

From 1945 to 2021
Easter and the Spirit of Resurrection and Restoration
Easter Aries 2021 Full Moon, New York

Steve Nation

Good afternoon friends and welcome to this full moon meditation meeting. Today we are meeting an hour earlier than we usually meet on a weekend because the moon will be full in just over 45 minutes from now. And for the next two full moons you might like to make a note that we will be meeting at 1.30 pm EDT so that we can join a global broadcast from Lucis Trust in London for the Wesak and Christ Festivals.

The full moon is a time when the lighted qualities of a particular constellation, flowing through the living being that is the Sun, charge every unit of life on the planet – seen and unseen. From our perspective, the most notable result is that these energy flows condition and qualify the evolution and maturing of human consciousness.

The whole process of the working out of the destined future for the human kingdom, including the transformation of our creativity as a species, is understood from the perspective of the Wisdom teachings to be powered by the rhythmic radiation of energies pouring into humanity during the full moon. These energies, qualified by the constellations of the zodiac, flow from Shamballa and the Central Spiritual Sun, through the hierarchy of lighted beings, Saints, Masters and Rishis of the higher worlds; and pour into the subtle fields of human thought, planning, and emotions. And what is equally important is that they are accompanied by a concentrated invocative cry from the spiritually oriented people in the world. The door between the spiritual kingdom and the human kingdom is wide open at the full moon and we are gathered here in this ZOOM call, and in the alignment built by meditators from around the world, to work with the energies that flow through that open door.

The annual rhythm of the twelve full moons in a year rises to its peak during the three interlinked festivals of Aries, Taurus and Gemini, said in the Alice Bailey teachings to mark the beginning of a new spiritual year.

So here we are in 2021, in the first of the Three Spiritual Festivals, ready to inaugurate a fresh round of labour with the goal of assisting humanity in its passage towards an Aquarian culture and civilization. Many of us are familiar with the exercise of seeking to hold a point of tension for the five days of the full moon every month. Once a year we are called upon by the teachings to extend this point of tension over two months, covering three full moons. It is no coincidence that this occurs during the time when spring is in the air in the Northern hemisphere where almost 90% of the worlds people live. Just as seeds are germinating, sap is rising and leaves are sprouting; as birds are nesting and animals of all varieties are being born; so too do many human beings experience a fresh approach to life, and a new surge of will and creativity. Aries signifies beginnings, the start of a new cycle, spiritual impulses flow and fresh ideas are planted in the mind to take root and grow. The keynote which we will work with in the meditation is: “I come forth, and from the plane of mind, I rule”

Let us pause, and take a breath as we contemplate the awesome, fiery path that we and our fellow human beings are walking upon at this moment in history. Large numbers are oblivious to the fact that we are, individually and as nations, peoples, and a species on a path of spiritual development. Most do not see that we are collectively heading towards a destined future, approaching an alpha and omega point of turning and reorientation. Yet while the vast majority may be unaware that there is a spiritual meaning to our time – there is nothing new about this ignorance of what is happening spiritually – at least in the modern world. What is new is that there are ever-increasing numbers, perhaps more than at any time in recent centuries, who do today share a recognition that we are at a critical time, facing hugely significant possibilities for a major turning point in the ideas and thinking that condition our understandings of the worlds of spirit and soul and mind and heart. Intelligent thinkers, scientists and philosophers are re-assessing the relationship between soul and personality, and beginning to recognize the reality of the subtle causal energy bodies that underlie the outer form. This turning in our understanding of what is Real is transforming approaches to every area of life and relationship: psychology, religion, science, ecology and economics. Prophecies from different spiritual and esoteric traditions, including the ancient teachings of some indigenous communities, suggest that we are in process of passing into an era which will be characterized by a widely sensed spirit of the wholeness of life and consciousness, and a new intelligent awareness of the existence of spiritual realms within us and within all life.

