

## *Challenging Times in the Transition from Mutable to Fixed Cross*

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It is easy to imagine how the keynote for disciples in Pisces, *I leave the Father's home and turning back, I save*, might be difficult to relate to in any personal sense. It is after all the sign of the completion of the incarnation cycle when a World Savior of some description, chooses to incarnate with the sole purpose of lifting and saving. It will probably be easier for most of us to relate to an incarnation that is guided by a purpose of being useful to the Plan; of seeking to serve evolution in no matter how small and humble a way; and of applying whatever will we can muster to the task of serving and spreading love in our environment with increasing focus and concentration. This seems do-able. Modelling our life on 'Saving' seems like such a very distant goal.

Yet, despite this, it is important to have the distant goal in mind: *I leave the Father's home and turning back, I save*. While it may not be the goal for this life, or the next, or the one after that; the path of discipleship and initiation is ultimately headed towards the flowering of the savior. Steps we take on the Path now, in response to presented opportunities, are each in their own way small, incremental steps towards that Greater Goal. To acknowledge the ultimate destiny to become a savior in some form affirms one's own divinity; along with everyone else's essential divinity. We all carry within us the potency of the Savior ... it's just that for most of us it is so deeply buried and obscured by the veils of incarnation: illusion, glamour and maya.

One way of understanding a future time when it becomes appropriate for us to leave the father's home and return to save is not to think of it so much as a goal lying ahead on one's own path. Instead it can be thought of more as the destiny path for that wide group of incarnating, serving souls of which we are a part: the Group of World Servers. This group regularly passes through periods of crisis. As the crisis does its work it produces a fresh concentration of effort; a little bit more light is let in; and the spiritual tension of the group rises. The heightened tension in the group has a transforming impact on public consciousness ... until a new crisis emerges, and the cycle of growth and development continues. There are greater and lesser cycles in this process. The Pisces keynote refers to the culmination of a greater cycle when the whole group note rises to such a point of tension that its invocation of the next step becomes incredibly potent – evoking the emergence of a savior who will mark the conclusion of one greater cycle (a figurative death) and the beginning of a whole new era.

The teachings suggest that during the coming ten, twenty or more years, we are in one of these periods when a Greater Cycle is approaching its conclusion. So, it is especially appropriate that we should ponder the Pisces keynote and consider the significance of Piscean energies to these early decades of the twenty-first century. We are approaching a period of culmination in the transition from Pisces to Aquarius. The teachings invite us to think about the culminating event

in that transition in terms of a fresh and new emergence of a Savior; a Reappearance of the Prince of Peace; the One known as the Christ. This new appearance, the teachings suggest, can be envisaged in part as an overshadowing of the Group of World Servers as a whole – the Christ appearing as a group savior; and it can be envisaged in part as a concentration, the precipitation, of that Group Being into one individual human who, like Jesus and Krishna before him, will be the incarnated Christ.

Some find this individual embodiment difficult to imagine, seeing it as out of keeping with the modern world. How could such a glorified presence be a person of this time? It is not difficult to imagine Christ in ancient times, when things were so different, the cultures were different, the speed of life was different, the mind of humanity was so very different. Our challenge is to imagine an individual appearance of Christ in our time for all the world to see.

The fundamental characteristic of our humanity is our individuality. It is a fundamental part of the definition of what it is to be a human being. With this in mind, the argument can be made that to be fully human Christ needs to have a singular individual presence. The group mind expresses itself through the incredible diversity of the lives of countless individual servers. The group mind does not exist somehow separate from the individuals who form its cellular units. So, we might consider that the radical, initiatory transformation of human consciousness that will be signified by the re-appearance of the Coming One requires something more fundamental than the overshadowing of the Group of World Servers; or even, as suggested by some, an incarnation that will be restricted to the etheric level. To be truly ‘fixed’, grounded and rooted in humanity; to be fully present; it seems logical for DK to predict that the Christ will again take ‘human form’, overshadowing a singular individual in addition to the Group of Servers.

