

FESTIVAL OF GEMINI – NEW YORK – MAY 2016
Bridging from Duality to Synthesis

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Welcome everyone to this opportunity to celebrate together this occasion of the Gemini full moon. The exact time of the full moon is at 5:16 pm, in just a short while. We are working, therefore, within the full tide of the inpouring energies, in cooperation with countless individuals and groups throughout the planet who are likewise linking together and preparing for the great release of love that will occur at that exact moment of the full moon.

Since 1952 this Gemini full moon period has been celebrated as World Invocation Day. Our work today is therefore related to the sounding of the Great Invocation which is the most powerful tools we've been given to prepare human minds and hearts for the coming events at this potent juncture in planetary history. The sounding of the Invocation of this day and every day is one of the most useful practices we can implement in our lives.

This year as most of you probably know we have the opportunity of celebrating two Gemini full moons and because Gemini is one of the key signs of duality it is somewhat fitting that we have two opportunities to work with the energies. We might want to consider that the World Teacher this year has the opportunity to hold the full potency of the love and blessing received from the Buddha at the Taurus full moon for an extra month. So maybe there is an extended festivals period this year and we're perhaps working now in an interim period within that cycle and that next month there will take place the full release of the energies into human consciousness. But nonetheless there is an important moment coming up today and we don't know how this situation will play out.

Lead us O Lord
From darkness to Light;
From the unreal to the Real;
From death to Immortality.

The qualities of the sign Gemini can aid us to bring the issues confronting humanity to the forefront of consciousness for it is sign very closely connected with humanity itself. Both Gemini and humanity are ruled by the planet Mercury, Mercury's role, and hence humanity's role, is that of the divine messenger or intermediary between that which is above and that which is below

Through the rulership of Mercury Gemini becomes responsive to both the pull of matter and also the pull of the light. Those who respond to the light are strengthened and aided by this energy but so, too, are those who respond to darkness. One path leads into deeper enmeshment within matter, to imprisonment in form and the inability to take part in the processes of life that are unfolding on the planet, while the other path leads increasingly to the way of liberation, radiation, compassion and service.

But because of the sensitivity of spiritual seekers it is all too easy at times to be pulled into a condition of doubt when the pendulum swings towards the dark and the forces of opposition come powerfully into play--both within the life of the individual as well as within the planet.

At times such as these it can be difficult to hold a sense of expectancy towards the future. It is helpful then to recognize what is occurring and when the pendulum swings towards the dark, as it inevitably will, to cultivate patience and equilibrium, balance and poise.

For the forces of evolution are slow and it takes time for humanity and for us to realize the needed lessons in order to move forward. But, thankfully, the heart of humanity is sound and there are enough men and women of goodwill and altruistic intent to do the work of ushering in a new era of peace and security and to move our planet into the light.

In the zodiacal rulerships given out in the teachings of esoteric astrology there are only two signs that are governed by the Earth itself--Gemini and Sagittarius. These two signs also form a pair of opposites in the zodiacal wheel. So when these signs come into play within the annual cycle our planet is highlighted and an opportunity is offered by the heavens to Earth as it stands in the midst of a potent cosmic stream of energy.

This stream could be viewed as a type of vast antahkarana bridge, a zodiacal bridge within consciousness that aids our planet to move past duality into a fluid synthesis. The energetic flow between Gemini and Sagittarius is therefore related to the uniting of the lower and higher minds, to unfolding intuitive perception or "straight knowledge" and the ability to move beyond the concrete and the limited into the subtle and spaciousness of buddhi. The symbol or glyph for this sign is also reflective of the antahkarana itself.

The sign of Gemini is more closely related to the etheric body than any other sign of the zodiac. During this period of the year, therefore, we would have available to us the ability to work more effectively as transmitters of energy, as white magicians, using the forces available to us to reconstruct the worlds, to fashion them in accordance with the divine Plan and to aid in the larger planetary shift that is occurring.

