

EASTER FESTIVAL – LONDON - APRIL 2015

The Spirit of Resurrection

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This afternoon we celebrate the Easter full moon in Aries – the first of the three major spiritual festivals of the year. We rejoice in the spirit of the living, risen Christ and look forward to the future when the ‘resurrection principle’ will be invoked worldwide. This message of entrance into new life is hidden in the symbolism of the cross so strongly associated with the darkness and pain of the crucifixion throughout the Piscean age. Moving now into the Aquarian dispensation, the cross will come to symbolize the ‘Life more abundant’ - not the terror of isolation, but elevation into greater livingness and the bliss of group identification in ashramic consciousness - a process in which we can whole-heartedly participate.

An ancient scripture beautifully predicts that in the New Age, *“the eyes and thoughts of men will be fixed on life... Concepts of death and sacrifice, and of the vicarious at-one-ment will...be superseded by the concepts of resurrection or of livingness, of spiritual unity and of service, so that a new note will enter into human life, bringing hope and joy and power and freedom.”* With these thoughts in mind can we now take a few moments of silence and then say together the Noontime Recollection:

*I know O Lord of Life and Love about the need
Touch my heart anew with Love
That I too may Love and Give.
OM*

The sign of Aries is associated with the Divine Will and the mysteries of Creation. Visualizing this creative process as a line of spiritual energy projected deep into matter from a central point of LIFE, a secondary wave of spiritual energy then flows through the prepared channel carrying the seeds of consciousness deep into the planes of matter. This involution into matter is the true crucifixion and from this lowest point, the upward arc of evolution begins – consciousness germinates, slowly growing through the matter in which it is embedded, developing after long ages, the power of mind and a sense of individuality. The struggle is then on to dominate the surrounding material forces and bend them to the will of the individual. Later, when individual desire has run its course, the will is used on behalf of humanity, and the disciple works for the good of others rather than for the desires of his lower self. At this point, the keynote of the disciple in Aries is *“I come forth and from the plane of Mind I rule”*.

Every human being is suspended upon such a cross of living energy formed from lines of incoming and outflowing forces. Down the vertical arm flows influences from the soul and various other sources including the zodiacal signs and their planetary rulers – all conditioning us in different ways according to our level of sensitivity. Some pass straight through us unregistered, our form nature and consciousness being too unrefined to respond, while others are assimilated and then radiated into the environment. This radiation forms the horizontal arm

of the cross making every human being a conditioning agent in his or her environment – just by existing, we either help or hinder the Plan of evolution.

Dynamic, expanded insight into the Plan of evolution was received by Christ at the crucifixion initiation when the mystery of the Cardinal Cross, the cross of Divinity was revealed to him. He was the first of our humanity permitted to see *the golden thread of light and of living life which links the light within the centre of all the manifested Crosses*. Christ embodied a new principle in evolution through this achievement, revealing to the world the nature of the divine quality we know as Love – the impulse behind world evolution.

Christ's love was demonstrated in a life of renunciation and sacrifice still symbolized in the minds of many by the Crucifixion. However, the acts of renunciation and sacrifice that humanity is being called upon to make today are not to be thought of in these terms. Spiritually considered, only that which is causing the death of the spirit is to be renounced. That which is keeping us from identifying more fully with the greater whole is sacrificed. Seeing renunciation and sacrifice in this positive light, helps us to understand and to express more nearly the divine will embodied by Aries. This constellation's 'saving forces', as they are called, bring wholeness out of fragmentation and spiritual harmony out of the conflict that characterizes humanity. If we could realise that this is an essential part of human growth, we would more gladly cooperate with the forces of evolution taking us towards group consciousness and group sharing.

In all kingdoms of nature conflict is seen and the fundamental cause is to be found in the involutory pull of atomic substance opposing the evolutionary drive of consciousness. So two polarities and wills exist – the retarding involutory will of an entity known as the Spirit of the Earth and the evolutionary power of the planetary Logos. Each is correctly pursuing the right objectives for its progress but producing inevitable struggle for the evolving units of consciousness torn between the two. Although there is struggle in the sub-human kingdoms of nature, in human evolution, pain and conflict enter far more acutely due to the principle of self-consciousness that does not exist in the lower kingdoms of nature. The result of this self-consciousness is the sense of duality, of which we are all too painfully aware.

