

Crisis, Change and Renewal
Aries Full Moon Festival, March 30, 2018, New York
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Tonight we are celebrating the Festival of Aries, the Easter Festival of the living and risen Christ, the guide of love who has always been with us. As head of the Hierarchy, He stands as the teacher alike for angels and men. The full moon of Aries begins the period known as the Higher Interlude, the three month cycle during the year when the energies of the Hierarchy and Shamballa are the closest to Humanity and the most directly available for use in service to the whole. In meditation during the Higher Interlude, the soul is communicating on its own plane with the Monad and the goal for the aspirant is to hold the mind in focused and complete stillness during this period of contemplation. Even a few seconds of mental silence counts as success. In our group full moon meditations, we visualize the free circulation of energies between Shamballa, Hierarchy and Humanity during the Higher Interlude and the Christ helps facilitate this exchange of energy as He is directly involved with all three centers. His great occult statement: "I and my Father are one" solidified His complete spiritual consciousness and union with the center Shamballa, fully uniting Him with the will aspect and the source of *Life*.

Christ is the World Teacher, known by many names in all of the world's religions and as such, is the inspiration for all of humanity and the example of what is possible to all. Diversity in religious beliefs makes no difference because the message is the same; compassion and forgiveness are the path to enlightenment. The Golden Rule, which states that we should treat others as we ourselves would be treated, exists in every religion. 2000 years ago, at the shift out of the Age of Aries into the Piscean cycle, Christ personified the perfection of the love aspect, and in the coming New Age, He will facilitate a newer understanding of the spiritual will. The world esoteric group is consciously invoking the will through love and with the help of the Christ, is slowly making it available to Humanity as a whole. This invocative process naturally involves the 1st Ray of Will or Power and as it continues, the effect of the dynamic 1st Ray energy can be felt in all departments of human living, causing widespread destruction and the breakdown of systems as a preparatory step to the emergence of new life and new ways of being.

At this time of year when the energies of renewal and resurrection are potent, we can imagine the Hierarchy and the Christ pouring powerful light and love into the center Humanity serving to stimulate and awaken us to new life and new attitudes. Aries facilitates this downpouring because it always represents a new cycle of activity. In the book *Esoteric Astrology*, we read that "in Aries the essential substance of manifestation awoke to renewed activity under the impact of divine desire, impelled by the divine Breath, by divine Life or Spirit."¹ Under this impulse, we have the opportunity to refresh our affirmation that all life forms are part of this divine manifestation and are filled with the divine Breath. None are outside the impulse of divinity. With this in mind, let us focus our thoughts within this divine Life as we prepare ourselves for our united group meditation.

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.

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The influence of Aries on our little planet is extremely important and powerful. Not only is it “the zodiacal sign through which the first Ray of Will or Power reaches our planetary life”,² but it also has a close relationship with one of the two stars in the constellation of the Great Bear, called the Pointers. These stars point in a direct line to the North Star and Aries is related to the one furthest from the Pole star. This Pointer star is, we are told, “a great reservoir or focal point for divine energy, carrying out God's purpose.”³ It transmits the higher aspect of the divine will and through Aries, directs it to our Earth, stimulating Humanity toward an ever deepening alignment with divine energy and the life force. Depending on the orientation or development of the individual, this stimulation can be a renewal of dedication to the divine Plan and a motivation to live a life of lighted intention, or it can exacerbate the selfish and materialistic tendencies of a self-focused personality. The choice is ours.

Everything new; be it a movement, a life activity, a new stream of thought, an organization; anything begun anew is influenced by Aries. Aries is the cosmic initiator, the inaugurator and the primal source. Its energy will bring in the New Age when, eventually, political, economic, religious and cultural institutions will be unrecognizable by today's standards, just as our present day structures are completely different from those a thousand years ago. In this period of Easter when Spring and new life are very present in human thinking, it is the perfect time to reflect on the process of change and newness.

