

## Christ's Festival – London – May 2016

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Welcome to those who have linked in via our website to join our celebration of the Gemini full moon – and the festival of the Christ, of Humanity and of Goodwill, as it is also known. As humanity becomes sensitive to impression from the great ashram – the Spiritual Hierarchy – with the Christ at its heart, human thinking will begin to align itself more closely with the Divine Plan. This will entail a shift of human identity from the personality nature to the soul within – the Master in the Heart rising steadily to control his instrument in the lower world. This is beautifully summarized in the keynote for the disciple in Gemini: *'I see my other self. And in the waning of that self, I grow and glow'*.

Gemini is a sign of duality and identity shifts – a process that is reaching its peak in this turbulent world period where higher and lower traits stand in contrast to one another in so many fields of human interaction. Duality is, however, a positive development, because it means that humanity is no longer solely identified with the form aspect, but is becoming aware of a higher, more principled side of its nature, one which is imbued with love and inclusiveness.

Gemini is called the “constellation of the resolution of duality into a fluid synthesis.” This sign governs all the pairs of opposites in the zodiac, preserving the magnetic interplay between them, keeping their relationship fluid. This facilitates their eventual transmutation into unity, for the two must finally become the One. Gemini itself achieves this unity through blending its energy with its opposite sign, Sagittarius, the Archer, symbolizing a one-pointed focus on the goal ahead. The fusion of the higher energies of these two signs results in the redemption of the thought-life through a focus on the Divine Plan and an increase in the capacity to love. Where once the personal self was at the centre of the thought life, in its place there is now the service of the Plan and the purposes of evolution.

Every time we have a thought, we are participating in the creative processes of the planetary scheme. We are either assisting or hindering it. Every thought and action carries its creator and those whom it influences a little step forwards into spirit or backwards into matter; it is therefore evolutionary or involutionary. Perhaps this throws light on Christ's pronouncement "Those who are not with me, are against me". Doing nothing is impossible because the sea of substance in which we live out our lives, and which is sometimes referred to as "elemental essence" is flowing steadily towards the pole of matter on the involutionary cycle. What is sometimes described as `doing

nothing' may be just drifting back down this line of least resistance into previously attained and outgrown states of consciousness that we revisit at our cost.

One of the most inspiring symbols of the pilgrim's journey against this stream of elemental essence is the salmon, one of the most extraordinary creatures in the fish kingdom and whose life beautifully illustrates the struggle of the aspirant to return to his divine source. The young salmon or smolts, swim down the rivers in shoals until they reach the sea, much as the human monads first come into incarnation in group form before any individualization takes place. In the sea the salmon grow to maturity and their "homing instinct" prompts them to journey back against the flow of water to the river in which they hatched. Once out of the sea they stop feeding and, while working their way upriver, they use up the reserves of fats and oil in their flesh. Here we see the aspirant who has experienced life to the full and grown thereby, now disciplining himself and setting foot upon the path of return, no longer feeding in the sea of human desire and on the thoughts of others, but drawing deep on his own reserves of experience and wisdom as sustenance throughout the difficult journey home.

We witness the tremendous achievement of the salmon as it travels upstream against the current, overcoming rapids and steep waterfalls. The sight of the salmon taking to the air to overcome these obstacles is a beautiful illustration of the pilgrim's determined struggle out of the watery emotional nature and into the air which symbolizes buddhi, or that pure love and intuition that overcomes all barriers. We could also equate the intuition to a higher form of the homing instinct in the animal kingdom for it is the developed intuition that directs the pilgrim back to the Father's home.

As we move from the age of Pisces, a water sign, to the Age of Aquarius, an air sign, perhaps we could compare the spiritual aspirant to "a fish out of water". The focus of his life is at odds to the bulk of humanity who search the three worlds for satisfaction and pleasure. Instead he lifts himself out of the waters of desire and takes to the air – a new environment in which he doesn't yet feel at home. New energies make up life on the path of discipleship and a period of acclimatization is required, however, it is to the air that the aspirant must take in order to overcome the emotional tides that would otherwise drive him back into the sea of desires. Drawing further on the analogy of the journey of the salmon, we can see how much strength and will power this uphill struggle requires – even more so because the disciple is also blazing a trail for others. On the journey, thoughtforms of loving support and encouragement are created for them – pools of lighted peace where fellow pilgrims can gather renewed strength to travel on.