One of the quite stunning ideas in the Teachings is the suggestion that Christ is already physically present in the world. In the book, *The Reappearance of the Christ*, DK notes that the ceremony held through the ages in the Himalayas during the Wesak Festival substantiates *the fact of Christ’s physical existence among us ever since His so-called departure*, just as it demonstrates the Christ’s work as *the great and chosen Intermediary, standing as the Representative of the Spiritual Hierarchy and as the Leader of the New Group of World Servers*. [pp. 45 -6]

It can be challenging, but it is a good exercise, to try to imagine what it might mean for Christ to appear, fully present as the Leader of the Group of World Servers – and to imagine this in today’s world. As we do this it is important to be willfully and proactively living our lives with the goal of contributing, in no matter how small a way, to the work of preparing the ground for His reappearance. Imagining what it might mean for the Group of World Servers to be led by the Christ in full incarnation involves considering what impact this will have on our ability as a species to respond to the challenges of our time: human rights, the urgent need to find ways to share resources and make significant progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, finding a new balance in the relationship between local, national and global identities and so

on. Imagine how the Christ, together with the Group of World Servers, will initiate a spiritual awakening among large numbers of people across cultures, faiths and nations. Imagine the opposition that this may well evoke; but imagine too how a new spirit in the world might counter materialism in popular culture and cynicism in intellectual culture.

Let us pause for a moment to align with the group of all true world servers as that group exists today, under the leadership of the Christ. In Alice Bailey's time the Group was relatively new and unrecognized. Today members of the Group and service initiatives carried out by the Group are regularly featured on television and the media around the world. More than this, the mental field of the group of servers today must surely be one of the strongest and most dynamic features of human consciousness if we could look from the perspective of the ashram. It would surely be seen as a field of mind that is lighted and naturally intelligent – perhaps already reflecting something of the radiance of the full overshadowing that will come with the reappearance of the Group Leader. The critical, analytical mind has, in this Group of Servers, been largely superseded by a wise, intuitive sense of wholeness and a keenness to find practical ways to express this sensed wholeness. The mind of the Service group is today largely characterized by a quest for 'What Works', a definite seventh ray quality. There is a dynamic, 'moving forward' impulse in the Group as it approaches the Greater Light on the vertical arm while moving out to express light in all fields of relationship and social organization on the horizontal arm. The one feature of the Group that is similar to the time when AAB was writing is that it remains largely unrecognized, although perhaps this is changing.

We can align now with this group mind; recognizing that it is impressed with a clearer understanding of unity, oneness and wholeness than has ever existed at any time in human affairs. All the seed groups that we know of (healing, finance, telepathic communication, religion and so on) hold a richness of insight into principles of synthesis and ways in which those principles can be applied to further the development of right human relations than has ever existed before. All the professions, the arts and sciences that are represented in the New Group are responding in a multitude of ways to incoming impressions of universality and wholeness. We can imagine the group holding a point of dynamic tension; a point of Will.

During this period of turmoil and crisis in the world, marked by what might be envisaged as a rising of the Dweller, it is especially important for us to affirm the living reality of the mind and incarnated being of the Group of World Servers, and the urgency of its task as it responds to fresh, unexpected challenges to the work of building Right Relations. It is equally important for us to recognize the alignment that exists between this group and the Hierarchy of Lighted Beings and Presences: that great field of mind and heart that brings an abundant flow of Light, Wisdom and Loving Will into the mind and heart of the New Group.

Let's pause and sound together 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.*

Astrologers will know that Pisces is one of the four arms of the Mutable Cross. The others are Gemini, Virgo and Sagittarius. One of the great dramas that take place in the evolution of consciousness is the transition off this Grand Cross in the heavens onto the Fixed Cross. In esoteric astrology this transition marks entrance onto the path and the reversing of the zodiacal wheel. The three crosses are crosses of crucifixion: the Mutable, Fixed and Cardinal Cross. The Christ, and the Soul, are sequentially crucified on each of the three crosses: throwing the incarnating Monad into cycles of figurative as well as literal birth and death – all for the ultimate resurrection and revelation of the Glory of the One.

Transition from the Mutable to the Fixed Cross is a hugely significant event, and Pisces is the key sign in this event, so I want to spend a little time holding it in then light of our reflections together. It can provide a useful lens through which to view the current political, social, spiritual, and cultural crisis in nations around the world. No one lens is sufficient to understand the full significance of this crisis, so I don't want to give it too much emphasis. People have been stirred deeply by this crisis. Lives are changing and will continue to change as more and more people inspired by the vision of Oneness and Human Unity decide how they will respond – or react – to the events. Yet the passage from Mutable to Fixed Cross, with its implication of the death of one whole cycle of evolution and the birth of another, is one valuable way of understanding something of what appears to be happening in our time.

