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I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force

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

We read that the exoteric ruler of Libra is the planet Venus, a planet that is associated with the fifth ray, the ray of concrete science. Libra is therefore a sign related to the discriminatory mind, the analytical ability to make choices and judgements. It is through the influence of the fifth ray that the man in Libra develops his intellect which eventually brings about an ability to think in wider terms. He learns to think beyond the personal, to embrace a greater understanding of humanity as a whole. It is therefore, through the intellect that man becomes united with his fellow men and the idea of brotherhood becomes firmly impressed on his consciousness.

As a man working through the zodiac in an ordinary manner, Libra denotes personality choice, with the keynote: 'And the Word said: Let choice be made'. It is through his balancing of the pairs of opposites on the astral plane, that he finds between them the "razor-edged path" which leads him into the kingdom of the soul. As a disciple on the reverse wheel, he learns to choose as a soul and the keynote 'I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force' demonstrates that perfect balance which he eventually finds between the great opposites of spirit and matter. Libra is the sign where the man, who becomes the disciple, moves from the intellect to the intuition, and therefore into the life of divinity.

Let us pause for a couple of moments and then we will say together the **The Gayatri:**

**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 disc of golden Light
That we may know the Truth And do our whole duty
As we journey to Thy sacred feet.**

We are told that it was the Lords of Flame from the planet Venus coming to Earth that produced the first flicker of consciousness in certain groups of animal men. This momentous event occurred in the third rootrace in the fourth round. It was not just an accidental and fortunate happening; it was a planned event that brought about a mysterious absorption by the Earth of Venusian force. We are told that the karmic tie between the two Heavenly Men—one in a positive incarnation and the other in a negative—caused the working out of an old debt and a planetary alliance. Light flashed forth in Lemurian days in a number of great groups of the human family when these two opposite poles made electrical connection. It needed the joint work of the two Heavenly Men, working on buddhic levels (the fourth cosmic ether) to bring about the blazing forth of the light of manas in the causal groups on the fifth cosmic gaseous plane, the mental plane of the solar system. ¹

It was not only Earth that benefitted from this alliance, Venus, we are told, received more than it gave, apparently, the entire Venusian chain was stimulated allowing the Venusian planetary Logos to take a major initiation. In the Earth chain the effect was on only one globe, our planet, and our Earth Logos went through a minor initiation allowing for a human family to emerge. ²

The process of initiation clearly exists beyond the confines of our particular scheme. We are told that the initiatory process is part of an experiment that was first tried out on Venus, and on the whole proved successful, resulting in the consummation of the planetary purpose in five rounds instead of seven. ³

It was the success of this process on Venus that generated sufficient force that led to a similar effort to be made on the planet Earth. No planet increases its store of force, and consequently its sphere of influence, without incurring obligations and affecting other schemes. The interchange of force and energy between Earth and Venus is continuous and Venus's relationship to the Earth, we are told, is in reality what the higher self is to man. Interestingly, it is also said in *Initiation Human and Solar* that a similar process of initiation has since been instituted on another planetary scheme, and when, in the next round, our Earth attains a point in evolution analogous to that of the Venusian scheme at the time its influence was felt by us, then we shall aid in the stimulation of still another group of planetary Egos; we shall assist in the institution of a similar procedure among the sons of men in another scheme. ⁴

It is through mental unfoldment that the man finds himself in the final stages of mental evolution and upon the Path of Initiation which brings about eventually the synthesis of instinct, intellect and intuition. The building of the antahkarana – that bridge of light between these 3 aspects - is an important aspect of this later stage in the path to synthesis. The gap which exists on the mental plane between them creates a break in the continuity of conscious contact and there is no channel for the inpouring of higher energies. The conscious building of the antahkarana is required, therefore, to bridge the gap. We are told that, the coming of the Lords of Flame to the Earth finds its correspondence in the connection between the mental unit and the manasic permanent atom. So, just as the antahkarana is built by individual man, so in a planetary sense, a channel is being built by collective man, which includes those of super human consciousness, to Venus. ⁵

The antahkarana between our planet and the planet Venus passes from there to the Heart of the Sun and later to the cosmic mental plane. There are "rainbow bridges" being forged everywhere within the whole, carrying the sevenfold energies of the seven rays from planet to planet, from system to system, and from plane to plane on cosmic levels. It is over these bridges that the will of the related spiritual Identities is projected, for it is via the antahkarana that spirit works, that life processes are controlled, and the will of all developing aspects of Deity function. ⁶

Venusian forces of great potency are clearly playing upon our planet and we are advised to pay more attention to the activity and the influence of Venus. ⁷ The last transit of Venus across the face of the Sun was relatively recent in 2012. Such transits occur in pairs spaced 8 years apart and consecutive pairs occur more than a century apart. The previous transit took place in June 2004, preceded by transits in 1874 and 1882. The next pair will occur in 2117 and 2125, so if you missed the last one you won't get the chance again, certainly not in this life time.

