

Easter Festival – London – March 2016

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Good evening everyone and welcome to the festival of Aries which marks the start of the Three Spiritual Festivals of Easter, followed by Wesak and culminating in the Festival of Goodwill in the full moon of Gemini; a warm welcome also to the many friends and co-workers who are listening in on the internet via our website.

Aries is seen as the first sign of the zodiac, for it is the sign that the great wheel begins its cyclical turning; it marks the start of the cycle which carries out the purpose of the Life Force. We are told that 'Aries is also the purveyor to our solar system of Fire, Electric Fire, and of the dynamic nature of God which has in it the qualities of fostering and nourishing heat and also of the fire which burns and destroys'¹. It is therefore the zodiacal sign through which the first Ray of Will or Power reaches our planetary life and it is in Aries, at different points along the Path of Life that the soul is forced on to the burning ground and is subjected to a purifying process during its incarnation. The Old Commentary states, 'Through the lesser fire of mind, the "jungles of experience are set on fire and dissolve in flames and then the Path stands clear and unobstructed vision is achieved'².

It is through war and strife, brought to the individual through the influence of the planetary ruler, Mars, the God of War, that the needed purification takes place. The disciple on a higher turn of the spiral faces a greater intensity of purification, but this time it is through vision and through the activity of the subjective ruler of the planet Mercury, who is the illuminating principle which releases the mind and directs the disciple through life, enabling him to become aware of the divine Plan which underlies all his fiery experience.

It is through the fire of the mind that the personality is purified, the mind burns up those things in the lower nature of which it becomes increasingly aware. The hindrances and limitations of the personality become even more apparent as life is seen through the eyes of the soul, thus bringing further change and redemption of the vehicles of expression. When a link to the spiritual triad is in the process of creation there comes about another burning ground, for the light of the triad becomes focussed directly upon the personality via the antahkarana and not specifically through the soul and produces a blazing fire which burns up all hindrances in a steady, sequential process. In other words, the will aspect streams from the triad and focussing through the personal will destroys all elements of self-will.

It is through the fires of purification that the etheric body eventually becomes a vision of pure beauty, the colours clear and translucent, where all ugly, dark and cloudy colours have been destroyed. It is when the highest aspect of the personal self, the mental body, vibrates to the highest aspect of spirit that there will then be 'Symmetry of form, beauty

of colour, strength and the compactness of the diamond' and this, as stated in Patanjali's Sutras, constitutes bodily perfection³.

With this in mind let us now sound together the 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, focused 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.

A human being that has taken the highest of all the planetary initiations is termed, we are told, "the diamond-souled"—the man who can perfectly transmit the pure white light and yet, reflect equally all the colours of the rainbow⁴. In other words, he reflects the colours of the seven rays each related to an etheric centre, as well as being a synthesis of those colours.

Mercury, who governs Aries from the angle of the soul opens the way to illumination through bringing in the energy of the 4th ray, harmony through conflict. It is the combination of conflict and eventual harmony that is related to the strife that is associated with this sign. These characteristics are reinforced by the 1st ray of Will or Power and the 7th ray of Ceremonial Order. Aries is a sign of much endeavour and striving, it is a sign where intention and the will are developed, qualities of the first ray, and where the purifying fires of the mental plane transform, creating the order and ultimate perfection conveyed by the seventh ray and symbolised by the diamond.

In popular astrology, the diamond is the birthstone of Aries. Diamonds are created in the depths of the earth through intense heat and pressure, much like the perfected man who is created through the many burning experiences and pressures of life in the three worlds. The man enters the three worlds through the process of individualisation and gradually develops a steadily growing responsiveness to an expanding environment. Consciousness of his environment develops from being concerned only with the little self, to protecting those of his family, extending later to the community and his nation. Again later his consciousness develops beyond this to identification with humanity and

eventually with the One Life. He may go through this process slowly or fast, but his state of consciousness remains one of a developing reaction to his environment, as registered by his consciousness, and in which he, stage by stage, becomes an integrated factor. This integration into his environment, his absorption of its atmosphere and his potency in progression is all related to the fact that he is created to receive impression and that he possesses a mechanism of response to all the facets of the divine expression in manifestation. It is for this reason that the truly illumined man and all who have taken the three highest initiations are always referred to as "the diamond souled"; who in their totality constitute the "jewel in the lotus"—that twelve-petalled lotus which is the symbol and expression of the potency of the planetary Logos ⁵.