When we have established the daily routines of work and family life, it often seems that the rhythm of activity is set and certain. Many people feel safe and secure with the knowledge that life is predictable and secure, although if we are honest, we know that really the only thing we can depend on is change. Sometimes changes can be small and almost unnoticeable, other times a violent storm or illness can completely transform someone's life. Aries inspires us to contemplate the nature of change and how it is related to the

presentation of crisis. Because of its exoteric rulership by Mars and the 4th Ray of Harmony through Conflict, the crises precipitated in Aries often spring from difficulty and struggle. All human beings struggle in one way or another and the struggles in this modern age are very different from the basic struggles to find food and safe shelter that dominated humanity for most of its history.

Crisis is a fundamental part of growth and change. It necessarily involves destruction of some kind; either of a form, a way of thinking or the dissolution of an organization. Under the law of evolution, it leads to new and ultimately better conditions and structures more suited as vehicles for the expression of the soul and the indwelling Christ principle. The soul requires ever changing forms to accommodate its growing influence and these periods of the death of the old are necessary before the newer forms can emerge and be built. Contemplation on the role crisis plays in our evolution and growth is a valuable exercise toward embracing the new. For most people however, crisis is difficult and fraught with anxiety because the new, the unknown is uncertain and not at all comfortable. Through the events of war, political conflict or natural disasters, there are many thousands of people today experiencing a deep crisis of re location and upheaval. Sometimes they don't know where their next meal is coming from and all too often their homes and livelihoods are completely destroyed. Human suffering seems to be a necessary part of life, which makes sense considering that our planet is known as the planet of sorrow and pain. But the soul feels no pain, only joy and love, and this is the message the Christ brought; that the Kingdom of God is within and through our own inner struggle we can uncover the radiance of the soul and know the unity of all life.

If we examine the last hundred years, the changes that have taken place in human growth and development are quite astounding. Imagine the difficulty people had when automobiles were invented, how frightening and dirty they must have seemed. The speed of travel they were capable of had been unimaginable. Even more astonishing, the invention of machines that could fly in the air for thousands of miles at a time were as a fantasy, let alone travel to the moon or other planets. Because of the rapid growth of human consciousness and its mental polarization, huge leaps in technology have occurred. Medical science has advanced so that now it is possible to engineer human genes to be resistant to certain diseases. We have adapted to these great and lasting changes, which stemmed from a crisis of growth and because of our growing mental capacity, we have done so with much success.

The Festival of Easter emphasizes the reality of the Christ life and His influence on all the planet. The principle of love, so perfectly embodied and exemplified by Him, underlies all activity on Earth and is ever more active, even though recently, it sometimes seems that the Forces of Retrogression are the dominating energy. Humanity as a whole is currently "under the steady pressure of the life of the indwelling Christ".⁴ This spiritual pressure is forcing internal and external changes resulting in the shattering of the old ways in order for the new life within to emerge and demonstrate the radiance and reality of the Christ life. The fact that the Christ is with us is demonstrated through the countless acts of goodwill performed everyday by so called "ordinary" people. Each expression of goodwill

strengthens the path of return for the World Teacher and helps create the conditions in which the new Aquarian energies can emerge.

If we look with the eyes of the soul and the spirit of the indwelling Christ, there is so much going on in the world today that attests to the reality of the approach of the Great Ones to our planet. A great stimulation and stirring is going on. Some call it the Great Turning. In every country, there are countless people who are meditating, practicing mindfulness and active kindness and who recognize that love and forgiveness are the only qualities that will carry the day. DK has asked us to consider how the thousands of years of prayers and meditations carried on by millions of people in every religion have fundamentally altered the energetic patterns of the planet. Everywhere, people are recognizing that the advancing light is revealing the dark and secret behaviors carried on by some of the most visible public figures. Every day, new revelations of abuses of power, of sexual assault and harassment of children and women are reported and the abusers are facing the consequences of their actions.

