

The Sound of the Feminine Principle

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Welcome friends to the festival of Virgo, a sign associated with the mysteries of the Mother aspect of Divinity and the hidden light that it both veils and reveals. The ancients thought of the Mother as the Argha, an ancient form of the Ark that floated over the celestial waters of the Abyss, the Great Matrix of the Universe, giving rise to the universal cycles of birth and rebirth. The word Argha also describes a vessel or cup that is curved like a ship and in which flowers and fruit are offered to Deity. The germs of all nature are borne within this Ship of Life which distributes these seeds of all Being over the ocean of the Infinite.

Virgo's association with this ancient imagery of the Argha is echoed by E.V. Straiton, in the book, *The Celestial Ship of the North*, where we read, "Virgo, the great nurse of all existence; more beautiful than the Sun, and when 'compared with the light she is found before it' ... Her mystic message being 'I am all that is; I am all that hath been; I am all that will forever be: and my veil no mortal hath drawn aside. The fruit that I brought forth was the Sun.'"

Further more recent reflections on the potencies of the feminine aspect can be found in Vajrayana Buddhism – a Tibetan pioneer in this field reflects, "Whether male or female, there is no great difference. But if a woman develops the mind of enlightenment, her potential is supreme".¹ This branch of Tibetan Buddhism is perhaps unique amongst religions in saying that, to be a woman, can actually be an advantage on the path to spiritual realisation. A female embodiment of enlightenment is called a "Dakini" in Sanskrit, a word which describes something elusive and playful by nature, which defies intellectual concepts. The dakini principle appears in many shapes and forms and is beautifully described as "the luminous, subtle, spiritual energy, the key, the gatekeeper, the guardian of the unconditioned state. If we are not willing to invite the dakini into our life, then we cannot enter these subtle states of mind." Perhaps one of the most important reasons for highlighting this principle lies in the fact that although dakini transcends gender and form, women are seen as nurturers of the principle of enlightenment.

Traditionally the word has been used for outstanding female practitioners, and "to denote the enlightened female principle of non-duality which transcends gender". It isn't a principle to be oversimplified however, for it carries many levels of meaning and ultimately though she appears in female form, a dakini defies gender definitions. *It has been suggested that, in this her most essential aspect, she is the formless wisdom nature of the mind itself. On an inner ritual level, she is a meditational deity, visualised as the personification of qualities of Buddhahood.*

Shall we pause for reflection now and then say together 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 disk of golden light,
That we may know the truth and do our whole duty,
As we journey to Thy sacred Feet.
OM*

The Divine purpose of the Mother is to protect and nurture the Son or Christ principle and, when the time is right, fully reveal it through the redemption of matter. Fleeting insights on this majestic process can be gained through contemplation on a mystical stanza from *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*:

“The morning stars sang in their courses. The great paeon of creation echoeth yet, and arouseth the vibration. There comes cessation of the song when perfection is achieved. When all are blended into one full chord, the work is done. Dissonance in space soundeth yet. Discord ariseth in many systems. When all is resolved into harmony, when all is blended into symphony, the grand chorale will reverberate to the uttermost bounds of the known universe. Then will occur that which is beyond the comprehension of the highest Chohan—the marriage song of the Heavenly Man.”

The idea of the “marriage song of the Heavenly Man” is incredibly uplifting; it reminds us that the path of evolution is one of vibratory resonances – musical harmonies that fuse the Father and Mother qualities—the united spiritual and material aspects of our being forming the chalice of Divine consciousness. It is the song of the universe which is only created when all vibrations are blended into one full chord.

