

Easter Festival (Aries), London, March 2021

I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule.

Derek Fraser

Welcome to our meditation meeting this afternoon where we are celebrating the Easter Festival the first of the three major spiritual festivals of the year. The three festivals of Easter, Wesak and World Invocation day or the Christ's festival form the high point of the annual cycle – the higher interlude of the year in terms of spiritual tension and opportunity. Through the steady persistent meditation of individuals and groups all over the world this cyclical work strengthens the subjective energies which condition the objective, outer world of form.

Of course, the moon itself has no influence on our meditation work for at the time of the full moon there is an unimpeded alignment between our planet and the sun, the solar centre, the energy source for all life on Earth – the physical and spiritual life. The moon is out of the way.

We are working this afternoon within the influence of Aries which is always considered as the first sign of the Zodiac. The actual time of the full moon is 19.48 BST or 18.48 GMT this evening, so we are working in the full flow of available spiritual energies which, playing sequentially upon humanity, help to establish spiritual attributes in human consciousness.

Aries is a sign of beginnings. In the Northern Hemisphere it coincides with Spring, a cycle of growth and renewal following the interlude of winter. Renewal has special significance this year as all humanity and the nations of the world make cautious plans for liberation from restrictions and controls due to the pandemic that has swept across the planet. From an esoteric perspective the way of Liberation is first sensed in Aries which later leads to the birth of the Christ consciousness in Virgo, to that of the world Saviour, in Capricorn and in Pisces.¹ Aries marks the beginning of a cycle where the soul changes its direction and purpose and its methods and enters upon a process known as spiritual regeneration and initiation or, putting it another way, it is the pathway that leads to liberation from the hold of the form – the material manifestation of the inner life. This esoteric interpretation has much relevance to the challenges that confront humanity at this time.

In the book *Esoteric Astrology* by Alice Bailey, we read of four words of vital importance as the evolutionary process accelerates and as the disciple moves around the great wheel headed towards liberation from the lower nature. These four words are Re-creation. Regeneration. Reorientation. Renunciation.² Re-creation brings incarnation on the physical plane, Regeneration, with the influence of the Fixed Cross – the Cross of the soul, brings interior changes which eventually leads to Re-orientation, which could be described as a change of direction in line with the will and purpose of the soul, opening a pathway to the world of ideas and pure reason otherwise known as the intuition. Renunciation has to do with sacrifice which in practical terms means giving up of that which is unreal and transient for spiritual values and principles which strengthen as the path of return is trod. These four words could be considered as representing a long process of light intensification and illumination of the threefold personality – the instrument of the soul on the physical plane. And in this regard, it's of significance to note that the intensification of the spiritual life, which evokes the powers of the soul and later the Spiritual Triad, "... leads in a graded series of renunciations to the Great Renunciation..." as it's known in the East and as the Crucifixion in Christianity. It is this which "sets the disciple free for all eternity"³

Along the Lighted Way the inner subjective soul impulse comes into expression and the personality takes more of a back seat; the result is an increased group awareness and the renunciation of the old ways. The disciple joyfully and willingly gives all for the love of humanity in sacrificial service for the good of the whole. The true meaning of sacrifice is to "make whole" in accord with the law of Love – it is the acceptance of new responsibilities and the forging of new relationships which develop as the disciple moves from the depth of the valleys towards the peaks of the high mountain slopes. Re-orientation, or adjusting one's mental bearings, marks a significant point on the evolutionary journey of the disciple and the inner subjective impulses that flow from the soul brings a wider and more integrated world view. This change of direction means leaving behind the desires and wants of the lower self, although not without intense struggle, strain,

and conflict. Whether it is the individual or the nation this change of direction will provide the subjective impulse that will later lead to progress towards right relationships at all levels - between peoples and nations and also in the way humanity relates to all of the kingdoms of nature. In the last analysis, it is the subjective reorientation of the mind that will make spiritual values and principles a reality in daily life.

