

## Leo, the Heart of Compassion

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A warm welcome to everyone for this Festival of Leo; and welcome as well to all those participating with us through the internet. We know that many people living far away from the planetary centers and in many countries attend these meetings remotely, so we should try to see with our mind's eye a very large group gathered in service to the Plan; a group focusing attention on creating a living, loving channel for use by the spiritual Hierarchy. For this is the soul's work; to condition its instrument so that it can pour its energies into the physical substance of the planet, thereby redeeming and purifying matter. We are all most likely familiar with the adage that spirit is matter at its highest point and matter is spirit at its lowest, demonstrating that our whole planetary Life functions on the cosmic physical plane. In reality, there really is no separation between form and life, only the appearance of difference. This appearance is called the Great Illusion.

When we think of Leo, especially in the Northern Hemisphere, we think of a time of heat and sun, as the period of Leo takes place in the hottest part of the year. The "dog days of summer" seem to imply a sense of wilting and listlessness and a longing for the cooling breezes of autumn. But in reality, the period of Leo is alive with great solar energy because at this time, the force from the sun Sirius pours directly into the Earth through our Solar Logos. Thus, we can see that the "dog days" have a deeper esoteric meaning as Sirius, known as the Dog Star, is directly related to Leo. In the future, when the new world religion is established and fully functioning, the Festival of Leo "will be dedicated to the task of making contact, via the Hierarchy, with Sirian force", as Alice Bailey states in the book *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 299).

Leo also brings to mind the qualities of leadership and personal magnetism. Leo people typically are charismatic, sunny and natural born leaders, and in the long period of self development, when the life emphasis tends to be on the personality rather than the work of the group, selfish tendencies are prevalent causing conflict and tension. It's no coincidence though that the Leo native has an attractive and sunny disposition because all three aspects of Leo; exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical, are ruled by the Sun, the only sign where one planet rules all aspects, not counting the planets the Sun veils.

So for this full moon period, the Sun is the primary influence, flooding the atmosphere with intense light, electrical solar energy and life. Cosmic electrical particles coming from the Sun are continually bombarding the Earth and passing through our brains and bodies. Electrical solar energy directly affects the Earth creating the beautiful effects in the polar areas known as aurora. Let us open ourselves to and honor the power of this great Being, the center of our system, as humanity has done for countless thousands of years by saying together the ancient prayer of the Gayatri followed by a single OM:

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.

OM

A great majority of the Ageless Wisdom teaching as given in the books by the Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul with Alice Bailey, focuses on the theme of the unfoldment and development of consciousness in the human being. Indeed, we are told that, "It is a correct surmise that the purpose of this solar system is the unfoldment of consciousness....", (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 294) a statement which includes all forms of life, not just the human. On this theme, Leo is the prime example, because the overriding purpose of Leo is to progress from self centeredness, to self consciousness with a small s, to full soul consciousness and finally to group consciousness. Self consciousness with a large S connotes a fully developed person who is in complete control of his personal self and not swayed by desire or selfish intent. One is finely balanced and all personality vehicles; physical-etheric, emotional and mental, are working in harmony and operating as a conscious vehicle for the soul's use. The love nature is in tune with the will and the necessary personality integration is well underway so that soul fusion can take place.

Of course this process takes many. many lifetimes to accomplish, and while the personality grows in power and sense of self, through countless lifetimes in every kind of situation, the soul on its own plane continues its deep meditation, waiting for the time when it is fleetingly recognized by its reflection, the form nature. As the light of the soul pours onto its instrument, the little self at the center, the one who thinks and plans solely for itself, begins to become transformed and highly sensitive to the environment. He is affected and changed by what is going on around him and in the world, and gives full attention to the will and desires of the personality, the center of its world. Later, as a result of growing soul influence, one begins to outgrow the limited sphere of influence and starts pushing the boundaries of its previously small ring-pass-not. Quietly and steadily, the soul gains more control until it is recognized for the powerful and all knowing Being that it is, as the center of life as the sun is to its system. The "Lion who seeks his prey" has emerged from the den and the soul, the sun, the kingly lion, has taken full possession of its servant, the personality.

During this long process of self control to soul control, the pairs of opposites; soul and form, spirit and matter, life and death stand out in stark contrast. The disciple must enter into the epic battle on the Burning Ground. He stands at the threshold, viewing the field of destruction he must cross to reach full union with the soul, and begins to glimpse the Angel who guards the approach to the path of the Higher Evolution. All old forms, outmoded ways of thinking and structures that are not sufficient to house the energies of the soul, must be discarded and destroyed, and this process is extremely painful to the personal self which values its freedom above all else. The teachings comment that Humanity as a whole is now stepping onto the Path

of Discipleship, so it becomes clear why there is so much turmoil and crisis in the world today. There is great upheaval and stress as old forms are being destroyed in the fire of love. Yet, at the same time, the newer Aquarian principles of universality, brotherhood and freedom are beginning to be seen through the activity of organized groups demanding change and building a new world based on the principles of sharing and right human relations.

