Festival of Virgo, London, September 2017 I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am.

C Aagaard

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Festival of Virgo; a warm welcome also to the many friends and co-workers who are listening in on the internet via our website.

Virgo, the virgin, the feminine aspect of manifestation, symbolises the nurturing mother that guards the Christ principle that exists deep within her own material substance. As the mother of the Christ child, Virgo is the emanator of energies which nourish and aid the birth and growth of the Christ consciousness.

We read that Virgo was the director of the energies that were developed and recognised in the first solar system. In this previous system matter was the supreme controlling factor, just as in our current solar system, it is the soul or the Christ principle which is of paramount importance. In the first system, the life of the third divine aspect, active intelligence, played then upon the ocean of quiescent matter and prepared that substance (over untold aeons) for its work in this solar system. It is for this reason that Virgo is subjected predominantly to the even numbered rays, the second ray through Jupiter, and the fourth and sixth ray energies through the Moon, Mercury and Neptune, for it is these rays that are associated with the love wisdom of Christ. The Moon and Mercury together indicate the activity of the higher and lower mind and relate to the previous system through the third Ray of Active Intelligence. However, Mercury, known as the Messenger of the Gods, is not only the agent of the third aspect but also of the second aspect (love-wisdom) as he expresses the energy of the fourth Ray of Harmony through Conflict. Mercury is regarded, therefore, as embodying in himself both aspects of the mental principle, the expression of the concrete and the abstract mind of God. The lower concrete mind unfolded in the first solar system and the higher abstract, intuitional mind, that of pure reason, is unfolding in this system. Mercury is, therefore, the synthesis of mind and wisdom and is also known as the ruler of the antahkarana, that which bridges the concrete and the intuitional. It is in this system, and in Virgo, that Mercury reaches his full power, for the Christ Child, the expression of the divine consciousness and the result of the relationship of Father-Spirit and Mother-Matter, will be brought to birth.¹

The process of the revelation of the Christ consciousness is carried intelligently forward over many lifetimes. The selfish aspirations and experiments of the undeveloped man give place eventually to the selflessness of the illumined and intuitive disciple.² Mercury, therefore, leads Aries to Virgo; the latent life in Aries comes to the "crisis of the birth hour" in Virgo, prior to the actual birth of the individual Christ in Capricorn, which is the close of the needed gestation period, which is nine months on the reverse wheel. This is true, whether one is speaking of the cosmic Christ, hidden by the form of a solar system; of the incarnated Christ, concealed within the form of Jesus; or of the individual Christ, hidden within each and every person. The routine is always the same—the journey, the new birth, the experience of life, the service to be rendered, the death to be endured, and then the resurrection into more extended service.³

Let us now say together The Mantram of the New Group of World Servers:

May the power of the one life pour through the group of all true servers.

May the love of the one soul characterise the lives of all who seek to aid the great ones.

May I fulfil my part in the one work through self-forgetfulness, harmlessness and right speech.

OM

The ultimate virgin of the present cycle is Mary the mother of Jesus, who is often symbolised with a crescent moon under her feet. The moon, the esoteric ruler of Virgo, spins on its own axis in the identical time it takes to orbit the earth, therefore, its lighted 'near side' is always turned earthward, just as its dark 'far side' is always turned away. We read in the Secret Doctrine, that 'All luna goddesses had a dual aspect – one divine, the other infernal' 'Everyone is a moon' wrote Mark Twain 'and has a dark side he never shows to anybody' Hence, the duality associated with the Virgo life, a life that will be either of the personality, materialistic in nature, and therefore lived under the influence of the mother aspect of Virgo. Or, there will be evidence of a slowly emerging soul vibration, indicating that the hidden spiritual life, the Son, is beginning to emerge.