For just as there is not as yet a free flow and adequate distribution of planetary resources and money energy in the objective universe, so, too, on an energetic level are there also major blocks and stagnation within the underlying energetic structure of the Earth. As we learn to work with energy more effectively, as we become better weavers in the light, more skillful energy workers, we can aid in the establishing of a freer flow of energy -- both subjectively and objectively.

The keynote for Gemini is, "I recognize my other self and in the waning of that self I grow and glow." These higher keynotes are enunciations by the soul. The use of the word "recognize" is an interesting choice. Its root meaning is "to see again." On its own plane the soul sees all things because it is an initiate of all degrees, a Master in its own right and the first Master to whom we pay allegiance. The soul is therefore free from the distortions in the three worlds that

cloud our perceptions and limit our abilities to see clearly. Indeed we walk in a land of shadows here on Earth as Plato portrayed it so many centuries ago.

The keynote is highlighting an important milestone in the soul's journey--that point wherein the personality begins to lose its ages-long control and the soul begins to grip the personality vehicles. Consequently that personality begins to be seen from the perspective of the soul and to become that which had previously been hidden from view. Such recognitions can be difficult at the level of the personality but they are important milestones that result in the release of much light.

During this time when Gemini is active in the world we as individuals and humanity as a whole have the ability to release ourselves from some of the illusions under which we have been laboring and begin to see ourselves, more clearly--as does the soul and to move out from under the weight of delusion and move forward with a greater sense of liberation.

This Gemini full moon is also known as the Festival of Goodwill. Goodwill is love in action. It's good to bring these ideas down from the realm of abstraction and to mention a real person who embodies this quality. Someone who expresses abundant goodwill and who has brought much inspiration to our times is the young and vibrant Pakistani girl named Malala, one of the co-recipients of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Kailash Satyarthi. They won the Peace Prize "for their struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education."

Malala grew up in a quiet town where girls were given the right to a full and good education. But when the Taliban arrived in the area everything changed and the schools were closed to girls who were expected to remain locked away in their homes. Malala and her friends decided to take a stand against these repressive forces and when she did she was gunned down with a shot to the head and almost lost her life. She did not, however, allow this situation to stop her and, since her recovery she has gone on to mobilize the forces of goodwill in support of the rights of girls and of education for all.

In Malala's acceptance speech for the Peace Prize she said, "Today, in half of the world, we see rapid progress and development. However, there are many countries where millions still suffer from the very old problems of war, poverty, and injustice.

My great hope is that this will be the last time we must fight for education. Let's solve this once and for all. It is not time to tell the world leaders to realise how important education is - they already know it - their own children are in good schools. Now it is time to call them to take action for the rest of the world's children. We ask the world leaders to unite and make education their top priority.

The world can no longer accept that basic education is enough. Why do leaders accept that for children in developing countries, only basic literacy is sufficient, when their own children do

homework in Algebra, Mathematics, Science and Physics? Leaders must seize this opportunity to guarantee a free, quality, primary and secondary education for every child.”

And of course she is right. So the principle of sharing must have as one's of its core principles this right for a high quality education for all the children of the world.

At each of the festivals of this higher interlude period there are released into our world the aid of different forces. At this Gemini festival the forces are known as the *Forces of Reconstruction*. These forces are said to be the most difficult for humanity to assimilate and they can surely only be touched to the extent that we work together in group formation.

Two nations that come powerfully under the influence of these forces are the USA and the UK. The personality of the USA is governed by the sign Gemini as is the soul of the UK. Both countries are in the midst of important deliberative processes related to the souls of their respective nations. There is a highly important period of decision playing out upon the world stage.

In the USA of course the decision at this time revolves around the presidential race. This race highlights many issues of concern to the nation and so the influence of this next full moon period also ruled by Gemini surely will prove a deciding factor in the immediate future of the country. Will the people align themselves with those individuals who are seeking control through the States' personality aspect? Or will the people put their support in the hands of those with the more progressive, Aquarian values of sharing and a broader humanitarian worldview?

