

**FESTIVAL IN LEO**  
**New York, August 12, 2011**

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Good evening friends. Today we are working with the very potent and fiery energies of Leo. There is an interesting and cosmic connection with Leo and the month of August. August, which is ruled by Leo, is the month of the Dog-star, or of Sirius, which thus brings Sirius into close relation to Leo. Leo, in the cosmic sense (and apart from our solar system altogether) is ruled by Sirius. Sirius is the home of that great White Lodge. In the future, when the new world religion is founded and is working, we shall find that the major, monthly festival in August, held at the time of the full moon, will be dedicated to the task of making contact, via the Hierarchy, with Sirian force. Each of the months of the year will later be dedicated (through accurate astrological and astronomical knowledge) to whichever constellation in the heavens governs a particular month, as Sirius governs Leo.

Now it's important to bear this in mind because it points to the deep significance of all the full moon meetings now being held around the world; they are actually preparing the way for humanity to make a new spiritual approach to God in the future. It is work that leads to a new and deeper understanding of our relationship with the spiritual Hierarchy and with God and even the universe. Each month, in the future, will be a time of group invocation, to call in and work more closely with the inpouring energies of the monthly constellation and to manifest the higher spiritual qualities of that sign. This type of work will gradually transform the religious expressions of today. By using the technique of group invocation, religion will change from one of self-serving and worship of God, to a universal service of working in cooperation with God to carry out His Plan for this planet. Prayer for the self will shift to an invocative appeal for the needs of the greater whole--to make this a more lighted planet. This shift in the focus of consciousness will instill a new sense of responsibility in the human kingdom: to serve and not simply be served. And the influence of Leo brings this different approach right to the surface. So it is important to keep in mind the group nature of our work and why these monthly meetings are significant. We are helping to lay the groundwork for a more dynamic religion in the future.

Shall we take a few moments to focus our minds within the soul—the group soul—and link in thought with the hundreds of other groups and individuals around the world who are also working with these same qualifying energies. Altogether we are creating an invocative vortex of energy which will help to evoke the potential soul qualities already in humanity. Qualities which must be drawn to the surface and the forefront of human consciousness where they can become an expression in everyday life. And in this moment of silence let us reflect on and then sound together the profound words of 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.

"And do our whole duty". Just what is our duty as serving disciples? The emphasis of our invocative work is upon the progressive unfoldment of human consciousness; it is not upon the forms, human or otherwise, which veil the consciousness. It is in line with the theme of Leo, which is "the development of sensitive response to the surrounding impacts by the one who stands--as the sun stands--at the centre of its little universe." Our work is therefore in line with the purpose of the entire solar system, and the objective of all the astrological influences that impact this planet". Our work is concerned entirely with the awakening of human consciousness in the form so that it becomes aligned or more closely related to the thinking of the great Beings Who are guiding the evolutionary process of this planet. In this way we act as cooperators and not simply passive participants. We therefore take an active role in the unfoldment of divine revelation. As the Tibetan points out, "All revelations appear to emerge into the consciousness of the race in their lowest or most material form because the "ascent of knowledge towards wisdom" is always the key to progress, and, therefore, exoteric psychology and exoteric mundane astrology had to precede the revelation of their significance; the nature of the form had to be made apparent and man accustomed to it before the meaning behind the form could be revealed." He goes on to explain further, "The understanding and the reasoning powers of the soul are complete and developed. But souls—oriented towards incarnation and the will-to-sacrifice—have not, as yet, the necessary forms in the three worlds which are adequate for the expression of the knowledge which the soul has on its own plane and level of awareness. If the inner meanings of the outer symbolic forms of existence were registered by an unprepared form (the response apparatus of the soul in the three worlds and, in the case of man, involving an unprepared and undeveloped nervous system, glandular system and brain) the destruction of the form by soul energy would naturally supervene and a shattering of the lower expression would take place. It is here that the significance and purpose of time can be noted and intelligently employed. In the evolutionary process there is, therefore, first the form, gradually prepared, adjusted, aligned and oriented during many aeons of time; behind this active form, as it steadily improves and becomes more responsive to environment and contact, stands the slowly awakening consciousness. This is the thinking, intuiting, loving soul, which tightens its hold over its response apparatus, avails itself upon every possible occasion of every advance made by the form, and employs every influence for the perfecting of the great work which it undertook under the Law of Sacrifice." (EA pp 291-292)

We can realize from this that there is a dual purpose at work here. First, the personality life has its limited purpose--its particular job, profession or vocation to work out in the daily life. Life after life, as male or female, the little ego develops and grows. It experiences life through all the seven ray qualities until it reaches a stage in its development where it finally realizes that there is a second great force also at work, a force which has been present all along--the higher self or human soul. The soul also has its purpose to work out--a purpose related to the greater Plan of God for this planet. So our little personal life, with all its struggles, is a reflection of an even greater life process.