Furthermore, the Tibetan notes that “It is these four words and their significance that underlies all he has to say on the dual experience of personality and soul upon the great wheel of life” and for the struggling disciple:

*This liberation is, in reality, twelve-fold in nature, for liberation, victory and triumph have to be experienced in every sign, just as captivity, defeat and failure have been experienced in all the signs of the zodiac, whilst the man is functioning as a personality.*⁴

At this point let us pause and say the affirmation of the disciple:

I am a point of light within a greater Light.
I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of love divine.
I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focussed within the fiery Will of God.
And thus, I stand.

I am a way by which men may achieve.
I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.
I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.
And thus I stand.

And standing thus revolve
And tread this way the ways of men,
And know the ways of God.
And thus I stand.

Humanity’s tests and trials and points of conflict, tension and crisis which bring so much pain and suffering can be seen in a different light when viewed by the detached Observer who is aware of being involved in a journey around the great Wheel of Life upon which experience is gained and lessons learnt. The journey eventually leads to liberation from the hold of the lower nature and the lunar lords bringing in the rule of the Sun God – which for the individual is the soul – a mini sun and giver of light to the lower self through the illumined mind. Hence the significance of Aries on this journey- the sign of the Mind, of the thinker, where man begins to use the mind creatively and constructively. Thus, Hercules, who in the Labours symbolises humanity the world disciple, is the thinker beginning the first of the twelve labours depicted by the keynote:

I come forth and from the plane of mind, I rule.

The meaning of the test for Hercules is that he had to use the mind and gain mental control. In the story of the Labour wild horses were running amok symbolising the wrong thoughts that had been breeding for long ages. And in terms of symbology, we are reminded that the horse stands for intellectual activity, the white horse symbolising the illumined mind (in the Book of Revelations Christ is depicted as riding upon a white horse) whereas the black horse represents the lower mind with its limited vision and crystallised ideas that can become fixed dogmas. Therefore, Hercules the world disciple has to learn through his labours the long process of using the mind as a divinely organised instrument, achieved through many tests and trials, strife and struggle and conflict and tension until he can say:

I stand within the light and as that light shines through the form I radiate that light.

This seed thought would seem to be closely related to the keynote for Aries “I come forth and from the plane of mind I rule”. To stand within the light requires a receptive mind that is open to spiritual impression and, as the Tibetan wrote to one of His group “...look through the window of the mind to that Light which reveals the Angel (of the Presence) which, in turn, veils and hides the vast unknown, yet alive and vibrant Deity”.⁵

The disciple on the reversed wheel who is treading the path of return may know theoretically that the form does not rule but in practice there is a swinging back and forth from soul to form and a revisiting of the keynote for the individual on the ordinary wheel of the zodiac “And the Word said, Let form again be sought”. The Lighted Way is not a straight path there are many twists and turns. However, through the alignment of the higher and lower aspects of the mind, the disciple keeps on the straight and narrow path that leads to the world of the intuition and of pure reason which is “pure love”.

Let us now reflect on the nature of the mind, its qualities, characteristics, and tendencies - individually and collectively taking into consideration that we're told “*It is in the realm of so-called mind that the great principle of separateness is found. It is also in the realm of mind that the great at-one-ment is made*”.⁶ We are what we think, and the thought life whether of a high or low quality. conditions life for the individual, community, or nation. This is of huge significance as new beginnings are made at this crucial time.

Interestingly, in the book *Agni Yoga* we are reminded that:

“...with the establishment of general cooperation among all that exists, the energy of thought unites all spheres of being. Not by using a hammer, but by penetrating objects with our thought, shall we unite them. “Wisdom in all,” “Cooperation in all” will be added to this in the Age of Maitreya. Not only by command, not just by harmony, but by the lightning-bolt of directed thought are the co-workers united. Cooperation of the layers of matter is characteristic of the New World. Each era has its own call. The power of thought will be the evocative principle of the New World... a pillar of swarming thoughts can penetrate to the regions of the far-off worlds. Regard thought as a real force in life, then gain firm control over the flow of thought.”⁷.

