



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

Opening Address, Virgo Solar Festival

Monday, 20 September 2021; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here, as we together take up our joyous labor of the Ages. Welcome to this month's work in the receptive, feminine sign of Virgo – the cosmic mother that guards, protects, and nurtures the hidden spiritual reality; the germ of the Christ Life, the hidden Soul at the heart of all life.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs this evening at 7:55 p.m. Thus, in the five-day observance of the 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.

Dear friends, as was said in this month's newsletter, the crises on our planet continue unabated and these are intensifying. In response, can we galvanize and intensify our own strivings to aid in the labor of transforming planetary consciousness?

At the outset of our work, let us recognize our profound and compelling opportunity to create a living, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and transformative energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa, and radiated into our world by the beloved Hierarchy, the Masters of Love-Wisdom.

As we take up the responsibility and challenge of our work, can we strive to identify with the highest planetary center of Divine Purpose that ever seeks to “guide the little wills of men?”

As most of you know, 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 express any thoughts and ideas you would like to share.

The image on your screen is entitled *Moon Meets Jupiter*. It comes to us courtesy of NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD). It's an extraordinary photo of a lighted crescent moon and its close encounter with Jupiter and all four of its large Galilean moons. The moon's nightside is faintly illuminated by, what is called, Earthshine. If you would like a more detailed explanation of the photo, you will find a link to it within the pdf of this address that will be posted in our website.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2021 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 and from the Agni Yoga Society at <http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php>

As we know, the Moon veiling Vulcan is the esoteric ruler of Virgo and Jupiter is its hierarchical ruler. These planets along with Mercury, its exoteric ruler, provide just the right combination of energies to assist humanity, under the beneficence of Virgo, to awaken to its inherent potentialities, eventually providing understanding and insight into the Mysteries of the Ages.

The esoteric wisdom informs us that this sign of Virgo is one of the most significant in the zodiac for its symbolism “concerns the whole goal of the evolutionary process which is to shield, to nurture and finally, to reveal the hidden spiritual reality.”

The opposites of soul and body are blended and of great and supreme importance to each other and the keynote which embodies the truth as to the mission of Virgo most accurately is "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" There is no clearer or more adequate definition of this sign than that. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 251-252)

It is, dear friends, the interplay of cosmic, solar and planetary Lives and Their emanating streams of forces and energies that are the determining life activities of That in which all forms live and move and have their being. And, despite any outward appearance, it is in this interplay that we find the source of the inevitable and ultimate triumph of Divine Purpose.

The evolutionary effects of this relationship of Life to Form provides the *cause* of the inevitable expanding, ever-unfolding consciousness, of both the greater macrocosm and the microcosm. Eternally, the *Will of God* moves the worlds, and the *Love of God* determines results. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 424)

There are, as we know, seven sacred planets. The three rulers of Virgo — Jupiter, Vulcan (veiled by the Moon), and Mercury count among these and it might here be helpful to recollect that the influence of a sacred planet differs from that of a non-sacred planet. The non-sacred planets affect primarily the life in the three worlds of objective manifestation. The sacred planets, on the other hand, aid in the process affecting the fusion of soul and body, of consciousness and form, producing also, a quickening of the intuition. These three ruling planets then, provide just the right combination of energies and forces to bring the Virgo experience, over time, to its fulfillment.

Their influence is most esoteric and therefore, difficult for us to fully comprehend. Mercury is exalted in this sign because the mother is ruled by her son, the Son of Mind who is also the Son of God. Of this son, Virgo is the protector and she is responsible for his development and slowly acquired experience. Being the Messenger of the Gods and the Agent of Their applied control, Mercury is therefore, from one point of view, the agent of active intelligence, the third aspect, and from another point of view, also the agent of love-wisdom, the second aspect.

He is regarded as embodying in himself both these aspects of the mental principle, the expression of the concrete mind as well as the abstract mind of God. As we know, the lower concrete mind was unfolded in the first solar system and the higher abstract intuitional mind — that of pure reason, is unfolding in our current Second Ray system of Love-Wisdom. As such, Mercury is the synthesis of manas-buddhi or mind-wisdom, which expresses itself through the human soul, ruling therefore the antahkarana bridge. In Virgo, Mercury reaches his full power for Virgo is intelligence and the hidden Christ is wisdom or pure reason.

The esoteric ruler, Vulcan, veiled by the Moon, is an expression of first ray energy. The Moon rules the form and it is the will of God to manifest through the medium of form. Vulcan also relates

Virgo to Taurus, bringing in what is called the endurance aspect of the will-to-be. It is this aspect, which carries the incarnated Son of God *through* the experiences of the dark time wherein the personality becomes the Mother in the stage of gestation, through the period of infancy upon the physical plane, and through the stage of adolescence, until the initiate attains full maturity.

As we so well understand from our own experience, this dark period invariably necessitates persistence, endurance and continuity of effort – characteristics that are imparted or stimulated by the energies pouring from Vulcan. (Ibid., p. 281)

Esoteric Astrology reassures us that, in connection with humanity, the work of Mercury has gone forward most satisfactorily, as humanity has been brought to its present point of evolution upon the probationary path. Today, the energy of Vulcan is powerfully making its presence felt, resulting in what we witness, all around us – the existing and intensifying struggles between individuals of selfish and ambitious will – and individuals of good-will who, ever work for the good of the whole.

Dear friends, the promise is that when humanity is fully awakened to spiritual and not simply material possibilities, then the work of the hierarchical ruler, Jupiter will immediately intensify and this beneficent ruler will lead the human family into the ways of peace and progress, for Jupiter, the ruler and conveyor of expansion, ever gives an inherent tendency to fusion which nothing can arrest.

