

Festival of Goodwill
New York City, May 27, 2010

Good evening friends and welcome to the Festival of Goodwill also known as the Festival of the Christ and the Festival of Unification. This is the last of the three festivals of the higher interlude of the year. We began the higher interlude with the Festival of Easter in the sign of Aries; in May we celebrated the Wesak Festival in the sign of Taurus; and tonight we culminate the experience with the Festival of Goodwill in the sign of Gemini. The three Festivals can be seen as three phases of the Hierarchical work with a build up of spiritual energy beginning in Aries. These divine energies are held steady in the light as they reach their pinnacle in Taurus. The energies are then distributed in Gemini during the Festival of Goodwill. The first two Festivals of Aries and Taurus are represented by the Christ and Buddha respectively. In the Festival of Gemini, it is the synthesis of the Christ and the Buddha (the Heart and the Head centers), which become the divine creative activity directed into humanity. The fusion and synthesis of the culminated energies are distributed into the hearts and minds of humanity that result in loving action of creative service. The three spiritual Festivals are a symbol of the divine aspects of the three major rays - Will, Love and Light (Rays One, Two and Three). The nine other festivals that we observe every month during the time of the full moon are considered the lesser festivals—however they are of major significance.

For those who are new and may not be familiar with the group work that is done during the full moon, perhaps a brief word should be explained to the purpose and nature of the spiritual work. During the time of the full moon, spiritual energies are available and flow into our planetary life. It is a time when we focus, align and reorient our consciousness to assimilate with these energies coming from the constellation of the sign we are working in. In this case, it is the sign of Gemini. When we align ourselves with the soul through meditation, we vibrate at higher frequencies, and thus step down these spiritual energies that are directed and worked out into the realms of human consciousness. We become receptive mediators and distributing agents of light, love and goodwill. There are thousands around the world in every country participating in today's meditation. This world-wide group meditation we are participating in is the work of one united group effort in which we become a link, a bridge or a channel of divine energy standing between Hierarchy and humanity. When we become open and responsive to these divine energies through a loving heart and a creative mind, the intuitive light of the soul is able to radiate the energies from the subjective realm into the physical realm of everyday planetary life.

Tonight, we celebrate the Festival of Goodwill and World Invocation Day. We are fortunate enough to work within the timeframe of the Gemini full moon which is at 7:08 PM this evening. Let us take this moment to briefly link up in one unified group and align ourselves with all those around the world by saying the Great Invocation.

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men --
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and power restore the Plan on Earth.

The Festival of Goodwill is basically described as the festival of humanity or the celebration of the spirit of humanity. This festival is about humanity aspiring towards a deeper relationship with divinity and seeking oneness and unity with the creator or the Will of God. It is no wonder that the Festival of Goodwill falls in the sign of Gemini for this sign is about relationship and overcoming the duality of spirit and matter by transcending the polarities into synthesis and unity. The Festival of Goodwill marks a time when we can think and act collectively as a human race and identify with the one humanity. But to recognize the divine nature of humanity, we each as individuals must recognize and honor the divine nature in ourselves. This inner divine nature is the soul. The nature of the soul expresses itself as joy, oneness, unity and sharing through universal love. We live in an interrelated, interdependent and interconnected world that is gradually being revealed to us through the many transitions and paradigm shifts taking place on this planet. The Festival of Goodwill is about expressing right human relations - it is the building of relationship between human to human, human to nature, nation to nation, and human to God. To have right relations with our environments, we must also have right relationship with our soul. Gemini is considered the major symbol of duality, so when we think about the Festival of Goodwill, we need to honor the relationship between the duality that exist in the world, as well as transcend these dualities through the universal sense of synthesis. This festival represents our relationship between the soul and personality and our continual striving towards a deeper connection and synthesis between the higher and lower worlds of the One Life. It is said that Gemini is "the force which produces the changes needed for the evolution of the Christ consciousness at any particular point in time and space." The difficulties and struggles that humanity is facing today is about adjustment and changes in our relationship with how we handle money, our relationship with oil, our relationship with religion, our relationship with materialism and so forth. The experience in Gemini helps us to build right relations and deal with these changes and adjustments within our consciousness so we can bring harmony out of this conflict.

