

LIBRA FESTIVAL MEETING – NEW YORK - SEPTEMBER 2012

The Divine Juggler

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The title of tonight's talk is the "divine juggler", a reminder of the task in Libra to find the way which leads between the two great lines of force – matter and spirit. It brings to mind a skilful balancing act as the pilgrim treads the path back to the Father's House, travelling between the worlds of form and spirit.

A juggler was originally known as a 'jester' or 'joker'. He was a general entertainer or buffoon, but also depicted as a magician or conjurer with an underlying notion of dexterity or sleight of hand. By the 17th century, the word was being used to describe someone who kept several objects in the air at the same time. The art of juggling probably strikes a chord of recognition with most of us, not only with respect to the various aspects of our lives that we are constantly trying to impose order upon but also to adjustments that reflect the higher spiritual qualities in our everyday activities.

The ingenuity of the jester crops up in the labour of Hercules in Libra, the only labour which ends in laughter. Hercules was given the task of capturing a wild and dangerous Boar. He refused the bow offered by Zeus in case he killed the beast, and armed only with a club he eventually captured it in a trap which he built. By holding the boar by its hind legs, much like a wheelbarrow, he then led it down the mountain, "singing and dancing on the way" much to the amusement and laughter of all who witnessed the sight.

Laughter is often evoked from an observation of extremes. Hercules rendered the fierce boar harmless and an amusing sight, banishing fear and showing the animal in a different light. Generally speaking, laughter can also be an effective way of breaking down our own petty, personal dignities that have become barriers to communicating with others. It is a way of clearing out lower, unwanted forces from our lives allowing us to regain a truer sense of perspective. A sense of humour towards the lower self brings balance and judgement, a keen consideration of alternatives, and the avoidance of extremes. These are all characteristics associated with Libra whose keynote is: *I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force*. Humorous observation and parody, revealing the absurdity of the puffed-up human ego, has been a wonderful educational tool down the ages. Caricatures have always been used to highlight and reveal egoism and stupidity, and they can evoke recognition in us and then laughter, which help to distance us from these traits to the position of the observer. In this way, we can gain a wider perspective of the human condition.

Comedians may portray themselves as fools, but their artistry provides new viewpoints into the everyday world - viewpoints which can show extraordinary insight into the psychology of modern man. Changes in comedy and humour reflect our progress in consciousness. And perhaps it can be said that, by taking ourselves a little less seriously, we become more free inside. This decentralisation from the intensity of the personality releases the light of the soul and helps others, in turn, to liberate themselves from glamour. As the jester or the fool acquires material through observation, he advances to ever higher ground, keeping "one step ahead" in the observation of increasingly subtle glammers. The jester has to keep moving on and this gives originality to the sketches painted for us. It requires a willingness to step into the unknown and into a new set of energies. Prejudice makes it impossible to see a new reality and by throwing all preconceived ideas up into the air the possibility for viewing life in a new light can emerge.

A characteristic of the fool is the willingness to make mistakes, and this risk-taking can produce the unexpected. Certainly, with all the mistakes that we make on the path of return, a sense of humour is required,

as is the skill of the juggler. The esotericist is one who views life from cause to effect, who is willing to experiment, fail and still move on. Progress flows from a new, simpler and more compassionate identification with the life which lies within all forms. Difficulties come in many shapes and sizes and the divine juggler has to fearlessly raise them into the air where they can be clearly seen and a state of harmony imposed upon them.

All this brings to mind the role of the Secretary General of the UN whose task is to constructively juggle so many issues relating to urgent crises, conflicts and other vital international affairs. So it was a great privilege to be present at the UN High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace on 14th September to witness some of this activity as those spiritual groups and NGO's who have worked so hard for peace participated in a meeting of the General Assembly for the first time.

Before going further, can we pause and then say together the Mantram of Integration:

*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 fulfil my part in the one Work
through self forgetfulness, harmlessness and right speech.*

The sign of Libra, represented by the scales, is the ruler of the current world period, and fittingly humanity finds itself in a delicate state with tremendous choices before it. In *Esoteric Astrology* we read that, "Saturn is exalted [in Libra] for—at the point of balance— opportunity comes and a situation is staged which makes a choice and a determination inevitable. It is a choice which has to be made intelligently and upon the physical plane, in the waking brain consciousness. *It is only now that the full purpose and the work of Saturn for humanity can reach a point of group usefulness, for it is only now that humanity has reached a point of general and widespread intelligence which can make any choice a definite conscious act, entailing responsibility.* Prior to the present time, only a few pioneering disciples and a handful of intelligent people could be regarded as freely choosing at the 'point of balance' the way that they intend 'to tip the scales.' Today, there are countless numbers and hence the intense activity of Saturn as we enter into the first decanate of Aquarius and hence the same activity because humanity itself now stands upon the probationary path. This, Libra governs and controls, therefore the path of choices, of deliberately applied purificatory measures and the turning point before Scorpio."

As we enter the new age and move into the influence of two air signs, Aquarius and Libra, humanity finds itself juggling with many things. In order for the Plan of light and love to be restored and the Kingdom of God to be realised on earth, we need to begin to live according to the laws and principles of that kingdom. Through the current turmoil that is being caused by karmic upheavals, many of the hindrances to that realisation are being thrown into the air and into view of the general public, where they are being analysed and judged. By this process the 'common sense' of the people is starting to touch higher laws and principles and humanity is preparing for a significant step forward into the energies of the spiritual kingdom and new attitudes to the purpose of life in form.

