

Virgo Full Moon Meeting – London – August 2015

Dominic Dibble

Good afternoon, and welcome to our group meditation meeting in the sign of Virgo. Virgo is the sixth sign, counting from Aries via Taurus, which is the direction travelled by the re-oriented human who is becoming a disciple. In terms of the annual cycle of higher interlude - exhalation - lower interlude - inhalation, this places Virgo at the end of the cycle of exhalation. It is thus symbolically the lowest point of descent for the energy of spirit emanating from Aries. It is where the fire of Spirit is grounded in the Earth, for Aries is a Fire sign and Virgo is an Earth sign. This relationship, from the heights to the depths, was known to the ancient Romans and symbolised in their mythology, in which a synonym for Virgo is Tellus. Tellus was the name of the original earth goddess in the religious practices of the Republic or earlier. The scholar Varro (1st century BC) lists Tellus as one of the twenty principal gods of Rome, and one of the twelve agricultural deities. She is regularly associated with Ceres in rituals pertaining to the earth and agricultural fertility.

The attributes of Tellus were the cornucopia, or bunches of flowers or fruit. She was typically depicted reclining. This horizontal pose can be seen as symbolising the horizontal arm of the cross of discipleship, or again the lowest point of descent for Spirit. Her male complement was a sky god such as Caelus, a Romanised version of the Greek sky god Uranus. As it happens, the hierarchical ruler of Aries is Uranus. The Greek counterpart of Tellus is Gaia.

While Tellus has occasionally been used as a name for Earth, in modern times it seems to have been overtaken by the name Gaia, aided by James Lovelock's famous Gaia hypothesis. However, Tellus also gives us the adjective telluric, which is used to describe the electric currents which flow through the upper layers of the Earth. Telluric currents result from both natural causes and human activity, and the discrete currents interact in a complex pattern. The currents are extremely low frequency and travel over large areas at or near the surface of the Earth. They are mainly induced by changes in the outer part of the Earth's magnetic field, which are usually caused by interactions between the solar wind and the magnetosphere or solar radiation effects on the ionosphere. Telluric currents flow in the surface layers of the earth. These currents continuously move between the sunlit and shadowed sides of the earth, toward the equator on the side of the earth facing the sun (that is, during the day), and toward the poles on the night side of the planet. So we can see that this is in effect a dense physical correspondence to the spiritual symbolism of Caelus and Tellus, with the actual electrical power of the sun inducing electrical currents within the Earth.

It may be surprising to learn that the Earth beneath our feet is electrified, since we are accustomed to think of the Earth as completely electrically neutral. After all, isn't this why the earth wire in electrical equipment exists? But in fact, an earth or ground in an electrical circuit is only theoretically neutral - in practice, although the Earth's capacity for absorbing charge is very large, it is not infinite. And of course, while the electrical equipment which humanity has so far created is not yet at a scale where it would make significant changes to the charge of the whole planet, once the scale of the electrical effects generated by the Sun are taken into account, it should become clear that we live in an electric universe. The fact that the human organism does not yet clearly perceive the subtle flows even of physical electricity in its surroundings indicate just how far we have to go in our perceptions of the higher, non-physical flows of energy.

Before we continue, let's pause for a few moments of silence, and then say together the Affirmation of the Disciple:

I am a point of light within a greater Light.

I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of love divine.

I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focussed within the fiery Will of God.

And thus I stand.

I am a way by which men may achieve.

I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.

I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.

And thus I stand.

And standing thus revolve

And tread this way the ways of men,

And know the ways of God.

And thus I stand.