In any discussion about Leo, the effects and influence of its opposite sign, Aquarius, must be included. Every zodiacal constellation contains the qualities of its opposite, so one could say that there are really only 6 *pairs* of signs. In this present world period, Leo and Aquarius are enormously important as their energies are directly conditioning the growth of humanity and its evolutionary progress as we move more deeply into the Aquarian Age. Leo is referred to as the "battlefield of the Forces of Materialism and the Forces of Light", an apt description of the present global conflict. One phase of this battle took place during the Great War and at one point, the Hierarchy wasn't sure how humanity would choose; whether it would go the darkened way and delay its progress or whether it would choose the way of freedom and light, of love and compassion. We know we decided the latter, and now though, there seems to be another moment of choice before us.

Choice implies opportunity and includes the presentation of crisis. One of the biggest crises facing humanity now is that of climate change, but if viewed from an esoteric perspective, it can be seen as a rich opportunity for humanity to organize into concrete action and come together over a single issue. Climate change unites us all, affects us all and especially due to the industrialization of the West, we here are all responsible for it. It affects not only human beings, but all three subhuman kingdoms, causing changes in their environment to which they have to adapt or die. It is forcing humanity to recognize itself as a single kingdom in nature and is helping to break down the man-made separations of national boundaries and economies. It is stimulating the compassionate heart of every person as images of destruction and suffering appear in the news coming from every part of the Earth. It is awakening people to the terrific power of the natural world, a force no human effort can completely control. The Aquarian principles of synthesis and oneness are being birthed before our eyes and we too must adapt or die.

While we observe startling changes here on Earth, there are also momentous changes going on in the Solar System. A recent study by Dr. Mike Lockwood, Professor of Space Environment Physics associated with Rutherford Appleton National Laboratories, shows that the Sun and our Solar System are mutating in extraordinary ways. The study shows that in the last one hundred years, the Sun's magnetic field has increased by 230%. The moon is growing an atmosphere and there has been a 2400% increase in the auroral brightness of Venus in the last 40 years. Mars is undergoing global warming and there are ice caps on Mercury. Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune are brighter and there is an increase in X-Rays on Saturn. All the planets are going through some noticeable and intriguing changes, not the least of which is a 300% increase in atmospheric pressure on Pluto, even as this outer planet (I prefer to call it a planet!) continues to get farther away from the sun. What's going on? We certainly know the Earth is changing, that we are inwardly changing and viewed through an esoteric perspective, we know that Solar system and

its planets, conscious entities all, *should* be changing as part of the natural course of the evolutionary process.

There is particular attention on Pluto these days, as the successful culmination of the nearly 10 year mission of the New Horizons space probe has resulted in a fly-by of the planet, offering up images of its surface never before seen. Public attention has been intrigued by the heart shaped formation visible on its surface and we await further revelations as the data is unraveled. For students of the Ageless Wisdom and those interested in Esoteric Astrology, another event occurring in 2015 is an opposition of Pluto and the Sun Sirius. No one knows fully what the implications of this aspect are, but the last time it occurred was in 1767 -1768, the period leading up to the American Revolution and the emergence of the great cry for freedom against tyranny. It was a period of much turmoil and uncertainty, spurred by the human demand for freedom, and resulting in the formation of the United States. The American Revolution laid the ground for the French Revolution and the firm establishment of the principles of liberty, equality and fraternity, or brotherhood.

Freedom is a spiritual principle and an attribute of Deity. It is a soul quality and exerts its influence on every form, causing the eventual destruction of that form, whether it be a plant, an animal, a thought form, a human being or a planet, so that the growing life force within can be more fully expressed, ever requiring a new and more evolved form. The evolutionary process demands that the life within be free of the limitations of form, of substance, and it is only through identification with form that pain and suffering exists. The Tibetans states that, "The principle of freedom is a leavening energy which can permeate substance in a unique manner; this divine principle represents an aspect of the influence which Sirius exerts on our solar system and particularly on our planet," (*The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 416). How do we observe this bubbling up of the principle of freedom in our world? How can we understand the influence of Sirius permeating substance, lifting and transforming it into divine activity? How do we see the development of consciousness in relation to the liberating quality of Sirius as the cosmic ruler of Leo?

In Leo, the most fiery of signs, we are given the opportunity to meditate on the qualities of the Sun, its threefold ruler, and can take a tiny glimpse into the vastness of the relationship of our Solar Logos with Sirius and our little planet. Through the physical sun, the Solar Logos pours its beneficent influence of love/wisdom into the Earth and gives life to all forms, as without it nothing could live. Electrical emanations from the sun directly affect all electrical activity on Earth and science knows that powerful discharges from the sun could knock out the electrical grid of the planet in an instant. But well beyond the influence of the Solar Logos is the great Sun Sirius, standing above our Solar Logos in the same way that the Monad stands above the spiritual man, a mighty Being indeed. The powerful cosmic energies from mighty Sirius flow into our planet through Regulus, the heart of Leo, the Lion, into the Heart of the Sun, through the Hierarchy, focused in the Christ and poured finally into our own hearts, solely on a 2nd Ray line, the line of Buddhi, pure Love/Wisdom. We are not able to consciously contact these energies until after the 3rd initiation, but as a group we *could* begin to imaginatively set up the energetic field for this powerful alignment.

