

The Virgo Festival– August 2015 – New York

The Christ is Embedded within the Womb of Time and Space; Birth Approaches.

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Regular participation in the ritual of monthly meditation during the full moon period helps us to view life and all events from the vantage point of the soul, outside of time and space, removed from the personal. As we follow the stages of the meditation outline, month after month, year after year and decade after decade, we cannot help but become sensitive to the soul and its agenda of entering into a sequence of incarnations with the purpose of redeeming and transforming the substance of mind and emotion. Equally we become sensitive to the greater evolutionary process whereby our planetary home, the Earth with all its kingdoms of nature, is on a path of transformation into a sacred planet. And we become acutely aware of humanity's role in this as we transit into a distinctive Aquarian civilisation and culture. More than anything else, regular participation in this full moon work helps us to develop a sense that we have a part to play in co-operating with this transition process, that we can take steps which will help us to blend our own personal will with the divine will. In a subtle, organic and totally non-dogmatic way, it helps produce a shift in our sense of who we are, our sense of self. We begin to grow into the perspective of 'I' as the divine Self in incarnation – the universal Self, humanity – rather than our instinctual experience of 'I' as the personal self with a soul somewhere, vaguely, in the background.

These thoughts seem especially appropriate as we prepare for the meditation in Virgo, when we consider those “critical moments in the life of the soul as it experiences incarnation” when: “Within the womb of time and circumscribed by space and limited by darkness – though sustained always by warmth – the life evolves.” [*The Rays & The Initiations*, p. 116].

Think for a moment of the field of human consciousness – the field created by all the human beings in incarnation at this time – consider all the crises of human experience – the pain, the joy, the challenges, the love, the despair, the ambition and persistent will, the creativity. This rich body of experience provides the womb of time and space in which the Christ child is embedded. The unborn, embryonic seed of the Christ lives, in varying stages of germination, within this living womb of human experience.

And think of the presences of Wisdom and Compassion Who watch over the womb, knowing that the birth, the moment of initiation for the human species as a whole, will come at the right time. Think of the radiance of the Mother of the World, shining through every atom of substance. Imagine the radiations from Her shielded eyes, Her face, Her heart. Sense the higher angelic presences that guard and watch over all the unseen dimensions of the maturing embryonic Christ, and consider the ultimate destined birthing of the child. The Christ within is on a path to become the Christ in incarnation.

In the centre of all love I stand;
From that centre, I the soul will outward move;
From that centre, I the one who serves will work.
May the love of the divine Self be shed abroad in my heart, through my group and throughout
the world.

OM

Gardeners plant a seed in the soil. They nourish it and care for it in the knowledge that nature will do its work, the seed will germinate and, at the appropriate time, will burst forth into the growing, vibrant plant. Just like the gardener, the soul plants its seed in the soil of a human life – this soil, which is often thought of as the feminine, mother aspect, contains all the elements of the human persona: physical, emotional and mental. The seed sits, apparently dormant, for a long time, through several incarnations, as the circumstances of life provide the experiences needed to prepare the environment of mind and heart for the seed to germinate.

In the garden, before the seed is planted, the soil needs to be prepared and cared for; organic matter needs to be added – lots of it. In the early stages of the soul's journey this preparing of the soil of mind, emotions and body takes time; many lives. Initially the mind is asleep; instinct dominates and there is a negative psychic sensitivity to impressions that come from all sides. The soul lies hidden, imprisoned in form, abiding its time. Then there is a focussing of personal desire, and a concentration of the ability to satisfy selfish goals. The person is waking up – the soul continues to be hidden and asleep. Then a life comes when Virgo provides a gentle stimulation to the seed. The intellect begins to wake up, the critical and analytical mind becomes active - and there is a faint sense of conscience as the soul moves in the womb and starts to make its presence felt. Now that the seed has sprouted a life or a series of lives follows in which duality is the keynote. An 'other world' is sensed, there is recognition of the shallowness of the personal life, and a longing to be united with the higher Self.

There is a tendency to think of this sense of separation between higher and lower as being 'Piscean', implying that it represents the past in the spiritual life. But in terms of the birthing of the Christ consciousness it marks a significant development. When an awareness of separation between soul and personality is a pressing reality the path becomes all about the resolution of duality and the gradual emergence of soul consciousness on the physical plane. Duality must be sensed before it can be resolved. When there is a growing awareness of the two distinct aspects of self, soul and personality, everything is in place for Virgo to provide the perfect nurturing environment for the soul to grow and become a significant factor in the thought life and the emotions. The mind is stimulated by illumination and revelation. Activity inspired by the soul is carried intelligently forward. The seed grows into the embryo. The sense of separation between soul and personality is replaced by an experience of soul and personality being of great importance to each other. The Virgo keynote, ***I am the mother and child, I God, I matter am***, speaks of this symbiotic relationship. From now on the path leads through a stage of one-pointed discipleship where the mind directs the personality in fields of service inspired by the soul vision ... and on to the actual birthing of the Christ, and, in collective terms, the emergence of the savior.