Because we stand at the threshold of the spiritual kingdom, it is clear that choices have to be made. Here in the US as the next general election looms, choices certainly have to be made, perhaps this time more consciously than before. People do not always realise how their thoughts and choices are formed and conditioned by their emotions and we see this particularly at crucial election times when we can often see how easily ideas and beliefs can be turned into apparently desirable and satisfying images and promises on one level while, at a deeper level, actually serving to narrow and distort greater spiritual ideals. The higher laws and principles do seem to be eclipsed during elections when materialistic concerns seem to predominate, especially

money matters. During elections, politicians are certainly adroit at juggling figures and statistics relating to money, and persuading the electorate how, if they are elected, everyone is going to be better off financially. Wrong and selfish attitudes to money have to be resolved in Libra, only then can the right distribution of the material resources of the planet occur

It is Libra's quality of "balance" that is so needed in the world at this time – balance between spirit and matter, between our spiritual and earthly needs. Interestingly, our physical sense of balance is controlled by the ears, and any defect in its inner mechanism causes dizziness and disorientation. As the personality learns to use the inner ear to listen to the voice of the soul, so does it find balance through adjusting its relationship between spirit and matter and standing midway between the two. Returning to the book *The Labours of Hercules*, Libra is said to indicate the time of "the man who does not speak", and symbolises the interlude of silence in the life of Jesus. It is a time for listening and readjustment to the higher voice within us – a time when we quiet the lower voices of the concrete mind, and listen within the stillness to "the thoughts which our soul creates".

In the silence of our meditations, we learn to discriminate between the different voices and sounds of all the planes. The voices of desire must be recognised for what they are and superseded by the Voice of the Silence – the Christ within. Even after many years of practice, most of us are confronted in meditation with the chaos and din of thoughts from the lower mind blocking out the voice of the intuition within. The concentration of the juggler necessitates a field of soulful silence in which to operate as the things of spirit and the things of matter are rhythmically balanced.

The sound of the soul is slowly filtering through the veils of illusion that encase the physical plane as more and more people are seeking meaning in a world full of superficiality. Religions have not always been capable of fulfilling this need and many have had to make the inner journey on their own, as indeed we all must at the end of the day. However, the urge to unite with our fellow human beings and make a collective approach to divinity is inherent in the human consciousness, for the search for divinity is a search for oneness and unity with all of creation. When people do come together on the physical plane to meditate and make an approach to the divine, a vacuum of silence is opened up, a funnel of communication that cuts through the discordance of the lower planes and allows the sacred sound of the soul, the OM, to enter in. When an advanced group, knowledgeable in esoteric wisdom gather, the practice of meditation and the creation of this funnel of communication is "purely scientific and based on vibration, and on knowledge of dynamics".

The funnel arises out of adjustments in the matter of the three lower planes. Its power as an inlet for the sound of the soul – the sacred word – is enormous, especially when all members of the group are capable of standing united on the mental plane, blended in group purpose. "It is the loss of the use of this Word that has crippled and hindered the efficiency of all the present exoteric faiths, but this loss has been deliberately brought about owing to the dangers incident to the low point of evolution of the human hierarchy." However, when understanding is sufficient for it to be safely restored, and when congregations can sound it at the right note and in the right rhythm, the downflow of force from above will vivify the group and affect the surrounding environment in a powerful way. In *Letters on Occult Meditation* we read that "It will cause corresponding stimulation in all the kingdoms of nature, for the human kingdom forms a link between the higher and the lower, and, in conjunction with the deva kingdom, provides a meeting ground for the forces of life".¹

Gatherings of groups of people on the physical plane during the full moon period are therefore times of tremendous opportunity. The energies evoked through these created funnels can be most easily distributed at these times when the moon is not obstructing the flow of energy from the sun to the earth. When the gathering is united in its motive and intent, powers can be evoked which, when set in motion, have definite effects within the consciousness and within the environment. Gradually this act of service will be less motivated by desire for

illumination and will more fully realise its objective as a definite scientific service through the power of invocation and evocation.

The end of the year, during the festival week, is a time of “group impact” and one of great opportunity for world servers. It will need the balanced, rhythmic living of each of us to distribute its energy safely into human consciousness. Standing protected within the greater group, we can safely assimilate and distribute spiritual energy, knowing that surplus energy will automatically return, undiminished to the general reservoir of force. The secret in spiritual balance lies in non-resistance, in the self-forgetfulness of being simply a channel and in abiding *still* within the place of silent retreat.

Each person who steps onto the path of probation simultaneously releases a certain amount of stored up “karma” which provides the fuel for onward progress. This unfinished business carried over from previous lives intensifies both our individual and our group task as unresolved aspects of the personality are presented for resolution. Humanity itself is now on the path of probation and this explains some of what we see transpiring in the world today. Karma is precipitating into the human kingdom as never before and the once hidden evils are rising to the surface and erupting in crises the world over. This however, is our time of opportunity, for progress and release. Humanity can make a huge leap forward in the coming decades if enough people of goodwill are mentally pushing in the right direction.

The spiritual juggler resolves to adjust the physical, emotional and mental life so that the needed energy can be summoned to move forward and “tread the way which leads between the two great lines of force” to the Father’s House. At this time, the subjective group of world servers has the responsibility of adjusting the divine Plan into a programme of action by intuiting that “which requires immediate implementation” and bringing it into form on earth. To live up to this responsibility requires the ability to silence the lower nature and listen to the inner sounds that point the way to redemption and release. To manifest it requires intelligent adaptability and spiritual compromise, not idealistic reveries, but that which is possible and can be safely used and shared. With joy, balance and great skill, the group treads between the roaring pain of a needy humanity and a glimpsed vision of the glory of the kingdom of the soul which silently awaits each and every one of us.