

***Leo, the Fire of the Soul.***

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It is a joy to be here together for this Solar Festival of Leo working together in group formation. All of us here in the room and those of you participating through the internet are a microcosm of the greater Group with Whom we are working, the group of souls of the 5th Kingdom, the spiritual Hierarchy. As we know, the door to the Hierarchy is wide open at the time of the full moon and the energy flows freely in both directions; symbolically upward toward our Elder Brothers who are working directly with cosmic energies, and from the higher refined vibratory levels beyond the physical, downward into Humanity and via Humanity, into the sub human kingdoms, all one vast alignment. Most people are not conscious of this flow of energy, but for aspirants and disciples of all spiritual traditions, the effort to sensitize ourselves to and align with these energy currents creates a pathway of light that can benefit all life on Earth and help create the conditions into which the Hierarchy and eventually the Christ, will be able to externalize.

With every passing year, Humanity is moving more deeply into the Aquarian Age, and the light of the soul burns ever brighter. So at this time in our collective evolution, the energies of Leo, the polar opposite of Aquarius, are particularly important. We are moving out of the cycle of the strong charismatic Leo type individual ruler into the era of leadership by the group. Group purpose is slowly being revealed as the fires of purification burn away anything that hinders divine expression. Humanity is moving away from the path of self centeredness and approaching the Path of Discipleship while becoming sensitively aware of the so called "warring dualities" under which we are currently laboring.

Students of the Ageless Wisdom are well aware of the conflict between the wishes and desires of the self centered personality and the requirements of the soul. Many years are spent struggling with the question, "What do *I* want and what does my soul want? Why can't they be the same?" Eventually, the light of the soul focuses like a lens onto its reflection and the selfish perspective gives way to an awareness of the group nature of the soul and the fact that the individual is simply a cell in the collective whole. The individual talents and abilities are as gifts to the soul and rather than losing one's individuality, the point at the center radiates outward as a brilliant sun. It becomes clear that every self-generated thought and action affects the whole and that Humanity is in essence a single unit in the cosmic chain. The soul takes its rightful place as the controller and director of all things.

The soul on its own plane is group conscious and knows no kind of separateness. It perceives all forms as merely a collection of energies that are seeking release and redemption. The soul seeks to express itself and gain fullness of experience by contact with the physical plane; it seeks to condition its vehicles in form with the reality of its essential unity. It seeks full control of the personality, the outer life and the trends of thought. With these thoughts in mind, let us take a moment to reflect on our essential oneness and basic unity with the soul. The Mantram

of Unification is a potent word of power which, when used with focused intention, helps bring the soul and personality into alignment and interplay. It is printed on the cards on your seats:

*Mantram of Unification*

*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.*

The principles of divinity and unanimity are qualifying the incoming Aquarian Age with the help of the powerful 7th Ray which acts as a synthesizing factor in humanity. Conversely, the separative characteristics of selfish self centeredness and the dictatorial tendencies of the un-evolved Leo have also risen to the surface. These opposing principles are to be expected during a shift of cosmic energies such as we are undergoing. The disruptions caused by the approach of the 5th Kingdom toward humanity, an event precipitated by humanity itself through its invocative cry are, on the surface, causing some degree of chaos and uncertainty, especially for so called "ordinary Humanity", what DK refers to as "the masses".

The Agni Yoga teachings, in the book *Fiery World II* comment: "The cycle of Aquarius already operates and coexists with the end of Pisces. Usually, the beginning and end of a cycle is very gradual, and thus is affirmed the harmony of the actual evolutionary process. If there were sharp boundary lines between such original special factors, destruction and cataclysms would occur. And as it is, Aquarius has brought already a considerable shift of consciousness; but an increase would bring about a destructive revolution." *Fiery World II*, sl. 45. These words should calm the waters of fear and uncertainty in this transition. If we recall Rule XII for Disciples and Initiates, we are meant to work toward Aquarius and emulate the methods of the Hierarchy while remembering that still, "the group toils in Pisces", however, with the mark of the Savior above the aura of the group. The center of the group soul, the living Christ, overshadows the world discipleship group enabling the group to stand in the fire of love while the world changes and shifts to accommodate the incoming powerful energies. It is important for the group to stand steady because its primary responsibility is to hold up the vision of wholeness and synthesis to the entire New Group of World Servers and intelligent humanity; the latter being

the group who can best shape public opinion and effectively and widely foster goodwill among this "ordinary" Humanity. As the forerunner of the Christ, the New Group is preparing the way for the appearance of the World Teacher by evoking the energies of Light and Love, by creating the "Pathway of Light" for the feet of the Christ through rhythmic group occult meditation.

