



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

Opening Address, Pisces Solar Festival*

Thursday, 1 March 2018

Good afternoon, friends! Welcome and thank you for being here.

It is a joy to work together with you today, offering ourselves, as a group in dedicated planetary service at this time of the Solar Festival of Pisces, the exact time which, in the U.S. Eastern time zone, will occur tonight at 7:51 p.m.

Today, therefore is the Day of Safeguarding—a day of inner peace and silent solemnity—one in which we focus on the needs of humanity, while striving to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

Striving to identify with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” our intention at these Webinars is to become as a living bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa and radiated outward by the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom, while recognizing ourselves as a part of the world-wide group through which these spiritual energies are poured throughout the whole body of humanity.

As is our monthly practice, we’ll use this opportunity for group meditation to improve our ability to be receptive to spiritual impression as we hold the mind, “steady in the light.”

Following the Group Meditation, you will have an opportunity to voice any thoughts and ideas you would like to share.

The image on your screen is that of the planet Pluto. This photo appears in the website of the Spokane Library District Network, along with an article entitled, *Pluto, the Little Dwarf Planet that Could*. Indeed, the planet that could is actually the planet that does!

Given Pluto’s formidable influence in humanity’s current evolutionary development, now within the last five of its 15 years of transit through the sign of Capricorn, as well as its significant role as both the hierarchical and esoteric ruler in the sign of Pisces, I thought this photo would provide a fitting background for our work here this month—and I hope you agree.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2018 Pisces 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 we know, the discovery of Pluto, announced on March 13, 1930, came after the discovery of Uranus in 1781 and Neptune in 1846.

Pluto, astronomy tells us, lies 4.67 billion miles from our planet Earth and 39.5 astronomical units (AU), or almost 40 times farther from the sun than our Earth, which by contrast, is 93 million miles from the sun.

However, as we know, time and space exist not in the life of the Soul, Whose distinctive qualities are those of omniscience and omnipresence.

Although Pluto has always been revolving around our sun and producing its effects, its relatively recent discovery is due to humanity's ability to respond to its energies, which affect the soul life far more than they do the personality life. And, it is thus, towards the end of the evolutionary process that the disciple begins to respond consciously to the influence of Pluto because it is this planet which produces the death of all which would preclude the recognition and experience of the eternal synthesis of life.

Pisces, through its ruler, Pluto, which rules both the masses and the disciples, esoterically, holds out the necessity for the triumph of death—not necessarily physical death—leading to the dissolution of the objective forms, but frequently the death or ending of old forms; such as, for example, of civilizations which cyclically come and go; religious teachings when they no longer serve the need of the spiritual nature; educational processes, which fail to educate and serve, and instead, only deceive and imprison.

Thus, Pisces through Pluto introduces us to death as the *Great Releaser*—the energy which shatters the forms that, through their limitations and constraints, are bringing death to that which any form embodies—the indwelling inner spiritual essence.

Pluto, as we know, is the Greek and Roman god of the underworld, known in ancient days as the ruler of the dead. Today's Astrology has helped us understand that Pluto represents subconscious forces, which rule all that is "below the surface", leading eventually to renewal and rebirth.

Esoteric astrology teaches that Pluto governs the death of old ideas, emotions, desires, attachments and exclusive identification with the three worlds of the personality and all which holds the individual between the pairs of opposites. It is only through this process that liberation is eventually achieved and it is here helpful to remember that neither Pluto nor death ever destroys the consciousness, the Soul, or the spiritual aspect.

Pluto therefore, comes into full force and expression in order to stage the testing of the world disciples. Under its influence, the death or dissolution of old group structures of thought, embodying worn-out ideas and ideals must necessarily triumph; crystallized old forms must dissolve and disappear.

In their place, the undying spirit—impressed by revelation and sensitive to the emerging new concepts of truth—will create the needed new forms for a more comprehensive and spiritual expression.

