



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

Opening Address, Pisces Solar Festival

Monday, 9 March 2020; Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this month's Solar Festival Webinar in the sensitive, compassionate, service-oriented sign of Pisces – the sign of the World Savior. Thank you for being here. I look forward to our work as we together create the critically needed thoughtforms of healing and renewal for humanity and all life on our planet.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs in less than two hours from now at 1:47 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 hold ourselves steadily in the light as we focus on the needs of humanity.

As we strive to become custodians of as much of the inflowing force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity, let us identify, as best we can, with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” affirming our intention, as we do every month, to act 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 is a straightforward and I think quite an intriguing photo of the planet Pluto, captured by NASA's New Horizons, which, according to the website, has revolutionized humanity's scientific understanding of this planet. Reddish in color with several craters, and, as you can see here, towards the bottom of the photo, there exists a surprisingly featureless light-covered region that resembles an iconic heart. Quite intriguing and interesting, don't you think?

From our esoteric perspective, we know Pluto to be the esoteric and hierarchical ruler of Pisces, which plays a most significant and outsize purposeful role at this point in humanity's and the planet's evolutionary development.

Esoteric Astrology tells us that the esoteric planets are more explicit in their inferences when the individual and/or humanity are ready for their influence. They embody the recognitions and the

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2020 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>

reactions which condition the individual consciousness, when he/she is preparing to transfer off the Mutable Cross of experience and mount the Fixed Cross of Discipleship.

Pluto rules the destroying power of death; that is, the death of desire, of the personality and all which holds the individual between the pairs of opposites in order to achieve liberation, and it is important to here note that Pluto never destroys the consciousness aspect. but only destroys the existing outworn form or field so that it can better house the expanded consciousness.

Pluto thus becomes active in the life of the individual and humanity towards the end of the evolutionary process only when they are “becoming alive in the higher sense,” and then, the lower nature passes into the smoke and darkness of Pluto, who governs the lesser burning ground, in order that the individual or humanity may live in truth “in the higher land of light.” Pluto then produces the death of the hindering factors and all that prevents synthesis.

This could be the death or ending of the pervasive old forms such as of civilizations which cyclically come and go; it could be religious teaching when it does not serve the need of the spiritual nature of the people; of educational processes which fail to educate the developing nature of humanity and serve only to delude and imprison.

The death referred to here is death as the Great Releaser—a shattering of the form so that the indwelling essence may be released and expressed.

It is at the first initiation that the disciple has to contend with the crystallizing and destroying 1st ray forces of both Vulcan and Pluto. The influence of Vulcan reaches to the very depths of his and her nature, whilst Pluto drags to the surface and destroys all that hinders in these lower regions.

Death in Pisces through the energy of Pluto *is* transformation — a transformation so vital and so basic that the “new and living One leaves below that which has held him and her down throughout the ages and rises from the depths unto the heights.”

Pluto, therefore, comes into full force and expression in order to stage the testings of the world disciple. Under its influences, the death of forms such as the death and dissolution of old group structures of thought, embodying worn-out ideas and ideals must necessarily supervene; crystallized old forms must dissolve and disappear, but in their place the undying spirit — impressed by revelation and sensitive to the emerging new concepts of truth—will create the needed new forms of appropriate expression.

Here we are reminded of the reasoned beauty, wisdom and wonder of esoteric astrology.

Pluto has always been revolving around our sun and producing its effects; however, its influence according to the Tibetan Master is largely cerebral and, as he indicates, we thus have the clue to its late discovery. Humanity is only on the verge of developing its mental faculties and it is firstly through the mental body that the effects of this planet are felt and recognized.

With these thoughts in mind, can we now move forward in our work as we together sound 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, as we know, in esoteric astrology we deal with the Life and Lives which inform the "points of light" within the universal Life. Constellations, solar systems, planets, kingdoms in nature and the microscopic individual are all of them the result of the activity and the manifestation of the energy of certain Lives whose cycle of expression and whose infinite purposes lie outside the comprehension of the most advanced and illumined minds on our planet.

Our work at the time of these monthly solar festivals is based on the fact that throughout the cosmic golden web there is a constant circulation of energies and forces. Just as the forces of the planet and of the inner spiritual individual (to mention only one factor among many) pour through the etheric body of the individual upon the physical plane, and condition his and her outer expression, activities, and qualities, so do the varying forces of the universe pour through every part of the etheric body of that entity we call space and condition and determine the outer expression, the activities and qualities of every form found within the cosmic periphery.

For example, the Hierarchy is at this time conditioned by three great constellations, one of which is Pisces, the inspiration of the World Saviour, and also the field of salvation – the field of force, produced by the past, in which the other two constellations, Aquarius and Taurus, must work. (*The Rays and the Initiations*, pp. 228-229)

The keynotes of Pisces are obvious in their implications. Where the personality is concerned and the wheel rotates in the normal involutory manner the keynote is as follows: "And the Word said, Go forth into matter." The command of the soul to its instrument during the earlier stages of evolution goes forth and the response comes immediately from the one who "blinds the soul to truth, holding it in durance vile." (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 129)

On the evolutionary Path, the Soul willingly, victoriously and compassionately sings, "I leave the Father's Home and turning back, I save."

Is it helpful here to recollect that the slowly awakening consciousness – the thinking, intuiting, loving soul, increasingly tightens its hold over its response apparatus? That it avails itself upon every possible occasion of every advance made by the form, and employs every influence for the perfecting of the great work which it undertook many lifetimes ago, under the Law of Sacrifice?

