

The Festival of Libra—New York—October 7, 2014

Living at the Hub

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Good evening everyone and welcome to this Festival of Libra, the sign known as the Balances or Scales, the energy which brings about equilibrium and peace. Welcome also to those listening on the internet who can be scattered anywhere on the planet, and yet be here at the same time with us in this room. We can imagine a real and vibrant web of lighted energy extending all around the planet as people everywhere take notice of the soft and diffuse light of the full moon, this moon emphasizing the Libran qualities of gentleness, soft beauty, and quiet. We can also visualize people all over the planet entering into silence and meditation, as we will do shortly, helping strengthen and balance the energetic alignment between Hierarchy and Humanity. The full moon marks the time in the moon's cycle that reflects the most light of the sun, so the solar and extra planetary energies are the most available to us now as we seek to aid Hierarchy in their world work.

Libra marks the beginning of the Lower Interlude of the spiritual year, the opposite point of Aries, the beginning. This is the time as we move inward, when the powerful spiritual energies contacted at the Higher Interlude begin to percolate into the collective brain consciousness to be utilized in service. Libra marks the time of balancing, of weighing values and everything to do with balance is governed by Libra. Libra is also considered to be the "hub of the wheel" of the zodiac; it is the middle sign, the midway point, and in the esoteric teaching, the place where all zodiacal constellations are said to meet and cross. It is the point at which the aspirant occupies the middle place between the opposites of spirit and matter when these opposite poles are evenly balanced with neither material nor spiritual concerns dominating. It is here that the aspirant makes the critical decision (or not, temporarily) to move forward into the drastic testing of Scorpio.

The rotary motion at the hub of any wheel is the quietest and slowest relative to the motion at the rim. As you move further outward toward the rim, the centrifugal force gets more powerful and the intensity of energy is increased. Similarly, the energy activity at the center of alignment in meditation is, on one level, peaceful and still. The aligned personality enters a period of intense quiet, "the silence and the stillness of a focused point", so the soul from its own plane can pour its radiant light into its reflection. The energy eventually moves outward as a result of contact with the soul, and in a rotary motion, the activity is intensified as the meditator radiates energy outward in an increasingly powerful fashion. Waves of energy move outward from the still point at the center like the concentric waves from a stone throw in a still pool of water.

Let us take a moment to inwardly focus ourselves and find our own quiet center of energy, our inner hub and balanced alignment:

In the center of the Will of God I stand.
Naught shall deflect my will from His.
I implement that will by Love.
I turn towards the field of service.
I, the Triangle divine work out that will
within the square and serve my fellowmen.

The word of the soul in Libra is "I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force", emphasizing how important the themes of choice and decision are on the discipleship path. In Libra, one stands poised and perfectly balanced at the midway point between the energy lines of spirit and matter, the ultimate pair of opposites. After many difficult lives of physical plane living and singular focus on material concerns, the soul's reflection, the physical man on earth, voices the demand for more light and the soul, by law, responds to the pull of matter. As the soul's light irrevocably influences the personality, a long process of weighing values begins. Being exoterically ruled by Venus, Libra offers the benefit of a distinct quality of mind, a mental focus which is needed to clearly distinguish between all pairs of opposites and to make the proper decisions and choices, the choices that in the end, will favor spiritual values. The light of the soul focused through the mind disperses the fogs of glamour, and it is through the mind that intelligent choices are made which favor the truest and highest values.

Libra presents the disciple with the opportunity to examine values and requires that choices and decisions are based on those values. Values are not something static or fixed, but change as societies and cultures change and evolve. Deciding what is valuable and important is a constant process of eliminating the non essentials and intelligently appraising the best way forward. This process happens at the individual and group level as well. We observe the pain and suffering caused in the world today as the conflict of values rages. Conservative fundamentalism clashes with liberal thinking, regressive policies collide with forward looking ideas. And this is a process which must take place if evolution is to go forward. Humanity, ruled by the 4th Ray of Harmony through Conflict, will eventually come to the place of perfect peace, the center of the scales, the balance point.

In 1981, a global network of social scientists began studying changing values and their impact on social and political life. This worldwide survey, called the World Values Survey, seeks to measure traditional values versus secular values and survival values versus self-expression values. The World Values Survey, headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, uses rigorous and high quality research designs tailored specifically for every country and moves across cultures from

the very rich to very poor countries. It is currently interviewing about 400,000 people in 100 countries.

