

Spiritual Disruption and Resurrection

Easter Festival, New York, April 10, 2017

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Good evening everyone and welcome to this Festival of Easter, the first of the Three Spiritual Festivals. It is a joy to be here for the full moon of Aries and have the opportunity to work together, with those here we can see and those we cannot see. Not only are we joining with groups all over the world to celebrate the beginning of this high point of the spiritual year, the Higher Interlude, but we are also working in cooperation with the Hierarchy, who are in deep meditation on the divine Plan and the redemption of Humanity. For the work we are doing on behalf of Humanity at the time of the full moon, we have the benefit of hierarchical energies that are particularly close and available to us at this time. We are building together a lighted center of living and radiant love energy that the Hierarchy can use to further the divine Plan and from which all of Humanity can draw in these challenging and uncertain times.

The sun moves into Aries at the vernal equinox around March 21st, the beginning of Spring, and traditional Christian Easter occurs on the first Sunday after the full moon of Aries. With Spring arrives a universal awakening of the life force and a sense of hope and new beginnings as nature wakes up after the sleep and seeming death of winter. Seeds and leaves break through the confinement of the old coverings and destroy the shells that restrict growth. Plants push through the soil and move toward the light and heat of the sun, animals are waking up and birds have a new song. No forms can stop the emergence of new life as the old dies to make way for the new; death and resurrection, these are the fundamental themes of Aries.

All this new life bursting forth and rising up describes the Aries energy, the energy of emergence, initiation and all things new. Aries begins the soul's long cycle of manifestation. The soul first emerges onto the mental plane in Aries prior to its descent into the emotional plane in Taurus, followed by the etheric in Gemini, to be finally birthed into physical incarnation in Cancer. Aries is the first manifesting cause and the original impulse of life. Its keynote, "I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule", describes why it is only from the mental plane that we have access to the soul. It is only through the mental plane that Humanity in incarnation can connect with the 5th kingdom, the kingdom of souls and Masters. All souls are connected, and in the Hierarchy, there is no sense of the kind of separation that we experience on the physical plane, nor is there any type of death. Much of Humanity is slowly trying to dispel the sense of separateness, the great heresy, and learning to love one another unconditionally as the Christ teaches. Amidst the separative rhetoric, voices of unity and brotherhood are being raised to counter the demoralizing spirit of hatred.

As we start aligning ourselves to enter the hierarchical center in meditation, let us begin to build a point of tension from which we can project the energies of the Plan into the center Humanity. Let us visualize this center Humanity as a unified field of vibrant and lighted energy, a center ready to move forward into a consciousness of its essential oneness, moving toward the door of initiation. We will say together the Mantram of Unification, focusing on the potency of its ideas while bringing our whole attention to its meaning and power.

The sons of men are one and I am one with them.

I seek to love, not hate;

I seek to serve and not exact due service;

I seek to heal, not hurt.

Let pain bring due reward of light and love.

Let the soul control the outer form, and life and all events,

And bring to light the love that underlies the happenings of the time.

Let vision come and insight.

Let the future stand revealed.

Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.

Let love prevail.

Let all men love.

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For millions of people in the traditional Christian religion, Easter is a joyous time as the resurrection of Christ is remembered and re-imagined. Although in this context the event is considered solely from the material point of view, it brings hope to millions and a sense of the renewal of life as the emergence of Christ from the tomb is celebrated as a triumph over death. The risen Christ represents a miracle, and although largely unexplained and misunderstood, it brings a sense of the continuity of life and the possibility of what Humanity can achieve. In the esoteric philosophy however, the concept of resurrection is an ongoing process of release from the pull of matter resulting in freedom from form and birth into a new livingness and vitality. Death is a necessary preliminary stage, but the triumph of life is the central reality. We are told that resurrection "is the keynote of nature... the clue to the world of meaning, and .. the fundamental theme of all the world religions—past, present and the future." ¹ The rising up of matter into heaven is the archetypal story of the prodigal Son, the return to the Father's Home, the seat of life and oneness.

