

FESTIVAL OF VIRGO New York, August 23, 2010

Good evening friends and welcome to the Festival of Virgo. The sign of Virgo is said to be one of the oldest signs of the zodiac, and also one of the most symbolic signs that contains the key to the whole purpose of evolutionary process within our solar system. We are told that this evolutionary process is to "shield, nurture and finally reveal the hidden spiritual reality." The keynote of Virgo is *I am the Mother and the Child. I, God, I Matter am.* In the keynote of Virgo, the mother symbolizes the feminine aspect, which is matter or form life. "Virgo is also called the "goddess of the two ways" because as the Holy Mother principle she symbolises matter and also is the custodian of the Christ life." She is the protector, nurturer and guardian of the indwelling child or the soul aspect, which is also known as the Christ principle or the soul consciousness. The mother incubates and broods over the child within the "womb of time" waiting for this hidden spiritual reality to be revealed and delivered into the world. Eventually, through years of incarnation, evolution and spiritual progression, a spark of light emerges and manifests within the form. This light is the awakened spiritual human expressing true divinity. We are told that "the human form is equipped and fitted to manifest it [this hidden spiritual reality] in a manner different to any other expression of divinity and so make tangible and objective that for which the whole creative process was intended." And so, Virgo, the virgin mother gives birth to the Christ child, which is essentially the divine consciousness of humanity. Therefore, the true keynote that embodies this truth as to the purpose and mission of Virgo is expressed as, "*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*" Virgo is the cosmic mother or matter, which is opposite of the Father or the spirit aspect. Both qualities however (spirit and matter), produces a duality in this world that eventually must be united and synthesized to give birth to the third aspect, which is the soul, our true divine essence.

So let us take a moment to align ourselves and link up to the many servers around the world and groups who are meditating as we are.

O Thou Who givest sustenance to the universe,
From Whom all things proceed,
To Whom all things return,
Unveil to us the face of the true Spiritual Sun
Hidden by a disc of golden Light
That we may know the Truth
And do our whole duty
As we journey to Thy sacred feet.

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In Virgo, there is not only the dual relationship of spirit and matter, but there is the triangular relationship between the Father, Mother and Child aspect or the spirit, matter and soul aspect. These three aspect make up the Trinity, which is an equilateral triangle, in which all angles are of equal importance, to the working out of the Plan. As evolution proceeds, the three becomes the two becomes the one - or the unified experience in Virgo. It is in Virgo, after complete individualization in Leo that the first step toward the union of spirit and matter is made, "the subordination of the form life to the will of the indwelling Christ."

When we refer to the Christ concept, it is not related to any one religion, theology or doctrine. There are many terms describing the Christ principle, such as the soul consciousness, the middle principle, the anima mundi, the higher Self, or the solar angel. All of these words describe the same concept and idea of the divine light that pervades within all forms and connects and unites all. We each have the hidden Christ principle or the soul aspect within ourselves, which is the expression of divine consciousness. This

spiritual quality is conveyed and demonstrated in the world as true love free from the glammers of the lower personality nature or emotional attachments. It expresses itself as loving understanding, goodwill, cooperation, peace, oneness and unity. The Christ principle is the realization and identification that we are not only created by divinity, by God immanent who dwells deep within us, but we are divinity, we are divine substance—we are both spirit and matter.

In the sign of Virgo, spirit and matter when joined and fused become the Christ principle, the soul or the divine consciousness. It is said "matter is spirit at its lowest point and spirit is matter at its highest, and that the apparent duality is but an essential unity." And so in this sign, humanity stands at the cusp of the "birth of the new age, of a new consciousness and the new civilization and culture" which is imminent and waiting to be expressed. This hidden spiritual reality, which is the indwelling soul consciousness or the Christ principle, is eventually manifested in the sign of Pisces, the world savior. The Tibetan states that when a sufficient number of people have grasped this ideal of the indwelling divine consciousness, "then the entire human family can stand for the first time before the portal which leads to the Path of Light." This path of light is the initiation of the human race, bringing with it a closer rapport and relationship between the three planetary centers - humanity, Hierarchy and Shamballa. This expansion of consciousness within the form life is considered to be the first initiation, also known as the "Birth at Bethlehem", in which the disciple struggles and strives towards revealing divinity on the physical plane.

Virgo is a sign related to our highest spiritual nature, which is the Monad, the Father or the spirit aspect. It not only enables us to connect to our deepest spiritual expression in this world, but enables us to realize "the purpose for which form life exists." The energies of Virgo help us to begin to awaken towards true spiritual consciousness. As a result of this awakening, the personality life begins to shift towards the inner spiritual life. The soul assumes more control over the lower personality nature, and eventually the indwelling Child or the Christ principle is released into the world expressing its true divine nature through form life.

It is in the sign of Virgo, which we as humans can rise above from the grips of material control. Today, humanity as a whole is struggling to overcome the pain and suffering of material desire due to wrong orientation and wrong focus on the physical life. The Tibetan has hinted that the idea of sin came about due to the incorrect emphasis upon the form side of life that conditioned humanity from then on, which brought humanity on the reverse wheel of involution. We see the results of selfish material desire and material gain in the world today through the economic downturn and the financial crisis. This wrong orientation and relation with the form life further creates separation between spirit and matter. Because spirit and matter must have right relations with each other, we must therefore, rethink and spiritually and practically seek how to relate and consciously live in the material world through right living and right relations with the material goods and resources that have been given and provided.