The power of creative thought, at the beginning of the New Age, is being demonstrated through the work of millions of serving groups across the planet despite, or perhaps because of, widespread conflict, tension, and crisis. Spiritual growth develops through stress and strain which eventually provides the needed spiritual tension to bring renewal. Then, when the subjective soul impulse directs the thought life through the open and receptive mind and when the heart radiates love and pure reason, there is creative and sacrificial service that helps to build right relationships. This is not just some fine theory for we can see, just to take one example, that thoughts about the way we relate to the natural world now have a much higher profile than in the past. The thinking person who blends love and intelligence and who has the utmost compassion for his fellow humanity, who works to a theme of cooperation is the embryo world server in Aquarius. He or she is the thinker in the heart. We can perhaps imagine thoughtforms of a high quality as threads of light energy forming a magnetic aura surrounding the planet as light descends to earth. They are a response to need and lead to important global initiatives such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Hence man's destiny is to become the Thinker tapping into the world of ideas and in this regard it's interesting, when considering the nature of the mind, thought and consciousness from the perspective of the Ageless Wisdom teachings, that the physical brain is simply an instrument of the mind – it is a recorder of thoughts and impressions. That being said, let us reflect on the three aspects of mind:

The lower concrete mind, the intellect – the reasoning principle. It may be “lower”, but it can reflect the light of the soul and ideas from a higher level although it may also become rigid if fixed ideas take hold - much like a reservoir where the circulation of water has ceased.

The Son of Mind is the Ego or Soul – the intelligence principle otherwise known as the Solar Angel or the Christ principle.

Then we have the higher or abstract mind, the custodian of ideas and the conveyer of illumination to the lower mind when they are lined up, as it were. This alignment is undertaken by the disciple in the building of the rainbow bridge – the antahkarana which brings access to the world of ideas and higher impressions. This sensitivity to impression links spirit and matter as high-minded ideas – “great ideas” are brought down into objectivity on the physical plane. In other words, the Christ principle – the love aspect comes alive and when fused with the light of knowledge results in a new kind of creative livingness. All of those groups and individuals who dedicate their lives to service provide evidence of a great shift in consciousness as humanity and the spiritual kingdoms are more closely related. Whilst visible world events may suggest the opposite,

spiritual progress depends entirely upon the quality and expression of the subjective inner life because all that manifests on the physical plane starts life as a thoughtform.

Thus, the process of “coming forth from the plane of mind” allows for the free flow of ideas which can be tapped into when the mind is open and receptive. Ideas have been defined as “simply channels for new and desired divine energies...”⁸ later to be reduced to blueprints and thought forms as they make their way to the physical plane through some receptive mind or group of minds. Ideas are stepped down although as they descend, they are inevitably distorted. Ultimately, all ideas become ideals and outlive their usefulness and must be discarded and as noted in the book *Glamour: A World Problem*:

*When ideals and mental concepts and formulated thoughtforms dominate the mind of an individual, a race or humanity in general, to the exclusion of all perspective or vision and to the shutting out of the real, then they constitute an illusion for as long as they control the mind and method of life. They prevent the free play of the intuition, with its real power to reveal the immediate future; they frequently exclude in their expression the basic principle of the solar system, Love, through the imposed control of some secondary and temporary principle; they can thus constitute a "forbidding dark cloud of rain" which serves to hide from view the "raincloud of knowable things" (to which Patanjali refers in his final book)—that cloud of wisdom which hovers over the lower mental plane and which can be tapped and used by students and aspirants through the free play of the intuition.*⁹

However, all is not lost, for in coming back to the third of the “Four words” – Reorientation, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to upgrade the mind to allow access to the light of the intuition or “straight knowledge”. The intuition has been defined as “light itself” and its overriding theme is one of universality and the complete loss of separateness. At its highest point it is Universal Love which brings compassion and an identification with all beings. This is the vision that the new group of world servers holds before the eyes of all humanity, supported by all people of goodwill, and which is working out in so many service initiatives which testify to the expression of the human spirit.

1. Labours of Hercules by Alice Bailey p. 16.
2. Esoteric Astrology p. 107
3. Discipleship in the New Age vol. 11 p 59
4. Esoteric Astrology p. 107
5. Discipleship in the New Age Vol 1 p. 391
6. Esoteric Psychology Vol 1 p. 16
7. Agni Yoga s 101
8. Discipleship in the New Age Vol 11 p. 170
9. Glamour: A World Problem p. 135