We are very aware of the fact that the planet is undergoing the transition between the Piscean Age and the Aquarian, while Humanity endures a shift of energies as the 6th Ray loses strength and the 7th Ray gains in power. Also, the Shamballa force is now impacting Humanity directly and the 1st Ray is making its presence felt, causing disruption, destruction of old forms and general chaos. Aries is the carrier of pure 1st Ray force, and at this moment in our planetary evolution, we are being made to adjust to these new and more powerful energies and their effects. It seems the race as a whole is experiencing a forcing process, a process which will eventually demonstrate the reality of the soul and reveal the illusion of appearances in the physical world. These changes that are causing great confusion and worldwide disruption are resulting in various reactions, depending on whether the soul is in control or the lower self is still dominant. There is a mishandling of the Shamballa energy and dangerous over stimulation on the part of many world leaders causing further distress and alarm to their populations.

The Festival of Easter emphasizes the reality of the Christ life and His influence on all the planet. The principle of love, so perfectly embodied and exemplified by Him, underlies all activity on Earth and is ever more active, even though recently, it seems that the Forces of Retrogression are the dominating energy. Humanity as a whole is currently "under the steady pressure of the life of the indwelling Christ". This spiritual pressure is forcing internal changes resulting in the shattering of the old ways in order for the new life within to emerge and demonstrate the radiance and reality of the Christ life. The scientific community is discovering the limitations of the mechanistic approach as they observe current theories breaking down in the face of new realities. The religious community is being challenged to meet the more pressing spiritual needs of its congregations, needs that demand a new understanding of some of the so called "miracles" ordinary people are asked to believe in with blind faith. Political systems are breaking down as nationalistic tendencies emerge and materialistic minded politicians are attempting to protect their own selfish interests and secure their borders. People are frightened and alarmed by the ongoing violence, conflict and general confusion that seems never to end.

When observed through the eyes of the soul however, all this disruption, confusion and crisis are rich opportunities. We are being tested by fire and learning that only within, with the soul in control, is there any true meaning or purpose. There are many similarities in today's world to the situation when Christ walked on the Earth 2,000 years ago, although the day to day life was of course totally different. Then, at the beginning of the Piscean Age, as now, the old systems were crumbling and civilizations were shifting. Despotic rulers were destroying the very societies they were trying to control. We are only a few short years away from the Hierarchical conclave in 2025, when, we are told, the Christ will make His decision when to enter the physical Earth plane, signaling another momentous shift in our planetary culture.

Aries is symbolic of death by fire, a process that burns away all restrictions and impediments to the soul's purpose. Through its exoteric ruler Mars, the God of War, Humanity undergoes violent and painful struggle within the bounds of materialistic thinking, exhausting all aspects of form life until there is nothing left but the essence of pure spirit sensitized to the highest center. The soul then stands free. Aries is also, as the teachings state: "the purveyor to our solar system of Electric Fire", a fire which builds the new and brings purified life into manifestation. Fire has a liberating quality; it breaks apart the form so the life within is free and initiation can be achieved.

All these difficulties and painful experiences are clear signs that Humanity is undergoing a definite re-orientation and a re-direction away from materialistic thinking toward the life of the Spirit. We are learning to "stand in spiritual Being". The teachings state that Humanity, as a whole, is at the door of the first initiation, and as we know, the Burning Ground must be crossed before the door stands wide; the Dweller must be faced and destroyed. Aries, one of the three fire signs, represents the principle of cosmic fire, the spirit aspect, and along with Leo and Sagittarius, "clears the way by burning". How wonderful then to think of where we actually are! How joyous to contemplate that the confusion and difficulties are simply the illusion of appearances and that the life of the spirit is breaking through the old restrictions and old forms.

The Tibetan warns that when the Christ comes, He will not be a sweet and gentle presence sweeping away the evil forces and restoring peace on earth. He will not rescue us from our own bad deeds and separatist tendencies. Instead, DK says: "It is the Fire of Love which He will bring; it is the message of

the purificatory fire which He will sound; He will not teach anent the waters of purification, as has hitherto been the symbolic imparted truth; He will impart the fire which burns and destroys all barriers in man's nature, all separating walls between individuals, between groups and between nations. Are you prepared as individuals, as disciples and aspirants to submit yourselves to this fire?" ²

Clearly, Humanity today is standing in the fire; for some, still the fire of separation and hate, but for countless others, the fires of love are raging. Uranus is called "the home of fire electric" and is the hierarchical ruler of Aries. It is particularly important at this time not only because its influence underlies the migrations and movements of large groups of people from the Middle East into Europe and Great Britain, but also, it conveys the energy of the 7th Ray, helping precipitate the crisis of the 1st initiation Humanity as a whole is facing. Its power facilitates the shift into Aquarius. Uranus is also known as "the great Disrupter", an apt title for the powerful energies we are learning to handle.

