and, secondly, to the aspirant or the disciple whose goal and focus of interest is the soul life, yet the individual finds within the self that which draws him and her back to the old ways, the old habits and the old desires that hinder soul expression and impede and burden one's flight towards self-liberation.

There is the individual experience in Libra and, as we are witnessing on the world stage, there is the experience of humanity in Libra in which the same adjustments and experiments are being made, but this time involving the entire human race.

Currently, this balancing experience is taking place upon the astral plane and the desires of humanity are predominantly in a position of casting the deciding factor. In the next great cycle, on a higher turn of the spiral, when humanity is mentally polarized, the decision, then, constituting Judgment Day, will need to be made on the mental plane. (*Esoteric Astrology* pp. 232-233)

This distressing see-saw experience primarily impacts the spiritual seeker who is beginning to travel the spiritual Path—the one whom the Tibetan Master refers to as “the wretched aspirant”—who has not yet attained that stage of spirituality wherein the Soul dominates, with its consciousness of unity.

This distressing stage of experience is poignantly described within *A Treatise on White Magic* in this way. See, if you can relate.

“Through the light, which the aspirant discovers within, he and she becomes aware of the dark. Through the good which now attracts, the aspirant sees the evil which is at this time the line of least resistance. Through the activity of pain, the aspirant can visualize and become aware of pleasure, and heaven and hell become realities.

“Through the activity of the attractive life of the soul, the aspirant realizes the attraction of matter and of form, and is forced to recognize the urge and pull of both of them. The individual is "pendant 'twixt the two great forces", and, once the dualities are grasped, it finally dawns slowly, but surely that the deciding factor in the struggle is the divine will, in contradistinction to the personal, selfish will. (p. 228)

Thus, the dual forces play their part until they are seen as two great streams of divine energy, pulling in opposite directions; one path leads back into the dreary land of rebirth, and the other leads through the golden gate to the city of free souls, or wherein the sacrificial decision is made to use the form side of life as simply a field for service and not as a field of sensuous perception.

Aided by the judicious influence of the Libra energy, clear discrimination of these two paths reveals that "noble middle Path" of the Buddha—the "narrow razor-edged Path" which lies between the two.

“I choose the Way that leads between the two great lines of force.” Right choice through right discrimination leads to right action--made possible through practiced dispassion.

It is in the steadily developing power of choice, and the loyally fought battle of the astral plane that the inner consciousness shifts, sometimes incrementally, stage by stage.

First, it is the battered earth-weary aspirant who has to struggle with desire, with glamour, with ambition and with the sensitive emotional body who thinks the battle is stupendous—but from the wider angle it is relatively small—yet all that the aspirant can stand. (*A Treatise on White Magic*, pp. 230-231)

Later, it is the experienced probationary disciple who wrestles in the vale of illusion, and deals not only with his and her own nature but also with the forces of that vale. Then, the disciple comes forth to battle and faces with courage, and often with clear vision, the forces arrayed against the self, which involve not only those in one's *own* nature and in those aspects of the astral plane to which he and she naturally re-acts, but also those forces of illusion arrayed against the group of disciples to which he and she belongs.

Accepted disciples, who battle all these factors, plus the dark forces arrayed against the Elder Brothers, can call upon the spiritual energies of their group and, at rare and indicated moments, upon the Master under whom they work.

It is in this way that the work and labour expands: responsibility and struggle steadily increase; yet, *at the same time*, there is also a steadily growing reception of energies, which can be contacted and utilized and which when correctly contacted insure victory at the end.

Speaking to this victory is the fact that the rulers of Libra—Venus, Uranus and Saturn, are all to be found upon the first major line of force, the line of will, power, purpose and visioned goal.

With this in mind, it might here be helpful to also consider the following encouraging passage, also from *A Treatise on White Magic*:

“No glamour, no illusion can long hold the man who has set himself the task of treading the razor-edged Path which leads through the wilderness, through the thick-set forest, through the deep waters of sorrow and distress, through the valley of sacrifice and over the mountains of vision to the gate of Deliverance. He may travel sometimes in the dark (and the illusion of darkness is very real); he may travel sometimes in a light so dazzling and bewildering that he can scarcely see the way ahead; he may know what it is to falter on the Path, and to drop under the fatigue of service and of strife; he may be temporarily sidetracked and wander down the by-paths of ambition, of self-interest and of material enchantment, but the lapse will be but brief.

“Nothing in heaven or hell, on earth or elsewhere can prevent the progress of the man who has awakened to the illusion, who has glimpsed the reality beyond the glamour of the astral plane, and who has heard, even if only once, the clarion call of his own soul.”  
(p. 223)

Friends, all true esoteric activity produces light and illumination; In the case of humanity consciously functioning, it results in the inherited light of substance being intensified and qualified by the higher light of the soul. (*Education in the New Age*, p. 68).

And, with this thought in mind, can we now prepare and take up our meditation?