



Transforming Planetary Consciousness  
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations

Opening Address, Virgo Solar Festival Webinar 2017\*

Tuesday, 5 September 2017

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Dear Friends, good afternoon, and welcome to this month's Solar Festival Meditation in the sign of Virgo. Thank you for being here to participate and contribute to this work of transformation and liberation. I ask you to consider our meeting here together as a sacred occasion, with all of us working as attentively and responsively as we can to fulfill our responsibility and to embrace this given opportunity.

The continuing escalation and intensification of global events and crises prompts me today to reference and share with you the Epilogue of Christopher Frye's play, "*A Sleep of Prisoners*":

The human heart can go the lengths of God...

Dark and cold we may be, but this  
Is no winter now. The frozen misery  
Of centuries breaks, cracks, begins to move;  
The thunder is the thunder of the floes,  
The thaw, the flood, the upstart Spring.

Thank God our time is now when wrong  
Comes up to face us everywhere,  
Never to leave us till we take  
The longest stride of soul men ever took.

**Affairs are now soul size.**

The enterprise is exploration into God...  
It takes  
So many thousand years to wake...

**But will you wake, for pity's sake?**

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\* Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2017 Virgo 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](http://www.lucistrust.org) and from the Agni Yoga Society at <http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php>

Friends, this same urgent call is supported and elaborated in the following passage from the Agni Yoga wisdom:

“To each one must flash the consciousness of the importance of the hour for which he [and she] has been called. When long ago light-mindedness was spoken about, it was necessary at once to take into the consciousness the seriousness of the moment and to compel oneself to accept a feeling of responsibility. Outside of current affairs, outside of individual and group achievements, it is needful to sense evolution with all its peculiarities. Thus, think clearly. Strive to improve your gatherings.” (*New Era Community*, 126)

And so we do and we will.

As is our monthly practice, after this opening address, intended to unify, stimulate and prepare our group mind, so that we can hold it “steady in the light”, allowing us then to become part of the planetary alignment, responding to impressions and contacts emanating from the subjective and Supermundane spiritual planes, we’ll move to the focus of the meeting, which is Group Meditation. Following this, you will have an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas, if you like.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact time of the Virgo Solar Festival is early tomorrow morning Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:03 a.m. Thus, we are meeting on the second and last day of Preparation, in the five-day cycle that makes up each of the 12 Solar Festivals.

Our focus today, then, is one of dedication and upward striving, as we intend to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of the whole of humanity, while recognizing ourselves as part of the world-wide group through which the available spiritual forces can be poured into the whole body of humanity.

Consciously and with focused intention, let us then bring the realization of the great cosmic current to our work here today and every day, giving wings to our labor, (*New Era Community*, 135) as we know ourselves to be a living bridge, bringing humanity closer to the planetary and extra planetary energies of Light, Love and Power.

I think the photo on your screen is familiar to most, if not all of you. It is a photo of the Nicholas Roerich painting entitled, “Mother of the World.” A fitting point of focus for this Virgo Solar Festival, wouldn’t you agree?

The Agni Yoga wisdom refers to the fluid network of psychic energy woven by co-workers throughout the world as the “fabric of the Mother of the World” (*Fiery World II*, 309). This same wisdom also tells us that after the destruction of Atlantis when the Hierarchy of the day retreated behind the veil, so did the Mother of the World. For example, in the book, *Illumination*, it is said:

“After Atlantis, the Mother of the World veiled Her Face and forbade the pronouncement of Her Name until the hour of the constellations should strike.” (220)

To date, the Mother of the World has manifested Herself only partly. As we can understand and appreciate, she has thus far, never manifested Herself on a planetary scale.

In the following excerpt taken from the same book, *Illumination*, if we read with an open mind and heart, we can discern much insightful and telling information about the Mother of the World whose guiding planet, we are told is Venus—Earth’s alter Ego.