The symbolic descent of energies from the highest planes to the lowest point of densest concretion also brings into focus the idea of many different levels of intermediate reception and transmission. What begins as a pristine geometric pattern on the level of Spirit has to undergo many transformations in its passage downward, with the materials becoming more and more dense, and hence resistant to change, on lower levels. So the original pattern will inevitably become somewhat altered. Nevertheless, the final form will contain within it the seed of the original pattern, for those who can see beneath the surface levels of distortion. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Etruscan form of Virgo, the goddess Cel, is particularly associated with the art of haruspication, which is divination through inspection of the entrails, and particularly the liver. The modern Western mind may be inclined to look askance at the concept of divination, as a primitive, pre-scientific attempt to predict the future. But we should not underestimate the depths of wisdom and understanding present in the ancient world, recalling that the Hierarchy passed on much to the Atlanteans whose meaning and purpose is now obscure to us; and the ancient world is 2000 years closer to that knowledge. Is it really so far-fetched to think that the complex organisational effects of spirit, as it enters and energises forms, will leave lasting impressions within living beings, impressions that may provide subtle hints to the future direction in which spirit is driving

evolution? Virgo is the pre-eminent sign of the complex processes of the organisation of matter under the impact of spirit, of the gestation of the living form, so it is not surprising that it should be associated with such a process of divination. Naturally, this suggests that there may be even more sophisticated and reliable forms of divination which operate on levels higher than the dense physical; perhaps these await the growth in etheric vision, and the restoration, on a higher turn of the spiral, of the ancient Mysteries. At that point, the whole natural world may reveal itself to the eye of the awakened seer as a vast evolving symbol of onrushing spiritual progress.

The descent of Spirit into Matter symbolised by the relationship between Aries and Virgo reminds us that the human kingdom is itself founded upon the three lower kingdoms of nature, and each one of us has passed through those kingdoms over aeons of time, as Matter becomes increasingly responsive to the organising direction of Spirit. And the human kingdom continues to rely upon the lower kingdoms for shelter, nutrition and companionship. Our responsibility as the elder brethren of the lower kingdoms is underlined by the fact that we are in one sense quite literally their child, the product of long gestation through great reaches of time. As the Tibetan notes, "Man has his roots in all the three kingdoms; all have contributed to his equipment; he is the macrocosm of the lower microcosm; he is the link which unites the three lower kingdoms to the three higher. Let it ever be borne in mind that the sign of man's spiritual unfoldment lies in his ability to include in his consciousness not only the so-called spiritual values and the power to react to soul contact, but also to include the material values, and to react divinely to the potencies which lie hidden from him in the custody of the other forms of divine life, found in the three sub-human kingdoms." (Es. Psych., Vol.I, pp.230-1)

Virgo is sometimes spoken of as the womb of time, and the Tibetan remarks that, from certain angles, Virgo is the oldest of all the signs. He notes that Virgo was active during the first solar system which preceded this one. In that far distant past, it was Matter which was the dominant aspect, and "In that first system, the faint symptoms... of the duality which is a proven fact in this system are to be found, and this truth is preserved for us in the words that 'the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Virgin Mary.' The life of the third divine aspect played then upon the ocean of quiescent matter and prepared that substance (over untold aeons) for its work in this solar system. It is in this [second] system that the Christ Child, the expression of the divine consciousness and the result of the relationship of Father-Spirit and Mother-Matter, must be brought to the birth." (Es. Astro., pp.255-6) He also remarks that the Mutable Cross, the Cross of changes, of the transmutation of forms, governed the first solar system. In the first system and in this second solar system, and to humanity en masse, this Cross rules or governs the path of probation (which in reality is the entire life experience, prior to treading the path of discipleship, including all experience in the lower kingdoms). So we could say that the Mutable Cross is the Cross most concerned with *physical* evolution, where transitions from one type of consciousness to the next higher are most obviously marked by transformations in form, from one kingdom to the next. These processes of evolutionary transformation have been well described by science, most famously by Darwin. However, by attempting to work backwards from the form and its adaptations to the psychology of the human being, the field of evolutionary psychology reveals the inadequacy of a purely materialist perspective. Sri Raghavan Iyer, co-founder of the Institute for World Culture, alludes to this mistake in the following passage:

