



The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity

The Role of the Buddha in the Spiritual Work of the United Nations

April (Taurus/Wesak) 2013

There is also a unique revival of the ancient teaching of the Buddha and it is penetrating into the Western countries and finding devoted adherents in every land. The Buddha is the symbol of enlightenment and there is everywhere today a unique emphasis upon light. Countless millions down the ages have recognised the Buddha as the Light Bearer from on high. His Four Noble Truths exposed the causes of human trouble and pointed to the cure. He taught: Cease to identify yourselves with material things or with your desires; gain a proper sense of value; cease regarding possessions and earthly existence as of major importance; follow the Noble Eightfold Path which is the Path of right relations—right relations to God, and right relations to your fellowmen—and thus be happy.

The Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul in [The Reappearance of the Christ](#)

Buddha's teachings "can guide our efforts to resolve the severe problems facing today's world....His injunction against the three poisons of greed, anger and ignorance is especially relevant to multilateral efforts to overcome the hunger that needlessly affects nearly a billion people in a world of plenty, the brutal violence that takes millions of lives each year, and the senseless environmental damage that humans cause to our only home, the planet Earth."

...The Secretary-General said that while this year's theme to the Day of Vesak, socio-economic development, may sound modern, "its core is the very problem of human suffering that Siddhartha Gautama [Buddha] sought to address more than 2,500 years ago when he left his palace, relinquished his worldly possessions and went out in the world."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in “General Assembly Marks Day Honouring Buddha and His Teachings,” [UN News Centre](#), 16 May 2011

Dear Friends,

It is a testament to the growing recognition of humanity’s need to embrace its spiritual nature that the United Nations’ website now includes a webpage dedicated to the “[Day of Vesak](#).”

"Vesak", as the home page indicates, “is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 B.C. that the Buddha was born. It was also on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha attained enlightenment, and it was on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha in his eightieth year passed away.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon’s introductory keynote to the page reads as follows: “The Buddha's assertion that 'the way to change the world is to change the nature of man' offers a critical insight into how to improve conditions for our planet and its inhabitants.”

Indeed!

In the meditation outline that informs this initiative, there is an opportunity to creatively reflect on the needed planetary conditions that will help humanity fulfill its spiritual destiny, and, further, to consider ways in which the United Nations can help create these conditions.

Surely, these conditions include the establishment of a world unity, which will produce right human relations based on the rule of love/wisdom, and a united spiritual effort focused on the development of an enlightened world public opinion.

Was this not Dag Hammarskjöld’s intention when he personally oversaw the refurbishing of the UN Meditation Room and wrote its [dedication](#)? Is this not what he was referring to when he famously intoned the often quoted statement that there will be no peace on earth unless there is first a spiritual renaissance?

It was on 15 December 1999 that a General Assembly press release first announced the intention of the General Assembly to “Observe Buddhists’ Sacred Day at the United Nations.” In [Resolution 54/115](#) the hope is expressed that yearly, the Day of Vesak will be recognized internationally and, in particular, at United Nations Headquarters and other United Nations offices.

As a result, every year, the presiding Secretary-General has observed the day with a special address and most recently, on 16 May 2011, a special program was held within the UN General Assembly to observe the Day of Vesak. Organized by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, the Lao Democratic People's Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, the program was an inspiration to all.

In his address at the meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon paid tribute to the Buddha's teaching on the need for compassion and solidarity with those less fortunate, noting how even after twenty-six centuries, these teachings are as relevant and powerful today, as ever:

Two thousand six hundred years ago, the Lord Buddha preached non-violence and profound respect for all living beings. Today, we are far from realizing these noble principles, but we understand the urgency of this task.

He went on to draw parallels between the philosophy of Buddhism and the work of the United Nations:

Buddhism and the United Nations share the goals of peace, dignity and human rights for all people. That is why, more than ten years ago, the General Assembly passed a resolution on recognizing the Day of Vesak around the world.

Of special interest to those who read this newsletter, is the Secretary-General's reference to one of the Buddha's famous sayings, which addresses the need for humanity to engage in spiritual discipline and spiritual striving:

One may conquer millions in battle, but he who conquers himself is alone the greatest of conquerors.

The Taurus/Wesak Festival or the Festival of the Buddha, also known as the Festival of Light and Enlightenment is the second of the three major spiritual Festivals, which form the high point in the annual cycle.

This Festival uniquely observes both a historical occurrence and a *present living event*. Over 2600 years ago, as a student of the Upanishads and Vedas, Siddhartha Gautama was moved by compassion to search by every means imaginable for a cause and cure to human misery and suffering. As a result of the scope and sincerity of his austere and selfless strivings, he attained buddhic consciousness, achieved enlightenment and earned the title of Buddha—the Enlightened One.

Year after year, ever since His great achievement, at the exact time of the Taurus Solar Festival, at great cost to Himself, He returns to bring Light and Blessings to a yet suffering planet. Stepped down by the Lighted Beings Who cooperate with this sacred transmission of energies, His brief return is ever a testament to the profound compassion at the heart of the universe, reminding humanity that the Guides of the race are ever ready to assist in the transformation of consciousness.

