



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

Opening Address, Libra Solar Festival*

Thursday, 1 October 2020; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the balancing sign of Libra – the sign of harmony and justice.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs later today at 5:05 p.m. Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, 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.

As a reminder, let us recollect that no matter where we may be placed or what is the nature of our environment, no matter how isolated we may feel or apart from those who share our spiritual vision, during this five day period, each of us can work and think, recognizing ourselves as part of the greater group who function as silent distributors of force.

Dear Friends, our world continues to be in turmoil. In the words of the UN Secretary-General, quoted in this month's newsletter, "People are hurting." "Our planet is burning." However, in the midst of the terrible despair extant everywhere, we have also been given an opportunity to rethink and recreate the doomsday machine that has brought us to this pivotal moment; to this crossroad in our planetary life.

Covid-19 has been a wakeup call for humanity and many are stepping up to rebuild and reconstruct, on a higher turn of the spiral. May we use this opportunity to create a true Brotherhood of Nations, one that is based on an awareness of mutual need, and capable of mutual understanding and helpfulness! In other words, at this decisive time, we have the opportunity to bring to fruition the mandate of *The Great Invocation*: to "Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth."

And, in cooperation with all those who serve the Plan of Light and Love and Power, throughout the world, let us bring a fiery focus to our work to ensure the tipping of the planetary scales, 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, identifying, as best we can, with the Purpose that seeks to "guide the little wills of men." Let us re-affirm our intention to lift humanity's load by acting

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2020 Libra 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 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 from NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day. It is entitled, *From the Northern to the Southern Cross*. It depicts the spiral structure of the central band of our Milky Way Galaxy in which is contained our sun, buried deep within the Orion Arm, surrounded by all its orbiting planets and anywhere from 100 to two hundred billion stars. Captured here is the bright Moon inside the Milky Way arch with Venus just above the Moon and Saturn and Mercury just below the Moon.

I chose this image for our work today as it seems to me to be a grand symbol of the concept of synthesis, symmetry and balance, especially in that it seems as if the heavens and earth are here merged, and part of each other, as indeed, we know they are.

A Treatise on Cosmic Fire tells us that the mysterious band in the heavens, which we call the Milky Way, is closely connected with cosmic prana – that cosmic vitality or nourishment which vitalizes the entire solar etheric system.

Synthesis, of course, is an aspect of the first divine characteristic, the Will, or rather, the Will-to-Good – that energy which produces cohesion, a drawing together and a tendency to fusion and union. The Tibetan Master tells us in *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* that, at a certain point in the recent past, the separateness and selfishness of humanity had reached such vast proportions, and its effects were so completely dominated by the Forces of Evil, that – in response to the massed, emerging demand of humanity – the Hierarchy came to humanity's aid. (p. 648)

He recounts how the endless selfish propaganda, in speech and in writing, most of it materialistic, nationalistic and basically untrue and wrongly motivated, became such an outcry that it reached to spheres usually impervious to the sounds of earth. It was at that time that the Avatar of Synthesis was called upon to counter the destructive forces.

Libra, along with Gemini and Aquarius, makes up the airy triplicity, with Libra representing the Supermind. This, in contrast to the Mind represented by Gemini and the Universal Mind represented by Aquarius. As such, Libra is the *cause* of synthesis. We know too that the characteristics of this sign are not easy to define or comprehend because they are in reality the *synthesis* of all past qualities and achievements.

As one of the subjective manifestations of Agni, the Lord of Fire, synthesis and fusion are but another name for that expansion of consciousness that we know to be initiation. Humanity's realization of synthesis, according to the Agni Yoga wisdom, will be like a step toward the transformation of the race. "On the path of Communion," affirms this wisdom, "synthesis is the one luminous path of the heart." (*Heart*, 1)

One final word about synthesis, for our purposes here, is to consider the fact that it is today necessary to achieve synthesis in the field of politics and government – this, in order to preserve freedom in unity. It is the development of this subjective synthesis that will express itself in an outer

differentiation, bringing about a peace which will preserve individual and national cultures, but which will subordinate them to the good of the whole of humanity.