“I have already told you that the Mother of the World conceals Her Name. I have already shown you how the Mother of the World veils Her Face. I have already made mention about the Mother of Buddha and Christ. Indeed, it is time to point out that the one Mother of both Lords is not a symbol but a Great Manifestation of the Feminine Origin, in which is revealed the spiritual Mother of Christ and Buddha. She it was Who taught and ordained Them for achievement.

“From time immemorial the Mother of the World has sent forth to achievement. In the history of humanity, Her Hand traces an unbreakable thread. On Sinai Her Voice rang out. She assumed the image of Kali. She was at the basis of the cult of Isis and Ishtar. After Atlantis, when a blow was inflicted upon the cult of the spirit, the Mother of the World began to weave a new thread, which will now begin to radiate.” (*Leaves of Morya’s Garden, Vol. II, Illumination, par. 220*)

As this passage indicates, the Virgin Mother appears in all the great world religions. Through her many guises, over the millennia, we learn a lot about the nature of form of which the Virgin is a symbol. In fact, the word Virgo, as the Tibetan Master informs us, is a descendant of and a corruption of an ancient Atlantean root name, which was applied to the mother principle in those far off times. (*Esoteric Astrology, p. 252*)

Virgo stands for a synthesis of the three feminine aspects that are of significant importance to our civilization: Eve, Isis and Mary, embodying the symbolism of the entire form nature, the third aspect of divinity, that of God as the Holy Spirit, the active intelligent and nurturing principle of the universe.

As Eve, Virgo is the symbol of the mental nature and of the individual who is attracted by the lure of knowledge that is to be gained through the experience of incarnation. As Isis, she is considered as the midway point that brings in the emotional or astral plane, indicating the *quicken*ing of that which is desired. Thus, in the ancient zodiacs, Isis was presented as the symbol of fertility, of motherhood and as the guardian of the child that is not yet born. Mary then carries the evolutionary process down into the physical plane, and there gives birth to the Christ child.

In today’s wisdom, then, Virgo, stands for the Virgin Mother, providing that which is needed for the mental, emotional and physical expression of the hidden but ever present indwelling divinity. (*Esoteric Astrology, p. 254*)

At this point and with these thoughts in mind can we now pause and together affirm the noon time recollection, before we delve deeper into our work?

“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 am the Mother and the Child. I, God, I matter am.”—such is the esoteric keynote, the song of the Soul in this sign of Virgo.

As part of the Mutable Cross, “Gemini and Virgo are closely related but Gemini presents the pairs of opposites—soul and body—as two separate entities whereas in Virgo, they are blended and of great and supreme importance to each other; the mother protects the germ of the Christ life; matter guards, cherishes and nurtures the hidden soul.”

Reflecting this reality, the keynote which embodies the truth as to the mission of Virgo most accurately is "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" “Christ,” of course refers to the energy of the soul, the energy of Love-Wisdom.

Thus, in Virgo, the purpose for which form life exists begins to be realized and the desire for personality satisfaction begins to change and individual desire for the interior recognition of the indwelling Christ principle, the Soul, begins to assume increasing control until the inner spiritual reality is eventually released from the thralldom of matter and becomes manifest in its own true nature in the world:

“Virgo symbolizes depths, darkness, quiet and warmth; it is the valley of deep experience wherein secrets are discovered and eventually ‘brought to light’; it is the place of slow, gentle and yet powerful crises and periodic developments which take place in the dark and yet which lead to light....

“Virgo stands for the ‘womb of time’ wherein God's plan (the mystery and the secret of the ages) is slowly matured and—with pain and discomfort and through struggle and conflict—brought into manifestation at the end of the appointed time.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 260)

Here, it might be helpful to reflect on the role of obstacles as we tread the Path and how difficult it is to embrace their potentially salutary function.