The creation and energizing of thoughtforms of light and love for aspiring humanity are all part of the disciple's journey back to source. These thoughtforms enable humanity to stand strong at new levels of consciousness; and as there are so many groups of disciples and aspirants forming at this time to serve humanity, we can be certain that the clarifying nature of love and goodwill is being transmitted deep into its collective heart. As large sections of humanity transmute desire into love, there is also an increasing manifestation of group love that is witnessed globally as many initiatives and campaigns appear in response to human need. While some of the many charitable initiatives may be an emotional response to need, there is nevertheless also a real heart response – an astral-buddhic sensitivity that indicates transmutation in progress.

This indicates that the effects of using the Great Invocation are beginning to demonstrate outwardly: “From the point of Love within the Heart of God”. Love **is** streaming forth into the hearts of humanity, and restoring the divine circulatory flow on earth. The Heart of God maintains the divine circulatory flow within which each human heart facilitates this circulation and at the same time, adds its own unique ingredient to enrich it. As an alignment of hearts takes place in humanity, the highest spiritual kingdoms and the lowest subhuman kingdoms are steadily being brought closer into synthesis and unity, and the overriding quality of this solar system – love – is slowly beginning to permeate the whole. Despite outer appearances, all around the world there is strong evidence that the astral sensitivity of the solar plexus is being transformed into the spiritual sensitivity of the heart.

The heart's centrality is echoed in the Yoga of the Kathopanishad, “In the Heart... is the Dweller who has been described as of the size of a thumb and is indeed the same small but mighty being who is known in Western myth as Tom Thumb.” This Master in the Heart holds the force of Love and Light, but it is an act of Will which sustains his presence with us. The quote continues “Each time we pursue outside our self that which is only to be found within us, we waste that Light. By identifying ourselves with transient patterns we share their transiency and die with them. For this reason the Sages have always taught that we should restrain the Heart-Light from flowing out towards objects but should let it remain collected in the Heart like a clear mirror of a mountain lake. When this is done, the entire Cosmos is mirrored in the serene waters; all things are seen to be within the Self; pure water has been poured into pure water and runs nowhere but remains the same. The outflow of desire has ceased forever. Therefore it has been said “The seed-blossom (i.e. the Light) of the human body must be concentrated upward in the empty space. Immortality is contained in this sentence and also the overcoming of this world is contained in it.”

Of course the whole point of overcoming this world, is to turn back and help redeem it. And if we are to help a world in turmoil we must look behind the “outer seeming” of forms and events, to the forces at play behind the scenes. We have to contact the forces of Love and Purpose and direct them to human need – and to strengthen the embryonic plans that are being made by the new group of world servers by which means the new world may come into being. If the Divine Plan for humanity involves the attainment of Heart knowledge, it cannot be further externalized until it is received and perceived by those who symbolise the awakening heart in humanity. This places an enormous responsibility on a relatively small group of spiritually awakened people, who have the free will to choose whether or not to respond to the heart’s vibrations and direct it to awaken the hearts of others.

While humanity’s heart is awakening, it is clear from current world events that much still obstructs the divine circulatory flow. Crisis follows crisis as points of resistance are uprooted and destroyed – each producing a period of tension as humanity deliberates on how to rebuild along sounder lines. Consequently, spiritual development has to take account of bearing the pressure of the tremendous influx of energies that characterise these momentous times. This places an added strain on the force centres of the modern disciple who is also evoking the cleansing, purifying fire of the higher Self on a daily basis in meditation. How then can the server of humanity offset any symptoms of stress and fatigue, excitement and restlessness that is such a feature of modern day living?

The key lies in non-resistance to the divine circulatory flow, enabling the entering forces to circulate freely. This is called “the secret of regulation” and it eases the friction generated by blocked inlets and outlets of the personality vehicles with the associated problems of over-stimulation and congestion. It should be noted that such states can occur through the subtle glamour of spiritual self-centredness that arises from a constant examination of the personality. Faithful use of the evening review offsets this problem by allocating limited time and space for the scientific and detached consideration of the handling of forces that day.