The deep relationship that exists between the moon and the womb of the Christ child, the earth, has been symbolised throughout ancient mythology by a plethora of lunar deities. In Greek myths, we have the goddesses of Phoebe, Artemis, Selene and Hecate, all deeply associated with the earth. There is also the Chinese goddess Chang'e and the Egyptian cowheaded Hathor whose milk was said to nourish the world. In Mesopotamian myth, there is Nana-Sin, known as the celestial physician and the black-coated Isis, whose 'misty radiance nurses the happy seeds under the soil' (Apuleis). The moon has always been associated with conception and birth, and has been linked to the agricultural cycles of sowing and reaping and of every kind of coming into being. The moon, we read, is the mistress of moisture; of the juices of life She governs the vapors that promote decay, the moisture that falls as rain or dew, the ebb and flow of every body of water'. ⁶

The phases of the moon have played an important part in agriculture and animal husbandry and evidence of its practice dates back thousands of years to the ancient peoples of the Nile and Euphrates river valleys. Farmers of these civilizations planted by the Moon's phases and its sign in the zodiac. Rudolf Steiner was also a great believer in the importance of following the moon cycle in planting and his alternative agriculture going by the name of Biodynamics was initially developed in 1924. While there is a lack of scientific evidence proving the beneficial effects of astrological gardening and farming, it has some significant followers, such as Prince Charles, for example. It is today practiced in more than 50 countries worldwide and in a variety of circumstances, ranging from temperate arable farming, viticulture in France, cotton production in Egypt, to silkworm breeding in China, and Germany accounts for nearly half of the world's biodynamic agriculture. Rudolf Hauschka also noted the rhythm of the moon and its effect on matter, outlined in his book, The Nature of Substance published in 1950. His research shows a significant relationship between substance and forces that come from not only the moon, but from movement and changing relationships with other heavenly bodies. He writes that 'the whole surrounding universe plays a part in the processes that bring matter into being and again dematerialise it'. ⁷

He experimented with the chemical makeup of seedlings as they grew in relation to the moon phases and noted that the phosphorus and potassium content of the seeds rose and fell in rhythm with the moon. He found that the full moon favoured the emergence of substance and the new moon favoured its disappearing. This correlates perhaps with the Tibetan's teachings

that light substance increases at the time of the full moon. This happens objectively as the moon and the planet are the recipients of more reflected light from the sun at this time. But also, subjectively, for the full moon period is a time of intense meditation by our planetary Logos producing the pouring in of radiance and the entering in of subjective energies. There is, therefore, a closer rapport between the Hierarchy and humanity at this time. Hauschka writes that there is a 'constant oscillation between material condensation and etherealization into an imponderable state of being.' 'A being, a macrocosmic idea, is rhythmically metamorphosed into what we call matter. And these fixed stages of substantiality can again be rhythmically brought back into the original form of essential process, like plants withering at the approach of autumn and withdrawing almost wholly from the physical scene as their essential being returns to the wider reaches of the universe' ⁸

These ideas are reflected in Biodynamic agriculture which sees the farm as a living organism which is intimately related to the earth, a living super-organism. Energy patterns and cosmic forces and the way in which they affect plant growth are key to this method of agriculture. Homeopathic potencies are also an important aspect, there is the belief that the fractal patterns in high dilutions have direct effects upon the energy fields of soil, atmosphere and live plants. The quality of food grown in this way is reported to be high and it is achieved through obtaining an optimal relationship between the soil, the atmosphere and the rhythms of the cosmos through the study of the interaction of the subtle fields and energy flows between the earth, plants and animals.

High dilutions where the original substance can no longer be detected by chemical reaction was first recognised and used in the treating of patients by Christian Hahnemann at the beginning of the 1800s. Hahnemann's methods still govern the preparation of homeopathic remedies today. While science is very sceptical of the effectiveness of homeopathic potencies, and will continue to be sceptical as long as they fail to recognise the subtle energy fields that exist beyond the tangible, homeopathy has a wide following. What is interesting about the method of preparing homeopathic remedies is the importance of rhythm in their making. For example, 1 gramme of a substance is dissolved in 9 grammes of water. The solution is then rhythmically shaken for a set time and with a specific shaking rhythm. This is called the first potency. Now one ccm of the solution is further diluted with water to make 10 ccm and again rhythmically shaken. And so on. From a chemist's viewpoint, it would be simpler to make the higher potency solutions by just dissolving the substance in a greater quantity of water, however research has found that this is not the same as when following Hahnemann's method. As Hauschka points out, 'A new force is at work in potentized substances, a force aroused by rhythm. With increasing dilution, the substance disappears, first physically, then chemically and spectroscopically, while biological activity is increasingly enhanced.' 9

