

## **The Burning Will, the Purifying Blaze**

*Festival of Aries - NY*

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The full moon of Aries marks the great Festival of Easter and the beginning of the higher interlude of the spiritual year. It is the festival of the risen and living Christ, and a time to affirm the fact of relationship between all aspects of the planetary whole, that great Being in Whom all grades of life upon our planet find their place. Aries “awakens the will to reach the lowest and there control” and thus it is fitting that this sign inaugurates the higher interlude of the spiritual year wherein the highest Will (Shamballa) reaches down to the lowest (Humanity).

In Aries, we are reminded of the power of divinity to overcome death, to overcome all separation, and to raise all things into everlasting glory; it is a time of renewal, of regeneration, and resurrection. The Easter Festival emphasizes Christ’s triumph over death, thus affirming the infallible power of God as it works through the soul of all things. We are reminded that for the soul there is no death, only life which cycles through a long series of incarnations until, after reaching a stage of relative perfection, it is released into new and greater cycles of spiritual expression.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that Resurrection is the keynote of nature whereas death is the ante-chamber of resurrection. Thus, all things must pass through death before returning unto Life in full realization of their spiritual nature. The whole story of evolution sees spirit entering into matter then “dying to form” to eventually arise again triumphant. The human soul incarnates and through experience, strife, and great effort rises to that high plane from which it originated, but with full self-consciousness and the gain of the many qualities of manifested divinity.

The descent of Spirit into Matter can also be understood as the expression and fulfillment of the original Divine Idea or Intention. As the birthplace of ideas, Aries is responsible for the will to incarnate, the descent of the highest into expression through the lowest, and this occurs via the Mind and through a whole host of creative agencies, the builders (greater and lesser) of the worlds. The human soul is also a creator in the three worlds and thus capable of both higher impression and its creative expression. The initiating, creative, and mental force of Aries is instrumental in the magical work of the soul which in the present cycle seeks three things: to establish right human relationships, to mediate divine ideas into human consciousness, and to redeem matter and release the prisoners of the planet.

Above all this requires the right employment of the will. This will is the power to think, to act, to create—it is also the power to love, to unite, to do good and to rise above all the many glamours and illusions of form life. It is through the application and development of the spiritual will that every obstacle is overcome, every cleavage bridged, and all harm brought to an end. The right use of the will is key to the efflorescence of humanity into its fullest spiritual potential wherein Love, Harmony, Beauty, Knowledge, Ordered Civilization—the sumtotal of all the hopes and dreams of countless generations of thinkers and creators throughout the ages—become manifest through human living.

Yet in order for humanity to produce a world which reflects the higher principles of its nature, the human will must reflect and become a clear channel of the spiritual will which is ultimately the will of that greater Life in Whom we live. “Not my will but thine be done” is one of the most potent and

complete prayers ever uttered by the Christ. Let us keep this in mind as we sound together the mantram of the will and align ourselves, heart, mind and soul with that higher center, so that it may pour through us in service to the world.

*In the centre of the will of God I stand.  
Naught shall deflect my will from His.  
I implement that will by love.  
I turn towards the field of service.  
I, the Triangle divine, work out that will  
Within the square and serve my fellowmen.*

The science of interludes and their right use is key to all truly creative work. And Aries, being both a sign of creation as well as the beginning of the higher interlude of the spiritual year, is an especially pertinent time to reflect on the spiritual opportunities which the right use of these interludes affords.

An interlude is simply that moment which occurs between two activities. And in every cycle, spiritual or otherwise, there is both a higher and a lower interlude, for all cycles have an ebb and flow, ascent and descent, and thus two points of pause and reorientation before activity begins in new direction.

All cyclic processes in nature are fundamentally related to the breath. In the macrocosm, the Great Breath is said to be one of the fundamental aspects of the Absolute—and thus eternally present. This Great Breath is the foundation of the perpetual motion of Space; it is “Absolute Abstract Motion,” and as such it is the basis for the development of all consciousness in the Universe—for there is nothing which is conscious and alive which is inert or motionless. The motion caused by this “Great Breath” produces all force and individualized consciousness; at the same time, it supplies the intelligence which guides the whole plan of cosmic evolution. Breath is thus the great and primeval creative act and is echoed by the multitude of lesser intelligences and creative agents which populate the worlds, working out the original Cosmic Idea each within their sphere. Breath is therefore the basis of the many cycles, greater and lesser, which govern all manifestation and by which evolution itself proceeds through time and in space.

The energies which permeate and comprise the worlds in their many grades are also cyclic in their manifestation, being heightened or lessened depending on the stage of the cycle. Knowledge of these cycles is important for those intelligences and agencies who work with subjective energies and apply them to the fulfillment of divine purpose. The human soul is potentially one of these builders and, through the right use of the mind and the will, is able to tune into the divine intention underlying all creation and coax it into fuller expression. This is accomplished through meditation.

Effective occult meditation makes use of both interludes: the higher, whereby abstract or divine thought impresses the soul and then the mind, and the lower wherein that impression is formulated into concrete thoughtforms and transmitted to the brain.

The higher interlude is necessarily the first to be attained if ever the creative work in the lower interlude is to have any chance of success. This applies to an individual or group’s daily or weekly meditation as well as to the Higher Interlude of the spiritual year, a planetary cycle in which Hierarchy and Humanity mutually cooperate.

The higher interlude is a moment of poised silence and alignment in which vertical contact with the source of light, love, and spiritual power is greatly facilitated. It is synonymous with that stage of meditation called contemplation and is characterized by direct and unimpeded communion with the divine.

