

**The Will of the Stars**

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Welcome friends to the Festival of Leo.

As we reach out towards the Spiritual Hierarchy during the full moon period, let us hold in mind that the Hierarchy is simultaneously reaching out to us. By means of this two-way communication, the bridge between two kingdoms of nature is steadily being built. Knowing this helps us cultivate a sense of quiet expectancy with regard to the destiny of humanity during these turbulent times. The preparation for the full moon group service is based on just such a sense of expectancy; its affirmative mental and emotional attitude is highly magnetic and forms an important part of the science of invocation and evocation.

The Tibetan reminds us that “*a united attitude of love, of hopeful expectancy, of spiritual demand and of directed will is potent in results and will bring all that is required,*” and this is so whether it is in a personal daily meditation or in meditative group service. Spiritual demand is a legitimate tool to be used by the disciple who is rendering himself invocative on behalf of humanity. And the use of the directed will to empower this demand is particularly effective in connection with Leo. The forces of Will are emphasized in this sign and so are evoked and transmitted to the new group of world servers to strengthen their work.

With this in mind, let us take a moment for reflection and then say the Gayatri together:

*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 disk of golden light,  
That we may know the truth and do our whole duty,  
As we journey to Thy sacred Feet.  
OM*

Leo is connected with solar fire – a spiritual fire that consumes the roar of the lower fires, absorbing them in the living blaze of group interplay. Leo’s inflowing Light of the Soul illumines the wider field of relationships and dispels the glamour of separateness. With this the centres below the diaphragm that were once driven by the desire-mind begin to turn upwards – a process that is described in the Old Commentary as follows:

The Lion begins to roar. He rushes forth and, in his urge to live, he wields destruction. And then again he roars and – rushing to the stream of life – drinks deep then, having drunk, the magic of the water works. He stands transformed. The lion disappears and he who bears the water pot stands forth and starts upon his mission (*The Destiny of the Nations* p146).

This alludes to the transition into Aquarius, the polar opposite sign of Leo, and to the fixed cross of discipleship, which is of considerable relevance today. Leo governs many cities as well as nations in Europe, and as the influence of Aquarian energies increases, the stage is set for the kingly soul of advanced nations to exert their potency through the heart. The Heart of the Lion in the constellation of Leo is the star Regulus and it passes on the energy of love transmitted

from Sirius. Leo's energies will be distributed one day with power and sensitivity by nations, as well as by individual disciples and groups, re-directing the strength of desires through the strength of spiritual will to bear the communal water pot of Aquarius. Many nations now are beginning to make such a transition and are currently expressing the duality so familiar to the aspirant wherein both higher and lower principles struggle for dominance. Bearing this in mind, a more optimistic picture of the world scene starts to emerge.

Of course, while spiritual expectancy should be developed, the world will not change overnight. Evolution is necessarily slow: the Hierarchy cannot infringe upon humanity's free will and the natural process of evolutionary development. In any kingdom of nature, however, they can stimulate the advanced units to bring in something new, better and different, and the sun's effect on all life-forms is a symbol of this stimulation. That we are living in a period of tremendous change is undeniable, even if some of the changes may not seem beneficial. But one of the effects of all this change is to bring about opportunities for self-evaluation. The crises presented are educational in the sense that they point towards adaptations that are necessary in order to progress – and these crises will repeat themselves with increasing severity until the lessons are learned.

World events are certainly severe at the moment – crises keep coming thick and fast, and they are stirring up the emotional and mental atmosphere as never before. But in so doing, they are shaking loose outgrown patterns of behaviour and consciousness: this can very clearly be seen in politics and economics particularly. If the world is to house the Christ consciousness, its forms and interactions need to be transformed accordingly, and the current re-vision of what constitutes civilized thinking, principles and values will determine the basis for these changes. For disciples in the midst of all this, subtle national allegiances have to be overcome in order to encompass the bigger, world picture and to stand for the One Humanity – a basic lesson which is confronting us this year.

