

## *The Veil of the Mother*

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We work tonight with the energies of the beautiful sign of Virgo, one of the most ancient signs in the zodiac. The qualities of this sign hold within them many mysteries--mysteries that are worthy of our consideration as we stand at this rather difficult juncture in the life of our nation. And as our upcoming World Goodwill seminar theme reminds us, it is through the use of the intuition that we will find our way out of this maze of complexities. For running throughout history is a golden thread, a thread that once found can lead us unerringly to the values that once governed our land and that will someday return again to our national agenda--a love of truth; a sense of justice; a spirit of cooperation; a sense of personal responsibility; service to the common good. These are values to live by and they stand strong within the minds and hearts of many people today, but they are not always highlighted in our national dialogue. But through people and their actions these values are anchored on the physical plane and work out in the fostering of goodwill.

Another focus in our upcoming seminar is that of evoking the soul of the nation. This evocation is said to be one of the responsibilities of disciples, to do what they can, individually and as part of a collective, to bring forth the highest qualities of the national soul. When we come to the consideration of America and its soul we know that within the minds of the Founding Fathers the symbolism underlying Virgo was a factor of importance for they were Masons and this sign is of importance within that tradition. Those who know something of the hidden history of Washington DC know that it contains many references to Virgo --there are monuments dedicated to the goddess to be found throughout the capital as well as much astrological symbolism including buildings designed to align with certain of the fixed stars within the Virgo constellation. America herself was symbolized as a goddess named "Liberty" and the Founders understood that the work of this nation was to bring to the world a vision of freedom and justice that reflects the high idealism contained within the goddess energy.

So let us take a moment now at this time to reflect upon our national soul and do what we can to evoke it:

In the centre of all Love I stand.  
From that centre I, the soul, will outward move.  
From that centre I, the one who serves, will work.  
May the love of the divine Self be shed abroad,  
in my heart, through my group, and throughout the world.

Virgo carries an interesting combination of energies as it represents both the physical, matter aspect as well as that which matter veils, the indwelling soul. The keynote of this sign clearly demonstrates this combination -- it states, "I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter, am." This is an inherently sensitive and receptive sign--a feminine sign-- sometimes depicted as a veiled or blindfolded woman.

Virgo therefore symbolizes depths, darkness, and quiet. It is known as “the valley of deep experience, where secrets are discovered and eventually ‘brought to light.’” Our planet is also feminine in its polarity, as is America. The feminine aspect is beautiful and intuitive but it is also emotional, possessive and materialistic. The allure of matter is strong on this planet, as is evident. We are adept at producing ever more refined and perfected forms. There will arise, however, a significant shift in our planetary life when humanity finally comes to the realization, under the awakening of the heart under the impress of the Christ energy, that we don’t really need all these things for our happiness.

The real domain of Virgo is a life of service for this is ever the outgrowth of contact with the soul. The ability to serve develops as does the soul, over a long, slow period of time. This inner growth leads inevitably to those tremendous birth pangs in the “house of labour” that precede the birth initiation.

Virgo is preeminently the sign of the Mother and, therefore, of gestation--for Virgo symbolizes the momentous turning point in the cycle of lives wherein the integrated and potent personality, symbolized by the previous sign of Leo, combines with the mother aspect to bring forth what the Bible calls “the new man in Christ.” It is interesting to note that the sphinx is ruled by Virgo with its wisdom, which is able to subdue the lion or more material aspect. For esoterically speaking Leo and Virgo are still one sign, “Mercury and the sun are one”--the two rulers of these respective signs unite to form at once the soul-infused personality.

The ability to serve is a natural outgrowth of contact with the soul. The nature of Virgo teaches that service is not essentially related so much to outer activities, to a mad rushing forward into activity, but rather to an often quiet activity, the ability to connect with the source from which the activities flow. For Virgo is known as the god of small things, of that which is immediately present. Native peoples understood this and it was reflected in the way they lived their lives and in their relationship with the Earth, Whom they understood as the embodiment of a Great Life. As Lakota Chief Luther Standing Bear said, “The Lakota was a true naturist - a lover of nature. He loved the earth and all things of the earth, the attachment growing with age. The old people came literally to love the soil and they sat or reclined on the ground with a feeling of being close to a mothering power...The soil was soothing, strengthening, cleansing and healing...to sit or lie upon the ground is to be able to think more deeply and to feel more keenly; he can see more clearly into the mysteries of life and come closer in kinship to other lives about him.”

A consideration of Virgo cannot help but bring to our attention the similarities it holds with our planet Earth. Virgo is, after all, an Earth sign and our planet is above all an earth planet--if there is such a thing. An astrologer once said to me that if people on other planets in our system were to cast horoscopes, our Earth would surely be recognized as carrying a strong earth vibration. Because of the close relationship between our planet and Virgo it seems likely that the Earth rules this sign. The Tibetan clearly indicates that the Earth is an exoteric ruler of a sign but he does not tell us which one. And if this hypothesis is correct, then obviously this sign of Virgo would hold a key influence in our planetary life, holding a powerful role in preparing human consciousness for the coming reappearance of the World Teacher. The strong second ray influence that colors this sign is surely aiding in awakening the heart of love that lies within each human being and providing a key impetus in moving increasing numbers of people onto the path of return. When the sun passes through this sign each year the Earth is stimulated to come into alignment with its higher spiritual possibilities--the energies

of the systemic Christ aligning with those of the cosmic Christ, awakening the Christ immanent within each human heart.