We are living in a world cycle of great tension, difficulties and strife all characteristics of a transitional phase that is leading us into a new world, a new civilization and a new era of higher planetary consciousness. This transitional phase is a time of preparation not only for humanity, but preparation for all other kingdoms on earth. We live in an interdependent world. Therefore, the development and evolution of the subhuman kingdoms (plants, animals and minerals) depend on the state of evolution and progress of humanity. Every kingdom on this planet depend on each other. These planetary changes happening are a reflection of the preparation and adjustments that are being made within the subjective realm of consciousness.

What are we preparing for? We are told in the Ageless Wisdom as well as in all the major world religions of the reappearance of a great spiritual being or an Avatar. The Buddhists recognize this spiritual being as the Maitreya; the Christians expect the return of the Christ; the Jews are waiting for the Messiah; the Muslims are expecting the Imam Mahdi; and the Hindus are anticipating the return of the Kalki, the Maha Avatar of Vishnu. As you can see all these major religions have in common the expectancy of an Avatar or a World Teacher. The expectancy of the World Teacher is really nothing new, for it has been written in the scriptures and passed down for centuries. However, during this world cycle, we are living in a time which makes this unique opportunity even more decisive and marked by great changes and crises. The Ageless Wisdom tells us that "The history of mankind is, in reality, the history of man's demand for light and for contact with God, and then the giving of light and the approach of God to man. Always the Saviour, the Avatar or the World Teacher issued forth from the secret place of the Most High and brought

to man fresh revelation, fresh hope and a fresh incentive towards fuller spiritual living.” There is much work involved in this time of preparation. The reappearance of the Coming One is “conditioned and determined by the reaction of humanity itself; as well as by certain phases of spiritual and cyclic timing.” It is a time of preparation so to speak of house cleaning on earth and of setting the right conditions on this planet to welcome the long awaited messenger, the World Teacher. It is said that human affairs and decisions do have influence and effects upon the Coming One’s decision to return. Today we do see major reforms and changes happening in all sectors of society from business/financial reform, to political changes, to paradigm shifts in education, science and the religious field. This is the result of gradual preparation needed to set the right conditions for the externalization of the Hierarchy and the return of the Coming One.

In the work of preparation during this time, the new group of world servers are the so-called staff of the Spiritual Hierarchy who act as a body of radiated light and who are assisting in this preparation. The new group of world servers work in all fields of human endeavor in every country to establish right human relations and world unity. You will recognize them as those who work for the good of the whole, for they realize their own personal responsibility towards the group and the world community. They honor and respect their fellow human, the environment and recognize the one humanity.

Today is also known as World Invocation Day, which is a day of prayer, meditation and invocation through the sounding of the Great Invocation. World Invocation Day is observed on the same day as the Festival of Goodwill during the full moon of Gemini. It is a time of deep invocation and appeal to divinity through the use of this ancient prayer. Today, through cooperation with Hierarchy, humanity can invoke and precipitate the energies needed to facilitate and elevate human consciousness towards world betterment. And thus create a new civilization that imbues the quality of inclusiveness, right relations, brotherhood and unity within diversity.

For those who are not familiar with the Great Invocation, it is a powerful world prayer or mantram known to thousands of people all over the world. We are told that the "Great Invocation has been used by the Hierarchy ever since the year 1425 A.D. though it is thousands of years older than that." The words and meaning behind this invocation can transform and elevate the world in terms of expanding human consciousness and creating transformations on this planet. The Great Invocation is also a formula in the sense that each of the stanzas expresses truths and fundamental principles. The Tibetan Master tells us that if this prayer is effectively recited and used upon the mental plane through a controlled mind along with a focussed intent then much result can take place to uplift the world. The Great Invocation is one of the "Words of Power" that can penetrate and reach below the depths of the material world and reach the highest of the divine. When we say the Great Invocation, we say it through the soul. In the Ageless Wisdom there are what is called "Words of Power" such as the Great Invocation, which is of second ray origin of Love-Wisdom. This means that the invocation is really intended for soul use because the soul imbues the quality of love. We are told that "Only the soul can really employ these Words and sounds, and thus produce the desired results which are always in line with the divine Plan." The words are sounded through the will aspect - through a dynamic creative manner. The Tibetan Master says that "The Great Invocation, rightly used by the many hundred thousand people who have already attempted to use it, could reorient the consciousness of humanity, stabilise men in spiritual being, disrupt and rebuild the planetary thoughtform which men have created in the past and which has had such disastrous and cataclysmic results, and open the door into the New Age, thus ushering in the new and better civilisation." We each can make a difference and be of service. What simple and direct way to serve humanity through the power of thought by reciting the Great Invocation as a potent and effective form of service? Why not take this opportunity today and everyday to say the Great Invocation with soul intent.