When we speak of the world of time and space we are speaking of the world we can see and touch, smell and hear – the world of human experience. Virgo makes us look at this world as providing the warmth, the depths, the challenges, the quiet and the dark in which deep reflection leads eventually to the uncovering of long lost secrets and to recognition of the good the beautiful and the true.

Virgo invites us to view humanity as a vibrant, living center of experience in which and through which the Christ child is being nourished. The tensions between separation and wholeness are all a part of this dynamic. Some time ago I was struck by a paper on Virgo written by an astrologer, Malvin Artley, who was living in Adelaide. South Australia. He captured something of the beauty of this view of human experience nourishing the Christ child when he wrote of an experience he had looking out upon his home city:

As I made my way along the Salisbury Highway the lights of Adelaide stretched out before me and I felt a strange sort of calm come over me as the distant glow of the lights filled my head with the reverie of fire-gazing. I felt as though I was looking out over a vast womb, with each light holding the promise of unfolding life, of gestating potency and it all gave the impression of a great city moving united toward some future manifest destiny. The thousands of street lights looked like pearls of fire strung in lines stretching to the horizon and snaking their way throughout the city and suburbs. Most people were at home having tea, getting ready for the weekend Footy and having a few beers while they watched the telly—in short, moving through their lives, most being oblivious to the larger energies around them. I felt a certain kinship with that collective and a sense of belonging to the greater purpose unfolding through the society.

The big issues and debates confronting all societies at this time: race relations, migration, economic inequality, climate change, violence, sustainable development can all be looked at through these same eyes. They provide the perfect environment for the seed of Christ consciousness to grow, and quicken. They are the clearest signs that through the womb of time, God's plan is maturing, human beings are changing, growing, developing and the principles of Aquarius (synthesis, wholeness and freedom) are coming to birth in social institutions, laws, and community processes.

DK suggested that in the 1940's humanity was already in the eighth month of the gestation process of the new Aquarian consciousness. Clearly things have moved forward since then and perhaps we might consider the birth to be imminent – always remembering that 'imminent' in these matters is not some pre-determined time span but rather in the next few decades. This imminence helps to explain some of the discomfort and pressure of our time. The principles of wholeness (the Christ consciousness) are strongly present in human awareness while the established structures and patterns of religious, political and economic life reflect the instinctual, elemental and habitual forces of separation. In the eighth month of pregnancy the baby is moving around within the womb and getting into position ready for birth. The independent activity of the baby inside the womb can be particularly uncomfortable for the mother. There is enormous discomfort in our time as the new pushes itself into the old and established order.

There is evidence to suggest that, in spite of apparent appearances in the political battles going on in the nations of the world, humanity as a whole is taking strong steps to organize its affairs around the principles of the Plan. Perhaps the clearest evidence is that next month, on September 25 – 27, the leaders of the governments of the world will assemble at UN Headquarters to declare a new set of 17 Goals for Sustainable Development to guide every nation from now until the year 2030. The goals are visionary and reflective of the Plan. They have been agreed following years of negotiation, debate and research involving government departments and administrations from every country, experts and professional bodies, goodwill organisations and movements from around the world, business, and individual voices from millions of people. Never in the history of humanity has there been such a process to define common goals and aspirations. The visionary principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have been brought into focus in this unprecedented move to unite forces of goodwill in humanity around a new push to solve the dominant problems of humanity and, in the process, take steps towards greater sharing in a world that values unity and diversity. Earlier in the month, on September 9, the President of the UN General Assembly will host a High Level Forum on a Culture of Peace, concentrating on the Sustainable Development Goals and a Culture of Peace.

