

FESTIVAL IN LIBRA
New York, October 11, 2011

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Good evening friends. Welcome to this meeting for group service. Tonight we come together to work in meditation with the much needed energies of Libra, the keynote of which is "I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force." It is a unique time for making right choices and decisions. And we, as a serving group, can, with our meditation work, help to strengthen and build the thoughtforms being impressed, at this time, by the soul qualities of the nation. These thoughtforms of universal love, goodwill, and right human relations already exist in human consciousness, but they need to be moved to the forefront of the human mind so that they will guide humanity to make new choices that will lead human creativity in a new and more wholesome direction, a direction that includes the needs of the larger whole.

So let's come together and stand as a radiant unit of light and invoke the guidance of our own group soul by reflecting for a moment on the powerful words of the Gayatri to "unveil to us the face of the true spiritual sun...that we may know the truth." Once the truth is known of our human destiny on earth, then the right path to take can be chosen. If we make the right spiritual choices that lead us into the Aquarian age, then humanity can take its rightful place as a major center of unified light in direct alignment with the Spiritual Hierarchy and Shamballa. So let's take a few moments now to align our group with hundreds of other groups around the world and build that radiating network of light. And then sound together the ancient, invocative prayer, 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.

During the sign of Libra it is a good time too pause and consider the valuable function it plays in the evolutionary development of life on earth. As we know, it is a sign of balancing, of careful weighing of values and of achieving right equilibrium between the pairs of opposites. And most important it is a sign in which the first real vision of the Path appears—the narrow razor-edged path where the balancing, analytical faculty of the mind comes into play.

To gain a vision of the Path it is helpful to first grasp the place and the function Libra plays in the entire cycle of signs we work with throughout the year. In the entire zodiacal cycle we have the whole history of the human race. "This involves its mental beginnings in Aries (the will to manifest) and the start of the outgoing life; you have its directed desire in Taurus, producing manifestation; then emerges its dual consciousness in Gemini or the soul-body realisation; the processes of physical incarnation go forward in Cancer, followed by the dual development of the soul-body, or the subjective and objective consciousness, and the God-man in Leo-Virgo. Next comes Libra, wherein the point of balance is eventually reached between spiritual man and personal man and the stage is laid for the final fivefold process which is, in reality, the subjective correspondence to the outer externalization upon the Path of Outgoing and which is carried

forward upon the Path of Ingoing, or the Path of Return. Then takes place the reversal of the wheel and the beginning of the new orientation and of discipleship in Scorpio, the directed, controlled life of the disciple in Sagittarius, initiation in Capricorn, followed by service in Aquarius and the work of a world saviour in Pisces and final liberation” (EA 230).

As we see, each of the twelve signs provides a specific emphasis and quality which all humans have to eventually develop and express through experience in hundreds of lifetimes. We gain experience in all the signs—first in the ordinary direction of the wheel and then, as a disciple on the Path, in the reversed direction. At first the emphasis is on the objective expression of each sign. Libra becomes the place in the cycle to pause and to grasp a deeper sense of vision of how far you have come in this whole evolutionary journey, and what in the way of consciousness development still lies ahead. It is a time of honest assessment, of where you stand on the Path and not a time for glamoured notions of initiate status. And as you assess where you are on the path you also begin to gain a vision of what lies ahead for the whole human race in terms of consciousness development..

Where, in general, does humanity seem to stand today in this development process? Taking a look at the economic and political situation in the world, it is easy to see that humanity is going through an extended period of crisis and uncertainty. This is to be expected, given that we are in a long transition period between two ages. The old Piscean and the new Aquarian impulses are competing for attention, and proponents of each one are saying they have the only way to go—will it be more austerity or will it be more deficit spending? Will the scales tip us back into a recession and even depression, or will better productive ways be found—sacrificial ways that bring the national and world economies back into balance?

It is the Libra impulse of balance that we are working with tonight that would seem to be needed right now. But balance won't come until certain lessons have been faced and dealt with. Extreme measures on either side will not show us the way ahead. To get at the real crux of the problem we need to realize that the crisis really lies on the human astral plane where the human desire nature is making most of the decisions as to the proper direction to go. As long as desire rules there will be conflict. Too often desire does not want to “choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force”. As we are seeing in the U.S. Congress, desire has become one-pointed in the extreme with little stomach for compromise. As the Tibetan points out, the plight of “the masses are in the Scales; the weight of mass desire will turn them either up towards spiritual decision or down towards material and selfish ends”. If desire continues to rule, then we will still continue to repeat the mistakes of the past. It is at the center of the scales or at the hub of the wheel that the true perspective and right action can be seen correctly.