Identified with the third aspect of divinity – the mother principle, Virgo is, from certain angles, quite understandably, the oldest of all the signs. She represents cosmically the negative pole to positive spirit. In the previous solar system, this matter aspect was the supreme controlling factor, just as in this solar system it is the soul or the Christ principle which is of paramount importance. This truth is preserved for us in the Biblical statement that "the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Virgin Mary."

The life of the third divine aspect played then upon the ocean of quiescent matter and, over untold eons, prepared that substance for its work in this solar system, wherein the Christ Child, the expression of the divine consciousness and the result of the relationship between Father-Spirit and Mother-Matter, must be brought to birth and into objective expression.

And so it is that the hidden mystery of the Ages, the inner divine jewel, the inner consciousness, the Christ Principle, the Soul of Love and Wisdom, must eventually reign supreme.

Keeping these thoughts in mind, can we here pause for a moment, as we normally do, and together dedicate ourselves to today's work by sounding the Noon-time recollection? Let us also keep in mind that it is the free and unimpeded circulation of energy among the three planetary centers of Shamballa, Hierarchy and humanity - *that through this monthly work, we are striving to achieve* - which is the underlying motive behind this mantra.

"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, on the involutionary path, traversing the ordinary wheel of life, the command goes forth in the following words, which begin the activity of Virgo: "And the Word said, Let Matter reign."

Later, upon the evolutionary wheel of the disciple, the voice emerges from the Virgin Herself who proclaims: "I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am."

Can we here pause to ponder the beauty of this synthesis and teaching and know that each of us has said the first word as the soul, descending into the womb of time and space in a far and distant past? And *now* the time has come when we can, if we so choose, proclaim our identity with both divine aspects – matter and Spirit, the mother and the Christ, the Soul.

Stage by stage humanity has been slowly making its approach to the goal of conscious and intelligent awareness. Step by step humanity is mastering matter and making more adequate the mechanism of awareness and of contact. Little by little the human family, as a whole has been approaching the “place of recognition,” and is preparing to climb the mountain of vision and understanding.

Spiritual workers are alerted to the fact that if we but realized the wonders of this revelation, and if we grasped the magnificence of the reward given to our efforts, there would be less failure, more courage, a greater and steadier achievement, and consequently a more rapidly illumined world. (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. I*, pp. 156-157) Dear friends, can we imagine this?!

Through our life experiences each of us are presented with innumerable choices, which gradually motivate us to shift from the realm of the tangible and objective into that of the intangible and the abstract.

As each individual attracts, or is attracted by the life of his and her environment, so s/he becomes increasingly conscious of a series of shifting values, until s/he reaches that point in his and her development when the pull or the magnetic attraction of the subjective world and the intangible mental and spiritual realities are more powerful than those factors which previously captivated one’s attention.

Eventually, when the pull and pleasures of the lower mind nature and of the intellectual appetites begin to wane, then the individual becomes powerfully affected by the soul. It is this that produces a tremendous revolution in the entire life. It is this experience to which the Buddha referred when he taught that only the human being is capable of liberation – a complete turning around "through a turning-about in the deepest seat of consciousness."

As the attractive power of the soul grows steadily, so there is an increasing appreciation of a truer world of values and of reality. And so begins the effort to identify with the world of spiritual values.

The world of meaning and of causes becomes gradually the world in which the individual finds happiness, and the selection of his and her major interests and the use to which s/he decides to put his and her time and powers – all are finally conditioned by the truer spiritual values.

“One of the most difficult things with which the Masters are today confronted,” states the Tibetan Master, “is to prove to man that the old and recognised values and the tangible world of phenomena (emotional and physical) must be relegated to their right place in the background of man's consciousness, and that the intangible realities, and the world of ideas and causes must be, for him, in the immediate future, the main centre of attention. When man grasps this and lives by this knowledge, then the glamour which now holds the world will disappear.” (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. I*, p. 3341)

In the same passage, referring to the results of the first World War, he further elaborates:

“If you ponder on this, you will recognise how the great crisis of 1914-1918 did much useful work in smashing the glamorous material security in which men were living, and in destroying much of their instinctual and sensuous selfishness. The group is beginning to be recognised as of major importance, and the welfare of the individual is important just in so far as the unit is an integral part of the group.” (Ibid.)

Dear friends, the old thoughtforms have to be broken up and destroyed, for they block the way to the new world of spiritual values. Created and built up, down the ages, by humanity’s greed and materiality, these thoughtforms are being steadily demolished, and, as a result, humanity today *is* on the verge of a liberation which is leading to the Path of Discipleship. Although not the final liberation, it is that liberation which comes from a free choice, wisely used and applied to the good of the whole, and conditioned by love. (Ibid., p. 342)

It is this wisdom, actuated and motivated by love, and intelligently applied to world problems that is today needed and must be applied more widely. We see it increasingly and notably applied in the multiple programs and activities of the United Nations. Increasing numbers must catch up!

“Humanity’s welfare – and indeed, humanity’s very future – depend on solidarity and working together as a global family. For people, for the planet, for prosperity and for peace” – so states UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his recent groundbreaking report, fittingly entitled, *Our Common Agenda*. In a recent interview, he also called on world leaders to “wake up,” to make an immediate course correction at home and abroad, and to *unite*.

These same thoughts are echoed in the vision statement of the new President of this year’s 76th General Assembly: The United Nations, he said, “must raise the collective conscience of the international community to counter the rising tide of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as all other forms of discrimination....We need to bring the United Nations closer to the people of the world, while also recognizing cultural diversity.” (Abdulla Shahid, President, 76th UN General Assembly, Vision Statement)

Steadily, dear friends, the unfolding purpose of our own souls, those "angels of persistent and undying love," must gain fuller and deeper control over each of us and over the affairs of the One Humanity.

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