The period of Leo in 2017 is particularly meaningful, especially in relation to the Aquarian energies that are continually gaining in power. There are two new moons in Leo surrounding this full moon and on the second one, August 21, a total solar eclipse will occur and be visible across the entire United States. A solar eclipse is caused when the moon passes directly in front of the sun. They happen frequently, but are not always visible over land and so easily available for viewing by so many people. As the sun begins to be obscured, daylight lessens and at the moment of totality, the day sky becomes dark. The most spectacular image at this point is the view of the sun's corona shooting flames out from behind the darkened orb, a thrilling sight but seldom seen.

Because of the wide visibility of this event, thousands of people will be making pilgrimages to the areas of totality; a swath of 60 miles wide moving from northwest to southeast from Oregon across the Mid West and ending in South Carolina. Countless people will open their consciousness to the significance of the eclipse and symbolically, the energies of the eclipse will affect the collective imagination on a global scale. There is much mythology and superstition about eclipses, frequently thought to be unsettling and often negative in their effects, but eclipse watchers have correlated significant global events with eclipses such as breakthroughs in aeronautics, television and satellite communications as well as important political upheavals and surprises. Day becomes night, the stars appear during the day, the temperature drops suddenly and diurnal animals go to sleep. Everything is disoriented.

This particular eclipse is very significant, not only for the discipleship group worldwide, but for Humanity as a whole. The eclipse occurs at 29 degrees of Leo, the final degree of the sign which is considered a critical degree. The moment of the eclipse, the conjunction of the sun and moon, signifies on a cosmic scale, the merging of the form nature, the personality, with the soul, and a closer approach of Humanity to the Hierarchy, the Great Ashram. In addition to this, the planet Uranus, one of the planets the sun veils in Leo, is 28 degrees Aries, forming an almost perfect triangle with the conjunct sun and moon. Uranus carries 7th Ray energy into the system, augmenting the power of Aquarius, and this beneficent aspect will make it possible for the central spiritual Sun, which pours its influence through Uranus, to facilitate the Shamballa force to reach humanity more directly, stimulating the will nature, both higher and lower, and in perhaps unexpected ways and with unforeseen consequences. Eclipses are said to be portals of cosmic energy, making this event a significant opportunity for the discipleship group to "demonstrate the will-to-good in new and potent livingness", the directive of the School keynote for this year.

In this important period of Leo, not only is there the tremendously auspicious alignment through the total solar eclipse, and the influence of Uranus, the exoteric ruler of Aquarius, but there is the annual influence of the sun Sirius which has a direct relationship with Leo, which,

we are told, is cosmically ruled by Sirius. The powerful cosmic energies from mighty Sirius flow directly into our planet through Regulus, the heart of Leo, the Lion, into the Heart of the Sun, through the Hierarchy, and then, focused in the Christ, are poured finally into our own hearts, via the 2nd Ray, the line of Buddhi, of pure Love/Wisdom. The Old Commentary describes Sirius as "a bright sun where shines the light of love." This is the light the group is to reveal and the love the group is to express.

The great challenge presented by Leo is the goal of self mastery; the achievement of a complete control over the personal self "so that it is fitted for contact with the real". Its energies facilitate the burning away of the impediments to the soul's expression, so that soul light can illuminate the mind and saturate the vehicles with the inner reality of the vast and endless cosmic Chain of Being, the Chain of Cosmic love. Leo drives the human being forward; firstly through selfish personal ambition where the desires of the lower self are pursued at the expense of all else and where the interests of the personality are considered supreme. The Leo person becomes acutely self aware and self centered. But eventually, the attractive power of the soul reveals the bigger picture and the personal self, with a small s, becomes dominated by the true spiritual Self, and the interests of the inner group become the focus of attention. Then the disciple is able to "serve as Aquarius indicates" in full and conscious cooperation with Hierarchy; dominated by the will-to-serve and dedicated to the good of the group in service to the whole.

Leo reveals for the aspirant the significance of cosmic, solar and planetary fire, the fact of fire as the basis of our evolution. We read in *Letters on Occult Meditation* that: "Fire forms the basis of all—the Self is fire, the intellect is a phase of fire, and latent in the microcosmic physical vehicles lies hid a veritable fire that can either be a destructive force, burning the tissue of the body and stimulating centres of an undesirable character, or be a vivifying factor, acting as a stimulating and awakening agent. When directed along certain prepared channels, this fire may act as a purifier and the great connector between the lower and the Higher Self." (LOM pp102-3) This is the goal for Humanity facing the 1st initiation, to recognize the nature of the connection between the higher and lower Self, to acknowledge the reality of the Christ within and the eternal nature of the soul. We may witness, as a result of the stimulation of the will, a temporary emergence of undesirable and destructive characteristics playing out on the world stage, but nothing can stop the light of the soul and the fire of love from manifesting in the hearts of humankind.