So, as we pause, we might consider the community of those who recognize that the pandemic-laden experience of this time is part of a bigger process that is preparing human consciousness for an initiatory leap into a new era.

Can we take a moment to sit in the presence of the deep silence permeating the heart of God at this special moment as we approach the actual time of the Easter full moon? We can imagine the spiritual hierarchy, with the World Teacher, the Christ, at its centre standing perfectly poised; and in the Father's House, the central spiritual sun of Shamballa, behind the disc of golden light, we might sense an intensity of focused, quiet, peaceful, and above all radiant, will. We will follow this moment of silence with a sounding together of 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 disc of golden Light
That we may know the Truth
And do our whole duty
As we journey to Thy sacred feet.

In the light of this Aries full moon, we have a chance to glimpse the way in which forces of Light are throwing down challenges to the mind and heart of the human. From the plane of mind a new understanding and science of wholeness is emerging; and out of this understanding we will learn anew how to rule our presence in the world and how to claim our sacred sovereignty .

There is a fieriness to the energies released through Aries - a fieriness that can burn away ancient prejudices and habits of thought. Burning inevitably brings hurt, pain and suffering. Death is involved at some level. And in a pandemic, such as we have all been experiencing, death tends to be very much on our collective minds, forcing those who are ready to confront the instinctive human fear of death. I can only imagine that others, like me, are continually coming across articles, broadcasts and videos discussing the nature, meaning and significance of death and grief; all aimed to help people deal with this most ancient of archetypal fears. COVID has brought fresh impulse to the vast wave of programs helping people to understand death: the countless community-based death cafes; the workshops and discussion groups pioneered by hospices; the new medical disciplines around end-of-life care; the dedicated professionals helping people to grow spiritually through their experience of grief.

The universal perspective of the ancient wisdom, in almost all spiritual traditions, offers the clear understanding that the pain accompanying figurative death, is the pain that comes as ignorance and the core taint of selfishness, inherited from previous lives, are in process of being burnt away. Painful though it may be, this is a necessary part of spiritual growth and a sign of the maturing of the psyche, a necessary stage in the resurrection of an inner life.

We are at a critical time in our history where the soul and spirit must be at least sensed and recognized as an element of reality and a part of our nature. This must occur before the next turn in the road ahead can be taken, and the renewed focus on death is one of the signs that this is happening. The fiery nature of the first ray Martian energies of Aries help to make it possible for increasing numbers of free, thinking, alert and intelligent men and women to see, and be excited by, the human possibilities that arise when we begin to think and see from the universal perspective of the soul; moving past quick slogans and mantras of oneness to recognize something of the essential wholeness underlying all outer appearances of separation and division.

In March and April of 1945, leading up to Easter and the beginning of the three festivals, the Tibetan delivered two highly significant messages that seem especially pertinent for us now as we approach the coming months, after enduring a year of a pandemic with its accompanying disease, death, social distancing, lock-downs, and enormous economic distress and social disruption. Both 1945 messages are published in the book *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*. The first, delivered in March, is titled 'the Cycle of Conferences' and the second, on Easter Day, April 1st, 'An Easter Message' [beginning on page 445].

There are two comments I wanted to make about the timing of these 1945 messages, and what this might have to tell us about our current situation. First a very practical note about the full moon calendar. This year the full moon in Aries occurs on the same day as it did in 1945: March 28th. And in both years the following full moon, Wesak, takes place in April – a month earlier than the traditional observation of Wesak by Buddhists in many parts of the world. At the United Nations, for example, Vesak will be observed this year on the May full moon, May 26 – when we will be observing the Christ Festival. Part of the dynamics of the Three Spiritual Festivals, as presented by DK, is that they occur at peak times in the ceremonial and prayer life of humanity – symbolized by the Christian Easter and the Buddhist Wesak. Esotericists are advised to have in

mind the substantial ground of aspiration and prayer and inner focus that is to be found in the mind and heart of humanity during the period of these two major religious festivals. But in 1945 DK made it clear that his students were to observe Wesak during the Taurus full moon in April, even though most Buddhists would be observing it a month later, in Gemini. The same thing will happen this year.