Hauschka writes that matter is a crystallisation of macrocosmic processes. That earthly materiality and cosmic being are the two poles between which nature unfolds her myriad manifestations. Matter appears and disappears in cosmic rhythms. Homeopathic potencies are an inspired emulation of this natural process. It is simply a conversion of matter from appearance to being; the substantial is etherealized by rhythmical dilution.' ¹⁰ The Tibetan explains this as the 'dying out of the "solar radiance" or of the light produced by the commingling of the negative and positive energy.' ¹¹

The idea that water retains the memory, or fractal pattern of a substance has been the subject of recent research. The Aerospace Institute of the University of Stuttgart in Germany under

the guidance of Professor Helmet Kroeplin have been researching the nature of water for the last 15 years and support the theory that water has a memory. This idea was first coined by a French immunologist Dr. Jacques Benveniste in a <u>controversial article published</u> in 1988 in the journal *Nature* as a way of explaining how homeopathy works. Later, others, including Dr. Emoto, supported this idea, all of which has proved to be controversial.¹²

Kroplin's recent research has found that water has a particular ability to memorize and store information of things that it has experienced. He writes that, "Water is a medium that is largely not understood by physics and chemistry. Its material nature is tested, studied and understood by physics. However, beyond its physical and chemical qualities also memory and information play a significant role in water, and these build a bridge from the immaterial to the material world. These subtle phenomena are the ground of misunderstanding, and they can neither be studied nor detected by traditional experimental methods." ¹³

He therefore uses a different approach, investigating the patterns that appear in a water drop after evaporation, photographing them using a dark field microscope. He has found that the patterns in water correlate with the information it was exposed to. And in one experiment, the patterns are in most cases so similar that the test is reproducible.

One of the most important discoveries made, was the fact that water is not just a solvent for substances such as minerals, enzymes and vitamins, but could in fact transfer information between the cells of an organism. Water "notes" the external influences that have acted upon it. This is especially important to humans, as water makes up around 70% of the human body. External factors that we expose ourselves to, be it music, electromagnetic radiation or chemical substances, all have an impact on the water structure within our cells that can be seen under a microscope. Dr. Kroeplin has since set up "World in a Drop" exhibitions, which provide the public with scientific insights as well as creative visions concerning the topic. Since the first exhibition on the subject at the EXPO 2000 in Hannover, the project as well as the research have both matured. New discoveries as well as the overall progress are being presented at different venues through this year. He has also published a book The Secrets of the Water which has recently been translated into English.

Water like all substance, shields within, its hidden spiritual reality. It is interesting to consider that the moon is regarded as "veiling" or "hiding" some planet, of which Neptune, the God of the waters, is one such planet. Further, in certain ancient formulas, the Christ, is spoken of as Neptune. The formula runs as follows, speaking esoterically: "... the fish goddesses who have leapt from earth (Virgo) to water (Pisces) unitedly give birth to the Fish God (Christ) who introduces the water of life into the ocean of substance and thus brings light to the world. Thus does Neptune work."¹⁴

The symbolism of the sign of Virgo, therefore, concerns the whole goal of the evolutionary process which is to reveal the hidden spiritual reality. Mary, the Madonna, stands for virgin matter, for the substance which nurtures and nourishes, but also hides within itself the Christ consciousness. It is form and matter and through its conscious adoption of the rhythmic life of the soul that God eventually stands revealed. While every form veils its inner reality, it is the human form that is equipped and fitted to manifest it in a manner different to any other expression of divinity. It is the power of the conscious mind that sets humanity apart, and 'When Mercury, the divine Messenger, the principle of illusion and the expression of the active higher mind, has performed his mission and "led humanity into the light" and the Christ-child out of the womb of time and of the flesh into the light of day and of manifestation, then the task of that great centre we call humanity will be accomplished.' 15

It is through Mercury that there will come eventually that synthesis of mind and wisdom, that bridging of the concrete and intuitional, that will end the dual life of Virgo, making tangible and objective that synthesis for which the whole creative process was intended.

The second Solar system under the synthesizing effects of the second ray then achieves its purpose, for matter manifests the Christ within, thus preparing the way for the third Solar system when the first ray becomes the synthesizing energy. All this takes place in this system on what is esoterically called "the radiant surface of the earth" the plane of form. Hence, the keynote for the disciple in Virgo is; I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am.

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