

**FESTIVAL OF LIBRA**  
**October 22, 2010, New York, NY**

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Good evening, friends, and welcome to the Festival of Libra. The full moon occurs at 9:38 pm tonight, so we are working well within the floodtide of Light and Love which the Hierarchy directs towards humanity at this time in the monthly cycle. Actually, this is the second Festival of Libra this year, being one of those unusual occasions when the full moon happens to occur twice while the sun is passing through a particular sign. And maybe it's a good thing that we have two impacts of Libra's influence, for its blessing of equilibrium and balance is sorely needed at this critical time.

The sign Libra is of special interest to aspirants and disciples, we're told. Libra is a sign of balancing, of the careful weighing of values, and the achieving of right equilibrium between the pairs of opposites. Its keynote expresses this very well: *I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.* Libra's path is the narrow, razor-edged Path which runs between the pairs of opposites and which – to be safely trodden – requires developing a sense of values and the power to use the balancing, analytical aspect of the mind. "I choose", the disciple declares in Libra, and on the spiritual way the choices become increasingly subtle. No longer are they a question of right and wrong, good and evil, light and dark, but of individual benefit and group good, of good and better, then of better and best.

Choice is very much the theme of the day as this country prepares for mid-term elections. Democracy is about giving the people the power to determine – to choose – the direction of a nation. And in this transitional era between two ages - one outgoing and therefore hardening, crystallizing in its effects, and another age incoming, trail-blazing, new but untested - the right choices aren't always so easy to discern. Yet, we are assured they will be sorted out if we go by what the Tibetan said: that in this interlude between the Piscean and Aquarian ages, Libra will eventually come into control and that "There is, therefore, no need for real anxiety."

As a way of aligning ourselves with the worldwide group meditating at this time, as we are, in groups large and small throughout the world, and also aligning with the worldwide group of servers dedicated to guiding humanity through this perilous period of crisis and transition, let us say the Mantram of the New Group of World Servers.

*May the power of the One Life pour through the group of all true servers.*

*May the love of the One Soul characterise the lives of all who seek to aid the great Ones.*

*May I fulfill my part in the One Work through self-forgetfulness, harmlessness and right speech.*

Libra, together with Gemini, is said to be one of the strictly human signs, which suggests that the tempering of the present crisis will come about because of humanity's making right choices. Actually, the testing as to choices will occur on two levels: on the astral plane, where the desires of men will be the deciding factor for the greatest number of people – because most people are still focused in their emotional lives – either choosing material, selfish ends or making spiritual decision; and the other level the disciples, aspirants and the intelligent people, where a balance will be struck on the mental plane of ideas.

The true "Judgment Day" isn't here yet. It will occur only when all people are mentally polarized. The present time, the point of crisis in Libra, is a forerunner of this future day of judgment, but for now the balance must be struck on the astral plane, for human desires will be the determining factor in humanity's future direction.

All this is to indicate the critical nature of the times, and not just in terms of Humanity. “On the mental plane, a great and deep-seated cleavage is going on”, the Tibetan said, the nature of which was enunciated by the Christ when he said “He that is not with Me is against Me.” Although some zealots have interpreted this to mean we all have to be Christians or else..., it really signifies the conflict between the Forces of Light, with Christ as Their emissary, and the Forces of Evil. It’s always dismaying to hear some new-age voices proclaiming “there is no evil”, that “evil is just ‘live’ spelled backwards”, and wanting to revise the Great Invocation as a result. They’re wrong; there is real evil – both cosmic, which is totally out of our control and which can only be addressed by the Hierarchy, who stand as a great wall between humanity, and the lower kingdoms in humanity’s care, and cosmic evil; and the evil which is humanity’s responsibility.

This evil is recognised by its power to divide, to separate, to foster cleavages by sewing seeds of doubt, hatred, suspicion and mistrust, by stoking the fires of old grievances, old wrongs, so that they never, ever die out, by appealing to the basest instincts and desires focused in the sacral and solar plexus centres, and perhaps worst of all, by convincing people that the form world – the outer, objective world – is all there is. And that when our form, our body, is at its end, we’re done. There’s nothing more. That skepticism, which passes for intellectual thought in so many circles today but which is completely focused in the concrete mind, is particularly deadly. It kills out hope and fosters the sense, as the old beer commercial put it, that you only go around once, so you’d better “grab all the gusto”. It denies a Plan for the world and for each human soul. It fails to recognise that each life, human, animal, vegetable, and mineral, lives as a tiny atom within a greater Life, the consciousness of which is steadily unfolding and expanding.

The leader of the conflict against evil is the Christ, who said “I came not to bring peace, but a sword”, which seems at first glance to express the energies of Scorpio, the warrior, yet in fact it is the essence of Libra’s gift. For the sword he referred to is the sword not of battle but of discrimination, in human terms. When this is wielded by disciples and initiates, it reveals the distinction between good and evil, and clarifies the free choice to be made. A few decades ago, human conflict descended into a world war before the choice between good and evil could be discerned. Now, the conflict between good and evil is just as intense, but so far, for the most part, it’s staying on the mental and astral planes, but the battle is no less vicious and the polarization it’s creating is no less worrisome.