On June 23rd in the UK, three days after the second Gemini full moon day, and so within the orb of the outpouring period of distribution, the British people are being asked in a referendum as to whether the UK should leave or remain in the European Union. The issues are similar in both nations--pitting those who hold to a more nationalistic, conservative agenda vs those who are responding to the emerging group consciousness. And of course these are likewise questions confronting the planet as a whole as we transition into a new age.

One of the tasks of disciples in any land is to work together to evoke the soul of the nation, to cooperate with the overshadowing forces that are particularly and abundantly available during the Gemini Festival. So let's stand together during this upcoming period to stimulate the light in the nations of the world.

At this Gemini full moon each year the love of God reaches its highest point of expression. This love is poured through the spiritual Hierarchy and focused like a lens through its central point, the World Teacher, who then directs the energy into humanity--illuminating our minds and hearts with light and love, stimulating our ability to generate peace and right relationships.

It's said that the work of this Great Teacher as he prepares to return to our world is not only to relate the Hierarchy to Humanity but also to effect a much more difficult and higher alignment

between these two centres and the highest center of spiritual will, the center Shamballa. Only when Humanity and the Hierarchy are working together in a practical synthesis can this higher alignment become possible--hence the importance of this festival of Humanity striving towards God.

This higher alignment becomes possible for humanity through the antahkarana work. This work, which is slow and painstaking and quite technical in nature relates to the entire purpose of our planetary life.

It's said that the reason for this inner work has not been clearly understood. It's related to the task of enabling humanity to fulfill its destiny, its function within the larger whole, which is to be a distributor of the higher energies, and to stand as a divine intermediary between the Kingdom of God and the animal, vegetable and mineral worlds. Through this inner work of bridge-building small groups here and there will come together as instruments for the inpouring of the energy of life itself. This is beginning to happen now all over the world.

This Life, of which we are speaking, is related to Aquarius which is itself the distributor of the life-giving waters. We can see, therefore, the immense importance of the incoming of this Aquarian period in both the cycles of the lesser and greater zodiac, aiding humanity to become the recipients of this life. And through this means humanity will become the vehicle for what's called the "saving force" and that "life more abundant" of which Christ taught and which he first anchored it on our planet 2,000 years ago.

As we move into the Aquarian Age it's said a new way of working will evolve--a way that puts the focus on the life of meditation and through this means the life becomes directed from within outwards. It is a method of working that will be undertaken in group formation.

A passage from the teachings illustrates the way of the new groups:

"When the sun progresses into the mansion of the serving man, the way of life takes the place of the way of work. Then the tree of life grows until its branches shelter all the sons of men. The building of the Temple and the carrying of the stones cease. The growing trees are seen; the buildings disappear. Let the sun pass into its appointed place, and in this day and generation attend ye to the roots of growth." (

A Treatise on White Magic, p. 426)

So as the way of life takes the place of the way of work a new energy comes into being in our world. We learn to carry our water pots balanced perfectly upon our heads. We learn to not be so burdened down by the weight of service and the forces of opposition as these vessels contain within them the living essence that does its healing magic --that which is needed for effective service work and that which is given forth freely to each need that arises within the environment.

As the full moon approaches, which is now, the World Teacher stands before the collected Hierarchy and recites the Beatitudes from the *New Testament* and the Buddha's Last Sermon. This last sermon is about self-reliance. On his death-bed the Buddha encouraged his followers to believe in themselves and to not depend upon anyone outside themselves. "He who is a lamp unto his own feet" he said, "will attain the highest height. But he must be anxious to learn." This focus on self-reliance obviously should not be misinterpreted as a call for self-centeredness or separateness but rather as reliance on the inner self, the undying one, which is, in essence, united with all other selves.

So let us now work together within the light of the group soul to build that bridge within consciousness across which the "saving force" can pour in and redeem the world.
