

**FESTIVAL OF LEO**  
**New York, August 1, 2012**

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Good evening friends. Today we are working with the very potent energies of Leo. We are very close to the exact time of the full moon occurring today at 11:29pm, so we are working at the very peak of the energy cycle. Each month brings us new qualified energies to work with in meditation. These energies are constantly available for us to work with. But with each astrological sign we can concentrate on those particular qualities which are prominent at any one time. These are soul qualities to which all in the human kingdom must become sensitive and learn to express if the work of the great Deity of our planet is to be carried out. All of these qualities taken together provide us with a unique picture of the characteristics of the citizens of the coming new kingdom of souls, the kingdom of God. Drawing forth these soul qualities and outwardly expressing them is a worldwide group effort. And group meditation is the best means to accomplish this. It is a method of working directly with the evolving plan of God and not simply being passive bystanders. In this direct approach we take our place as co-workers with God, and in a very real sense we begin to take control of our own evolution.

Shall we take a few moments to focus our minds within the soul—the group soul—and link in thought with the hundreds of other groups and individuals around the world who are also working with these same qualifying energies. Altogether we are creating an invocative vortex of energy which will help to evoke the potential soul qualities already in humanity. Qualities which must be drawn to the surface and to the forefront of human consciousness where they can become a more dominant expression in everyday life. And in this moment of silence let us reflect on and then sound together the profound words of the Gayatri.

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.

The Gayatri is one of the most ancient prayers of humanity. And with its reference to the face of "the true Spiritual Sun hidden by a disc of golden Light", we have an expression of the soul, the divine intermediary between God and man. This intermediary expression is summed up in the keynote for Leo "I am That, and That am I." This is the keynote we will be using as a seed thought in our meditation today. It sums up the profound test for the Leo subject, and for that matter, for all of us: the test of transcendence. First is expressed in the words "I am" – the word of the self-conscious, selfish individual Leo. But this stage must be superseded by the words "I am That." This brings home to the struggling Leo personality what he is in reality: a divine son of God who is rapidly gaining the higher consciousness and preparing for a fresh and universal expression in Aquarius.

Aquarius is of course the polar opposite of Leo, which makes our work with these energies all the more fortuitous, since Aquarius is the age into which we are rapidly moving. The spirit of Aquarius will be exemplified in its universality and its sense of "general distribution." This universal quality presents points of crisis for the Leo type because it presents an opportunity to

transcend the self-centered focus and to merge with the universal quality of Aquarius, but at the same time, he brings with him that uniquely developed sense of self-assurance of Leo.

The emphasis on the universality of Aquarius raises an important point having to do with the full moon meditation work which we should always hold in mind. This has to do with the universal nature of the work and the responsibility of the soul as it builds and works through the human form here on earth. The soul's primary job is essentially one of refinement--the constant work, life after life, of refining the quality of consciousness expressed in each new lifetime. It acts as an agent of God to gradually fulfill the great Plan that God is working out through planet Earth. But what the soul is doing is following a universal pattern which is being applied throughout the universe.

All the energies and potencies that flow into our planet from other cosmic, solar and planetary Sources are stepped down by the spiritual Hierarchy and the soul to a point where they can be safely distributed into human consciousness. These extra-planetary Sources are the great Entities of the various signs that make up our current zodiac--like the Entity of Leo which we are working with tonight. There is a specific objective behind these outpouring energies: and that is "to awaken the consciousness in the form so that it becomes aligned to or closely related to Their Own." In other words, with the aid of these zodiacal energies, human consciousness is slowly being refined and refocused and so vibrant and radiatory that it will one day come close to the spiritual quality of these great Entities.

Now this is the "big picture" which is the future objective behind the process of revelation. As the Tibetan says, "All revelations appear to emerge into the consciousness of the race in their lowest or most material form because the "ascent of knowledge towards wisdom" is always the key to progress, and, therefore, exoteric psychology and exoteric mundane astrology had to precede the revelation of their significance; the nature of the form had to be made apparent and man accustomed to it before the meaning behind the form could be revealed."