Midst this testing period aspirants and disciples have to keep focussed on their primary task of preparing humanity for the externalisation of the Hierarchy and the reappearance of the Christ. To keep a positive focus on this, the Tibetan advised, *“it is exceedingly important that...the thinking of those who are preparing humanity for the reappearance of the Christ must be most closely guarded and controlled; wishful thinking and the formulation of plans in line with ordinary human methods and techniques must not be permitted at this time. The first lesson, therefore, which you have to learn in this work of preparation, is controlled thought and sensitivity to hierarchical impression.”*

Since these words were written, group sensitivity to impression over the full moon period has steadily grown in potency; and in Leo, we have the energies of the life-giving sun ruling it, with its power to illumine the group mind. Leo bestows an increasing receptivity to impression from the spiritual sun, and during this festival, it is qualified by the energies emanating from Sirius. August is the month of Sirius, the Dog-Star, and according to the Bailey teachings, a major festival will be held at the time of the full moon in this month dedicated to making contact with Sirian force via the Hierarchy. Sirius is also known as the “brilliant star of sensitivity” and it governs Leo in a cosmic sense – sensitivity also being the outstanding nature of Leo's influence. The resulting fusion of these forces therefore is a great impetus to the expansion of human awareness and receptivity to the universal field of relationships. The higher forces of Leo help to elevate consciousness out of the concrete state of mental perception into a finer, more abstract field of thought – that of group relationships and group identity. Leo facilitates this shift of consciousness, broadening the limited horizons of self-identity to include ever-larger groups. Furthermore, the energy of Sirius introduces into matter a power that liberates consciousness from the confining walls of unredeemed substance.

This principle of freedom – an aspect of Cosmic Love – is the great need of our times, and it brings about the fusion of love and mind. Esoteric traditions describe Sirius as a “bright sun where shines the light of love” as well as the source of Logoic mind or manas. Its influence reaches earth via the cosmic mental plane where cosmic intelligence adapts the energy of love for incorporation into planetary expression. The resulting fusion is the expansive, liberating power of pure reason, and one of the problems in manifesting true freedom is that while humanity has developed mentally, it is not yet using the mind as the creative agent of love. It therefore lacks true reasoning power.

In order to rectify this problem, humanity needs to reconnect with the universe, to live more in accordance with the stars and constellations that so dramatically affect our destiny. In these times of scientific philosophies, we need to awaken to the fact that the universe is alive with love and purpose, and allow feelings of awe and wonder to arise within us. Gazing up at the stars restores our sense of perspective as we trace the line of light between ourselves and the constellations. Drawing upon the As-If technique, it’s possible to visualise these lines as the means of transmutation of our consciousness into the divine. The imagined interaction between starlight and consciousness through the power of sight awakens a deeper understanding of the reality of astrological forces.

Ironically, the scientific broadcaster, Brian Cox, who certainly doesn’t believe in astrology, nevertheless, conveys the spiritual sense of wonder that is evoked when contemplating the vault of the heavens. He talks passionately about the photons of light that travel such vast distances from the stars across space, setting off millions of years ago before finally impacting upon our eyes. He conveys a vision of the beauty of scientific exploration and revelation to his audience, temporarily freeing the viewer from immersion in the material world and all its depressing problems. How much more powerful this scientific vision will be when it is understood that qualifying energies radiate from each star and planetary body, and that the light travelling from them, doesn’t in fact, take millions of years to reach us. The esotericist knows that the universe operates in real time and that the light that comes from the stars carries the forces that qualify them right now, not the distant past. But this revelation will only come when the concept of the ether that links all living things together as one is again an accepted part of scientific thinking.