Perhaps significantly, since 2011, Uranus has been in the sign of Aries and will be there until 2019, the year of the next New Group of World Servers Festival Week. It is entirely possible that this astrological configuration is partly responsible for much of the unrest and chaotic conditions we have experienced in recent years. The Arab Spring started in 2011 kicking off a cycle of revolutionary movements throughout the Middle East. New wars and conflicts arose causing the disruption and displacement of large populations. The nuclear accident at Fukushima in Japan occurred in that year. But Uranus in Aries also stimulates new advances in scientific research and social reform. It kindles the urge to freedom and its energy inspires new initiatives of every kind. It causes sudden and unexpected change leading to greater opportunity for the spirit to manifest. It "leads the soul to the burning ground" and on this ground, Humanity now stands.

The refugees who are risking their lives fleeing the destruction of their homes, literally by fire, are involved in a great and difficult disruption. Their participation in the karma of Humanity is a sacrificial act and their long term courage and suffering is reflecting back to us either our own separative nature or the depth of our compassion and caring. On one hand, restrictions to entry are being imposed by some governments while others are welcoming newcomers with open arms, recognizing that they will enrich the culture and contribute to society. For the many people upon whose shores the refugees land, they offer opportunity for people of goodwill to rise to the call to service and share their resources. The reactions of fear and suspicion of the "other", come from a focus on appearances, from a personality perspective which only sees things as separate. Eventually, this attitude will evolve into a recognition of the One Humanity as individuals see that people at the core, are the same in any culture.

Easter is the ideal time to reflect on the cycle of new life because at this time, energies known as the Forces of Restoration pour into the planet stimulating the urge to a new livingness and higher expression of goodwill and brotherhood. This welcome energy will not heal or re-invigorate the old institutions and political systems, but creates the underlying conditions upon which the new civilization can be built based on the spiritual values of inclusiveness and a recognition of the One Humanity. The New Age will demonstrate an awakened humanity and an increasing manifestation of Christ consciousness and Aries, the sign of new beginnings, is helping inaugurate this new era.

The teachings instruct that these Forces of Restoration are under the direction of an even greater entity known as the Spirit of Resurrection. The Tibetan says: "It is this living spiritual Entity, working temporarily under the direction of the Christ, Who will restore livingness to men's spiritual aims and life to their planning; Who will engender anew the vitality needed to implement the trends of the New Age and Who will guide humanity out of the dark cave of death, isolation and selfishness into the light of the new day. It is this resurrection life which will be poured into humanity at Easter"...³.

Can we sense this light of the new day? Can we perceive the presence of these powerful spiritual forces that are helping us build the new? Although we talk about and are working toward the **Re-**appearance of the Christ, and are especially sensitive to its reality at Easter, the Christ has never left His beloved Humanity. Every person who feels goodwill toward others, who practices right human relations and treats others with kindness and respect, every person who holds inclusive values and recognizes that the same truths are articulated throughout all religions, all these countless millions of people are gathered to the Christ and are of His company. The focused desire and massed intent of the millions meditating on the good, the beautiful and the true will bring forth the Christ into outer manifestation. This is the law and nothing can stop its progress.

Easter, the first of the Three Spiritual Festivals, is the start of the new spiritual year, of the Arcane School conference period in New York, Geneva and London and the inauguration of a new keynote for the esoteric community. This years' keynote urges the group toward a new effort of cooperation with the Hierarchy in its deepening relationship with the center Shamballa, the center of purpose and power. It directs the group upward into the highest center where the electric fire of the mind can touch the Shamballa force in service to the whole. *"Let the group evoke the Shamballa force and demonstrate the will-to-good in new and potent livingness"*. This keynote impels the group into the center of peaceful silent will and inspires us to renew our efforts to express this living will energy in service to Humanity.

As we prepare our minds to enter into our united group meditation, let us stand within the periphery of the Ashram, sensing the living reality of the Christ and the Masters, the company of all who love and serve. Let us stand together in the fire of love in service to the One and let us willfully submit ourselves to the fire and the radiant life of the indwelling Christ.

¹. Externalisation of the Hierarchy, pp. 469-70

². Discipleship in the New Age vol I, pp. 722

³. Externalisation of the Hierarchy, pp. 457