“Have you finally learned to rejoice at obstacles?” asks the Agni Yoga Wisdom. “Can We be assured that the seeming obstacles will multiply your resourcefulness tenfold?” (*Agni Yoga*, 72)

Understand, the Wisdom continues, that obstacles serve only as a means to develop energy. If the mountain is perfectly smooth, we cannot ascend to the summit. (*Ibid.*, 406)

We are cautioned and forewarned about the difficulties that we encounter as we advance upon the Path, wherein the “obstacles will pile up like seemingly unscalable mountains, and achievements will seem insignificant.”

“[Wherein] ....The intermittent, so-called sacred, pains will torture one. [And] the divisibility and transmissions of the spirit will still be beyond explanation.

“But above all this, will arise the striving to fulfil the desire for the General Good. Spiritual cooperation will grow, unlimited by space. Emulation of the far-off worlds will change one's perception of one's surroundings, and spatial work will cease to be an empty idea. One's assigned tasks will become a joy...It cannot be otherwise.” (*Ibid.*, 273)

And in the humorous and aphoristic expression so characteristic of the Agni Yoga Wisdom, it is explained, that “of course, this joy is not expressed in goat-like frolics. A true understanding of one's surroundings may provoke a stern face, but one's life is nevertheless transformed, and one can observe the coils of the Earthly Dragon from a higher vantage point.” (*Ibid.*, 273)

Though it is slowly changing, yet, in this, our current evolutionary cycle, pain, discomfort, struggle and obstacles are inherent to the birthing of the indwelling Soul within ourselves and within our world.

Although the discipleship step of cosmic transfiguration, through which the individual consummates his and her earthly path is a cosmic joy—on our planet, this attainment is most difficult indeed.

The Agni Yoga wisdom explains that the most difficult separation is from Earth—this because Earth is the *highest* chain of the *lower* worlds. From planet Earth, the very ascent to the higher spheres is most difficult. Here, the spirit attains full victory rarely and only as the result of great labour. The higher, sacred planets, don't exert the same gravitational pull as does our planet.

“Onerous”, counsels the first volume of *Infinity*, “is the earthly path for the spirit nearing consummation. (109)

Yet, the key to the Hierarchy and Its reappearance on earth in physical form, and the consequent materialization of the kingdom of God among humanity, is the simple truth of God Immanent—the indwelling Soul, the inner Christ principle within all forms.

This fact of God-Immanent is the clue to the evolutionary process, and the eternal hope of all forms in all kingdoms in nature. This is the central truth, and the revealing truth which underlies all information about the Hierarchy, and it is this truth that we as disciples are asked to communicate far and wide so that we may enlighten public opinion. (*The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 591)

If we are successful in this task, then the existence of the Hierarchy can be proved and the authenticity of the eternal existence of the kingdom of God on earth is established. I think that each of can use our imaginations to visualize the lighted transformations that then would follow.

Virgo is the opposite pole of spirit. She is the cosmic mother because she represents cosmically the negative pole to positive spirit; she is the receptive agent where the Father aspect is concerned.

In the first solar system, previous to ours, this matter aspect was the supreme controlling factor just as in this solar system, it is the soul or Christ principle, which is of paramount importance.

It is in this second solar system that the Christ Child, the expression of the divine consciousness and the result of the relationship of Father-Spirit and Mother-Matter, must be brought to birth. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 255-256)

Truly this sign of Virgo helps us gain a new appreciation and understanding for the matter in which we are all immersed.

There is much more that could be said about this oldest of all the signs and I encourage you to read and study the Virgo chapter in *Esoteric Astrology* from which the following excerpt with which I would like to end my remarks is taken:

“[In this sign of Virgo], on the ordinary wheel, the command goes forth in the following words which institute the activity of Virgo: ‘And the Word said, Let Matter reign.’ Later, upon the wheel of the disciple, the voice emerges from the Virgin Herself and she says: ‘I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am.’

“Ponder upon the beauty of this synthesis and teaching and know that you yourself have said the first word as the soul, descending into the womb of time and space in a far and distant past. The time has now come when you can, if you so choose, proclaim your identity with both divine aspects—matter and Spirit, the mother and the Christ.” (pp. 284-285)

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