It is interesting to consider what might have been the impact on humanity of the previous transits, was there any indication of the stimulation of manas? It is hard to know anything with precision and of course there are many influences to consider including factors such as the influx of creative and inventive people coming into incarnation at that time. There were many scientific discoveries and patents issued in the last quarter of the 1800's. For example, the patents for Bell's telephone, Edison's phonograph, Dunlop's pneumatic tyre, Eastman's box camera, the diesel engine, x-rays, Aspirin, the first motor car to name but a few. Clearly the intellectual mind was at work, however, perhaps to us, the most important events of this time were the publication of Blavatsky's work, *Isis Unveiled* in 1877, the *Secret Doctrine* in 1888 and the *Voice of the Silence* 1889. Rudolf Steiner also completed the first of many books in 1886, a book on Goethe which he regarded as the foundation for his later work.

Various occult societies also emerged at this time: There was the Theosophical Society who focused mainly on Eastern esoteric tradition. The Hermetic Society and the Hermetic Brotherhood of Luxor were both founded in 1884 and The Golden Dawn opened its Isis Urania Temple in London in 1888. These were loyal to the Western esoteric traditions, although they made use of eastern knowledge and wisdom also. By the late 1800's freemasonry, spiritualism and theosophy had firmly woven themselves into the fabric of British occultism.

It seems possible that the transit of Venus, alongside other influences, had a part to play in stimulating the mind. Not only intellectually but there is the suggestion that there was emerging a new intuitive understanding of the world; the dictates of science and the Church no longer meeting the need, while interest in diverse areas of Eastern and Western esoteric traditions, history, myth, archaeology, magic and languages were stimulated. This, together with the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science, contributed to greater awareness of the one humanity and a desire for universal brotherhood which are indications of the group conscious nature of the soul emerging. It was the knowledge and teaching from this period that has formed the basis of many of the alternative spiritual traditions that exist today.

It is more difficult to see the effects of the recent transits in 2004 and 2012 due to their proximity. It seems relevant to mention two very interesting events which emerged over this period, the launch of Facebook in 2004 and WikiLeaks in 2006. While at first sight it might seem difficult to relate these two organisations to expansions of the intellect and intuitive understanding, and Facebook could certainly be seen as a communications innovation arising from the incoming seventh ray, their effects on modern society in terms of the way people think and make decisions have been enormous.

Since 2006 anyone aged 13 or older can become a registered user of Facebook and it now connects more than 1.35 billion people around the world and has changed the way people communicate and do business. There is today much emphasis on the negative effects of Facebook and social media, but it is a brilliant platform for the sharing of information and has led to a greater understanding of the wonderful diversity and yet, fundamental similarities and needs of humanity. It has been used very successfully in highlighting injustices and cruelties that exist across the world bringing them into the foreground of human consciousness and inciting people to action. Facebook has been cited as having contributed to the overthrowing of governments, particularly in regard to the Arab Spring. It was on Facebook that people first saw and shared horrifying videos and photographs of state brutality that inspired them to rebel. And it was on Facebook that people could then find the basic logistics of the rebellion, where to go and when to turn up. Facebook was attributed to be the main tool in the uprising in both Tunisia and Egypt. As Marc Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook has said "By giving the people the power to share we are making the world more transparent".⁸

Increasing transparency is a key motivation for WikiLeaks an international non-profit organization which publishes news leaks based on their ethical, historical and political significance. It was founded by Chinese dissidents, journalists and mathematicians, and start-up company technologists from the United States, Taiwan, South Africa, Australia, and Europe, a truly international affair. The director is the well-known Australian Internet activist called Julian Assange.

On their website WikiLeaks states Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a basis for their work, recognising the expression and receipt of information regardless of frontiers, as civil rights. The WikiLeaks web site further defines "principled leaking" as necessary to fight government, individual and corporate corruption.⁹

Information is indeed power, for it lets people hold the powerful to account. Since the founding of WikiLeaks transparency has become a household term. Media headlines talk about financial "transparency", the age of transparency, and the transparency movement. Not only has transparency turned into a common matter for debate but it also has become part of election campaigns in showing commitment to fighting corruption and transparency has become so fundamental that nations are now dedicating special laws to it.