When the Soul is crucified on the Mutable Cross it is tied into a cycle of lives characterized by constantly changing experiences. By adapting and responding to these changes, endlessly, life after life, the personality is gradually built, developed and integrated. In some ways it is rather like the classic Darwinian view of natural evolution, although in this case the soul is very much responsible for throwing challenges down before the personality.

The word *mutable* suggests: *able to or tending to change*. Dictionary synonyms on the web for *Mutable* include changeable, variable, fluctuating, inconsistent, unpredictable, fickle, unstable. There are references to the *mutable nature of fashion* and the idea that *youth is said to be fickle and mutable*. In some approaches to mundane astrology the four signs of the Mutable Cross are considered to bring opportunities for growth *associated with the quality of adaptability*.

DK writes about the Cross in terms of *changing and absorbed Experience.... The place of action and reaction, of karmic control and response to impacts ...* [EA 144]. While there are four signs that make up the cross it is important to point out that, from an esoteric perspective, regardless of the sun sign, every soul that is primarily occupied with the work of building up the personality during its clockwise path around the zodiac will be largely conditioned by the Mutable Cross. This means that it is the Cross which governs large segments of the population; in the symbolic language of esoteric astrology it is the Cross of 'mass consciousness'

When we think of a nation, any nation, there will be significant, sizeable portions of the population who (whatever sun sign they may be born in) are living lives that are primarily conditioned by the forces of this Cross. The same can be said of ethnic groups, different national groups, cultures and so on – there will always be a significant segment of the population in all these groups primarily concerned with building up the personality through constant exposure to change.

In the development of consciousness each stage in the process is important and vital. Building up the personality is as essential a part of the process as the later work needed to fuse soul and personality. Without the mutable cross experience, consciousness would not be brought to a fixed concentration on working through duality. This is a time when the soul is no longer hidden or imprisoned. It is an irritant as well as a source of inspiration to the personality, driving the next phase of development. DK writes that *the influence of the Fixed Cross causes reversal and the lessons gained upon the Mutable Cross have to be worked out and the effects demonstrated on the Fixed Cross.* [EA 119]

This transference brings the focus away from mass consciousness into the *intense self-consciousness* of the Fixed Cross; and the Fixed Cross then prepares the for the development of group consciousness which takes place on the Cardinal Cross. While the Mutable Cross reflects the experience of the Planetary Christ (it governs large collectives or fields of consciousness), the Fixed Cross marks the experience of the individual Christ in each human being, Christ immanent. Through the soul-personality dynamic of conflict, repression and crisis, we learn to mediate between higher and lower expressions of divinity.

The interesting point about all this is that the process of transference between the two crosses *begins and ends in Pisces*. In other words, the great reversal of the zodiacal wheel as it is referred to in esoteric astrology, and the initiation which will lead to the emergence of humanity as the world disciple, or what several commentators (David Korten, Joanna Macy and others) refer to as *The Great Turning* in the cultural, spiritual and economic life of humanity, is largely influenced by the energies flowing through the sign of Pisces. These are largely first and second ray energies. .

Alice Bailey writes: *It has been the steady impact of Piscean force which has at long last brought humanity, the world disciple, to the very door of initiation. For over two thousand years, Piscean influence has been playing upon mankind; it has brought about the demand for world*

*adjustment; it has developed the international spirit and has led to the formation of groups in every department of human living and so laid the foundation for the future synthesis in Aquarius. [EA 472-3]*

So as we look out upon the world this Pisces full moon we might usefully reflect upon what recent events tell us about humanity's transition from the Mutable to the Fixed Cross. Many understandably view with horror the political rise of forces antagonistic to the international spirit; antagonistic to protection of the environment from the intensity of human activity; and antagonistic to the natural concern for the rights of refugees. It clearly is a dangerous time as is evidenced by the widespread stimulation and manipulation of fear in the populations of numerous countries. First ray, Shamballa forces do seem to be at work – apparently shattering much of what was assumed to be the steady progress of international understanding and cooperation. There may well be a beneficent aspect to some of this shattering to the extent that it draws forth, concentrates and refines the will of the Group of World Servers, focusing energy and attention on the challenges of developing concrete, workable structures of sharing that make sense and are desirable and inspirational to the vast masses of the world's people. There is also a beneficent aspect to recent events in so far as some of the impacts of globalization have reinforced the economic divide within nations, preventing any real sharing of wealth. Yet it is also important to recognize that darker forces of materialism and separatism are being empowered at this time – and that requires a response from all who seek to serve the Light. It is not a crisis that servers can turn their backs on, or simply observe without some deepening of their will to be of use.