This may not be as far away as we might think. The idea of a living, conscious universe is occasionally piercing through the veils of illusion that currently pervade mainstream science and with time, this thinking will grow strong enough to transform the scientific mindset from the inside out. Many of you will know of Jim Ryder, a retired Vice President of Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company who spoke not long ago at an Arcane School conference. He is very much working as a bridging agent between orthodox and esoteric science, and recently recommended an interesting book entitled: “Starlight, Starbright: Are Stars Conscious?” by Dr. Greg Matloff of the Physics Department at the New York City College of Technology. Matloff is a major figure in the ‘interstellar movement’ – which analyses prospects for travel to the stars. Most of his research has been in the fields of in-space propulsion, Earth-protection from asteroid impacts, and spacecraft navigation. He was also a consultant for NASA on solar-sail applications. While considering himself a conservative thinker, he says “a true scientist cannot ignore observational data. He or she must base hypothesis and theories upon such results, not upon previous experience, ideology and dogma.”

Matloff asserts that the only thing we can be absolutely sure of is our own consciousness. “*But what is consciousness*” he asks? “Is it a property that is unique to humans or do we share it with other life-forms? Or is the philosophical doctrine of panpsychism correct - are stars and the entire Universe conscious in some sense?” A simple model of panpsychism is presented, which addresses an anomaly in stellar motions. It is a disconcerting fact that the Gaia space observatory

is bringing in masses of data showing that anomalies in the motion of stars is a galaxy-wide phenomenon. Cool, redder, less massive stars such as our own Sun appear to circle the centre of the galaxy faster than their hotter, bluer, more massive sisters. Matloff contends that this anomaly in star motion is due to stellar volition – the stars are conscious entities – they maintain their galactic position and determine their own trajectories through space by their own volition. Expanding on this revelation, he contends that it is possible now to construct simple models of universal consciousness and test them against observational evidence.

If we are now moving into an era where observational evidence can be shown to support the esoteric view that stars demonstrate will and volition, an important milestone will have been reached – one that is a beautiful affirmation of the Divine Will. It leads us to ponder as to what, then, might the volition – the Divine Will of our own Sun be? And what then, might the will of the planets that spiral around this majestic life be? The stars and constellations are the leading lights of our destiny. Their influence leads the way and conditions the consciousness of every living thing in line with their glorious Plans and destiny. They all form part of a universal field of inter-relationship which staggers the imagination. Just trying to understand the nature of the Will of our own planetary Logos is hard enough, and the energy of his Will aspect is something that humanity is currently struggling to handle as it impacts consciousness. The current world turmoil is, to some extent, caused by this struggle to understand the Will, an energy which conditions the first quarter of each century and further propels humanity along the path of His intentions.

Currently the divine will is awakening the soul of humanity and spiritually encouraging it towards integration. Despite the seeming wave of separatism sweeping the world, a higher integration is taking place beneath the surface of world events. And all this is in preparation for the next dispensation, one where the Christ consciousness – a group awareness – can continue to manifest. The current period of experimentation is a reminder that all things must change; the stars set their own courses through the heavens, every moment they are changing their patterns of relationship with other celestial bodies. Change for them, as for every other conscious existence, is the law of life, for nothing can survive without movement and adaptation. This is a basic lesson for humanity and there is a growing recognition that holding on to old relationships and patterns of thought longer than their appointed time creates a loss of balance and rhythm. This lesson is well known to the disciple who knows that nothing is really lost when forms are let go of. The world disciple, humanity, is also learning this in the fires of purification and transformation, slowly shifting from one point of identity to another.

The apparently insurmountable problems that confront the race at this time constitute an aspect of the Dweller on the Threshold, a mountain of karma and old thought forms, but these only appear before a disciple or humanity itself when an integration process is underway prior to a shift of identity. We need to trust in this process and contribute creatively and joyously to our energy environment with that quiet sense of spiritual expectancy that the Tibetan encouraged us to develop. The joy that will enfold us will prove to be a great reassurance in these troubling times; not so much a reassurance that we are making great spiritual advances, but that we are contributing all of our creative ability to the service of the Plan and that our minds are magnetically tuned into the source of humanity's pending freedom.

Let us go into meditation now, using the spiritual keynote for Leo – *I am That and That am I*.