Dear Friends, as we know, humanity *is* the world disciple; thus, the impulse behind the disintegration of the old world forms that we now see taking place, in all fields of human endeavour *is* a spiritual one. The spiritual life of humanity is now so strong that it is disrupting all the known forms of human expression.

The world of the past has gone and gone forever, and the new world of forms has not yet made its appearance. Its construction will be distinctive of the emerging creative life of the spirit of humanity, and the important factor to always keep in mind is that it is one spirit and each individual as well as each of the nation states have each to learn to recognize that spirit within themselves and within each other. (*Problems of Humanity*, p. 29)

Through the six stages of the development or unfoldment of human consciousness – the stages of instinct, intellect, intuition, illumination, inspiration and identification – all are a result of the influence of the energies emanating from the zodiacal signs flooding our planet. These energies, as was said before, are ever present, but responsiveness and sensitivity are *always* dependent on the nature of the unit responding.

Within this grouping, Pisces governs the final stage of identification, bringing about liberation and the resultant divine consciousness, indicating that “I and the Father are one.”

The six signs responsible for this unfoldment of human consciousness — Cancer, Leo, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces — constitute the six pointed star of the human or the fourth Creative Hierarchy, with Cancer and Pisces marking two ends of the continuum. The crab of Cancer symbolizes imprisonment (the hard shell and the rocks under which the Crab ever takes shelter), and the fish of Pisces symbolize freedom. In between, in Leo, Sagittarius, Capricorn and Aquarius — come the four stages of personality development, struggle with the pairs of opposites and finally, release into full spiritual service.

The sign of Pisces is dual. Whereas, in Aries we have the duality which is attached to the bringing together of spirit and matter, in Pisces, as far as humanity is concerned, we have the fusion or blending of soul and form, producing eventually the manifestation of the Incarnated Christ, the perfected individual soul, the completed manifestation of the microcosm. Thus, the greater and the lesser polar opposites—the human being and God, the microcosm and the Macrocosm—are brought to their destined expression and manifestation, and the recognition eventually comes that “I and the Father are one.”

This duality of Pisces can be understood through its three unique keynotes of 1) bondage or captivity; 2) renunciation or detachment; and 3) sacrifice and death. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 115)

In the first cycle of experience upon the involutory wheel, the soul itself is in captivity to substance; it has come down into the prison house of matter and linked itself to form. Thus, we have 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 on, upon the reversed wheel, the personality is brought into captivity by the soul, but for long aeons the situation is reversed and the soul is the prisoner of the personality. This dual bondage is brought to an end by what is called the final death, when the complete release of the life aspect from the life of form takes place.

Said in another way, 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.

Dear Friends, do we understand that this is the subjective purpose, underlying the sacrifice of these divine Lives Who are ourselves essentially? Can we appreciate the fact that these are the Lives that are qualified by knowledge, love and will, and animated by ceaseless persevering devotion?

Their purpose is ever to release the indwelling lives into a higher state of consciousness and all world Saviours — past, present and to come — are the manifested symbols and the eternal guarantees of this aeonian process.

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 the final sacrifice in Pisces which "absorbs them back into their originating Motive," as the Old Commentary expresses it.

It's for this reason that the life of service and the directed intention to serve constitutes a scientific mode of achieving release. In Aquarius, the sign of world service, the lesson is finally learned which produces the world Saviour in Pisces.

The experience upon the Mutable Cross lasts a long time, and carries the individual always back again and again into the sphere of influence of Aries which, through the ruling activity of the first ray, both strengthens the will of the individual (no matter what his or her ray) and ends cycle after cycle with the "word of destruction" for the form.

Again and again, the individual enters into the sign 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 and beyond.

Dear Friends, the important and powerful nature of this sign cannot be over-stated. Pisces governs the feet and thus the whole thought of progress, of attaining the goal, and the treading of the Path of Return has been the underlying spiritual revelation of the great Piscean cycle through which we have been passing for the past 2,000 years. It is this Age that has been the origin of all the teaching given through the world religions about the various stages of the Path of Return.

The Piscean Age has also attuned humanity to the *great law of sacrifice*, which is the first of the laws to be grasped by the human intelligence, and is therefore the easiest for humanity to understand. This law has always been functioning and active in the world, for it is one of the first of the inner subjective laws to express itself consciously, and as an active ideal, in human life.

Esoterically, the law of sacrifice means *the impulse of giving*. In this law, the whole secret of the doctrines of "the forgiveness of sins" and of the "at-onement;" that is, atonement, lies hid in this simple phrase. It is the basis of the Christian doctrine of love and sacrifice. Hence the emphasis laid, in the passing Piscean Age and through the influence of Christianity, upon just these two activities: forgiveness and atonement.

Examples of those who sacrifice include the Solar Deity who gave His life to the universe, to the solar system, to the planet, and, as a result, the manifested worlds consequently appeared. It was His impulse, His will, His desire, His incentive, His idea and purpose to appear. The creative act then took place, and the process of manifestation began its cyclic evolutionary existence. As human beings, we cannot begin to fully understand or appreciate this greater Purpose.

However, if we look back over the history of the planet, as far as modern history will allow, we can grasp the fact that there has been, for example,

1. A development of consciousness.
2. A refining of forms.
3. An intensification of realised life.

In the first volume of the *Leaves of Morya's Garden*, we are encouraged to remember the *Book of Sacrifice* for herein are revealed “the Gates of Fulfillment and Readiness.” (353) and in her first volume of Letters, on October 6, 1932, Helena Roerich wrote that “The Forces of Light value sacrifices made with joy, as only such are productive and victorious. The Book of Sacrifice,” she wrote, “should be carried in our hearts.”

With these thoughts in our hearts and minds, can we now take up our meditation?