

Festival of Leo
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Good evening everyone and welcome. As most of you know, this is the second Leo full moon this year, sometimes known as a blue moon, and we know that nothing is a coincidence in the heavens so there are certainly reasons why we are experiencing a double inflow of Leo energy at this time. And although we can't really understand these reasons, they are certainly important. We're fortunate tonight to be working within the full tide of that energy--today is the day of safeguarding and the exact time of the full moon occurs shortly. The use of the word blue moon has a particular significance for us when we are working with the energy of Leo because the Leo Festival is related to the great star Sirius, which is known as the Blue Star, also as the Dog Star, and is the home of the so-called Blue-Lodge, the prototype of our spiritual Hierarchy and the star with which planet Earth has a relationship of long-standing. And so the use of this adjective "blue" has a special significance for us this evening. Blue, as you know, is also the color of the great second Ray of Love-Wisdom that governs not only Sirius--the star to which many of us will one day find ourselves traveling at that high point in our evolutionary journey, the sixth initiation--but this blue light from Sirius also overshadows our entire system, working through the synthetic triangle of Saturn, Neptune and Uranus. We live in a second ray solar system and all ray influences here are sub-rays of the second ray.

Our sun itself is said to be a blue star and although it appears to our vision as gold, we're told in *The Secret Doctrine* that the gold color is a veil for blue, the true esoteric color of the sun. Leo is of great importance to our planetary Life at this time because it is the polar opposite to the sign Aquarius, the sign of the age into which we are rapidly moving. We're not there yet but those of us who are Aquarian in consciousness can say we have already entered into the Aquarian age but the full tide of Aquarian energy does not begin until the beginning of the next century. But between now and then, these interludes within the annual cycle when the sun is in Leo and Aquarius, give us an opportunity to work together to bring in this new and qualifying energy. The Tibetan tells us that each sign should merge and blend with its opposite, so no matter what sign we were born under in this lifetime, no matter what particular full moon energy we are working with in any particular month, part of our job as spiritual seekers who are attempting to contribute to the divine circulatory flow of energies that are pouring in at any particular month, is to blend not only with the sign under consideration but also with its polar opposite. Hence the importance of Leo because it helps us bring in Aquarian energy.

We know that many people in our world today find themselves at the point in their evolutionary development that is characterized by that of the typical understanding of the sign Leo--very strong-willed, worldly personalities, self-centered, ambitious, and possessed of leadership abilities. But as we move into a more Aquarian understanding of what it means to be a Leo and to work with the energies of this sign, we can perhaps envision a stage in consciousness wherein there is a deepened understanding of what group work is all about. This blending of Leo-Aquarius energy should bring about leadership by groups, large and small, throughout the world instead of the old and perhaps crystallized form of leadership by an individual. Or, if view it from another angle, we could look for leadership by individuals who are learning how to blend the Leo-Aquarius energies within themselves and thereby evolving new forms of leadership emanating from an expanded consciousness. The seventh ray is working out through the eleventh house (the Aquarian house) of group work and so for the foreseeable future groups will be working under the full sway of Uranian energy, bringing change and the need for innovation and quite often disruption and the breakdown of old forms.

Can we now take a moment of silence to link up with all the other individuals and groups throughout the world so that together we can provide a channel for the inflowing energies.

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 that has come down to us. Gayatri itself means hymn or song and it is helpful to understand that when we pray or invoke a higher power to come into our lives, to consider it as a type of hymn--to consider that we are sending the words out on a sort of musical vibration. It is true that our invocative aspirations towards our higher self are really a matter of tuning ourselves to a higher vibration, to a new rhythm. HPB, in one of the ancient books she translated from the Sensa called *The Book of Rules*—a book that was used to train teachers--likened a spiritual group to the strings of a lute tuned by the hand of the guru. So, in a sense that's what we all are--we are seekers, we are learning boys and girls, and what's happening to us in our higher moments is that we are being tuned, as if by the invisible hand of a guru, or teacher, one who stands before us on the path of return and whose task it is to take us in hand and subject us to a higher vibration. Our goal within this process is to remain flexible, to remain pliable, so that when we are tuned we don't snap or break by resisting the inner pressure. The analogy of the lute also brings in the concept that we are all being tuned in different ways, to different vibrations, different notes; we are not all the same, we don't all have the same dharma; instead we have different qualities and colors and together we make, hopefully, a beautiful music, a beautiful sound or note that extends the radius of our sound much more broadly and inclusively than could ever be possible alone. So that's what we do when we come together in these groups -- the idea is to collectively come together (having individually done the work of bridge building) at auspicious times such as this, to weave together our radiant strands and together produce a beautiful mosaic, a bridge which, in concert with all the other groups throughout the world, can play a significant part in bringing in Aquarian energy.