Our planet is known as Mother Earth and Virgo is the sign of the Divine Feminine. In the ageless wisdom teachings Earth is also known by another revealing name -- we're called, "the little daughter of a long, lost son." This name given to our planet in the occult books of the Great Ones depicts the special relationship Earth holds with the Great Lord, the Solar Logos, whose love and thought is now said to be turned towards our planet, aiding us in this transition period (*A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 314). Esoterically we know that the names of the planets are not randomly chosen--the soul of each planet determines its name and these names reflect the essential quality of the planet and its dharma. In the Secret Doctrine we're told "The names of the Planets are applied in the same order everywhere and always" (S.D. I. 711.). Our planet is the only planet in our solar system that does not derive its name from Greco-Roman mythology, but exactly where the name does comes from no one seems to know. The name of our planet means "ground" or "soil." Soil is a rather mysterious compound, contributed to by all the kingdoms of nature. It is teeming with life and activity and through a type of magical, alchemical process, from its riches flow all the bountiful harvests that are now gracing our farmers markets throughout the country.

As the soil is composed of the influence of many other kingdoms in nature perhaps so, too, our planet is a conglomerate of influences from various other planets or stars combining to create the beauty that is Earth. Esoterically we know that Mercury and Venus pour a large measure of their light to Earth, acting as little suns -- aiding us in our evolutionary journey. Mercury is our elder brother, Venus our elder sister. We also know our Logos has a deep karmic connection with the great star of initiation, Sirius, and fortunately for us this influence is aiding our Hierarchy and the great Sirian initiate who is the Christ to move into alignment with that star's Blue Lodge that stands as the prototype of our spiritual Hierarchy. And surely in its role as Mother our planet is helping not only the lives within its sphere but increasingly other planets in our system by sharing its light with them.

The ground, another name for Earth, represents the foundation upon which all else rests, the support system. This concept of the ground links us with the potency inherent in the base chakra wherein the sacred shakti energy resides. From certain statements in the teachings it has been surmised that our planet holds the position of the base chakra in the body of the Solar Logos. If this is true, it would follow that the present planetary awakening will have powerful systemic ramifications, for once the base begins to awaken so too does the whole system--hence the battle going on within our planet.

The shakti is the primordial cosmic energy and represents the dynamic forces that animate the whole. Shakti is the concept or personification of creative power, sometimes referred to as "The Great Divine Mother."

Virgo is an inlet for the energy of the second ray, pouring through the sacred planet Jupiter which rules Virgo at the hierarchical level. The relationship between Virgo and Jupiter is interesting. Normally we know that the zodiacal influences pour through the sun. And of course this solar influx of love holds true in the case of Virgo as well. But it's said that when the sun is in Virgo a stream of cosmic love pours into our system directly through Jupiter, bypassing, as it were, the sun. Our planet is not yet sacred, the assumption of the Virgin has not yet taken place -- the raising up of substance is not yet

realized. This glorification only takes place in Capricorn symbolizing the final triumph over the personality, the matter aspect that was ignited in Scorpio when Hercules fell to his knees and raised the seething hydra into the air. But surely the in-pouring of love, both solar and cosmic that is available at this time, holds out the possibility of aiding us in our fundamental purpose which is related to the redemption of substance.

When we look at pictures of the Virgin Mother in different cultures throughout time, she is sometimes seen standing atop the crescent moon, one of the symbols for this sign for the moon rules Virgo esoterically. In this capacity, having surmounted the tests of matter, the mother stands as the guardian of the mysteries, of the sacred rites which have been performed in secret societies throughout time--ceremonies ruled by the moon. Virgo has relationship to the cult of the vestal virgins in ancient Rome, dedicated to the goddess Vesta, the goddess of the home and of the hearth. The goddess Demeter, was the inspiration behind the Eleusinian mysteries in ancient Greece--ceremonies held for over 2,000 years at the time of the autumn equinox wherein the participants were ceremoniously killed and reborn to a new and better way of life. In the Masonic tradition the third initiation ceremony is called "The "Beautiful Virgin of the Third Degree," which as in the Eleusinian mystery rites, involves the symbolic death and the subsequent rebirth of the candidate into new life, through means of entry into the ancient mysteries.

The secret underlying Virgo reminds humanity of the need to pierce through the veils which separate it from the light and reveal the beauty lying so close at hand. Light is sorely needed in our world today so we can see our way clear towards the realization of the better world in which the present inequities are rectified and our values adjusted so that the harvest of which Virgo is the symbol can be shared with all the peoples of the earth. The Tibetan spoke of these veils as curtains over the windows of vision, preventing humanity from seeing clearly. The veils are in the nature of opposing forces and energies which act as inhibiting factors to the aspirant as he seeks to make progress. They stand between the inner subtle man and his brain and prevent brain registration of the world of meaning, or of causes (*The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 195).

Working within these veils enables the spiritual seekers of the world, working together in groups, to let in the light. Humanity is demonstrating its readiness for this unveiling of the mysteries, as groups large and small everywhere emerge and mobilize along all the many avenues of approach. The wake of the group of world servers covers every corner of the earth and their collective industry--a bounty of goodwill--cannot be stopped. Their time has come.

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