As we reflect on these thoughts and possibilities, can we here 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]

Dear Friends, the words or keynotes of this sign are clear and well-defined. They speak straight to the heart and without any ambiguity or doubt. On the involutory wheel, the word goes forth again and again, throughout the eons, "And the Word said: Let choice be made."

As a result of the evolutionary process, the response eventually comes back from the soul who sings: "I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force."

Choice. How many of the speakers; how many of the presentations; how many of the media resources of this year's UN General Assembly and the activities referenced in the Selected Links of this month's newsletter address this need for right choice?

"I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force." Libra makes possible, what the Tibetan Master refers to as "an *equilibrated* consciousness." It is a sign of balancing, of the careful weighing of values, and of achieving the right equilibrium between the pairs of opposites.

In *Esoteric Astrology*, we learn that,

"[Libra...] might be regarded as the sign in which the first real vision of the Path appears and of the goal towards which the disciple must ultimately direct his [and her] steps. This Path is the narrow razor-edged Path which runs between the pairs of opposites and which — if it is to be safely trodden — requires the development of a sense of values and the power to utilise rightly the balancing, analytical faculty of the mind." (*Esoterically Astrology*, p. 227)

Following the experience under the sign of Virgo, wherein a slowly emerging soul vibration awakens humanity to the hidden spiritual life so that progress is made, recurrently or cyclically, around the wheel of life, these experiences and vibratory activities intensify until the time comes when the reversal of the wheel is brought about. The active soul life — that is, active through the medium of the personality nature and not simply on its own plane, is then balanced and assessed.

This development, as we are seeing in today's planetary crises, eventually brings about the tests and trials between the soul and the personality, with the personality fighting with power and determination to preserve the status quo. As we know through arduous experience, this process plays out not only in the planetary life, but in our own lives, as well.

As one of the four arms of the Cardinal Cross, manifesting their energies in their highest forms — from the angle of human understanding, we can better understand the Tibetan's statement that in Libra, the Christ stood at the point of balance in human evolution; He was the synthesizing point between the old world and the new and between the East and the West. And, so it is that today, we face a "point of balance," a crisis of equilibrium. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 567)

The significance of the energies working out into our solar system through the medium of the four arms of this Cross through Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn, can be summed up in four words: *Creation, Manifestation, Legislation and Initiation.*

Cosmically, these refer to the activity of Deity when spirit and matter are brought into a definite relationship and, under divine purpose, produce that fusion of living energies which will be adequately powerful in time and space to bring that purpose to its desired consummation.

They refer to the processes of initiation wherein, step by step and stage by stage, under law and through the scientific method of gained experience while in manifestation, *on the physical plane*, the creative plan is finally realized in consciousness.

The unfoldment of the plan is thus carried forward through a progressed series of beginnings, of manifestations, and of consummations — all relative in nature but leading to an absolute consummation. This is Initiation, or activity in Capricorn and all of this is on such a vast and incomprehensible scale that our human understanding cannot fully comprehend it.

However, eventually, consciousness and understanding of this larger purpose, which lies behind the exoteric unfoldment of the consciousness in this solar system, in the planet and in the individual human being, has to be grasped towards the final stages of the evolutionary process.

When this understanding unfolds, then the individual becomes an initiate, leaves his and her position upon the Fixed Cross and begins the relatively slow process of mounting the Cardinal Cross, becoming thus a cooperator in the great creative process and purpose.

Dear Friends, it has been said that time passes, but what makes sense of human lives stays the same. And, so it is. Underlying the foreground of our daily lives of ceaseless, and often chaotic activity, stands Love eternal — the perpetual flow of essential love — a constant, ever-present permeation of all planes and states of planetary being.

“If the consciousness of humanity could compare the eternal with the transitory,” states the Agni Yoga wisdom, “then would be made manifest flashes of understanding of the Cosmos, because all the values of mankind are based on an eternal foundation. But humanity has been so imbued with respect for the transitory that it has forgotten about the Eternal.