One of its most interesting findings is that the desire for free choice is a universal human aspiration, but that these desires are expressed only when basic survival needs are met. When self expression is permitted or encouraged, democratic values emerge more quickly, and in places where there are still authoritarian regimes, there is increasing public pressure for political freedom, as we see recently in Hong Kong. Also, through globalization and the instant sharing of information around the planet, advanced industrial societies have moved in the same direction and at basically the same speeds, but in countries that are economically stagnant, values have remained largely the same. This means that the values systems between rich and poor countries are growing further apart, mirroring the growing wealth gap between rich and poor individuals, especially in the United States. We have not arrived at a homogenized world and are still far from a global balance.

In the United Nations structure, there are civil society groups called caucuses. These caucuses are composed of NGO representatives who form an interest group around a particular topic, such as the Peace Caucus or the Women's Caucus. In 1994, in preparation for the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in 1995, a small group of NGO representatives decided to form what is called the Values Caucus. In their words: "The Mission of the Values Caucus at the United Nations in New York is to provide an open forum, in the context of the UN, where we can safely and respectfully discuss and explore our values, old and new, shared and differing, in order to allow a new culture to emerge that serves all of humanity and the planet upon which we live." They go on to say: "As humanity evolves, new values systems emerge in response to changing life conditions. Which values will serve us best as we face the challenges before us in the 21st Century? Above all, we need to understand and respect each other's values and learn to live in peace together." This language eloquently represents a Libran attitude, and the Values Caucus group is helping build right human relations. They host what are called "coffees", morning meetings with various Ambassadors within the UN system, who discuss the most important values in their own cultures and offer an opportunity for the participants to engage in open and friendly dialogue, leading all to increased understanding and tolerance, clearly an effort one would imagine has the support of the Ashram.

The continued success of the Values Caucus, paved the way for the Spiritual Caucus. Around 1999, several NGO representatives standing for spiritually based organizations felt it was time that the word "spiritual" could be acceptable at the United Nations. Their idea was to meet together within the UN for meetings in which a period of silence is the central focus, the goal being to help subjectively support the core principles and values of the United Nations. This group strives to occupy a position "at the hub", a place of inner poise and silence, bearing witness to activities of the UN that seek to harmonize the actions of nations and promote

peace, as outlined in the UN Charter. A phrase from the Spiritual Caucus mission statement embodies the energies of the Libran influence: "We seek to balance and strengthen the endeavors of the UN system and its affiliates with inner reflection and stillness." The Spiritual Caucus holds two monthly meetings, one in the Meditation Room of the UN and one somewhere on the UN grounds and still thrives today. Anyone is welcome.

The nature of the soul is light and the entire story of the journey of the soul through the zodiac concerns the development of the inner light. All light is found through the soul and it is through the soul that "in that light we shall see light". In Libra, the disciple has reached the point where the light of the spirit is balanced with the light of matter, but this only after a long process of constant weighing of values and endless choices and decisions. In the case of difficult or life altering decisions, one must retreat to the quiet inner place where the emotions are still, where desires are not raging and the soul can be heard. The fluctuations between this and that, in the light which is "moving up and down" must become smaller and smaller until the scales are at rest and completely balanced. Once the inner hub is found and alignment is straight, the will can freely flow through the balance point where the head and heart energies are equal, where the light of the mind can illumine the options and concord and balance can be achieved. All motion is eventually stilled, as Libran light is "the Light that moves to rest."

Opportunities for right choice and wise decision are constantly presented to the disciple. Similarly, major opportunities are presented to the Masters in a cyclic fashion. The Sixth Initiation, an event far ahead of *us*, is called the "Initiation of Decision" because it is at this time a Master decides which of the seven Paths he will move onto, a decision irrevocably determining his future service. The opportunity for this momentous decision is presented within the Hierarchy to the 6th degree Chohans every 49 years and we are told that the decision taken in 1952, "will see a group of these higher initiates choose the Path of Their future livingness and Being, but They will do so only after setting in motion certain energy forces which will creatively change matters on Earth." This passage in the book, *The Rays and the Initiations*, goes on to say that the decision made in 1952, "will produce great changes in our modern civilisation" and will "drastically and permanently affect the planet."

Can we look back at the last 62 or so years and imagine something of the ramifications of this decision on humanity? After 1952 and the crisis of the War, there were great upheavals concerning the ideals of human freedom, and crystallized structures were destroyed reflecting the 6th Initiation keynote of liberation and the advance of the Shamballa energy. Think of the many eventual revolts against totalitarian governments in Europe. In Africa, colonial rule was largely dismantled and countless tribal conflicts and wars occurred, many still going on. In the United States, there was the turmoil of the 1960's, as the idea of free love and free living caused often violent revolts against authority by the younger generation. This led to the era of ME, with a focus on self development and a selfish grasping of materialism. There was the

legislated end of racism in the United States and later the non-violent end of apartheid in South Africa, as well as the fall of the Berlin Wall, something many of us thought we would never witness in our lifetimes. The Cold War "officially" ended and the space race extended man's reach beyond the physical boundaries of the planet. This space exploration and expansion led to the now iconic photographs of the earth as seen from space and the collective realization that we live on one planet and are one humanity. We saw ourselves from afar, a group Stance of the Observer, as never before. Perhaps these 6th degree Chohans decided to allow humanity a greater freedom of choice to see how we would handle the offered opportunity. Have we made wise choices? What are the choices we face now?

