



Easter Festival (Aries Full Moon)

London, 5 April 2023

*"I come forth and from the plane of mind,
I rule"*

Derek Fraser

Good evening and a warm welcome to our Aries Full Moon meditation meeting which is being held in the Lucis Trust library and simultaneously via Zoom. The actual time of the full moon is tomorrow morning at 5.34 AM BST so we are working within the flow of spiritual energies influencing the consciousness of human minds and hearts.

The purpose of the talks that are given prior to the full moon meditation are to enable us to come together as a group uplifting the mind and quietening the emotions in order to become receptive to the spiritual inflow that carries the specific qualities of the constellation influencing the particular month.

Aries is especially significant in the monthly cycle of Full Moon meditations as it is the Easter Festival, the first of the three major spiritual Festivals which are the high point in the annual cycle. These are the Festival of Easter (at the Aries full moon), the Festival of Wesak (at the Taurus full moon), and the Festival of Goodwill (at the Gemini full moon). Through the steady, persistent meditation work of many individuals and groups in all parts of the world these Festivals help to achieve a subjective spiritual anchorage in human consciousness.

Festivals are times of joy and celebration, a festive occasion pertaining to a feast, although in terms of the full moon work the feast is one of spiritual sustenance where hearts and minds come together to "Let in the Light". Whilst Easter is a Christian festival, its origins go far back in time and have connections with the word East and the rising sun, the goddess of fertility and spring in the northern hemisphere.¹

Esoterically, Aries is known as the Festival of the Risen, Living Christ, and we meditate on its principle of resurrection into greater Life. "Christ in us, the hope of glory" becomes a touchstone of our deep reflections. Gradually, through systematic and rhythmic meditation the individual escapes the confines of the lower self and enters into the inspirational life of the soul. For all enlightened and liberated beings, the personality's subjective crucifixion and death leads to the renewal of consciousness and a life of spiritual purpose and expression.

Aries is a sign of beginnings, of commencement, as the Christ or soul consciousness seeks liberation from the prison house of the form - the impulse that drove Hercules forward to complete his twelve labours. In the book *The Labours of Hercules* by Alice Bailey there is a vivid account of the journey of the soul as it incarnates progressively through the twelve signs of the Zodiac. Hercules depicted the Prodigal Son's journey back to the Father's house and the tests and trials that face all aspirants.² This symbolic

account of the journey towards greater light can be related to all world faiths and all peoples whether they are religious or not, for each human being, a soul in incarnation in a physical body, eventually has to undertake the tests and trials that will bring the awakening of the soul and the inner light.

The soul is the real self and is another name for the Christ principle and its many synonyms confirm its freedom from religious dogma and its inclusiveness, for example, The Higher Self; the God Within; the Inner Reality; the Master Within the Heart; the Thinker; the Solar Angel; the Observer, the Son of Mind.

According to the Ageless Wisdom teachings there are two souls, the soul-on-its-own-plane completely free from the control of matter - form, unencumbered by time and space. Then there is the soul-in- incarnation - immersed in form, limited in time and space, believing that it is reality and which has been vividly described for us as "the imprisoned splendour". That is not to say the material form is something to be devalued, on the contrary it is intended to be an instrument to express the purpose of the Higher Self. This applies to all of humanity, all peoples, races and faiths and nations too. It could be said that this purpose is an inevitable part of the evolutionary journey in the descent of spirit into matter and the return journey in ascending towards the spiritual realms with the resurrection of the spiritual nature. This is the process of expressing love and light through the highest moral principles and spiritual values, bringing right relations, justice, and decency. And in relation to spirit and matter let us reflect on a passage from the book *Initiation, Human and Solar*, by Alice Bailey:

*Life we look upon as the one form of existence, manifesting in what is called matter, or what, incorrectly separating them, we name Spirit, Soul, and Matter in man. Matter is the vehicle for the manifestation of soul on this plane of existence; soul is the vehicle for the manifestation of spirit, and these three as a trinity are synthesised by Life, which pervades them all.*³

From this esoteric perspective it becomes clear that "the imprisoned splendour", referred to by Robert Browning in Paracelsus, and by Raynor C Johnson in the book of that name, is the soul in incarnation whose life purpose is to rise from the prison walls of form, not to escape to some mystical place of peace and tranquillity but to let in the light and serve humanity. Humanity is a wonderfully diverse species and life brings the entire range of emotions - love, joy, enthusiasm and conversely pain suffering and sadness. As the soul awakens from its slumber each individual is offered a tremendous vision of higher possibilities and of responsibilities of restoring the Plan on earth. There is recognition of new ideas that serve the greater good through the expression of soul qualities and principles. The imprisoned splendour awakens and makes its presence known. This, of course, is not a once in a lifetime experience if we accept the workings of the Laws of Rebirth and Karma for the soul incarnates countless times.

Looking back over history, we can see that great changes of consciousness have taken place -resulting in increased knowledge and understanding of the world yet offset by terrible things that mankind has inflicted on itself and the kingdoms of nature. One of the most significant developments has been to do with the mind and its ingenuity on the one hand and its capacity for cruelty on the other. Energy follows thought and conditions life and events so events taking place today have their cause in the

thoughts and desires of the past. Whilst it is of little value dwelling negatively on the past, whether individually or collectively, valuable lessons can be learnt from a detached review of the motives and causes behind events, along the lines of the spiritual practice known as the evening or daily review which draws on lessons learnt to create a better tomorrow.

We know that the human mind can achieve amazing things one recent example, being the feat of adjusting the complex protective sun shield of the James Webb telescope. The sunshield component attaches to the main spacecraft, and its booms expand outward spreading out the heat shield and separating the layers. During launch the shield was folded up; later, when in space, it was carefully unfurled – a highly complex operation.⁴

These technological advances can be taken for granted and we may forget that scientists have designed and constructed them through their imagination and ingenuity.