There are amazing advances in technology happening faster than we can track, inventions that are changing and improving living conditions. Sustainable energy use is being recognized as the only way to proceed into the future and developing countries are leading the way in creating ways to harness cheap and renewable energy. Human ingenuity has never been more creative, more beneficial to the whole and more visible. Rising sea levels are forcing people to acknowledge that climate change is a reality. And if governments won't act then people are acting on their own. In mid 2017, the United States pulled out of the Paris Climate Agreement, a unified agreement signed by 200 countries to address climate change. The reaction of individuals, groups and notably many mayors of US cities was to carry on and abide by the terms of the treaty anyway. The original group of 67 mayors developed into a movement of more than 300 mayors who agreed to adopt the emissions reduction targets outlined in the historic agreement.

There is another global group of mayors called the *C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group* which consists of more than 90 mega cities serving more than 650 million people which is committed to meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. A statement on their website declares: "C40 is focused on tackling climate change and driving urban action that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and climate risks, while increasing the health, well-being and economic opportunities of urban citizens." These life affirming initiatives are just some examples of evidence of the advancing will-to-good being expressed by millions of people working for the common good.

The mass social protests of the last 50 years have all been sparked because of crisis, conflict and strife. The evolutionary process and the incentive to change demand that living conditions improve and at a basic level, people understand that progress cannot be stopped. In the 1960's in the United States, there were violent reactions against the assassinations of important political leaders and a foreign and seemingly endless war. In more recent years, marches and protests centering on important social issues have drawn thousands of people gathering peacefully to voice their demands and concerns. Often, these

movements spring up almost spontaneously as a reaction to some political event that is counter to progress or exhibits a separative or reactionary policy.

Most recently, the youth movement has been visibly energized by gun violence and tragic mass shootings in schools or any public place where people are gathered. A few weeks ago, youth all over the country walked out of their classrooms and into the streets to demand a change in gun laws. They pointedly called out members of the government for not keeping them safe in school. A week ago, there were 847 marches all over the world called, "March for Our Lives", an event organized by students of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the site of the most recent school shooting. In a full page ad some of the students took out in the Sunday New York Times, they say they "want this march to be about seismic change in this country." These young people are articulate, passionate and vocal about changing laws and policy around guns and under the impulse of Aries, have captured the attention of the public with their demand for a new way and newer life affirming laws.

In the Thursday meditation on the Reappearance of the Christ, we are asked to "reflect and speculate about the possible results of His appearance." At this time of Easter and renewal, it might be useful to consider what our planet might look like dominated by the energy of the living Christ. The values of the soul; unconditional love, inclusiveness and a recognition of the unity of all life will condition human thinking and behavior. People will no longer act selfishly or violently, because it will be a universal recognition that all lives are connected and the actions of one individual affect the whole. No longer will we be able to manufacture products made with toxic materials that pollute the earth and the planet's waters. No longer will we allow poisonous chemicals and heavy metals to contaminate the quality of the air. We will nurture and protect each other and step into our rightful role as custodian of the will for the three sub human kingdoms. Science will discover how to harness free energy and all of humanity will share the resources of the earth. Telepathic interchange will enable humanity to really know itself leading to a celebration of the diversity of forms within the One Life.

The teachings point out that at the hierarchical conclave in 2025, a short seven years from now, the Christ will decide the timing of His return to the physical plane. It is very likely that He is already in the etheric if we consider the mass social disruptions and widespread uncertainty we are currently experiencing. The steady pressure of His energy is changing our lives, individually and collectively, and we are being directed to choose those activities and behaviors that are life affirming as opposed to those that are selfishly motivated. This turmoil is the sign of the times and our work is to recognize the revealing light and the unfolding Christ life which seeks to uplift and inspire all of humanity. We should live in expectation of the Great revelation. Aries brings in "the light of Life itself" and this dynamic Christ life belongs to all.

1. *Esoteric Astrology*, pp 313
2. *Ibid*, pp 91
3. *Ibid*, pp 196
4. *Ibid*, pp 447