It is through the power of information and connection that people are becoming increasingly aware of the group, and it is the power of this group or soul light that is generated, that is gradually dissipating the glamour and illusion that surrounds. People are gaining insights into the world, the way it is organised, cultural differences, the tragedy and suffering that exists and the cruelties and injustices. This is stimulating compassion and empathy and the desire and ability to come together to force change. The idea of brotherhood is becoming more firmly established in human consciousness. Much of the impetus for change is being organised and stimulated through the use of such websites. The Tibetan tells us that it is through the force of public opinion that change will come about. He says, 'They will thus create a world public opinion which will be so forceful and so outspoken on the side of human welfare that leaders, statesmen, politicians, businessmen and churchmen will be forced to listen and comply'.¹⁰

Of course, not all the information available is necessarily relevant or has any truth, hence the increasing need for the use of the discriminatory mind. Information also stimulates the emotional nature which is responsible for the hatred engendered by those who react sensitively to suffering and who, because of their emotional identification with suffering, lay the blame for the distressing conditions encountered upon a person or a group. What is needed, therefore, is a well-considered mental response to humanity's need, then the whole problem will be lifted out of the world of glamour and illusion. This is a gradual process however for many people are still polarised on the astral plane and therefore immersed in their desire nature. The recent stimulation from Venus in 2012, it would seem, is moving us in the right direction, for the availability of information, a growing awareness of the suffering that our decisions create, and a greater comprehension of the world situation is allowing more understanding of the choices to be made; there is, therefore, greater opportunity for 'right choice'.

It is through making right choice that the old influences under which we have been living will gradually die out, and the new potencies will start to make their presence felt. We are told that the first decanate of the Aquarian age is governed by the activity of Saturn, the Hierarchical ruler of Libra, which will produce a dividing of the ways and a proffering of opportunity to those who can avail themselves of it.¹¹ This dividing of the ways is very evident today in the world, there seems to be an increasing division between those who seek inclusive solutions and those who are separative in their thinking. Decisions as whether to continue with the status quo that harbours short-term self-interest, or instead choose the higher values, requiring the selflessness that is inherent in being able to provide a sustainable, fear free future for all, are now to be made. And humanity has the information needed at its fingertips, to make 'right choice'. The clamour of the mental plane is becoming increasingly potent as the many opposing voices seek to make their

understanding, their version of events, heard. It will be through making such choices that the narrow edged path between the pairs of opposites will be found. It is the efforts to bring the higher ways into being that will enable many within humanity to respond by unfolding the higher centres, transferring the focus of their attention from the lower centres to above the diaphragm. The world probationary disciple, humanity, is being prepared to take initiation and enter the Path of true discipleship. We read in *The Rays and Initiations* that, 'The tests for the first initiation, as far as humanity (the world disciple) is concerned, are well-nigh over and the hour of the birth of the Christ as an expression of the fourth kingdom in nature and the consummation of the work of the Fourth Creative Hierarchy is at hand. This is no gainsaying; the birth hour may be long and the form may be "in labour" for much time, but the Christ will be born and the nature of the Christ and His consciousness will permeate and colour all human affairs. It is this condition—so imminent and so desirable and long foretold and anticipated—which will make possible the return of the Hierarchy and the restoration of the Mysteries.' ¹²

Libra is said to guard the secret of balance and equilibrium, and finally to sound the releasing note. ¹³ Humanity is learning to choose as a soul, to take responsibility and to begin the release from the thrall of the illusory planes and bringing about a closer connection to Venus.

Let us work now together to seek to distribute love and light throughout the world of men, to stimulate the soul light that exists within humanity and bring about right choice and the rule of Brotherhood.

References:

- 1 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* pg. 324
- 2 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* pg. 378
- 3 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* pg. 1077
- 4 *Initiation Human and Solar* pg. 96
- 5 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* pg. 299
- 6 *The Rays and Initiations* pg. 407
- 7 *Esoteric Psychology II* pg. 722
- 8 <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/markzucker412428.html>
- 9 <https://wikileaks.org>
- 10 *The Problems of Humanity* pg. 208
- 11 *The Destiny of Nations* pg. 139
- 12 *The Rays and Initiations* pg. 334
- 13 *Meditation and the Rhythm of the Year* pg.46/47