Let us now pause for a few moments and then say together The Great Invocation:

From the point of Light within the Mind of God

Let light stream forth into the minds of men.

Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God

Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.

May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known

Let purpose guide the little wills of men—

The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men

Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.

And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth

OM

The first stanza of the Great Invocation refers to the "minds of men" which brings us to the keynote for Aries which is:

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

The workings of the mind and its nature, from the perspective of Esoteric Philosophy, is expressed by Alice Bailey in *A Treatise on White Magic*.⁵

There are three aspects of mind energy:

- 1. The lower concrete mind, called the chitta or mind-stuff in the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali.*
- 2. The abstract mind, or that aspect of the mind which is related to the world of ideas.*
- 3. The intuition or pure reason which is for man the highest aspect of the mentality.*

In achieving mind control:

- (a) The brain, which is a receiving agent, becomes the intelligent instrument of the mind.
- (b) The brain has to become capable of illumination from the soul via the mind.
- (c) Man has to learn through right decision and right use of the mind to solve his problems.
- (d) Though the right use of the mind, man can enter into the mind of God.

Intelligence on its own is not enough there must be love-wisdom and intuitive insight. Thus, in the second stanza of The Great Invocation love must stream forth into the hearts of men and in the third stanza purpose must be powered by the higher will so that the Plan of love and light can work out on Earth.

The highly developed human mind today can reach great heights although is capable of evil too when love is absent, as in the case of wars and conflicts and the diversion of creative intelligence to the development and use of weapons and arms. To progress on the evolutionary journey, through the labours, the tests and trials that faced Hercules, the developed human being must link the lower and higher aspects of mind and let in the light of the soul. The Tibetan Master refers to this linking relation as "intelligent mind" although He usually uses the term "higher mind" to describe the soul, the Son of Mind, and the term "abstract or pure mind" to describe the principle of Manas. Manas has been defined as Intelligence, the higher human mind, whose light or radiation links the Monad for the lifetime to the mortal being. The Mind being that mental faculty that distinguishes the human from the animals.

It's interesting to note the emphasis placed on the illumined mind and the intuition in the statement at the front of the Alice Bailey books - an important statement for the reader:

The books that I have written are sent out with no claim for their acceptance. They may, or may not, be correct, true and useful. It is for you to ascertain their truth by right practice and by the exercise of the intuition.... If the teaching conveyed calls forth a

response from the illumined mind of the worker in the world, and brings a flashing forth of his intuition, then let that teaching be accepted. But not otherwise. If the statements meet with eventual corroboration, or are deemed true under the test of the Law of Correspondences, then that is well and good. But should this not be so, let not the student accept what is said.

In the sign of Aries, the disciple must come forth from the plane of mind and rule the lower nature having built an imaginary bridge across the mental plane to the higher mind through the discipline of daily meditation, study, and service. And in this regard, we are encouraged by the thought that the imagination is the seed of the intuition which is said to guide all thinkers into new dimensions of thought. The mind in its three aspects, when it is aligned and in good working order, can access the world of the intuition which has no separative tendencies whatsoever. The intuition is entirely inclusive and when active brings identification with the life in all beings and in all of the life forms on the planet - animal, plant and mineral and even a faint sense of those Great Lives who inform the planets, the solar system and beyond.

Hercules, who symbolises both the individual and world disciple is faced with his first test in Aries: He must gain mental control. Aries is the sign of the Thinker, and all beginnings originate on the mental plane and in the mind of the creator whether the creator is God or the soul of man.

In Aries Hercules has to Capture the Man-Eating Mares which were ravishing the land, wreaking havoc and breeding wild and evil horses. Symbolically, in human terms, the brood mares represent thoughts that have to be brought into line through the right use of the mind. The mind has great power - it can work creatively but wreak havoc through ill-judged words, gossip, negative criticism, and selfishness, which has a great deal of relevance to our present world. The chaotic circulation of illusion, glamour, and maya via the modern means of communication is very disturbing to the psyche because the atmosphere is polluted and although not visible to the eye can be felt nevertheless. However, the circulation of goodwill and creative thoughts is a blessing that counters this negativity.

Going back to the first labour in Aries for ages the brood mares of thought had been breeding war horses and through wrong thought, wrong speech and erroneous ideas had been devastating the countryside. It's of interest to consider that the horse is a symbol in its higher aspect of the intellect or intelligence and in the lower aspect of desires and passions. The horse is a sensitive creature and needs careful handling; it can rear up when fearful and lash out. Man too, in his lower moments, can lash out when the mind is not in line with the higher Self.

This all goes to confirm that in the words of that great soul Swami Vivekananda:

We are what our thoughts have made us; so take care about what you think. Words are secondary. Thoughts live; they travel far. (Although words also travel far these days)

Hence, the Keynote of the soul in Aries is - *to come forth from the plane of mind and rule, and think using the higher mind, rising above the personality keynote which is And the word said: Let form again be sought.*

When the mind rules the form or material nature, it becomes secondary and becomes an instrument for the energy of the soul which is a wise and loving Master – the Christ or soul principle. This is the challenge that faces the fifth race.

On that note let us go into our meditation...

1. Online Etymology Dictionary, *Easter*
<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=easter>
2. Alice Bailey, *The Reappearance of The Christ* 104
3. Alice Bailey, *Initiation, Human and Solar* 222/3
4. Wikipedia, *James Webb Space Telescope sunshield*
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Webb_Space_Telescope_sunshield
5. Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic* 361