Throughout a great portion of human existence, the forces of materialism have separated spirit and matter. As humanity slowly and gradually shifts in consciousness and awakens towards the newer energies and responds to the higher vibrations, a reorientation from the material aspect to the spiritual is taking place. As the sixth ray of idealism and devotion passes out and as the potency of the seventh ray energy of ceremonial order makes its presence felt, many changes are taking place at all levels of consciousness. Today humanity is entering into a new age with more expanded and inclusive awareness. The increase potency of the seventh ray serves the purpose of facilitating the process of grounding and bringing together spirit and matter by anchoring the qualities of the incoming energies, and "make physically visible the results" by manifesting the divine Plan into physical plane existence. The underlying function is "to clothe spirit with matter," and build the forms or the outer life which will synchronize with the higher vibrations of spirit. We are told that Virgo is "the opposite pole of spirit". However, unlike Gemini in which spirit and matter are dual in nature, in Virgo, spirit and matter are blended and synthesized and eventually united as one. For this divine process of synthesis to happen, the form or the

physical vehicle must be sensitive and receptive to the incoming energies in order to emanate, transmit and receive the inflowing energies.

The seventh ray energy relates to Virgo owing to the fact that this ray is the relating factor between spirit or Father aspect and matter or Mother aspect upon the form side, and thus reveal the soul or the Christ principle. When spirit unites with matter, this is the result of white magic. With the help of the seventh ray energy coming in, the disciple is able to build and construct forms "through which the divine will can express itself." The disciple has to learn the dual function of "lifting up the lower energies into the light" and—at the same time—of "bringing down the higher energies into bodily expression."

For the disciple to build and construct forms, the higher mental faculty must be utilized, as this is the platform where the constructive process of form building takes place. Virgo and Venus, we are told "are together two aspects of intelligence." However, when Virgo is expressed through the lower quality or the personality aspect it is reflected through a critical and concrete mind. The higher quality or the soul quality of Virgo is expressed through pure reason or the intuition that utilizes the higher mental plane, in which the form building process can take place. "...the soul is called the son of mind, and Virgo is ruled by Mercury, carrying the energy of mind." Mercury is exalted in Virgo because the Son of Mind or the higher mind must dominate over the form aspect.

As we further enter into the Aquarian age, the Science of Service begins to exert its influence and emerge as a predominant way of life for those who are awaking to soul influence and who feel a deep responsibility towards their fellowmen. Virgo is a sign related to service, which relates to the sixth house of the zodiac. We see an emerging trend in society today. The expression of service is all around us. Service is the true purpose of the Christ principle. In Gemini, we are told that the duality of spirit and form emerge as separate entities and the form serves the soul. Whereas, in the sign of Virgo, matter exchanges or interchanges their service with spirit, and each mutually serves the other. Spirit serves matter and matter serves spirit—each gains, transforms and becomes the other producing the Child, the soul, which are life, love and their united manifestation as one. It is through service, which gives this unique and inherent quality of Virgo the capacity to bring spirit and matter towards right relations with each other through their divine intent. But what do we mean by service? We see people doing community service or performing a type of service that benefits society. In many ways, we are told that "service can also be rendered because it is becoming increasingly the fashion and the custom to be occupied with some form of service." Today, people are actively seeking some form of service that they think is beneficial to the community at large. In Esoteric Psychology Volume II, the Tibetan describes a world in which "Everybody is actively serving in welfare movements, in philanthropic endeavors, in Red Cross work, in educational uplifts, and in the task of ameliorating distressing world conditions. It is fashionable to serve in some way. Service gives a sense of power; service brings one friends; service is a form of group activity, and frequently brings far more to the server (in a worldly sense) than to the served." Most service that we see in today's society is service at the personality level. What do we mean by spiritual service or service through soul intent?

From the personality aspect, "Service is frequently regarded as an endeavor to bring people around to the point of view of the one who serves, because what the would-be server has found to be good and true and useful, must necessarily be good and true and useful for all. Service is viewed as something we render to the poor, the afflicted, the diseased and the unhappy, because we think we want to help them, little realising that primarily this help is offered because we ourselves are made uncomfortable by distressing conditions, and must therefore endeavor to ameliorate those conditions in order ourselves to be comfortable again. The act of thus helping releases us from our misery, even if we fail to release or relieve the sufferers." And in many cases particularly in the western society, "Service is frequently an indication of a busy and overactive temperament, or of a self-satisfied disposition, which leads its

possessor to a strenuous effort to change situations, and make them what he feels they should be, thus forcing people to conform to that which the server feels should be done."

From the spiritual perspective, we are told that "service can be briefly defined as the spontaneous effect of soul contact. This contact is so definite and fixed that the life of the soul can pour through into the instrument which the soul must perforce use upon the physical plane." Service in the esoteric sense is "not a quality or a performance; it is not an activity towards which people must strenuously strive, nor is it a method of world salvage. Service is a life demonstration. It is a soul urge, and is as much an evolutionary impetus of the soul as the urge to self-preservation or to the reproduction of the species is a demonstration of the animal soul." There is a profound distinction between mundane service from the personality level and spiritual service through soul demonstration and soul intent. The Tibetan tells us that we must understand and grasp this distinction. As more and more people awaken to soul life and its higher vibrational living, the Science of Service becomes a distinct and dominating factor in the life tendency of the awakened person.

As we further enter into the Aquarian Age, the seventh ray increases its potency helping to unite and anchor in the spiritual qualities into form life. Virgo gives us the gift of realizing our true spiritual potential. We are divine substance of both spirit and matter. Through practical spiritual livingness, hard work and cooperation, we are realizing our highest spiritual nature from within. This keynote of Virgo has simply, yet beautifully summed up the whole essence of this sign—the uniting of the mother and the child, of spirit and matter, through the medium of form. The new consciousness is emerging. Thus, humanity is awakening and experiencing the "hope of glory".

So let us now meditate on the energies of Virgo.