Leo is the fire sign in the Fixed Cross, the cross of light and the cross of discipleship, the Path onto which Humanity is stepping. It is the fieriest of all signs and unlike all others, has a single ruler, the Sun, which controls all three aspects: exoteric, esoteric and hierarchical, making the Sun of prime importance as a carrier for the energies of Leo. It is, we are told, "the pre-eminent fire sign at this time", making it of critical importance in the current period of destruction and purification by fire as we enter Aquarius. It brings solar fire into the human consciousness, stimulating the fire of the soul and empowering the fire of the mind. Humanity is preparing to "tread the Way of fire" and is experiencing fire in a new way; as a cleansing force and the factor that "clears the way by burning". This burning away is inevitably painful because there is

resistance by the collective personality to the increasing soul light. Forms that are loved and known are being stripped away. The absence of a true spirit of sharing means that in Western countries poverty is growing while elites are becoming increasingly wealthy and advantaged. And materialistic forces governing Humanity's relations with the environment mean that people are literally losing their homes and possessions in wild fires; the rising of planetary temperatures is causing unforeseen destruction. The fires of war are causing millions of people to abandon their homes and the lives they know. The collective Burning Ground is there for all to see.

The Ageless Wisdom teachings, especially the writings of Alice Bailey, have provided Humanity with the tools for understanding human nature, the world we live in and the larger spiritual context of the events of our world. In the years the Tibetan Master DK was giving instructions to his group of disciples, he referred to the many aspirants who were still at the stage of being affected by glamour and illusion, but who were beginning to sense the light of the soul and its pull on their consciousness. He could have been referring to the stage in Leo when the aspirant is still the center of his own world, but verging on group awareness and a wider Aquarian consciousness. In referring to the work the Masters wanted to be done by their disciples with these aspirants, the instructions he gave 70 or 80 years ago are relevant now. He said: "...The one thing which the Masters are endeavoring to bring about is the stimulation of the flame of the spirit in them so that they may set the world on fire. The fires of judgment and of substance, of karma and its vehicle, matter, are raging in the world at this time. Fire must be countered by fire, as well you know, and to stop the raging inferno of fire which is today devastating the world, the fire of spirit must be opposed, distributed and effectively used by the disciples of the Masters. The fire which must... be used by the disciples in the world is the fire of the will-to-love.

This fire is not what you think it is. The will-to-love means the love of the greater Whole and the ability to do that which is needed for the good of the group in the right way and with the needed skill in action. It involves capacity for firm action where need arises, because the disciple has a long range vision and is not misled by the immediate perspective. He works and prepares for the future. It is, in other words, the loving intention to fire the entire world with the new idea of the "spirit of relationship," beginning with the disciple's own self, his family and immediate group. This is the will-to-fire." DINA I pp 720

Rather than being shocked and frightened by some of the events we see around the world, we should understand that materialistic and separative trends, hateful rhetoric and unpleasant behaviors across the spectrum of society, are the direct result of more light being poured into the center Humanity. This is light which Humanity itself has invoked. More fire is being applied. Light always reveals the dark places and we know that the Forces of retrogression are hard at work to maintain the status quo. But the numbers of people who recognize the oneness of Humanity and the interconnectedness of all life are daily increasing and their vision and hard work are burning away the veils of the illusion of separateness with the fire of the will-to-love. Hate is being met with love, intolerance with inclusiveness and falsehood with truth.

Leo offers a special opportunity to harness and release the energy of love, the solar fire, into Humanity. In Leo, the cosmic principle of Love flows directly from the Sun Sirius, into the Hierarchy and via the Christ, the embodiment of Cosmic love, into human hearts. Our destiny as disciples and members of the New Group of World Servers is to embody this love and perfect its expression in this 2nd Ray Solar system of Love/Wisdom. We are witnessing now what is called "The Great Turning", and this is symbolic of the process Humanity is undergoing now as it collectively prepares to face the 1st initiation and cross the Burning Ground. We have been through the era of purification by water and as we are reminded by the Tibetan, fire takes the place of water on the reversed wheel, the fire we see all around us during this Great Turning. As we approach 2025 and the annual hierarchical conclave when the timing of Christ's physical return to the Earth will be decided, it is useful to prepare ourselves to handle the intensity of the incoming energies. We read in *Discipleship in the New Age, vol I*: "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?" DINA I 722

Let us imagine the fire of love radiating outward to all we meet, purifying and gently cleansing away anything that stands in the way of the expression of the soul. Let us imagine a lighted world where love can flourish and the light reveals a glorious creation. Let us stand together in the fire of love and tread together the lighted Way.

DK gave to his disciple R.V.B. this beautiful prayer: "Grant me the light that I may shine. Let me throughout the world of time and space radiate light, create a light, transmit the light, and treading thus the Lighted Way (which is my Lighted Self), enter the light and so return the light to those who need, to Those likewise from whence it came." DINA II 561