In the same spirit all the signs are that the forthcoming UN Climate Summit in Paris in December this year will reach agreement by governments on steps to be taken to significantly reduce carbon emissions and build national and global economic structures that protect the natural systems of the earth from human exploitation. Those who wish to subjectively support these UN Summits in September and December are encouraged to work with the Cycle of Conferences visualisations from World Goodwill – subscribers to this initiative will receive further information closer to each event. [lucistrust.org/cycle]

Another sign that through the womb of time and space the embryo of the Christ consciousness is quickening and approaching the birth is the celebration this year of International Day of Peace on September 21st. The day has been observed every year since 1981 but in recent years it has involved increasing numbers of people and groups from every part of the world – taking actions to build peace and right relations, observing cease fires in areas of conflict, and linking in prayer and meditation to invoke peace and right relations. Those who value the Great Invocation are especially encouraged to link with all the diversity of actions for peace from people of goodwill in their millions on September 21st and to concentrate the energies of intention and will reflected in those actions, into a dedicated act of invocation to the Forces of Light through the use of the Great Invocation.

In Virgo we recognise that in our world of human experience, at this time in the cycle of history, a fresh inner spiritual reality is in process of coming to birth. When the birth has taken place, humanity as a whole, all the millions of people ‘moving through their lives’, will have a different overall orientation from previous times. People will still watch the tellie, experience the highs and lows of relationships and so on, we will still all be people with inner conflicts; but the note, the tenor of our cultures will be coloured by a natural automatic sense of unity and wholeness – this will be reflected in all areas of life – there will be a strong sense of the sacred as we go about our lives – and a certain easy facility to manifest a higher purpose and beauty in our individual lives and in our communities. We can expect fresh revelation about the nature of God.

Esoteric teachings give us an image of the birth of the Christ in terms of the relations between the two higher centres: the head centre, reflected in the pineal gland, and the centre between the eyebrows, reflected in the pituitary gland. The head centre which symbolises spirit, and the positive masculine aspect is awakened through meditation, service and aspiration. The centre between the eyebrows, symbolising matter, and the negative, feminine aspect, blends and concentrates all the energies of the centres below the diaphragm together with the heart and throat. “As the soul becomes increasingly potent in the mental and emotional live of the aspirant”, the head centre becomes more active and vibrant. As the personality is purified the centre between the eyebrows becomes stronger and more active. When the radiance of the two centres becomes sufficiently potent: “they make contact with each others vibratory or magnetic field, and instantly the light flashes out. Father-spirit and mother-matter unite and are at-one and the Christ is born” [*Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 291].

In *A Treatise on White Magic* Alice Bailey applies the symbolism of the relation between these two centres, as it affects the birthing process, to humanity as a whole. The planetary hierarchy, the Great Ones on the inner side of life, form together the head centre of humanity. In the incarnated world of human experience there is a large block of individuals who are living creative lives with a measure of idealism and intuitive perception which makes them a part of the head centre – consciously or unconsciously. This does not necessarily refer to people who are members of particular esoteric orders, who are students of a particular teaching – “the fact that a student may belong to any of the outer esoteric groups so-called is no indication of his true esoteric status” [*Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 512]. It refers to

those who are purposefully giving incarnation in their lives and their work and field of service to Aquarian principles of synthesis, wholeness, unity; and doing so in a spirit of freedom. This significant body of creative individuals forms, in esoteric terms, those cells within the pineal gland of humanity as a whole that are awake, and “thrilling to the vibrations of the head centre – the occult Hierarchy”. Their challenge is to “intensify their endeavour and so awaken others”.

The scientists, thinkers and artists who are the leading pioneers of the human family make up the pituitary body, the centre between the eyebrows. Alice Bailey writes:

They express the concrete mind but lack that intuitive perception and idealism which would place them (symbolically speaking) in the pineal gland; they are nevertheless brilliant, expressive and investigating. The objective of the Hierarchy (again symbolically speaking) is to make the pineal gland so potent and, therefore, so attractive that the pituitary body of cell lives may be stimulated and thus a close interplay be brought about. This will lead to such potent action that there will be a streaming forth of new cells to the pineal gland and at the same time such a strong reaction set up that the entire body will be affected, resulting in the streaming upward of many stimulated lives to take the places of those who are finding their way into the centre of hierarchical endeavour. [Treatise on White Magic, 277 – 8]

Can we figuratively stand on the mountain top, looking out, not on Malvin’s home city of Adelaide – but upon all the cities and towns and villages of this Earth of ours. Billions of people, moving through their lives and forming the substance, the womb of time and space, in which a new consciousness is steadily quietly growing, watched over by Hierarchy. The process of this embryonic consciousness growing in the womb and preparing for birth is beautifully reflected in the image of the tension and dynamic relation between the pineal gland (those who think and live with some echo of an esoteric sense) and the pituitary gland (those who think and live with a strong and positive concrete mind). As these two fields in the brain of the collective human family move into ever closer interplay and relationship so will the embryo of the new come to birth and take shape in a culture and civilisation which will be fully reflective of Aquarius. So will the Christ be born at the appropriate time.