One way of making sense of this is to consider the period of the Three Festivals as a whole, stretching from Aries to Gemini. During this entire period humanity's religious life is at a peak with a range of Spring festivals uniting believers in the various faiths including the Christian Easter; the Islamic Ramadan; the Hindu Holi; the Jewish Passover; and innumerable local religious and cultural festivals marking the coming of spring. These spring festivals include the Equinox festival now honored by the United Nations as the International Day of Nowruz and celebrated for thousands of years by over 300 million people from Iran, and throughout the Balkans, Caucuses and elsewhere marking the coming of the light and the coming of a new day. Like most religious festivals all of the Spring observances in the different traditions tend to be the object for deeper thought amongst a minority of observers, while for the majority the focus is on outer rituals and, often joyful celebration and partying.

With this in mind, we can approach the three festivals, each with their distinct note, as one extended period of group spiritual attentiveness – imagining if you like the whole group of esoteric meditators as being spiritually at attention, standing as a poised bridge between the New Group of World Servers and the community of wise and lighted beings on the inner side of life. The spirit of aspiration and faith emanating from vast numbers of religious people during all the Spring festivals are brought into a stronger mental focus by the more enlightened and intuitive thinkers at the heart of each religion and then esoteric meditators lift all this aspiration and lighted thought, bringing it to a point of a concentrated invocation to the forces of light.

The second point I wanted to make about the spring, 1945 messages from the Tibetan is that they were delivered at a time when an exhausted and traumatized humanity was preparing and planning for the post War era- just as today the world is preparing for a period of post COVID rebuilding. As the UN Secretary-General stated in his message for March 21st , “This year, the Nowruz spirit is more vital than ever.... As the world comes together to defeat COVID-19, Nowruz serves as an inspiration to recover and rebuild in a more just and durable way, in harmony with nature.”

And so, as we enter the beginning of a new spiritual year, we can look with fresh eyes at these two 1945 messages and consider what they might have to say about the opportunities and future possibilities of our time.

The first of the 1945 pieces deals with world events and the planning for a post-war world. While the vast population of the nations of the world were dreaming of a coming period of tranquility, the more thoughtful and intelligent people of every nation shared a determination and a ‘massed intent’ to build a postwar world of freedom and peace. Disciples recognized that the time called for a massive sacrifice of selfishness. And in this environment, as political leaders began to meet to plan the future world, the Hierarchy was described as acting “to strengthen the hands of Their

workers in every field of human activity ... so that they may take right action and correctly influence human thinking". An enlightening first ray force poured through key thinkers in government and national legislatures, affecting the "potency of their words, the wisdom of their planning, and the breadth of their thinking". The goal at the time was to offset the selfishness of the lesser minds in national legislatures and, where possible, to bring the international conferences planning the post war world "under the direct guidance ...of those in the Council Chamber of Shamballa Who *know* what is the Will of God." [p 446]

This focus came, as the Tibetan reminds us, with some risk, for the clash of minds so central to political life was also intensified by the overshadowing. Divine energy produces results "compatible with the quality and the intention" of the minds impacted. When goodwill is present, and the motives concern the good of the whole these qualities are strengthened by the incoming energies; and likewise, where the focus is on individual and national advantage over others these qualities will also be strengthened. For DK and the Hierarchy, the key need in 1945 was to strengthen political activity aiming to benefit the good of humanity as a whole.