How does this translate into the situation in the world today? Self-centeredness and selfishness seem too often to be the dominant quality governing human decisions. But fortunately there is also a growing power of universal awareness and a greater sense of compassion and concern for the real needs of the world. Self-centeredness is not just a Leo characteristic; it is universal, it is very human. Because it is a stage that we have gone through, are going through now or will go through in the future. It is an inevitable quality that has its uses because it is such a good learning tool. And Aquarius is now present to reveal the path ahead for all who are led by selfishness.

Moving in consciousness from I am to I am That is a huge step forward. And then from that stage of integration to I am That and That am I is an even greater leap forward. The whole path

from I am a personality, to I am a soul-infused person, to I am that universal Monad and one with God the Father, is embodied in the keynote for Leo. The opportunity for real transformation is stated in that keynote for all humanity to use, not just for Leo types, but for all who are sensitive to its influence. The qualifying energies of all the signs are flowing into and through human consciousness all the time, and we simply must develop a heightened sensitivity to their unique note.

Developing sensitivity is of course a long, slow and often painful process, requiring many lifetimes to achieve. It is the underlying task of the soul no matter what the outer personality may be doing in the world. Ever finer degrees of sensitivity are gained by experience as one reacts outwardly and inwardly to the world. Eventually, as our sensitivity becomes more acute and we gain more freedom from the control of the environment, we become liberated from its effects. We are no longer conditioned by the environment, but in a reversal of the process we begin to condition *it* in relation to the working out of the divine plan of God. We begin to take an active role in the service of God, as a conscious agent of the redemptive process.

This is a stage of sensitivity where we find a growing number of people in the world today. Significant numbers are expressing a need for higher, spiritual values, indicating the conditioning influence of the soul. We are at a point where, in a very real sense, the soul is exerting a sense of responsibility and taking command of the environment.

This is of course what appears to be happening in the Middle East countries--the "Arab awakening", as many prefer to call it. The fire of the mind is at work demanding freedom from the corruption of autocratic rule. It seems to be a power of the higher self, the soul of a people, is exerting its fiery power. It also seems to be the growing power of Aquarius sounding the note of universality and for the end of self-centred rule, autocratic rule. This pattern of liberation and freedom is working out at the individual level as well as at the national level. And this is why the power of Leo fused with the universal note of Aquarius can be so effective.

This relates very closely with the theme of our symposium this year on October 29<sup>th</sup>: "Freedom and Spiritual Security". All over the world humanity seems to be struggling with either some form of despotic rule or freedom from massive financial debt. The forces of Maya, the imprisoning power of materialism, have produced--through the willingness and cooperation of humanity--a massive sense of insecurity, either political or financial. And it is the struggle to break free from this powerful force that is driving the little wills of men today.

And so we have these particular qualities impressed upon human consciousness through the sign of Leo, and they can form the basis for our meditation work this evening. Primarily, we have the quality of sensitivity, which is a word that sums up the whole story of Leo. How do we develop this sensitivity? Through the induction of the energies of the soul. Allowing soul qualities to govern your life will automatically induce a more sensitive nature. The coarser particles of substance that react to the desires of the little personal self will be driven out and replaced by the more refined and sensitive energies of the soul. These same soul energies will also strengthen the will-to-illumine, and qualify in a more loving way the will-to-rule. Altogether, this sensitivity and strength of will will enable one to say *I am That*. "I am That and That am I" sums up the profound test for the Leo subject--the test of transcendence. This brings home to the struggling Leo personality what he is in reality: a divine son of God who is rapidly gaining the higher consciousness and preparing for a fresh and universal expression in Aquarius. Today, that is Leo's gift to humanity.

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