This day begins with the morning meditation and communion with the higher Self through the point of tension that is formed at the apex of the mind. This is a portal of entry for the spiritual fire of the higher Self infused with the qualities and potencies seeking entrance in line with the Divine Plan. The skill lies in maintaining and

regulating this point of spiritual tension throughout the day, enabling the contacted energies to freely circulate throughout the aura. This regulates the flow so that the forces which are specifically required in the service of the moment are absorbed and worked with, while the remainder will automatically flow out of the aura as a healing agency on their return to the general reservoir of universal forces in nature.

Regulation of one's own energies is therefore very important in contacting and distributing the energies of the Divine Plan, and it should be remembered that the Great Invocation is a highly effective distributing agency in this process. Not only is this helpful at the close of meditation, but it can be further used at various intervals throughout the day to help keep the spiritual energies circulating as they should. In this way problems of overstimulation and congestion are avoided and the disciple can realise first-hand what it means to become "a strand of loving energy within the stream of love divine...a point of sacrificial Fire, focused within the fiery Will of God." A regulating force governs this divine stream as surely as it governs the circulating bloodstream that distributes its nourishment to the body's organs and cells. Similarly in meditation, that which can be constructively used is assimilated from the divine flow and transformed into forces that promote spiritual growth, the rest passing outward into the planetary environment on its way back to nature's reservoir of forces.

As mentioned previously, the evening review is invaluable in learning how to regulate the energies that course through the personality vehicles. As a detached onlooker, the spiritual seeker imaginatively travels back through the day's stream of forces as though tracing a river back from the sea to its source. The journey reveals the terrain through which the student's energy flowed and how its course was affected; where new tributaries of force joined the flow causing it to swell and grow in strength; where energy was consciously diverted to distribute the waters of life; or where harmful contaminating forces were picked up in some places and deposited in others. All these force exchanges are traced back along the energy flow until the spiritual source is reached – the soul's crystal spring of energy that poured into the aspiring server of the Plan during the morning meditation.

Recognising the subtle way energies and forces flow through the personality during the day is one of the first steps towards controlling them; and with practice, the evening review helps to maintain a spiritual perspective throughout each day's unfolding events. The enquiring student may then discover that the Sacred Word and the Great Invocation are two great tools that can be used in the regulatory process. The Great Invocation is "a solar instrument" that can be carried in the higher consciousness

and drawn upon throughout the day. While this magical device will not achieve its aims if used in a mechanical fashion (as can occur from an over familiarity with its words), if drawn upon with fresh reverence and spiritual vigour, it will evoke and infuse its spiritual power into the disciple's energy distribution. If the meaning of the Great Invocation is "propelled forth" with focused intent, it will also keep the disciple's system of forces free of impediments.

As we work with others around the globe today to celebrate World Invocation Day, we recognise that we have in the Great Invocation a major tool of service in our hands. We can never complain that we are not in a position to participate to the full in the circulation of love to humanity. It is also a mantram that brings much joy and upliftment through its use, through the power of its meaning. Joy is the greatest of all indications that we are playing our part in the divine circulatory flow. Where there is joy there is meaning. Not a meaning describable in words but a state of right orientation to a higher purpose and a subsequent awareness of the waves of divine energy that are continually breaking on the edges of human consciousness, steadily awakening and preparing mankind for the glory to come. Just as the filament in a bulb provides the resistance essential to produce light, so does the purified personality offer positive resistance to this energy with the resulting emission of lighted joy. To the extent that joy is present in a person's life so is the soul. The extent that it colours and conditions all of our relationships reflects the extent to which we are actually living the Ageless Wisdom teachings and freeing ourselves from dependence on some outer shell of lifeless knowledge. Goodwill is spread throughout the world on the wings of joy and as we work together in meditation this afternoon, may it pour forth to humanity to bring support to those who are struggling in the darkness that ever precedes the revelation of meaning.

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