And this is exactly where humanity stands today in this long unfolding process in human consciousness. The focus today is entirely on the form nature--whether it be the vegetable, animal, human, planetary or solar forms. DNA studies now help to understand and diagnose the heritage of the human form. Psychologists study the physical brain and the behaviour of the personality nature. Astronomers study the physical planets, the constellations and galaxies and have concluded that the physical universe came into being as a result of a "big bang" billions of years ago. All of these studies are merely revealing the nature of the form, from the atom to the entire universe. But they haven't yet crossed the threshold into the formless nature of Life, into the purely subjective planes of consciousness, into the world of meaning, and the revelation that there is a great spiritual meaning and purpose working out through all of these forms. That is the next step in this unfolding revelation.

We are conscious participants in this huge cosmic enterprise of working with the soul and with God to refine human consciousness so that it eventually becomes increasingly sensitive to the purposes of the soul, and beyond that, more closely aligned with these cosmic Sources.

Now the Tibetan goes on to ask, "what is the reason for this mode of procedure? The understanding and the reasoning powers of the soul are complete and developed. But souls--oriented towards incarnation and the will-to-sacrifice--have not, as yet, the necessary forms in the three worlds which are adequate for the expression of the knowledge which the soul has on its own plane and level of awareness. If the inner meanings of the outer symbolic forms of existence were registered by an unprepared form (the response apparatus of the soul in the three worlds

and, in the case of man, involving an unprepared and undeveloped nervous system, glandular system and brain) the destruction of the form by soul energy would naturally supervene and a shattering of the lower expression would take place. It is here that the significance and purpose of time can be noted and intelligently employed, but this involves a most definite development of the esoteric sense. In the evolutionary process there is, therefore, first the form, gradually prepared, adjusted, aligned and oriented during many aeons of time; behind this active form, as it steadily improves and becomes more responsive to environment and contact, stands the slowly awakening consciousness. This is the thinking, intuiting, loving soul, which tightens its hold over its response apparatus, avails itself upon every possible occasion of every advance made by the form, and employs every influence for the perfecting of the great work which it undertook under the Law of Sacrifice."

Moving in consciousness from I am to I am That is a huge step forward. And then from that stage of integration to I am That and That am I is an even greater leap forward. The whole path from I am a personality, to I am a soul-infused person, to I am that universal Monad and one with God the Father, is embodied in the keynote for Leo. The opportunity for real transformation is stated in that keynote for all humanity to use, not just for Leo types, but for all who are sensitive to its influence. The qualifying energies of all the signs are flowing into and through human consciousness all the time, and we simply must develop a heightened sensitivity to their unique note.

The energies and the influences of Leo provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the soul qualities in human consciousness. The group conscious nature of the soul corresponds to the universal awareness of Aquarius. Our work in group meditation provides a direct channel for all these energies to radiate into human consciousness. Slowly, human consciousness is being transformed to conform to the ideas and ideals that will shape the new age, the age in which the new kingdom of God, the kingdom of souls, will be revealed.

Finally there are two potent keynotes of the Leo person which we should consider at this point if the nature of the influences wielded by Leo are to be clearly perceived. These are the will-to-illumine, which constitutes the driving urge towards self-knowledge, self-perception and intellectual positivity, and also the will-to-rule and to dominate, which is of such a controlling nature in this sign and such a subtle potency in the Leo type. It is this will-to-rule which leads a person born in this sign eventually to achieve self-mastery and the control of the personality (for either a good motive or a selfish one), and it is also the same tendency which leads him finally to the control by the personality, ruled by Leo, of groups and large or small bodies of people. This—at an advanced stage—is an expression of the fusion of Leo energy and Aquarian potency. It is inevitable in the long run for men and races; for this all experience in Leo is preparatory. The will-to-illumine is that which drives all Leo people on to experiment and so to gain knowledge.

And so we have these particular qualities impressed upon human consciousness through the sign of Leo, and they can form the basis for our meditation work this evening. Primarily, we have the quality of sensitivity, which is a word that sums up the whole story of Leo. How do we develop this sensitivity? Through the induction of the energies of the soul. Allowing soul qualities to govern your life will automatically induce a more sensitive nature. The coarser particles of substance that react to the desires of the little personal self will be driven out and replaced by the more refined and sensitive energies of the soul. These same soul energies will also strengthen the will-to-illumine, and qualify in a more loving way the will-to-rule. Altogether, this sensitivity and strength of will will enable one to say *I am That*. Today, that is Leo's gift to humanity.

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