One of the key 'lessons' of the mutable cross is that in order to manage and deal with the constant impact of incoming energies human beings have to learn to develop mind – have to learn to think with some measure of independence. And that would seem to be one of the key issues facing the Group of World Servers today – to help foster a climate in which the masses of people develop an increasingly mature facility to think, and to discern the real from the unreal. Amidst all the slogans, the hype and the superficiality of sound-bites that are antagonistic to independent thought, Servers in every field are now challenged to contribute (each in their own way) to the building of this climate of thought. This requires that the New Group itself moves deeper into its understanding of the principles of an interdependent world – expressing those principles with simplicity and clarity, free from any sense of moral superiority. Esotericists at the heart of the Group are pushed to penetrate into the very life and spirit of these principles – finding that intuitive alignment with Oneness, unity and right relations that will enable these energies to be expressed with increasing clarity and authenticity.

In reading about Pisces in the book *Esoteric Astrology* I was especially struck by a reference to the intuition that seemed especially appropriate to these times – and appropriate to Pisces and its qualities of a universal consciousness. In a rather abstruse discussion about 'The Star of Christ' two triangles are mentioned: Pisces, Capricorn, Aquarius and Taurus, Gemini, Aries. Anticipating that readers will wonder what on earth is the value of such esoteric abstractions;

DK reminds us that it is our effort to understand that is important. As much as anything else, this effort, we are told, will evoke the intuition. Intuitive perception is essential for initiation. The passage then provides a definition of initiation that seems to me to really capture the opportunity of this time: *initiation is the demonstration of intuitive understanding put to practical expression*. [EA, 391] This is surely one of the keynotes of the crisis of these times. The intensity of the crisis, with all its dangers and all the political turmoil it is producing, is leading servers to make an effort to understand its meaning; and to understand what right response, what their own right response, should be. This effort, this crisis within the group of servers, can be expected to evoke an intuitive understanding that will lead to practical expression – a multitude of diverse practical expressions.

The model for this – what we might think of as the sign that we should expect a dramatic flowering of practical expressions of the principles of the Plan – is I think the agreement in 2015 by representatives of the governments of the world to agree to a Transformative Agenda around which all the world's people might come together: the Sustainable Development Goals. The beauty of these Goals, the practical expression of intuitive understandings of interdependence and wholeness, is the way in which they fuse a spirit that celebrates nations and their peoples with recognition of the unalterable oneness and interdependence of the modern world. All the governments agreed to the goals – that means all forms of ideology and of governance that characterize our diverse modern world. Theocracies, traditional authoritarian regimes, socialist republics, strongly capitalist nations, nations that pride themselves of democratic principles – all agreed to the stunning agenda of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. They agreed because, built into the goals was the principle that every nation has the freedom to reach specific measureable targets in whatever way is appropriate for them. In other words the only thing that matters is meeting development challenges. Many of these challenges will require an incredible focus by people of goodwill in each nation if they are to be met. Governments have agreed to the goals, but it is entirely dependent on people of goodwill to ensure that the goals become points of living will. Only then will there be any hope of achievement by 2030. It is really rather simple – and it echoes the current crisis in the world. How will the people of goodwill respond? Will servers take the initiative to achieve particular development goals in their local community; in their region; in their nation? Global achievement of the goals depends upon national achievement; national achievement depends upon local achievement.

The keynote we will be using for meditation is *I leave the Father's home and turning back, I save*. It invites us to ponder the reappearance of the World Teacher, as a possibility during the next few decades. It also asks us to reflect upon the Great Turning as humanity as a whole takes the momentous step off the Mutable Cross and onto the Fixed Cross of the discipleship path – from its earliest stages through to preparations that precede fusion between soul and personality.

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