"The cosmic law of Karma, which works through all race evolution, is involved in the descent of the Kumaras, the solar ancestors who endowed nascent humanity with the power of Manas over eighteen million years ago during the Third Root Race... Similarly, the law of Karma comprehends the vast scope of the hosts of the Lunar Pitris working up the materials of the living lower kingdoms

throughout the preceding Rounds. This complex karma of all humanity over millions upon millions of years is involved in the changes and continuities affecting the human race. That karma involves the activity of beings of surpassing wisdom and power as well as myriads upon myriads of elementals, the living atoms of Nature's sounding-board. It should not be surprising, therefore, that it is impossible to explain or anticipate everything that is transmitted through human beings merely through some theory of physical heredity, however complicated in terms of modern biochemistry and microbiology. Whilst it is possible to gain helpful lessons through a microscopic study of its physical manifestations, there are far more important insights to be gained by rising in consciousness to a more global awareness of human life. It is in the multi-dimensional life of humanity as a whole that the deepest mysteries are to be discerned regarding the Logoc processes of creation, continuity and change."

Iyer's reference to the lunar Pitris reminds us of humanity's responsibility not just to the lower kingdoms, but also to other evolutions. The lunar Pitris are on the devic line of evolution, and they form the building blocks of the physical, emotional and lower mental bodies of the human evolution. In the following passage from *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, it seems that Virgo and the lunar Pitris were closely connected in the past: "In the first solar system the negative substance aspect, the Mother aspect or matter, was perfected. The [lunar] Pitris dominated." (Cos. Fire, p.618) However, in the present, the emphasis shifts from the perfection of Matter to its role as the matrix within which consciousness is brought to birth, for the passage continues: "In this [second solar] system force activity lies in the hands of the solar Pitris or greater devas. At the close of the mahamanvantara [the solar Pitris] will have built according to the plan a perfect sheath or vehicle of expression for the Divine Thought, and this through the manipulation of negative substance; they utilise the heat of the Mother to nourish the germ of the Divine Thought, and to bring it to fruition." (Cos. Fire, pp.618-9)

In this current solar system, and at this current stage of spiritual evolution, Virgo is associated with the energy of Kriyashakti, which is the energy of materialising the ideal. Raghavan Iyer has the following two thoughts on this energy: "In the perfected human being, permanently rooted in consciousness on the plane of Akasha, Kriyashakti unfolds as the ceaseless capacity of compassionate ideation extended in protective benevolence over all beings." And, "Long before an individual attains to this advanced and deliberate state of self-evolution, he can gain a provisional and theoretical understanding of Kriyashakti arising out of meditation as the paradigm of creativity. Citing the mysterious role played by Kriyashakti in the evolution of humanity and the presence of this power as latent in every human being, H.P. Blavatsky characterized Kriyashakti as 'the mysterious power of thought which enables it to produce external, perceptible, phenomenal results by its own inherent energy. The ancients held that any idea will manifest itself externally if one's attention (and Will) is deeply concentrated upon it; similarly, an intense volition will be followed by the desired result. A Yogi generally performs his wonders by means of Itchasakti (Will-power) and Kriyasakti.' "

In these thoughts about Virgo, which span reaches of time and space far beyond the understanding of the individual, and which reflect on impersonal energies, kingdoms, solar systems and evolutions, we may wonder what relevance there is for the modern disciple, faced with the complicated and troubling crises of politics, economics and religion that beset the planet? Is this all just intriguing esoteric theory, with no practical relevance? No, it is not, for the simple yet compelling reason that the ideas we are considering concern the ultimate origin and destiny of all living beings, ideas which are relevant in every historical period, either past, present or any conceivable future. The challenge for the disciple, in every era, is to find ways to connect the timeless with the temporal, to apply ageless wisdom to contemporary circumstance. This is where skill in action is honed, and where patience and persistence will lead, through many failures, to

ultimate success. True births can never be rushed, either in the physical world or in the realm of consciousness, and the energies of Virgo assure us of the ultimate triumph of the evolutionary process, which we can actively support through the creative power of the indwelling Christ principle. So let us turn now to our work in meditation, using the keynote for the disciple in Virgo, "I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am."