



Leo Festival

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A Change of Heart

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As we come together for the Festival of Leo, the creative art of poetry provides an opening reflection in this well-known poem of William Wordsworth, "The world is too much with us", whose title alone says much about today's world.

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
This Sea that bares her bosom to the moon;
The winds that will be howling at all hours,
And are up-gathered now like sleeping flowers;
For this, for everything, we are out of tune;
It moves us not. Great God! I'd rather be
A Pagan suckled in a creed outworn;
So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,
Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;
Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;
Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.*

How well this sums up today's world – the chaotic state of affairs causing some to turn away from the news, so dire it all seems. Perhaps the Psychosynthesis founder, Roberto Assagioli, was right when he wrote that we need to read the news but only in homeopathic doses. In this way, perhaps we can avoid an individual or collective despondency. Clearly seeing the state of the world takes a strong heart, the courage of a Lion perhaps, but equally in the wake of overwhelming world problems and apparent lack of unity, so many people are reaching out, first emotionally, and then through the power of the heart, in an expansive identity away from a personal "I Am" orientation, towards the "I am That" state of consciousness.

Before we go further let us pause for reflection and then say together 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 disk of golden light,

That we may know the truth and do our whole duty,

As we journey to Thy sacred Feet.

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Reflection on this wonderful Vedic mantram of the Gayatri powerfully evokes the expansion of identity towards the "I am That" state of group consciousness. The spiritual cry, "Unveil to us the face of the true Spiritual Sun" is a demand for the elevating power of love-wisdom that will lead us towards the glory that lies behind the Divine Plan as it exists in the mind of the Logos. The question is, are we brave enough to make this injunction – "that we may know the truth, and do our whole duty as we journey to Thy Sacred Feet?" It is a question that we must each ask ourselves in the deep silence of the heart.

An extraordinary potency is released when this cry of the disciple, *Unveil to us the face of the true Spiritual Sun*, is issued forth from the secret chamber of the heart. Esoteric teachings refer to this unveiling as the revelation of the 'heart of the Sun' – "that mysterious subjective sphere which lies back of our physical sun, and of which our physical sun is but the 'envirning shield and envelope.'" From here the light of God's love flows into its microcosmic correspondence, the Egoic lotus on the mental plane, and on into the disciple's etheric heart centre. Related to this is the following mystic phrase given by the Tibetan to one of his disciples, to whom he emphasized the visualisation of the colour gold:

*"The golden rays that issue from the heart of the sun pour forth and bathe my soul and the soul of all created forms. Within those forms, the life of God awakens, and the power of God streams forth as Will, as dedication to the Plan, as strength to work and give—as must a son of God."*¹

The golden rays that issue from the heart of the sun carry a vital, transmuting power, for, as the alchemists of old knew well, there is a direct relationship between gold and light. In the words of Robert Fludd, "Hermetic gold is the flux of sunbeams or of light suffused invisibly and magically into the body of the world." Light is also sublimated gold, "light in the celestial world being subtle, vaporous, magically exalted gold."² The great achievements of the alchemists are known to posterity by the increased quality of light their practice brought to the mundane world. In our times, at the start of the Aquarian age, we have the Great Invocation as a means of continuing this great work of precipitating celestial gold into the world – of drawing the flame of spirit down into the minds of men so that it may touch and lift, converting into itself, the conscious, material essences of the lower kingdoms of nature.

It is this golden light that provides the key to working with the energy of Leo. As the disciple becomes aware of this light of love pouring into the heart centre, inner recognitions of divinity are stimulated. As this path is followed to its higher counterpart in the head, group revelation blazes forth. This heart centre in the head is the microcosmic correspondence to the central spiritual Sun where the will aspect infuses

¹ Alice Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age I* 462

² Astro-Theosophical System of the Rosicrucians -The Alchemic Magisterium or "Stone

heart energy with directing power. When the disciple sets foot on this path between these two centres, the message of the Gayatri becomes clear: as it is from the spiritual Sun that all things proceed and to Whom all things return, the path of the heart must, by definition, be one of recognitions. And in Leo, we have the sun ruling in all three aspects – the physical sun, the heart of the sun and the central spiritual sun, the only sign in which this triplicity occurs.