The Master DK urges all aspirants and disciples to bend every effort toward making preparations for the Reappearance of the Christ, the World Teacher. Every Thursday, we "dedicate ourselves anew to the service of the Coming One" and look for ways to prepare humanity for this stupendous event. We are tasked with creating the conditions on earth through which He can work, and it is our responsibility to build right human relations and work to establish a certain measure of peace and sharing, which really means a proper balance and equilibrium between different cultures, religions and modes of thinking. For a long time, material values have been in conflict with spiritual values causing harm and suffering, contraction and stress, and as the Aquarian Age advances, we might visualize what the world will look like if a certain measure of balance is achieved in human affairs. We can work toward these goals and make the choices and decisions which will manifest them.

Uranus is the esoteric ruler of Libra, so the powerful 7th Ray energies flow through this air sign and link it closely with Aquarius, also an air sign exoterically ruled by Uranus. And although Libra is known for its qualities of beauty, grace and gentleness, its energies flow solely along the 1st Ray line of Will or Power, revealing an inner and potent will nature at its core, the center, the hub. Once a decision has been reached and the scales have found the balance point, Libra stands firmly at the center of the will. Today, energies streaming from Shamballa are directly impacting humanity, and the will nature is being tested as life affirming and spiritual decisions are called for.

The modern Buddhist teacher and scholar, Joanna Macy, often speaks of the *Prophecy of the Shamballa Warriors* as told to her by her teacher Choegyal Rinpoche. It speaks of a time when the world is in extreme danger, when so called "barbarians" of east and west have gathered great wealth and built unimaginable weapons of mass destruction and developed technologies that can "lay waste our world". It is at this time, the prophecy continues, when life seems to be hanging in the balance, that the kingdom of Shamballa begins to emerge. This kingdom is not a physical place you can find on the map, but an inner kingdom, an interior state of mind and heart existing within the "warriors". These Shamballa warriors are the people who understand without question that all life is sacred and interconnected. You wouldn't recognize them on the

street because they have no badges, no uniforms and no leaders. They walk in the lands of the barbarians, holding no territory of their own and are called on to act with moral and physical courage, to go into the center of the controversy and dismantle the weapons of mass destruction, the systems of chaos and materialism.

How can they do this? What weapons can they possibly use against seemingly undefeatable enemies? Because they know from the depths of their being the truth of humanity's interrelatedness, they know that the problems of the world do not come from any outside force or pre-ordained evil entities, but from our own decisions, our own actions and our own relationships. These weapons of mass destruction are “mind-made”; they are the illusions and false structures created by the human mind, and therefore can and must be dismantled by the human mind, a mind free from illusion and glamour, that sees clearly through the light of the soul and carries the right sense of values which honors all Beings, all life.

Another meaning for the name “Shamballa” refers to the place where the Will of God is known, the Peaceful Silent Will that confers the blessing of truth and strength and perfect love. It is the embodiment of the One Life. In our meditation, we strive to align with the Christ, with Hierarchy and with Shamballa, and as we do so, we are together, in group formation, opening ourselves to receive some of this Shamballa energy, the inspiration of the Shamballa warrior. The Shamballa energy is also destructive. It seeks to destroy any impediments to soul expression or blockages to the energies of the divine Plan. It seeks to destroy any structures that attempt to create the illusion of separation or the idea that materialism is a path in and of itself.

We have just witnessed and participated in the biggest peaceful protest march in history with the recent "Peoples Climate March". There were 2,646 events in 162 countries on September 21, the United Nations International Day of Peace. This is an unprecedented and united demand of humanity for action on the climate crisis, an obvious show of unity and united will toward a common and global goal. These hundreds of thousands of people, these Shamballa Warriors, the New Group of World Servers, are there on the internet for all to see. We are looking at ourselves, at our one human race, choosing to save the planet. We are insisting on an environment free from pollution and poison which will ensure the future of not only the human race, but of the subhuman kingdoms as well, the kingdoms for whom we are the stewards and protectors. Our sense of synthesis is maturing and we stand, firm and implacable at the center of the two great lines of force, preparing the Path of Light for the feet of the Christ.