“Whereas, it is demonstrable that form changes, disappears, and is replaced by the new. Transitoriness is so obvious, and each example of the transitory points to eternal life. Spirit is the creator of each form, yet it is rejected by humanity. When the fact is grasped that the spirit is eternal, then, too, will infinity and immortality enter into life....Mankind,” this wisdom continues, “is engulfed in effects, but the root and principle of everything is creativeness—and it has been forgotten. When the spirit shall be revered as sacred Fire, then will be confirmed the great ascent.” (*Fierce World III, 363*)

It is through the activity of the higher mind, accessible as a result of the influence of this sign — in relationship to Gemini and Aquarius that humanity is beginning to understand the relationship between the eternal and the transitory, the difference between the Self and the Not-Self, between the real and the unreal and thus, humanity is becoming aware of the dualism, which underlies all manifestation.

As the higher mind, steadily increases its power and control, producing the balancing of the pairs of opposites, through the illumination which it brings to the lower mind, 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.

Dear Friends, the balance is slowly, very slowly, swinging over to the side of the spirit aspect of the duality and thus, the issues are becoming increasingly clearer so that humanity will eventually decide correctly, will attain a point of balance or equilibrium, and will finally throw the weight of public opinion on the side of spiritual values. This is becoming apparent as increasing numbers of people and, especially the young, are collectively renouncing the grosser, physical forms of materialism.

As evolution proceeds, the consciousness shifts increasingly into awareness of that which is not form and into the realm of that which is transcendent or into the world of the abstract. "This, by the way is a definition of meditation from the angle of goal and achievement." The individual can truly meditate when he and she begins to use the mind, the reflection of the will aspect, and employs it in its three aspects: as initiating his and her entrance into the world of souls, as conditioning the personality life and as enforcing and eventually bringing about a full expression of soul purpose. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 615)

Perhaps it will be helpful to here recollect the fact that the esoteric doctrine is "that which destroys ignorance, and thus produces the liberation of the spirit, through the knowledge of the supreme though *hidden* truth."

This "hidden truth" is referenced by St. John in the Biblical statement that, "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32)

In one of her letters, Helena Roerich writes that "it is necessary to remember that by approaching the Teaching and the Elder Brothers of Humanity, we unfold (due to unfailing occult laws) our true nature much more quickly. Certain characteristics come to the surface which otherwise might remain dormant until the next incarnation. Remember what is said in the Chalice of the East," she writes": "As the shower cannot fructify the rock, so the occult teaching has no effect upon unperceptive minds; and as water develops heat in caustic lime, even so does the Teaching awaken every unsuspected potentiality latent within the disciple." (*Letters I*, 18 June 1935)

Dear Friends, the bringing into manifestation of the New Age of Aquarius upon our earth and the accompanying emergence of the fifth kingdom of souls, is a task which calls for the united and concerted efforts of all those who are applying themselves to achieve this objective. It also needs the cooperative endeavors of that more advanced portion of humanity that is sensitive to these new influences, who can grasp the nature and far reaching potentialities of this momentous happening, and who are, therefore, prepared to share, to the best of their ability, in the response to the need of this crucial moment and to the service which the Great Ones are seeking to render.

This cooperative effort by the more receptive portion of humanity is, in reality, what the Hierarchy is seeking to bring about among the sons of men. In the second volume of *Esoteric Psychology*, the Tibetan Master tells us that "the Hierarchy is struggling hard with the so-called 'forces of evil,' and the New Group of World Servers is the instrument, at this time, upon the physical plane, with which the Hierarchy has to work. They have no other instrument." (p. 629)

Lest we feel overwhelmed at the enormity of the task ahead, let us take courage from the Agni Yoga wisdom that assures us that “not many firm spirits are required to change [today’s]...perilous situation. A few flaming hearts can rise in self-sacrificing vigil and weave the firm net of defense. Not the supernatural, or magic, simply a flaming aspiration of the heart will unite the worlds. (*Heart*, 475)

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