The plea for the unveiling of the true spiritual sun can only be effective when the request is made within the secret chamber of the heart; for it is here that the call reverberates along the esoteric pathway that leads to the Most High, evoking certain response. Furthermore, the fires of the heart offer a protective love to that which is evoked, safely absorbing and radiating the energy of truth released during the unveiling. Such an unveiling involves direct experience of the love that qualifies the Solar Logos – an expansive energy on whose waves a 'sun of righteousness arises with healing in his wings'¹³.

This phrase, a "sun of righteousness", is probably most readily associated with the Christ, but it equally applies to all who have conquered matter to rise into the life more abundant. All the great Sons of God are accorded this term, and as the New Age unfolds with its emphasis on group consciousness, the opportunity of following their lead is afforded to discipleship groups who seek truth only in order to love more fully. Drawing on the creative imagination, such groups can be visualised rising on waves of energy and transmitting the qualities revealed deep into human consciousness to evoke a stream of subjective recognitions in preparation for the reappearance of the Christ.

The term *righteousness* is also worthy of further reflection, derived from the Old English word 'rightwise'. Breaking it down further the two words, 'right' and 'wise' reveals an interesting combination of forces. 'Right' itself has many meanings of course, such as 'morally correct', 'good', 'to move in a straight line' etc., and the word 'wise' has evolved from the meaning 'to see', 'way of proceeding', 'to know the way'. Righteousness therefore incorporates the idea of expanded vision and spiritual direction. Its energy dispels the complexity of everyday relationships and revitalises them with simple, dynamic principles. Given this, those who express righteousness carry great healing power in their wings for it is a natural restorative of peace, harmony and completeness. And this releasing quality can already be seen taking root in the world through the new group of world servers.

Returning to our reflections on the Gayatri, it's notable that it is a group invocation. Bearing in mind the magnitude of the revelation that is being called for, it is prudent that the call is a collective one made on behalf of true seekers everywhere. At the centre of the new group of world servers, we can imagine a sun rising to receive the revelation through which the "life more abundantly" may shine out, pouring its blessings on humanity and lifting all eyes towards a new vision of beauty and order. Leo is an integral factor in this new way of seeing for Leo in its highest form expresses the "light of the soul" that gradually illumines the wider field of relationships and dispels the glamour of separateness. Leo is a major point on the fixed cross, symbolic of discipleship, where the disciple takes a stand at the centre of downpouring and outflowing forces. This shift

3 Old Testament, Malachi 4:2

to the fixed cross of discipleship is a response to the Heart of the Sun, bringing with it a new way of experiencing reality and of serving: In *Esoteric Astrology* we read:

"The Fixed Cross is the cross of light. And playing through this Cross all the time, and emanating from Leo, are the "fires of God"—cosmic, solar and planetary—producing purification, the intensification of the light and eventual revelation to the purified man who stands in light. From Aries comes cosmic fire; from Sagittarius comes planetary fire; and from Leo comes solar fire; and each of these fires "clears the way by burning" for the expression of the three divine aspects: spirit (Aries), soul (Leo) and body (Sagittarius). Such is the scientific basis for the yoga of fire"⁴.

With the growing numbers who are steadily awakening to the light and fire of the soul, a *change of heart will provide solutions to all of humanity's problems*. We will surely begin to see the growth of harmlessness, sharing, cooperation, selfless giving, coming into living expression as more people react with compassion to the dreadful events taking place in the world. The world body needs to act upon the desperate need so many people now experience, and from which no country is excluded, perhaps by some sort of Marshall Plan to protect essential resources from exploitation by the few or the powerful, along with a corresponding distribution plan. Such a change of heart is symbolised by the transformation of the Lion, the symbol of Leo, and expressed in the following extract from the Old Commentary:

"The Lion begins to roar. He rushes forth and, in his urge to live, he wields destruction. And then again he roars and – rushing to the stream of life – drinks deep. Then having drunk, the magic of the water works. He stands transformed. The Lion disappears and he who bears the water pot stands forth and starts upon his mission"⁵.

