

THE FESTIVAL OF PISCES

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Let us begin by extending the silence we have created, linking up with all the other individuals and groups throughout the world that are meeting at this full moon period, followed by a sounding 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.

OM

In many ways Pisces expresses the most enlightened energy of all the signs of the zodiac--if we can say such a thing. Pisces is, as you know, the final sign, the true ending of the spiritual year. In the teachings it states that Pisces "takes" from all the signs, hence its richness and its ability to express love and compassion. Compassion has been compared to a vast boat that carries all the beings in the universe across the sea of suffering and this, in a sense, is the role of Pisces, to carry all the other signs and they, in turn, give to Pisces whatever it needs.

The wheel of the zodiac is in reality a cosmic lotus, floating within the vast sea of the solar system. Each petal of this lotus is composed of the devic essence for that is what the signs are. This essence permeates our world each month as the energies of the sign pour through our sun, through Shamballa and into all life forms. But as Pisces takes what it needs from all the signs it consequently carries with it a massive influx of energy. A World Saviour mirrors this and can take whatever he needs in his service work. All the qualities of all the signs, the rays and planets are there at the disposal of Those who have perfected the compassionate life. All of the individuals who come forth along that special and sacred line which is the line of the World Saviour make use of this energy of Pisces--the Buddha and the Christ being the greatest exemplars of this path who have emerged through humanity.

The overriding quality of Pisces is compassion. When the Master DK speaks of the Master KH he describes him as someone of infinite compassion and yet we cannot fully understand the depth of what that means, it's beyond an intellectual comprehension and surely must be experienced, but certainly it is something we can attempt to touch the fringes of during this period of the Pisces full moon. Pisces is an energy that is very familiar to our planetary Life--not

only now when the sun is in Pisces, which it enters into every twelve months--but as most of you probably know, we're now passing through the final decades of what's called the age of Pisces. So for the past 2500 years our planet has been conditioned, colored and imbued with compassion and love. These are qualities of the second ray and this energy is transmitted through Pisces to the discipleship group. But in the teachings of esoteric astrology we learn that Pisces also governs within an even larger cycle. Astrology is concerned with cycles within cycles, wheels within wheels—and within this larger 25,000 year cycle or wheel, we've been passing out of a great Piscean cycle as well. But since the period of overlap between two signs is 5,000 years, we are still not fully entered into Aquarius in this larger cycle. So as we move through the period in the annual cycle when the Sun is in Pisces, we appropriate a sign and an energy that has taught us and brought us so much during this past 25,000 years and, more importantly, during the last 2,500 years. So we're now in a triple Piscean cycle. And if anyone tries to denigrate the energy of Pisces as is sometimes the case in esoteric groups, they are really demonstrating their ignorance for in fact Pisces is the greatest of all the signs. We have been blessed to be passing through a long, long period in our planetary history when our hearts have been opened by the outpouring love that is Pisces.

As stated, the entire zodiac is like a great lotus. The symbolism underlying the lotus is one that comes to us from the ancient teachings of India. In fact, in the Vedic tradition the spiritual path was compared to a lotus and it's a beautiful symbol for us to ponder. The lotus has its roots in the mud, in the depths, in the dirt, as do all human beings. When we begin our path of spiritual return we all come from the earth. We all come from a rather, concrete, material beginning. And then as the spark of mind begins to grow within us we eventually push ourselves out of that dirt and mud and begin the long journey of reaching up through the depth of the waters. This is a reflection of that part of the journey wherein we are controlled by our emotional nature. During this long stage we cannot see clearly and are submerged within the conditions of the astral plane and its glamours. But through these deep waters we eventually begin to perceive the light. Eventually the stem of the lotus reaches to the top of the pond and its stillness, symbolic of the plane of mind that reflects the pure light of the sun, the soul. Then the lotus bud begins to open in the clear air.

The twelve petals n the egoic lotus represent the different qualities of the soul. These petals open at different rates depending upon the differing nature of each human being. This pattern of unfolding depends upon many factors -- our particular karma, dharma, ray and astrological make-up. All these things also condition the petals within the various lotus flowers that constitute the chakras in our etheric, astral and mental bodies. Some of us might have our hearts more fully developed and open, while others might be working more along the line of intellect and the petals more related to the mental aspect might have unfolded prior to the petals that are more related to the heart. So each life sees us unfolding different qualities which, from the soul's perspective, need greater stimulation.