Writing about sound as the intermediary between spirit and matter, the author, Dane Rudhyar, ascribes notes to the music of the West and tones to the music of the East; notes being masculine and tones being feminine. “Our Western music is essentially a music of notes” he wrote. “Oriental music or archaic, primordial music — magical music — was essentially a music of tones. In our Western music notes are the edge of intervals. They are abstract entities which are related together in terms of such things as scales and tonality — major, minor — and other types of patterns...they are essentially abstract entities. If you study in a musical conservatory or university — or at least if you did study — it may be changed now, but in Europe, particularly, and also in America of fifty or thirty years ago, it was commonplace — you were told that if you are a composer, you must never compose at the piano. You must never hear what you compose. Your composition has to be the product of a definite and systematised arrangement of notes, according to definite patterns and conventional regulations.

“In Oriental music, everything is based on tones. A tone is a living entity. In India — and to some extent in China, but very specifically in India — a musical tone is the body of a god. Tones and special groups of tones are used in relation to the time of the day and the year, in relation to seasonal changes, natural rhythms and energies. In a certain sense, there are no false notes; anything may happen between the tones because they are living entities, and they can relate to one another by subtle glissandos or undulations. It is the quality of the **livingness** of those tones which counts, whereas in Europe, if you do not strike exactly that note you make a wrong note.”

This vital difference between Eastern and Western music is the difference between soulful tones of livingness in contrast to learnt arrangement of notes for those with classical training. We could say too that the West is more mental and masculine in approach, the Eastern more feminine and intuitive. The main point of significance with regard to the sign of Virgo, the feminine aspect, is Dane Rudhyar’s reference to working in the interludes where anything can happen between the tones “because they are living entities, tones being “the body of a god”. The entities or devas as we know represent the feminine line of evolution, the tiny lives which constitute both the form but also the living force that holds them together and motivates them. They are therefore the elemental forces of nature.

In a recent documentary, “When Bjork met Attenborough”, the Icelandic singer met natural history broadcaster David Attenborough who has taken an interest in her ambitious

project “Biophilia”, a musical production bringing nature and technology together to try and change the way we hear, make and think about music. For Bjork, her childhood education in German classical music didn’t connect for her, and she was more attracted to the powerful elemental nature of Iceland and the sounds of natural processes and wanted to reflect this in her music. New musical instruments were specially developed for the world tour of Biophilia, The Tesla coil was used as a musical instrument on the song “Thunderbolt”. In another song, “Solstice”, a group of pendulums were put together, harnessing the Earth’s gravitation pull to create musical patterns – transmitting the movements of the Earth to the sound of a harp. Added to this and other technological innovations is the peculiar tone and incredible range of Bjork’s voice that she uses to convey the elemental qualities of natural phenomena.

Bjork also tries to translate the mathematical structure of natural processes into her music with unusual time signatures; one composition “Crystalline”, for instance, has a relationship within the musical notation that imitates the hexagonal geometry of the growth of crystals. Of course, there is mathematical beauty to many classical compositions too, such as a five part fugue by Bach which has a transcendental quality that can be transformational for the listener. But by contrast, Bjork’s exploration of music is more related to the sounds of nature.

The relationship between sound and matter is studied in a branch of science called cymatics. Typically, sand or other fine particles are placed on the surface of a vibrating membrane. As different sounds are passed through this membrane, the changing vibrations arrange the particles into various patterns. Interestingly, the geometry of the patterns grows in complexity and beauty the higher the pitch goes. This science really explores the inherent geometries within sound and music and the beautiful mathematical structure of pure sound. By developing an inner ear sensitive to the soul’s music, we can imagine that corresponding geometrical patterns are being set up in consciousness to serve as a spiritual trellis for the mind’s growth. We can imagine too, the song of the Solar Logos sounding forth the Divine Plan upon which all things are evolving in accordance with the Pattern of Things as they are in the Heavens, as it is worded in the Bible.

In this light, we can see how music has the power to heal and stimulate spiritual growth by creating a vibrant geometry within the brain that is in harmony and resonance with Divine love and wholeness. A Planetary Logos generates patterns in the aether through sound, and so, on a lesser turn of the spiral, does a human being. We can imagine how the energy of the planetary thought form that is constructed at each full moon evokes a flow of light, love and power and through this created channel radiates it into human consciousness bringing it that much nearer to the divine. This is in stark contrast to the dissonant sounds of human actions and behaviour that we are confronted with on a daily basis through the media, horrific instances of violence and destructive confrontation. And yet, through it all, a steady and growing compassion for the plight of human suffering is growing in strength – a response which takes place upon the “planes of earth”.