A final battle between the elemental forces and the will of the soul ultimately resolves this duality when the soul prevails and takes control of the personality vehicles. As the soul's control of the personality grows steadily stronger, the fusion of the two become polarised on the plane of mind and work together with the Divine Will. In the Alice Bailey teachings, we read that when Christ reappears, religious teachings will focus upon *the use of the will in bringing about...[the]...living transfiguration* of the lower nature and this will lead to the resurrection of the spirit in mankind. Here we are given a profound vision of our future destiny as the 'Way of Resurrection' – *"the radiant Way, the lighted Way which leads from one great expression of divinity in man to another; it is the way which expresses the light of the intelligence, the radiant substance of true love, and the inflexible will which permits of no defeat or withdrawal."* So as well as expressing love, there is now an added necessity for spiritual workers to evoke this "inflexible will" – a will which provides the "strength to love" because the will of God *is* Love.

As we know from experience, evoking the will of the soul and maintaining alignment with it is extremely challenging, requiring strength and persistence to keep the mind focused at a level beyond the habitual focus of the personality life. Every effort counts in this long labour of raising our “lesser self” into the extraordinary being who resides, unmoved by time and events, in higher states of consciousness. It is in these states that one is mysteriously more truly one’s self, and more deserving of the title “I” than the personality that we consider to be one’s self in daily life. Easter is a time for re-energising this alignment process and magnetically transforming our lower consciousness with the power of the Christ force. As a worldwide meditating group, we are learning to work with divine ideas that are filled with this resurrecting force, and these meditations at the time of the full moon, carried out year in and year out, are steadily increasing in power and helping others to awaken to the beauty of a more inclusive vision beyond the limitations of individual interests.

Today we see this resurrecting force in many people who *do* sense the bigger picture and are actively responding to some aspect of human need. Their efforts are characterized by love, demonstrated mentally with reasoning and a sense of perspective that is balanced and sane. The spirit of resurrection is clearly taking hold of them and making its presence felt. They communicate a forward-looking attitude and a greater conviction in a more equitable world that is thought through clearly and carried into daily living. Wishful thinking and emotional desire have no place in the lives of these clear and practical thinkers who have the ability to plan and then see that plan through to fruition. These people are practical visionaries who, in the spirit of Aries, are coming forth from the plane of mind, and inspiring others while ruling their own lives. Aligning their personalities with the soul and the evolutionary pull of the Divine Plan, they are overcoming the conflict caused by the pull of the spirit of the planet.

It is only by going through a period of intense conflict that harmony is eventually achieved and expressed and there is a reassuring comment from the Tibetan on the workings of conflict which so characterise Aries and the struggle that ensues. He says of the disciple that *“as a result of conflict—the complete harmonising of his entire nature will be brought about; the fusion of soul and personality will be consummated, and for this he works. The same principle can also be applied by him in his consideration of general human affairs; he needs to see in all world conflict the needed steps towards an eventual harmony—a harmony based upon a true mental perception and a sound idealism. It is this process of developing mental understanding and a sound rational yet spiritual attitude which is now going on; the emergence of the many ideologies are the guarantee that the true idealism will eventually appear and control—the ideal of right human relations; it is the struggle between emotional control and a steadily developing mind control which is conditioning mankind at this time. When a mental, an emotional and a physical conflict are raging simultaneously, the results must necessarily be difficult, but they are surmountable”*.¹