Pisces relates very much to sacrifice and, therefore, to the inner tier of petals, the third tier, which are known as the sacrifice petals. There are said to be three major tiers in the anatomy of

the heart and the egoic lotuses--the outer tier is related to the third or intelligence aspect, the second tier is related to love and wisdom and the third tier is related to sacrifice and the highest, or will, aspect. So there is intelligence, love and will. The will aspect is doubly guarded or hidden within the center of the lotus by three additional petals, the synthesis petals. These petals only safely open at the ending of the spiritual path when the individual has developed the firm foundation of the heart, which guards and hides what is called the jewel in the lotus. Most spiritual seekers have heard of the jewel in the lotus because it is the central theme of the famous mantram used by Tibetan Buddhists -- Om mani padme om. Buddhists use this mantram to keep their minds focused on the light, on the living Buddha, as a means of activating their own inner Buddha nature. Om mani padme om is translated in different ways but one of the more literal translations is, "Behold, the jewel in the lotus." So on a deep and fundamental level this mantram is an invocation to open this inner tier and release the will or spirit aspect, which can only occur at a very advanced stage in consciousness. But through this practice of focusing the mind Buddhists are calling upon the Lord Buddha to aid them in their path of awakening.

It's been stated that Pisces is related to love and compassion, conferred by its two planetary rulers Neptune and Jupiter, it's also possessed of a very different energy conferred by its other ruler, the planet Pluto, the planet on the destructive aspect of the first ray line. So the sign Pisces has another side to its energy--another task to undertake in contribution to the whole. It is a task with which we are all familiar as we seek to tread the spiritual path under this long-standing conditioning energy of the sign Pisces. The energy of Pluto helps us to overcome those aspects of ourselves that limit us from moving forward on the spiritual path. A World Saviour, coming forth under the conditioning energy of Pisces, uses this energy to help humanity accelerate its own releasing process. The coming World Teacher will bring with him the fire of love, to burn away all separation that erects barriers between people, groups and nations. But those of us who are still enmeshed in this world of maya, glamour and illusion have much that needs to be destroyed in our own nature before we can withstand the full weight of the opportunity being offered to us as a group.. This energy of Pisces aids us in this process of letting go of the non-essential aspects of ourselves and of our world, using the energies of Pluto.

This idea of sacrifice and relinquishment is central to the teaching of *The Bhagavad Gita*, the well-known Indian scripture. There is a segment of that text that speaks about the "relinquishment of gain," an idea that the Tibetan teacher also expounds upon in the section of *Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II* on the seven laws of the soul. These laws govern all of us at the level of the soul and the Tibetan's commentary aids our understanding. The first of these seven soul laws is the Law of Sacrifice, also known as the Law of Those Who Choose to Die. This law, as mentioned, relates to this idea of relinquishing gain, giving up and letting go of attachments to that which we think we need, that which we think we want, that which we think is necessary for our existence. All of us who have travelled a little distance along the spiritual path know it is one of sacrifice.. Of course sacrifice is not only about giving up--we're told those great Beings who ensoul the planets equate sacrifice with bliss and they are completely engrossed with sacrificial living--it is Their path. Sacrifice is about bringing together that which has been divided--it relates to the quality of wholeness, of making whole. There is a very

interesting sutra from Patajanli translated in *The Light of the Soul* that gives insight into the state of consciousness that ensues when sacrifice is perfected. It states, “When abstention from theft is perfected, the yogi can have whatever he desires.” At this stage the yogi no longer desires anything for the separated self and, as a consequence, can be trusted with the riches of the universe. In some books this sutra is translated as, “all jewels are his.” The individual who relinquishes all, receives all.

And of course this sutra is not limited to theft upon the physical plane but also to the taking of emotional and mental conditions that belong to others. The sutra reminds us to not assume someone else’s duty, favor or popularity. All these things are repudiated. Alice Bailey wrote, “He adheres strictly to his own.” In the east they say, “Let every individual attend to his own dharma and fulfill his own role;” We in the west are asked to “mind our own business.” We must not steal from another the opportunity to do right, to measure up to responsibility and to do his own duty. If we do, we are enabling that person and, essentially, weakening him and preventing him from strengthening his own link with his soul.

Pisces calls us to look at life from the larger perspective, from a certain timelessness which is akin to the Plan. It asks us to bring together that which has been separated and to realize union by identifying ourselves with the whole, with all life. He who brings about this union through identification with the whole is the true agni yogi. As we near the exact time of the Pisces full moon we are presented with the opportunity as a group to enter into the mind of Hierarchy that great mediating center that sees all life in terms of wholes. It is a moment to cultivate a plasticity of mind, to extend its contours so we can, as a group, penetrate into that inner center, that heart center of our planetary life. And as we do, we must dedicate all we touch in service and turn our backs, as the keynote of Pisces states, on any sense of holding that impression for ourselves. As we turn our backs on the light, the energy can instead pour through each of the jewels within our individual lotuses as we radiate that energy into humanity. Together as a group we can look beyond the immediacy of the present moment, beyond the sorrow and the joy of our planetary life and together perhaps catch a glimpse of the plan for our planet and the part that each one of us can play in its realization.