The transformation brought about through the energy of Pluto in Pisces is so vital and so basic that, according to *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 214):

"[The] Ancient One is no longer seen. He sinks to the depth of the ocean of life; he descends into hell, but the gates of hell hold him not. He, the new and living One leaves below that which has held him down throughout the ages and rises from the depths unto the heights, close to the throne of God."

As the Tibetan Master explains, the connection of these words with the Christ, the present world Saviour and Planetary Spiritual Teacher, is obvious in their implications, and yet, astoundingly, they were written in the archives of the Masters over seven thousand years ago!

As we strive to better understand the role and nature of this planet, it is helpful to keep in mind that Pluto embodies first ray energy and it is this first ray of Will and Power that governs the Path of Initiation—the Path which necessitates detachment from form and the destruction of all which hinders, while fostering that dynamic will, which eventually enables him and her to take the needed steps towards the Great Initiator and towards the greater Life.

“Wanting His disciples to love Infinity,” the Agni Yoga wisdom tells us that “the Great Teacher often directed the gaze of His disciples to the planets” (*Supermundane* 176) because it is said, it is “the course of the planets [which] permits the hastening of the communion between the worlds, and [thus,] the development of the human spirit will proceed along new ways.” (*Leaves of Morya’s Garden, Vol. II, 220*)

With these thoughts in mind, can we pause and together sound 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.”

[PAUSE]

“I leave the Father's Home and turning back, I save.” Such is the song of the Soul in this culminating 12th sign of Pisces.

Where the personality is concerned and the wheel rotates towards involution for the undeveloped person, the Piscean keynote is manifestly different. Here, the command of the soul to its instrument during these earlier stages of evolution calls thusly: “And the Word said, Go forth into matter.”

And so, dear friends, does a consideration of the contrast between these two keynotes provide us with insight into what lies behind each of us on the path of evolution? Can we better understand that point of the Path on which we stand? And, does this help us gain some perspective about the immediate step, vision, experience and effort that yet lies ahead of each one of us?

As we trace the unfolding of the human consciousness through the influence or the energies let loose through the various zodiacal signs, we find that Pisces offers us the possibility to understand divine consciousness through the process of Identification—as this governs liberation. For, it is in Pisces that the disciple arrives at the recognition that “I and the Father are one.”

As a dual sign, in Pisces, we have the fusion or blending of the soul and form, which produces the manifestation of the Incarnated Christ principle, the perfected individual soul, the completed manifestation of the microcosm.

Thus, the greater and the lesser polar opposites—the human being and the divinity that we call God, the microcosm and the Macrocosm—these are brought to their destined expression and manifestation.

In the first cycle of experience upon the wheel—that of bondage or captivity, the soul itself is in captivity to substance; it has come down into the prison house of matter and linked itself to form.

This is reflected in the symbol of Pisces: the two fishes linked together by a band. One fish stands for the soul and the other for the personality or form nature, and between them is to be found the “thread or sutratma,” the silver cord which keeps them bound to each other throughout the cycle of manifested life.

Later upon the reversed wheel—through the cycle of renunciation or detachment, the personality is brought into captivity by the soul, but for long eons the situation is reversed and the soul is the prisoner of the personality.

This dual bondage is ultimately brought to an end by the final death when the complete release of the life aspect from the form takes place.

Here we come to an important point to consider. As *Esoteric Astrology* explains that from the standpoint of the Monad—the higher manifestation of the soul, the Soul itself is also a form—although, obviously, it is a form far more subtle than any that we know in the three worlds of objectivity.

Thus, there is a dual renunciation—firstly, the soul that renounces the life and light of the Monad—its source symbolized by the words "the Father's home" as it descends into the ocean of matter; then, reversing itself, the soul renounces the life of form, the personality centre.

The soul detaches itself in consciousness from the Monad, the One, and functions from its own centre, making its own new and material attachments. Then, upon the reversal of the wheel, it proceeds to detach itself from the personality and re-attaches itself in consciousness to the One Who sent it forth: “I leave the Father’s Home and turning back, I save.”