Perhaps this is because what’s happening to humanity is just a reflection of a much greater decision to be made. A judgment is taking place on the highest levels of our planet which the Tibetan describes as “a mysterious process going on in *the thinking* (if one dare use such a word for such a comprehensive process) of the planetary Logos. He is deciding at this time the mode by which a momentous event or happening within the Hierarchy shall take shape; He is timing the process of its externalization: He is deciding which Ashrams shall be externalized and Who, within those Ashrams, will be chosen to work – consciously and openly – in the outer world of men. Many things have to be considered; the objectives in view of the Masters concerned, the rays in manifestation, and many astrological relationships”, he said.

This judgment which the planetary Logos is making has to take into account the rapidity with which men and women can enter the Ashram; it depends on members of the Ashram moving forward and absorbing and assimilating the larger numbers without upsetting ashramic stability, as well as the ability of the disciple-in-training to take and hold the far greater tension of true ashramic life in the New Age.

All of this has to be considered because a major expansion of the Hierarchy, and its consequent effects on humanity, can’t be lightly undertaken. “The expansion now contemplated in the highest quarters will greatly alter the potency of the relation of the Hierarchy to Humanity”, we’re told. “Can Humanity take this increased potency correctly and safely? Will the aspirants of the world—if given opportunity to pass off the Probationary Path on to the Path of Discipleship—be stable enough to stand steady under the impact of hitherto undiscerned spiritual energy? Can the Masters, under the pressure of Their enormous

task of world reconstruction, find the needed time to increase Their training of Their disciples? For They are still governed by the time equation where Their disciples are concerned. Can the senior members in any Ashram relieve to some extent the pressures upon the Masters as well as upon the incoming and junior, and therefore inexperienced, disciples?"

And finally, "Is the etheric web of the planet sufficiently stable and balanced so that it can adequately respond to the new and potent forces which could and will pour through it into objective expression?" These are some of the questions confronting the Logos as He makes His decision on His exalted level.

That makes the choices human beings face seem very small indeed. Yet, for the fearful and also for the thoughtful, decisions can be very difficult to make. The Tibetan gives some guidelines for the spiritual aspirant. The soul's meditation is rhythmic and cyclic, with an ebb and flow qualifying energy in all of nature, and in the life of the aspirant as well. These "hill and valley" experiences are well known to anyone treading the path, and they have to be recognised and endured – waited out – with an appreciation for the law of cycles. As is true for all living things, much growth takes place in the dark. This, Virgo affirms in its keynote of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" – the Christ principle in the cave of the heart, symbolized by the Christ child born in the cave, facing many years of development before he could "be about his Father's business".

Learning to live as the soul both in moments of spiritual exaltation and in cycles of apparent aridity, learning to bear the revelation brought by greater light, yet enduring and advancing in the darkness as well, is the test of the disciple. Learning to live in the soul consciousness, the inner world where values and spiritual principles are the guideposts rather than worldly events and external guidance, is the narrow, razor-edged path. If he can tread this narrow way, then the form side of life becomes simply a field for service, not of perception. To do this requires the effort to arrive at an absolute purity of motive, and learning the balance and poise that lead to equilibrium.

From this consideration of the need for balance, poise and equilibrium to make right choices, we can see why the third Ray of Active Intelligence is so closely associated with Libra. Libra, as we noted, is one of the two profoundly human signs and the intelligence is the divine aspect most needed by humanity, for man is literally "one who thinks". Intelligence, the third aspect of the Godhead, is a major conditioning factor in three areas: Law, Sex and Money. The Spirit of Money and the Divine Circulatory Flow will be the theme of the World Goodwill Symposium on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, which coincides with the new moon. Money, man's use of it and its intended role in the divine Plan (for money is literally concretised energy, and all energy is spiritually potent when used for the greatest good) will be the focus of the Symposium and of the current global financial crisis.

The terrible imbalance in the distribution of money which has led to an ever-widening gulf between the haves and have-nots of the world puts everyone in peril, and calls out for redress. Saturn is one of the four Lords of karma, and karma, Blavatsky said, is essentially the restoration of equilibrium. Will humanity choose to undertake this on its own, or will "harsh bludgeoning circumstance" restore the balance for us? The world crisis indicates that the choice is ours, that we've reached a point of choice and decision.

*I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.* In Libra, Saturn is exalted for – at the point of balance – opportunity comes. Saturn is exceedingly active today, we're told, presenting humanity, the world disciple, with those difficult situations and crises which demand free choice, discrimination and correct decision. Correctly done, this will remove hindrances to the recognition of the true values which make life worth living. Only now, the Tibetan said, is the full purpose and work of Saturn for humanity reaching a point of group usefulness, for only now has humanity reached a point of general and widespread intelligence which enables a choice to be consciously and responsibly. Prior to

the present, only a few could freely choose to “tip the scales”. Today, we’re told, there are countless numbers and hence the activity of Saturn as we enter the first decan of Aquarius because humanity now stands on the probationary path. This, Libra governs and controls, so there is every reason to have faith in humanity’s capacity to make right decision.

Let us work now in meditation with our keynote, *I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force.*