The overriding theme presented by the Leo energies is the development of consciousness; from an individual of the lowest self centered, selfish tendencies, to the most self developed and soul conscious aspirant whose primary motive is service of humanity and the Plan. During the progression from self consciousness to group consciousness, self discipline slowly develops. For in Leo, discipline must come from the inside out, it must be self generated and self imposed, otherwise rebellion and revolt will be the result. As one becomes disciplined and self forgetful, the concerns of the group become more important than the self. All effort is aimed toward the enhancement and advancement of the group and the self disciplined person becomes the one pointed disciple, working as a member of the Hierarchy in full waking consciousness. Sensitive awareness becomes inclusive understanding, proving the statement that, "Inclusiveness is the supreme key to the understanding of consciousness" (*The Rays and the Initiations*, pp. 537).

Every Thursday, when we meditate on the Reappearance of the World Teacher, the Christ, we are asked to dedicate ourselves anew to the service of the Coming One and to do all we can to help prepare the Earth for this stupendous event. We state that we have *no the other life intention*, but to do the work of preparation. Imagine for a moment what the energetic field would look like to the Hierarchy, or to the Christ, as they survey the prepared environment. Imagine if they saw a scintillating and vibrant field of lighted minds, of loving hearts, prepared and ready to work with and on behalf of the Christ, and do only that. This may seem like a far off fantasy, but the world servers today, many of whom we know about, are doing just this. The Aquarian values of synthesis and true brotherhood are emerging and the New Group of World Servers is becoming more visible as the forerunner of the Christ.

Compassion is literally defined as "to love together with" and is "the response to the suffering of others that motivates the desire to help" in the words of Wikipedia. Although compassion can be seen at times to have an emotional component to it, it is actually a rational reaction based on a sense of interconnectedness and a recognition of the oneness of humanity. It arises with the sense of inclusiveness as we recognize that the suffering of others is actually our own. It is a soul quality spurring us on to serve others and recognize the heart of love that lives within every person.

A very visible example of a living embodiment of compassion is His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. Viewed by many ordinary people, especially young people, as a living Buddha, as compassion personified, he travels all over the world, winning over the hearts and minds of thousands of people to the need in our world for more compassion and selfless service. He tirelessly gives lectures and teachings on a wide variety of topics, but always returning to the basic themes of compassion and mindfulness.

Recently, for the occasion of his 80th birthday, (which coincidentally occurred during the exact opposition of Pluto and Sirius in early July), a Global Compassion Summit was held in his honor and the many thousands of people attending the three days of events were treated to musical celebrations, tributes and perhaps most importantly, to his teachings on many topics such as

the transformative power of creativity and art, the significance of education in advancing universal human values, taking action to resolve the global issue of climate change and more.

In his thank you's to one large crowd for their happy birthday song he said basically this:

"Dear sisters and brothers,  
I really appreciate so many people expressing their warm feelings towards me. I have dedicated my body, my speech and my mind to the well being of others as my main daily practice. So when people show such warm feelings, that gives me more enthusiasm. I appreciate it. We are all the same human beings and we all want a happy life. Each day is a new day, a birth day, so when we wake up, we can think that this day, this new day I will carry in my heart a more compassionate sense for the well being of others. That is the ultimate source of a happy mind, a happy feeling, so this new day becomes more meaningful. That brings self confidence and creates honesty and truth so that trust and transparency can be the basis of true friendship."

In a later message to young people about the use of social media, this is some of what he said:

"The best birthday gift to me would be to pay more attention to your own mind and to your own emotions. Today we are very much oriented to material values and not enough oriented to inner values. If you pay more attention to inner values, no matter what is going on around you, you can keep peace of mind. Scientists say that fear and constant anger is actually eating our immune system. In order to keep a healthy body you need to achieve a healthy mind. This would be the best birthday gift to me."

As we step into the future, the full moon of Leo will be dedicated to making contact with Sirian force, through the alignment of the Christ, the Hierarchy, the Solar Logos and the heart of the Lion. In our meditation, we visualize ourselves as a group within the periphery of the Great Ashram and strive to maintain this connection so that as a group, we can be susceptible to the Buddhic energies pouring into the Hierarchy through this great cosmic alignment. We know that at the time of the full moon, the door is wide open to the Hierarchy, so let us prepare to approach this energy field, the heart of love and take our place in the cosmic alignment and as a group, stand and serve in two directions.

The seed thought we will be working with in meditation is: "I am That and That am I."

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