It was on April 25, 1945, two days previous to the Taurus/Wesak Festival of that year that delegates met in San Francisco under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on International Organization. Having passed through the grueling horrors of the War, they determined “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.” (Charter of the United Nations)

Humanity is yet struggling to realize this vision.

The esoteric wisdom is here very instructive as it helps us understand the imperative need for a spiritual renaissance on the planet, increasingly recognized as the solution to the many crises of the day—a need, as the above examples demonstrate, which is increasingly recognized within the United Nations and otherwise.

At the personal desire level, the individual is identified with the form nature and here, self-will and self-interest rule: “In the early stages of evolution...the consciousness is entirely identified with life in form and with the life of self-consciousness, self-preservation and self-enrichment. Then comes an interlude wherein the consciousness begins to shift into that of the group and becomes identified with the soul and with soul purpose.” (The Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul in *Esoteric Astrology*)

It was the Buddha who clarified for man the nature of desire and its results, with the unhappy effects which desire produces when persistent and unenlightened. Under the influence of the sign of Taurus, the Buddha achieved victory over desire and arrived at illumination. He yet challenges humanity to tread the Path of Illumination, thusly developing wisdom, mental perception and the intuition.

The Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul, teaches that the only factor which can successfully oppose desire is the spiritual Will and here a critical distinction is made between a determination that is simply the expression of a fixed and united desire or personal will versus the divine will: “The secret of the will lies in the recognition of the divine nature of man.” It is evoked by the soul, as it dominates the human mind and controls the personality. “The secret of the will” he tells us, “is also closely tied in with the recognition of the unconquerable nature of goodness and the inevitability of the ultimate triumph of good.” (The Externalisation of the Hierarchy, pp. 342-343)

Insight and understanding may come if we recognize that desire, aspiration, and direction (will), characterize the progressive stages of individual, spiritual unfoldment.

Under the influence of the sign of Taurus, humanity, as ever, must choose its own path: “Will this Taurian influence produce the floodlight of illumination of which Taurus is the custodian, or will it simply foment desire, increase selfishness and bring humanity to the ‘fiery heights of self-interest’ instead of to the mountain of vision and initiation?” (Esoteric Astrology, p. 374)

As we look out onto the world stage, we see firm examples of humanity’s response to both impulses and we become poignantly aware of the inevitable struggle required of each one of us—a struggle which informs and defines our current planetary experience; a struggle intrinsic to all life.

Constantly in this sign comes the emphasis upon struggle. It is a cosmic, planetary and individual struggle, for desire-will underlies the manifested activities of the Logos, the planetary Life and of man and also of all forms in nature. It is the struggle of that which is deeply hidden in darkness to reach the light of day; it is the struggle of the hidden soul to dominate and control the outer form, the struggle to transmute desire into aspiration and aspiration into the will to achieve. It is the struggle to attain the goal which an increasing light reveals. (Ibid., p.401)

As the esoteric keynote indicates, the light of which Taurus is the custodian ever reveals and initiates into greater realms of consciousness: “I see and when the Eye is opened, all is light.”

The eye of the cosmic Bull of God is open and from it light pours radiantly forth upon the sons of men. The eye of vision of the individual man must likewise open in response to this cosmic light. Hence victory is inevitable for the potency of cosmic energy will unfailingly and in time subdue and re-orient the energy of humanity. (Ibid., p. 403)

The Buddha’s concise wisdom here is most instructive.

“All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make our world.”

At this time of great opportunity for humanity and the planet, will you join in this monthly opportunity and contribute your good thoughts and energies to this Taurus/Wesak Solar Festival meditation meeting at the United Nations—either in person, if possible, or subjectively joining those who will meet in the UN Meditation Room?

The meditation meeting will take place at Noon on Thursday 25 April 2013 in the UN Meditation Room—on the exact day of the Taurus/Wesak Solar Festival, which this month occurs on Thursday, 25 April at 3:57 p.m. We will work silently, using the meditation outline, *The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity*, from 12-12:30 p.m. and then reassemble outside the meditation room from 12:30-1:15 p.m. for discussion.

For those of us whose geographic location necessitates that we join in subjectively, please know that all constructive meditative thoughts contribute to the strengthening, deepening and electrification of the planetary stream of Light, Love and the Will-to-Good permeating all planes and states of planetary consciousness.

A copy of the meditation outline is available upon request. You are encouraged to use this meditation both at the time of the UN meditation meeting as well as weekly, every Friday. Further information about this meditation initiative can be found here.

Please note that there has been a delay in the UN Capital Master Plan, so that we will now have access to the UN Meditation Room for this Taurus/Wesak Festival as well as for the Gemini/ Christ Festival next month on Friday, May 24th. We have been informed that June 1st will be the last day of access for the public to the UN Meditation Room. We will keep you posted of any new developments.

You are also invited to ponder the quote of the month, which is posted on the first of every month, accompanied by a photograph of the cosmic landscape in which our planet Earth “lives and moves and has its being.”

Thank you for working with the videos in the Aquarian Age Community YouTube channel, which includes the Great Invocation in the Six Official Languages of the United Nations, as well as with the video under the heading of *Reconciliation and the Healing of the Nations*.

Your continued support and help in working with and circulating these videos is welcome and deeply appreciated.

In the joy of loving and shared planetary service that ever seeks to grow the Light,

Aquarian Age Community

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