This alludes to the transition into Aquarius, the polar opposite sign of Leo, bringing in the waters of life for the transformed Leo subject to circulate to all in service. The NGWS anchors this life, its servers in every country carrying the pitcher of water upon their shoulders. Circulation and transformation are the basic characteristics of life – the air we breathe, the water we drink, the blood that flows through our veins – all things that sustain life pursue cycles of transformation in response to the divine circulatory flow from which they have emerged. The mind and knowledge have developed rapidly but it seems that it is now the heart that needs to be awakened. Harmony in the world can only emerge when this flow is reflected in human enterprise too: money and provisions, knowledge and information, art and culture – free circulation determines the wellbeing and steady, evolutionary transformation of 'all things.' In this scenario, consciousness is the most important factor – resonance with the flow, not dissonance, creates the upward spiralling into ever higher levels of synthesis, supporting ever greater inclusiveness and harmony; dissonance sends it into a downwards spiral of intensified separation and unresolved conflict.

We can see dissonance in action globally as worldwide emergencies pile up and international cooperation stalls at a point of supreme crisis. This cannot be sustained indefinitely, for crisis, by definition, is "a point at which change must come." The field of tension that envelops the crisis cannot be sustained indefinitely and at some point will break into active expression; as a result, humanity will either emerge into a higher

4 Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* 293

5 Alice Bailey, *The Destiny of the Nations* 146

integration or sink into greater separation and conflict. The mounting tension in world politics is caused by many factors. Some political scientists⁴ have spoken of 'Rising Multipolarity' whereby global decision-making is harder to reach as more nations of influence sit around the negotiating table, each with their own agendas. Harder, more complex problems have arisen due to deepening interdependence, as well as a host of new social, environmental, and cultural issues. 'Institutional inertia' – the main powers who developed the post war institutions embedded their own core interests within their organizational and cognitive structures and are reluctant to give up their privileged positions. 'Fragmentation', the rising number of multilateral and transnational organizations, has created a more complex system of global governance with conflicting mandates, uncoordinated policy interventions, and increased competition.

Although these problems on the path to international unity are of a different type and scope to those faced in the past, it is still the spirit of cooperative goodwill and sharing that is revealing the way to resolve them. While restoring progress is not simple, the underlying state of consciousness required is straight-forward and active in numerous thinkers, institutions, government officers and movements around the world. The spirit of pragmatic goodwill must shape the political architecture of the future and be brought to a focus at "the point where ideas and policy meet" – as the mission statement in a journal, "Global Policy", describes it.

There is growing concern by people of goodwill over the lack of cooperation between nations today and the rise of authoritarianism in the world. Even so we know that freedom and spiritual security are already seed ideas in human consciousness and engrossing the minds of leading thinkers. It's interesting therefore to recall that the entire work of the Spiritual Hierarchy is controlled from the great distant sun, Sirius, but until Christ came and revealed the love of God to humanity, its influence was not recognised, and little of it was focussed in the Hierarchy. Sirius rules Leo in the cosmic sense (and therefore apart from our solar system altogether) and its *principle of freedom* – an aspect of Cosmic Love – is focused through the blazing star in the heart of the lion – Regulus. Just as the heart regulates and distributes the life principle throughout the human body, this star regulates the flow of Sirian influences to Earth in a measured and rhythmic manner. This is suggested by its name 'Regulus' and its association with the words *regular* and *regulation* whose root meaning is "continuing rules for guidance".

The Sirian principle of freedom is therefore regulated by the "Little King" in the heart of Leo before entering our solar system; a measure of this is focused through Uranus with which the advanced meditator works and serves, so adding to the mix the organizing influence of the seventh ray that characterises this planet. A potent regulating and organizing process then follows, adapting the principle of Freedom to life on Earth. While the idea of rules and regulation may be anathema to many who are just stepping on to the spiritual path, the seasoned traveller knows that liberation and that "pulling away from form" is attained through the obedience of matter to imposed spiritual rhythms. A joyous, elevating fire is kindled within substance by spiritual regulation, and this enables a human being to experience directly the freedom of the higher spheres while still incarnated on Earth.

Through the interplay of the forces of Leo and Aquarius therefore we have one of the keys to ordered, ceremonial living on earth in harmony with spiritual laws and rhythms. It is with this thought in mind, that we will now go into our meditation using the keynote "I am That and That am I".