Our group meditation is an unparalleled chance to further this process: concentration on the keynote and qualities of a zodiacal sign, influenced by its unique individual quality and opportunity, develops resonances in the group thought form we are building. As we link up with the worldwide esoteric group at the time of the full moon, we can take advantage of working at the peak time for the reception of divine energy. When we work with a thought form perennially, such as those we build out of the qualities of a zodiacal sign, a simple act of will enables each of us to reconnect with it and bring it out of relative pralaya and to further develop or simply energise it. Our work tonight is to resonate with the qualities of Virgo, tuning into the mass thought form that has been built through this group work in the past, and joining in with those who are meditating all around the world at this time to add to its quality, swell its sound, and act as channels through which these potencies can pour.

While this process may seem advanced, it is in fact, automatic to a large degree, and technicalities aside, anyone whose heart is aflame with the desire to serve will make a valuable contribution to the group work, even if by simply sitting in silence and contemplating their reasons for **participating**. The loving intention that is driving each of us to work together in meditation produces its own geometrical forms on the inner planes with the assistance of deva lives. Expertise in mind control and thought form building are only held out as the ideal to which we are all aspiring.

This all adds to the 'life more abundant' that is moving through the service network, endowing groups with radiant purpose and communicative power. Can we imagine the world populated by such organisms, the potency of their united invocation dissipating the planetary veils and revealing the vital body of a greater organism "in Whom we live and move and have our being"? It is no coincidence that the word 'organ' embedded in the terms *organisation* and *organism*, derives from the Greek word 'organon', meaning musical instrument, or organ of the body. Group service is participation in a musical fire within the body of the Logos – sound and fire being the predominant features of divine substance or 'akasha' of which it is comprised. The soul's fiery music is an 'organising power' forging harmonic lines of relationship wherever it is played. In our own small way, we each have to learn to become instruments of the One Soul, slowly but surely transfiguring humanity into an organism of fiery sound in the vital body of the Logos.

At the moment the subjective sound rising from the centre, humanity, is one of dissonance but this is part of the birthing process symbolized by Virgo. The introduction of high powered spiritual thought forms into the collective consciousness creates initial conflict as humanity cannot respond harmoniously to the new vibration. Paradoxically, this gives an encouraging perspective on the calamitous state of the world today, which to a degree is indicative of reactionary forces being stirred up by the new, incoming qualities. The advent of the new group of world servers has added considerably to this ferment. These servers receive and resonate harmoniously to the new principles and qualities that the esoteric groups transmit into the higher levels of human consciousness, but they have the difficult outer work of anchoring them on the physical plane through their practical involvement in human affairs. Bringing the energies of new truths, principles and qualities together with the energy of matter is a turbulent process but their introduction at this time is rapidly accelerating humanity's journey into a new era of light, peace and harmony, hard to believe though this may be if the focus of observation is restricted to the outer world of events.

Nevertheless, as we continue to work with the energy of Love-wisdom, which is featured so strongly in Virgo, it will bring about a radical change in all events and relationships. The clear, unrelenting light of divine reason will reveal all that needs to be transformed and aligned with it. Instinctive behaviours will be drawn from the depths to the surface of understanding, allowing the ongoing crisis and cleansing which we witness daily in the world to take place. As we steadily bring the Christ consciousness to birth through the feminine principle symbolized by Virgo, then the earth will settle down to resonate to a finer, musical vibration. The inner kingdoms will shine through matter and the Christ life will sound its note throughout matter in the lower three worlds.

Let us now go into meditation using the keynote of the disciple in Virgo *I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am*".