It is said that the coming World Teacher is sensitive and responsive to the invocation and to the appeal of humanity. Through the Great Invocation, we can assist humanity by creating and elevating that appeal

through direct invocation. According to the Ageless Wisdom, one of the sciences of the future is that of the Science of Invocation and Evocation. It is said that the Science of Invocation will eventually replace prayer and worship sometime in the future. However, prayer and meditation are the initial steps to this emerging science. What do we mean by invocation? Invocation is the act of calling forth something higher than ourselves and making an appeal for assistance. It can be considered a demand from the masses of humanity from the heart either voice unconsciously or consciously in times of crises such as this transition period we are in. When we use the Great Invocation in our daily life and meditation, particularly during the full moon, we have the opportunity to cooperate with Hierarchy, and thus hasten the divine Plan into factual existence by invoking and bringing down the spiritual energies that will further create the needed changes towards world betterment. The use of the Great Invocation through the spiritual laws of attraction and magnetism provide a potent force of spiritual energies that are disseminated into humanity. When we recite the Great Invocation, we can invoke the soul of humanity and bring about a true and freer expression of divine light into human consciousness through the principle of love, which is expressed through world understanding, goodwill, cooperation, sharing and peace. We demand more light into the darkness. When we can mentally and soulfully approach this world prayer through a heart felt and mentally focussed intent, we create a higher and potent vibration within humanity that will magnetically attract a response from the awaiting and watching Custodians of our planet, the Spiritual Hierarchy, and within the heart center of Hierarchy awaits the World Teacher. "Humanity will, therefore, invoke the spiritual power of the Kingdom of God, the Hierarchy; the Hierarchy will respond, and God's plans will then be worked out on earth." The result of invoking spiritual energies into our planetary life brings a closer rapport between Hierarchy and Humanity - the two planetary centres. The Festival of Goodwill in combination with World Invocation Day is a time "of deep invocation and appeal, of a basic aspiration towards fellowship, of human and spiritual unity, and will represent the effect in the human consciousness of the work of the Buddha and of the Christ." And with this invocation, humanity is ready to receive the light.

This year's keynote during the Three Spiritual Festivals is "Let sustained effort be the seed of synthesis, the force which binds together that which has been separated." The Gemini twins or the duality that exist in this sign must eventually be fused and synthesized into a higher order of unity and oneness. The constellation of Gemini is about synthesis. It is the bringing together and building deeper relationships that is the goal of Gemini. The energy of Gemini is founded on the second ray of Love-Wisdom. Love in the sustaining factor is any relationship - it is the force which binds together that which has been separated. We are told that Gemini is one of the most important signs because it carries the sense of universality and expresses divine love that underlies our entire universe. Mercury, known as the star of conflict is the exoteric or orthodox ruler of Gemini, carrying with it the energy of the fourth ray of harmony through conflict. Today there is conflict all around us. The energies of Gemini help us to relate and bring higher understanding from these conflicts. When there is conflict there is transformation that is occurring and needed adjustments taking place. These conflicts however, provide those conditions and opportunities that will help awaken humanity towards right relations and full planetary consciousness. The energy of Gemini and Mercury is the eternal symbols of conflict, which is so characteristic of our planetary life. Out of the conflicts and struggles that humanity faces during these tumultuous times, harmony will prevail.

As we do the meditation work this evening, let us reflect upon the meaning behind the Festival of Goodwill and World Invocation Day.