The power of the mind is highlighted for us in the keynote of Aries and we are now entering a period where the need for mental control is becoming recognised worldwide. The power of positive thinking is very much in vogue and the cellular biologist, Bruce Lipton, has become something of a new age phenomenon through his writings on this in connection with human biology. His book, *The Biology of Belief*, reveals the science behind how the mind affects and controls our health and well-being far more than was previously suspected. His

research demonstrates that genes and DNA do not control human biology but instead are themselves controlled by signals from outside the cell, including the messages relayed to them by our positive and negative thoughts. Lipton believes that genes are *“simply molecular blueprints used in the construction of cells, tissues and organs. The environment serves as a ‘contractor’ who reads and engages those genetic blueprints and is ultimately responsible for the character of a cell’s life. It is a single cell’s awareness of the environment, not its genes, that sets into motion the mechanisms of life.”*² This new science indicates that one is an extension of one’s environment, which includes everything from one’s thoughts and belief systems to exterior factors such as exposure to sunlight, exercise and what one eats.

Changing the character of one’s life by changing one’s beliefs has immediate implications for societies bound by fundamentalist thinking whether in religious beliefs or materialistic views. Lipton’s findings therefore extend to society as a whole when he says that *“if humans were to model the lifestyle displayed by a healthy community of cells, our societies and our planet would be more peaceful and vital”*. As social creatures, like every organism on the planet, we are meant to be in a community, connected in relationship to other organisms.

It is in this area of relationships that the transforming energies of “life more abundant” are needed. Beginning with the individual from an esoteric perspective, we might say that the soul body contains a record of the past attainments, qualities and physical characteristics which have accumulated over many lifetimes. A portion of this heritage is available in each life time to be improved upon. Equally, each lifetime is an opportunity for overcoming the forces which have defeated us in the past – the negative forces we have succumbed to and which have guided our thinking and actions in a way that was not in alignment with the good of the whole. Karma as expostulated in the East is just this and nothing more: it is the accumulation of force that requires equalizing in each individual through the release of a rectifying force, an equal and opposite force if we are to think in scientific terms. Karma introduces forces that can readjust the balance, and is a power for good. However, karma can also be dissolved before it precipitates where the balance is restored beforehand by the thinker who transforms his consciousness. Karma is not a punishment, and where right thinking and right relationship have been achieved with respect to any department of living, then no remedial force is required to readjust it. Transmuting and transforming ourselves can be done consciously without karmic prompts, and when this becomes a conscious undertaking, although struggle will be involved, the joy of the challenge and accomplishment is reward enough.

This spirit of resurrection is alive and well and moving among us – through all the conflicts of life, steps towards a new world and new beginnings are being taken. Life is that mysterious force which stands behind spirit, soul and form, and which holds the solutions to all the problems of humanity – individually and collectively. At Easter the forces of restoration are readily available for us to access. They evoke response from the members of the New Group of World Servers and from the worldwide esoteric group. It is interesting to reflect on this Force of Restoration because it can be hard to grasp why this is a spiritual force. Losing that which is familiar can cause much discomfort and prompts many to wish to restore things as they once were. We might see this longed for type of restoration in isolationist policies when national interests seem to be threatened. However restoration from an esoteric perspective is the reactivation of the divine plan and renewed resonance with the law of Love.

This is where our efforts today are important as we affirm the power of a subjectively unified group of meditators to work as one in heart and mind, and in co-operation with the Spiritual Hierarchy. An ideal forum is provided here to receive and to transmit, wisely and safely, the inflowing Will-to-Good, uniting human consciousness into a station of light for a world in need. We take our stand at the centre of the cross of service and do not move in consciousness from there, no matter what hardships may come our way. From this high point of transmission, securely within the protection of the group life, we can serve those in need without becoming paralyzed by identifying with pain and struggle; we can evoke the will to bring about fulfilment and uphold a vision of endless beauty and livingness. With a greater understanding of the laws and forces which condition the universe, the barriers will dissolve and there will be no separation between life and death, between nation and nation, between person and person. We stand as representatives of the vanguard of humanity – on the threshold of recognition – recognition of humanity's common destiny with hope and a vision of greater livingness to come.

1 *The Rays and the Initiations*, p637/8.

2 *The Biology of Belief: Unleashing the Power of Consciousness, Matter and Miracles*.