DK comments that the San Francisco Conference, when the Charter of the United Nations was agreed, held during the period of the Taurus Wesak full Moon in 1945, was under "the direct influence of the Hierarchy". This created a "tremendous emotional and mental potency", requiring aspirants and disciples to "throw the weight of their spiritual development and the light of their souls on the side of the Forces which are attempting to plan for the good of humanity, and who regard the welfare of the whole as of greater importance than any national situation or demand." [450]

One of the key points in the message as we read it today is the Tibetan's recognition that the conferences planning the post war world would continue for some time. This has certainly been the case and those who participate in the Cycle of Conferences visualization work, projecting a seed of living will energy into the heart of the thoughtform under construction at major international conferences of our time, will be very much aware of these energies flowing now. The import for me of this March 1945 message, however, is to envisage all the national and international post coronavirus reconstruction plans that will hopefully soon get underway as marking something of a culmination of the post war 1945 plans. Sobered by the trauma of the coronavirus, and other hazards (including the climate extremes of recent years) there is now, as we move into the northern spring, a fresh opportunity to rebuild relations between nations in line with the vision of a sustainable, resilient and equitable future.

Although it does not refer to the breadth of post coronavirus plans under consideration at the various UN councils, a historical review just published in the blog, World Goodwill at the UN, outlines the way in which the vision for human development has matured at the UN since the 1970's and 80's, and provides evidence of the spirit of the Cycle of Conferences at work. The article demonstrates how, even though the effects of COVID will likely push significant numbers into extreme poverty, the sustainable development goals, developed and refined through the on-going cycle of international conferences, negotiations and popular consultations involving millions of people, has successfully established a set of norms reflecting the Four Freedoms that inspired

the 1945 planning. The article, **The Audacity of Change: A Specific Example of How the UN Can Still Make a Difference**, notes that the goals *remain a globally accepted set of aspirations that can guide countries to a sustainable, equitable future — even in the pandemic and in the recovery.*

So, as we enter into the alignment of this Easter Festival we might imagine the energies of Aries pouring into and through the people of goodwill and the units, networks and groups making up the New Group of World Servers – bringing a pulse of will energy into their work, and leading to a working out of the true spirit of goodwill and sharing that will transform every area of life.

The second 1945 message delivered on Easter Day, just after the Aries full moon, relates the theme of the earlier message to the twin themes of resurrection and restoration. The restoration theme is especially interesting because it is suggested that these are the energies needed before the more practical work of reconstructing can begin. The Great Invocation released in June 1945 calls for a flow of higher energies of Light and Love and Power to restore the Plan on earth. After the devastating years of the War the hierarchy envisaged that the greatest and most urgent need was to restore “morale and psychological health ... a wholesome and happier approach to life.” This is very reminiscent of the Spring energies with a popular sense of hope for the future.

And it is here that I think 1945 can speak so powerfully to us now in 2021, particularly as we stand before the year 2025 with its hierarchical conclave. DK speaks in this Easter Message of a great planned period of reconstruction following the War – but it is to be preceded by a healing, uplifting, refreshing, flow of life ... perhaps finding expression in the post-war baby boom.

Just as in 1945 these healing energies flowed to restore the spirit of the human; today we might expect a similar pouring in of fresh, Spring energies. Some of us have a tendency to look to the ideas at the heart of governance, economics and international relations for the signs of reconstruction at work, but it is essential to recognize that the deeper and more fundamental transformation envisaged by Hierarchy involved “a resurrection of humanity through the medium of its intelligentsia and men and women of goodwill”.

If there is one thing we need to ponder today, as we enter into the alignment of the Aries full moon, it is this thought: that restoration and resurrection of the spirit in the human and “in all forms in all kingdoms, is the objective of the entire evolutionary process.” For humanity, we are reminded, this resurrection involves “liberation from materialism and selfishness”. The meaning of Easter is to be found here. Working within the rhythm of the meditation outline, Letting in the Light, can we hold this thought. At a time when plans are beginning to be laid for the post-coronavirus reconstruction of economies, life-styles, relationships and even the way we use new technologies to plan conferences and envision what is possible in response to the challenges of our increasing interdependence ... let us throw the weight of our group focus on the side of the goodwill that already exists in abundance in the world. And in the light of Aries, with its fiery sense of will and purpose; can we recognize the quiet, peaceful will finding expression in every goodwill initiative in the world.