DK tells us there is an overshadowing star that governs each sign of the zodiac. That information is not given out for all of the signs, but it will perhaps be given in the next dispensation of the ageless wisdom teaching. But in the case of Leo we are told the "overshadowing" or "cosmic" ruler is the great star Sirius, as I mentioned earlier. So, within this vast cosmos, within this immensity of stars within our system, there is a great star, the star of sensitivity, overshadowing Leo, bringing in its special note and vibration which has a unique role to play in the evolution of this tiny, non-sacred planet Earth. The Tibetan asks, why this would be so? Why would a great star that is ever so much more highly evolved than our Logos shine its gaze on little, troubled, non-sacred Earth? Well, the Tibetan describes it as a karmic relationship of long-standing, thus positing the idea that between great planetary Lives, not only between you and I, there are karmic relationships and, fortunately for us, our planet has such a relationship with this great star Sirius. And we're told that the relationship is actually more between Sirius and the Christ than with our planetary Logos. DK calls the Christ a Sirian initiate. There is a particular relationship between this great World Teacher who we know is preparing to reappear, again, for a second dispensation, and the Great Lord on Sirius.

The Christ who is coming forward as the Avatar for the Aquarian age is on the second ray line and within the two-fold division of this ray of Love-Wisdom, the Christ finds himself decidedly upon the Love line--so He has a great capacity for Love. It is He who in some strange way for the first time anchored this cosmic energy of love for humanity. And we're told that no matter what other stars He may visit, one day he will make his way back to Sirius and to His home within the Blue Lodge, which sets the note and governs the cycles of initiation for our planetary Hierarchy. We are governed very much by the rhythms of life on Sirius and the Tibetan tells us that in the future, individuals and groups, large and small, will come together to make contact with Sirian force during the month of August. This is already happening. And so seeing that within this past cycle we have had two opportunities to make a contact with this great

star of sensitivity, we can perhaps do it better this month because the first Leo full moon prepared the way and now we have a stronger foundation upon which to work.

And although the Tibetan says we can't really contact Sirian energy until we take the third degree, perhaps as we come together in groups we can at least stand within the periphery of the great Ashram and participate within the vibratory inflow that is occurring at this time within the Hierarchy. The energy of Sirius does not work through Shamballa. Usually each month the energy pours into our planetary life via the Great Kumaras who inhabit the council chamber of the Lord of the World within Shamballa. The sequence is from the sign, the heart of the Sun, through the planetary rulers, to Shamballa and then to the Hierarchy. But we are told this is not the case during this particular full moon cycle--the energy from Sirius pours in in a specific way and we are given the alignment that is set up: the energy comes from Sirius, it travels to Regulus, a star within the constellation Leo that is found in what is called "the heart of the Lion," to the heart of the sun, to an as yet undiscovered trans-Neptunian planet, which then focalizes the energy through the planetary rulers of Uranus and Neptune and then the energy pours into the World Teacher, the Hierarchy, into our buddhic-astral vehicles (the second ray line within our bodies), and then into all life forms within our planet. So, again, it is a very second ray inflow of energy so we should attempt this evening, if we can, to link up with this energy and distribute it over the next two day period when, auspiciously, the sun itself will conjoin with the star Regulus which is found right now at zero degrees Virgo. So within this full moon cycle there will be an exact alignment between the sun and Regulus, giving a potent opportunity to work with the heart.

When we consider the nature of Leo we naturally would want to consider the sun, as it rules in all three levels in this sign -- exoterically, esoterically and hierarchically. Sometimes Leo is called the sign of the triple sun and this seems to me to be indicative of alignment. And particularly when the triple ruler is not a planet at all, but rather a star, the rulership becomes a symbol of the strength of this sign. Blavatsky said this assigning of rulership in Leo to the sun was really a mistake by earlier astrologers who were not yet initiated and who could not therefore recognize that Uranus, the Hierophant, was really the planet that brings the underlying potency to this sign. The astrologers sensed the power but had not the requisite understanding to determine its source. So the Tibetan gives Uranus as the hierarchical ruler. Uranus relates Leo to its opposite of Aquarius., thus again making Leo instrumental in bringing in the energy of the new age. Uranus is a seventh ray planet, along the line of the occultist, whereas Neptune, the esoteric ruler, is decidedly along the line of the mystic, the second ray line--being the sacred planet of the sixth ray.