Right use of the higher interlude requires that the lower vehicles be quieted and stilled, and the attention remain focused and concentrated in the light of the soul rather than negative and quiescent. This establishes alignment and rapport with the higher center and that raincloud of knowable things made available by Hierarchy but awaiting precipitation into human consciousness. It is in this place of poise, of focused quiet and alignment, that the higher interlude or the stage of contemplation begins.

It is important to recognize that this stage of contemplation is an interlude between two activities and cannot occur until the lower bodies are quieted and the mind held responsive to impression; it requires serious training before it can be sustained for even brief periods of time. When higher contact is finally attained and the spiritual light from the soul begins to illuminate the lower mind, the natural reaction is for the mind to be instantly stimulated into activity of a higher order than that at which it normally functions. However, as soon as that activity begins, the higher interlude ends, and the stage of activity once again resumes. To sustain the higher interlude and to truly begin to work within it, requires the consciousness to be lifted and sustained within the causal body itself, entirely removed (but not disconnected from) the lower mind. This is the state known in the East as Samadhi, and only in this state can that which the soul sees, knows, and visions be transferred to the physical brain via the mind. Attaining to this state is said to be the goal of the meditation process, because beyond this state meditation, as we formally know it, ends and another phase of divine communion and relationship begins.

The stage of contemplation, once attained and stabilized, becomes the launching pad or jumping off point for another phase of work: union with that which is even more exalted than the soul. This is the Spiritual Triad which comprise man's highest spiritual principles: Atma, Buddhi, and Manas. This necessitates contact with planes of our solar system which are considered "formless," and in these worlds, the soul sees itself as one with all other energies and conscious expressions of life. This state of consciousness is characterized by synthesis, at-onement, straight-knowledge, and Pure Vision wherein there is a complete and perfect relationship between the knower and the object of knowledge. The nature of the life of the soul on its own plane and its relationship to that which is "formless" is necessarily very difficult to visualize, but is somewhat captured in the following words of Christ:

*"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; ... that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one...." (John XVII. 20-23.)*

It may be surprising to realize that one of the foremost means to achieve such a state of union with the divine is through the use of visualization and the creative imagination. The imagination is closely related to the intuition which is the principle in man which grants eventually Perfect Love and Pure Vision. "Energy follows thought, and the eye directs the energy" is a fundamental occult law. Through the use of the picture making faculty, a bridge can be built between the lower four and the higher three principles of human nature. This ladder or bridge then becomes a means of communication between the formless worlds of spiritual reality and the mundane worlds of spiritual expression. It is at the nexus of these two worlds that the disciple seeks to work.

He then works in the interludes, as the soul and not as the aspiring personality. He becomes an asset to the work of Hierarchy and cooperates in the fulfillment of Planetary Purpose. This Purpose must be implemented with love and from the plane of mind, but importantly also with power if it ever is to bear fruit. It is in this higher interlude that this power is attained. This is the power to heal all wrong, to bridge all cleavages, to make one—it is the power to make all things new. Surety of alignment attained in the higher interlude grants the disciple the power, in varying degrees, of the Hierarchy itself. The senior members of this august body are literally “one with the Purpose for which the Worlds were made.” They thus embody that power and can make it available for practical application by the disciple in the mundane world.

Today, the great task of offsetting hate, ending separation, and redeeming materialism proceeds and we can imagine that the Christ and the entire Hierarchy continue to bend every effort to see this purification of human nature brought to completion. It is now nearly 80 years since the end of World War II, and since the great spiritual impulse released at the conclusion of that war, great strides and advances in human consciousness have been made. However, in many ways, humanity remains a house divided—many of the ancient hatreds, between nations and within them, remain. The Tibetan writes that this problem is, from the human angle is “wellnigh insoluble” and will require the united effort of men and women of goodwill, the New Group of World Servers, and the Hierarchy itself.

Today, although these ancient hatreds remain in full display, there is a sense held by many that beneath that outer form an inner re-organization has already taken place but is arrested in its efforts to percolate to the surface and full expression. The subjective lines of relationship today are strong, and people everywhere are responding to this inner reorganization and much of the building work is going forward in alignment with man’s higher nature.

One cannot deny, however, that the vestiges of the old thoughtforms, subtle and not-so-subtle, remain and hinder the emergence of human civilization into the light of the Aquarian era. The intense selfishness and irresponsibility of the economic and financial systems, the corruption in political establishments around the world, the economic and political strength of the military industrial complex, along with the many lesser forms of structural iniquities and institutionalized selfishness and greed do remain. These all must ultimately be destroyed, and new structures founded on sharing, trust, and faith in the spiritual potential of the human soul must take their place. Destruction is often a necessary part of the process of redemption.

If we take a moment to look objectively and with the esoteric sense, we might see that today the inner flame which will eventually purify these pernicious thoughtforms and institutions has already been kindled, and that within these systems and all around them these many small flames are gradually being fanned into a burning blaze. This blaze will eventually burn out all the dross. In Aries we are told “the fire blazed forth and through that fire I died to life and so was born to death. And then again I died to form.” The symbolic death by fire which Aries brings destroys the limitations of the form; such a burning up of the dross is much needed in our world today if we are ever to be released from the structures and thoughtforms of the past—the fortresses of greed and selfishness which the agents of materialism have well-constructed and will fight tooth and nail to maintain.

Once the destroying fires have done their work “...the Path stands clear and unobstructed vision is achieved.” Humanity can then inaugurate a new cycle of creative work. Human civilization can consciously and directly be created “patterned on things as they are in the heavens.” Untold beauty,

harmony, and opportunity will abound and humanity can begin to turn its attention away from its own problems and considerations and towards the spiritualization of the planet and the creation of a completed whole—beautiful and wonderful perhaps beyond our present comprehension.