And, so we have the climaxing story of Pisces. The Lords of Will and Sacrifice come down into manifestation, sacrificing their high position and opportunities upon the higher planes of manifestation in order to redeem matter and raise the lives by which it is informed to a higher status.

This, then, is the subjective purpose underlying the sacrifice of these divine Lives Who are ourselves essentially, Who are qualified by knowledge, love and will, and who are animated by ceaseless persevering devotion.

They seek to bring about the death of the form in its occult significance and to bring about the consequent release of the indwelling lives into a higher state of consciousness.

It is for this reason that the life of service and the directed intention to serve constitute a scientific mode of achieving release. People born in this sign of Pisces are frequently to be found serving the race and ministering to its needs upon some level of consciousness. Thus, they are prepared for that final sacrifice in Pisces which as the Old Commentary expresses it, "absorbs them back into their originating Motive."

Esoterically, the Law of Service, is the expression of the energy of a great Life, who in cooperation with Him “in Whom we live and have our being” is currently subjecting the human family to certain influences and streams of energy which will eventually do three things—that we experience within ourselves, and that we also today see happening on the world stage.

There is 1) an awakening of the heart centre in all aspirants and disciples; 2) emotionally polarized humanity is enabled to focus intelligently in the mind; and 3) there is a transference of energy from the solar plexus into the heart.

It is for this reason that the Science of Service, along with the Sciences of Meditation and the Antahkarana, is considered one of the three main sciences that will be further understood and developed in this evolving Age of Aquarius—all which will lead humanity from the unreal to the real and from aspiration to realization.

We can thus see how true service is a manifestation of the Principle of Liberation as it releases the imprisoned Soul consciousness. As we know, it was the Christ some 2,000 years ago Who for the first time fully expressed this Law of Service and it was He who prepared the way for the divine expression of service, which is destined to become the glory of the Age of Aquarius in the coming centuries.

Although there is yet much more to be said about this most powerful and pivotal sign of Pisces, I will end my remarks with a few references to its position as one of the four arms of the Mutable Cross—a position it shares with its polar opposite, Virgo as well as Gemini and Sagittarius.

Esoteric Astrology teaches that the individual’s experience on this Cross lasts a long time. Again and again, the human being enters into the sign of Pisces and finds his and her way around the great wheel until the experience of change and of mutability and the establishing of the transmutation process carry the consciousness from the instinctual and intellectual stages to the faint beginnings of the intuitive processes in Gemini.

Next, comes a great process of polarization and a moment of transference, after which the influence of the Fixed Cross causes a reversal and the lessons gained upon the Mutable Cross have to be worked out and the effects demonstrated upon the Fixed Cross.

“In Thee is hidden the knowledge of the universe”, states the Agni Yoga wisdom. “In Thee is born the striving to behold the mysteries.” (*The Call*, par. 327)

Dear Friends, do we better understand why it is said that the restoration of the Mysteries, and the rehabilitation of the peoples of the earth go hand in hand? *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 134.

In his classic tome, *The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, (p. 21) the late Manly P. Hall wrote that “the Mysteries were devoted to instructing man concerning the operation of divine law in the terrestrial sphere.”

The Mysteries are revealed not primarily by the reception of information about them, not by reading and accumulating facts and knowledge, but by the action of certain processes, carried out within the etheric body of the disciple. These enable him and her to know that which is hidden.

The Tibetan Master asks, do you know what we mean when we say that the Initiate knows because he and she works?

In closing, let me turn to some encouraging thoughts from the third volume of *Fiery World*: “Such grandeur is ahead!” states this wisdom. “Such a great step awaits its fiery affirmation! Our teaching and the affirmation of the Higher Principles will reveal so much that is great to humanity! A great period is drawing near. Thus do we create together.” (*Fiery World, Vol. III*, par. 149)

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