I wanted to share a few quotes by Blavatsky from *The Secret Doctrine* related to the sun. She said, "The mystery of the sun is the grandest of all the innumerable mysteries of occultism" (S.D. III. 212.) The Tibetan emphasizes a similar point when he says that if we could come to an understanding of the esoteric significance of the sign Leo, we would penetrate beneath the veil of astrology. So the symbolism of this sign and its planetary rulers -- veils many secrets. And these secrets do seem related to the various states of alignment progressively undertaken on the Path. In Leo we move from the stage of the integrated individual ruled, exoterically, by the Sun veiling the expansive Jupiter, to the stage of the mystic, of those whose hearts are opening and who find themselves devoted to the soul and God and governed by the Fixed Cross in the heavens; to the third stage, that of the occultist and the eventual mounting of the Cardinal Cross--related to those who have moved beyond the third initiation. Leo symbolizes a progressive evolutionary development.

"The sun is a star and not a planet" wrote Blavatsky (S.D. I, 126.Note). When listed as a planet it is simply because it stands for or veils a hidden planet. The Tibetan gives various planets as being veiled by the sun. He gives, as I just said, Jupiter, Neptune and Uranus, but also he says the sun veils Vulcan--and that relates to another quote from Blavatsky when she writes, "The sun is the substitute for the invisible,

inter-Mercurial planet” (S.D. III. 459), which is Vulcan. And in other places in *Esoteric Astrology* the Tibetan states that Mercury and the Sun are one. So you can see there are many planets related to the sun.

There are many other symbols found within the sun. We’re told that the physical sun has a relationship to prana and to the etheric body. And then the Tibetan speaks of another type of sun, the subjective sun, which is connected to the astral plane, with the kama-manasic principle. And then there is the heart of the sun, relating to the higher and lower mental vehicles and creating the causal body. And the fourth sun is the central, spiritual sun which is related to spirit or atma.

The keynote for Leo is “I am that and that am I.” This keynote relate to the three planetary rulers and to the three stages of this sign that have been mentioned. “I am,” relates to the strong-willed individual personality; the “I am That,” to the stage of the mystic who is working towards alignment and conscious contact with the soul; and the final stage -- the “I am that and that am I” stage, aligns with the highest Monadic aspect. So this keynote perhaps explains why this sign reveals the secrets of esoteric astrology because it governs the transformation that all of us will one day undergo on the path of return.

Since we only have a few minutes left I wanted to bring up another teaching on alignment which the Tibetan references as very much related to Leo. The alignment is related to a cosmic triangle formed by two stars from the Great Bear-- Dubhe and Merak--and the third point is provided by the Pole Star. These three stars make what appears in the sky to be a direct alignment, a direct line. In a sense this alignment is a symbol of what is now occurring on planet Earth. In a reference in *Esoteric Astrology* the Tibetan tells us that Leo is associated with Polaris, the Pole Star, the “‘star of re-orientation’ whereby the art of ‘refacing and recovering that which is lost’ is developed”. This eventually brings a man back to his originating source”. (*Esoteric Astrology* p.196) This energy becomes active during the Mutable Cross experience and in the early stages of the evolutionary process. And with the awakening within humanity that is occurring today we can note the influence this star and the wider impact of the triangle as a whole is having. These cosmic principles have applications in the life of humanity, they are not merely abstractions.

I wanted to close with a few thoughts from DK on the subject of alignment. He discusses the idea that alignment is related to the bringing in of a measure of control to our astral bodies, because so often this body is out of control and consequently out of alignment with the higher self. But then, even if we get our astral bodies somewhat in alignment, we often find the mental body goes out of alignment. It takes many lives of strenuous endeavor to be able to purify the astral body and then many more lives to purify the mental body and bringing them both into alignment with one another entails another great effort. Then we must learn to coordinate this alignment with the brain itself. It is at this stage that we can become a liability because we become able to bring through our ideas with clarity onto the physical/etheric plane. The danger exists if we have not sufficiently opened our heart center and had its energies infuse the mind. Otherwise it is often found, as HPB noted, that the mind becomes the slayer of the Real and one could become side-tracked onto the left-hand path.

As we work assiduously with our meditation our higher self begins to become interested in us. Up until that time there is really not much interest shown by the soul in the affairs of the personality. It is only as we begin to practice meditation and live a meditative life that the soul takes notice. Then things get interesting as we work to build new forms in consciousness. Our death each life can be represented by a partial geometric shape. “In the beginning these shapes are uncertain in outline and crude in design.” (*Letters on Occult Meditation*, p. 5) As we progress and move forward in our evolutionary development the thoughtform of our life becomes “definite and clear.” Then, on the path of discipleship “the purpose consists in merging all these many lines into one line, and gradually this consummation is achieved.” (*Ibid.*)

And then he finishes this section on alignment by talking about the geometrical patterns that the Masters of the Wisdom create. He describes a Master as “He who has blended all the lines of fivefold development first into the three, then into the one, The six-pointed star becomes the five-pointed star the cube comes the triangle and the triangle becomes the one, whilst the one (at the end of the greater cycle) becomes the point in the circle of manifestation” (*Ibid.*) So it all ends with the symbol of the sun--the point in the circle of manifestation.

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