The crisis will not be resolved as long as solutions are sought on the astral level itself. Resolution can come only from the plane above—the mental plane. Rampant desire must be brought under the control of the higher, intelligent mind. So it is the current disciples, the spiritual aspirants and the intelligentsia of the world in all aspects of life who are being tested. Can the very powerful forces of the human desire nature be brought under some measure of control? The objective is not to eliminate desire altogether, but rather to redirect it away from selfish ends and toward a more universal purpose. Then, human purpose will more closely synchronize with the divine purpose of the Plan of God.

The impulse and quality of Libra can help in this redirecting process. In effect a disciple must become his own legislator, learning to rule his conduct wisely, controlling his impulses intellectually and bring about a state of balance between material desire and spiritual direction.

These two major directions are greatly affecting human consciousness today. And as more light is shown on both the dangers and the possibilities lying ahead for humanity, real choices have to be made—choices that will move us ahead into the new age of selfless service, or keep us forever imprisoned in the allure of dense material power. It is an ideal time for the subjective influence of Libra to be applied; a time for significant choices to be made. For the average person, one who is not yet committed to the trials of the path, the keynote is: “Let choice be made”. But for the true mentally awake disciple, the keynote is: “I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force”. Both of these keynotes emphasize the need for choice, implying a lifetime in which choices must be made. Did you ever consider the great wisdom in this innate factor of choice, and of having the freedom to choose, that is built into the great Wheel of Life? The influence of an entire constellation, based on the need for choice, is inserted right at the central pivotal point on this great Wheel. Those Who design and carry out this evolutionary path know of the value of the experience of having to make choices, because choices have consequences that can be either good or bad. Important lessons can be learned by the choices we make every day, every lifetime.

One of the major choices that needs to be made by those who have chosen to tread the Path is choosing ways that lead to greater freedom. Freedom is a major keynote of this country. But if our choices continue to lead us deeper into the control by materialism, are we truly that free? A disciple’s direction should lead to freedom from this material power. Freedom from the hold, the bondage, that materialism represents. The material forces of the world have their own blind agenda. They gain their strength from misdirected and selfish human desire. But human beings are not entirely helpless; we have a free will that is connected to the greater Will of God. We only have to awaken to this spiritual fact, and then realize that we have a human duty beyond our selfish little self—a duty to radiate the light and love of God in the world. We do this by letting the light of the soul control the choices we make. Those choices will lead to a state of true freedom. They provide the strength of will to “pull away” from the old ways of thinking and desiring and increase the capacity to bring about true liberation. This is the great cry that is welling up from humanity today all over the world. It is a note that needs to be strengthened and sounded out with great clarity. It is the sound of freedom and liberation.

Humanity as a whole is today facing this great struggle with the opposites. The judicial impact of Libra, along with the magnetic and destructive touch of the Shamballa force is bringing many of these opposites into the light, bringing the extremes up for resolution. In reality we are told, it is life itself on the verge of externalization. Hence the emphasis today upon the spirit of humanity, upon the spirit of a nation, and the spirit of a group. This is all the result of the battle going on between this pair of opposites in the field of human affairs and in the field of individual average human living. It is, however, this conflict—fought out to the point of synthesis and of at-onement—which produces the re-orientation of the race and of the individual to the truer values and to the world of reality.

The impact of Libra and Shamballa, working together, is forcing individuals, groups and nations to make hard choices, particularly in the fields of politics, religion and in the world economy. The imprisoning attachments we have in all these fields are more and more evident, which is all to the good. We hang on to our old religious beliefs, thinking that they are the chosen way of God. We hang on to our political beliefs because we desire the illusions of power they seem to bring. And we become blinded by the economic power of “having” while not seeing the poverty of those who “have not.”

These tough choices are being forced upon us because of where we human beings stand on the Path, be it the Path Purification or the Path of Discipleship. It is time, according to the timing of

the Plan, to move the revelation forward, and to envision the greater things to come that lie just over the horizon—those greater things of the Kingdom of God. Somehow we have to find that light which will help us to “choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force”, and find the center point of balance. In our meditative work this evening we can help to strengthen the vision of right, balanced relationships which is the real need if we are to find the razor-edged path and move forward into the light.

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