We are told, that man is a synthesis of the lower kingdoms and that similarly the diamond and other precious jewels are a synthesis of the mineral kingdom. Just as the lower world is threefold in nature so the mineral kingdom is divided into three parts, base metals, standard metals such as silver, gold and platinum and semi-precious stones and crystals. The fourth plane which is that of the soul containing within it the jewel in the lotus, relates to the precious stones of the mineral kingdom ⁶.

The human monad over the course of evolution will eventually reveal the diamond within and join the ranks of the diamond-souled. The correspondences of fire, heat and pressure in the evolution of the human being can be seen paralleling that in the mineral kingdom. Base metals correspond to the physical plane, that of dense consciousness and the first initiation. The standard metals correspond to the astral plane, that of self-consciousness and the second initiation. Semi-precious stones relate to the mental plane, that of radiant consciousness and the third initiation. The precious jewels, however, correspond to the egoic consciousness and achievement at the fourth initiation. It is the blazing forth of the fire of the diamond that eventually destroys the causal body ⁷. In Cosmic Fire we are told,

"When the jewel sparkles as does the diamond under the influence of the rays of the blazing sun, then the setting likewise gleams and rays forth light. As the diamond shines with increasing brilliance, the fire is generated which sets on fire that which held and enclosed." ⁸

The name *diamond* is derived from the ancient Greek *αδάμας* (*adámas*), which means "proper", "unalterable", "unbreakable", "untamed", it comes from *ἀ-*(a-), "un-" + *δαμάω* (*damáō*), "I overpower", "I tame", words associated with the first ray. It is the taming of the lower nature and its eventual over-powering that reveals the jewel in the lotus, that unbreakable and unalterable state of being to which disciples strive, the geometrical perfection of the seventh ray.

Most natural diamonds are formed at high temperature and pressure at depths of 140 to 190 Kilometres in the earth's mantle. Carbon-containing minerals provide the carbon

source and the growth occurs over periods from 1 to 3.3 billion years. Diamonds are brought close to the Earth's surface through deep volcanic eruptions. They are thought to have been first recognized and mined in India, where significant alluvial deposits of the stone could be found many centuries ago along its rivers. The most familiar uses of diamonds today are as gemstones used for adornment, a use which dates back into antiquity, and as industrial abrasives for cutting hard materials.

Interestingly, the world's second largest diamond was found in November of last year. The 1,111-carat stone was found in a mine in Botswana and is the largest find in more than a century. The largest is a 3,106-carat diamond found in South Africa in 1905. This has since been cut into nine separate stones, many of which are in the British Crown Jewels.

This latest diamond has yet to be evaluated, but it is believed to have the potential to be very expensive. In April a flawless **100-carat diamond was sold for \$22.1m (£14.8m)** at Sotheby's in New York. The gem, originally mined in South Africa, had taken more than a year to cut, polish and perfect.

Legend tells of the God of Mines who called his courtiers to bring together the entire world's known gems: Rubies, Sapphires, Emeralds, etc. He took one of each and crushed them; he compounded them together, and declared, "Let this be something that will combine the beauty of all." He spoke, and lo, the Diamond was born...pure as a dewdrop and invincible in hardness. Yet when its ray is resolved in the spectrum, it displays all the colours of the gems from which it was made⁹. It is easy to see the relation of this legend to the seven rays which emanate from the one source, the second ray. Or its relation to the rainbow bridge, the antahkarana, constituted of all the colours of the seven rays, the seven strands of energy, or seven streams of force. The disciple also uses all the seven rays, having gained facility in so doing because again and again his personality has through countless incarnations been on all the seven rays many times. When he is perfected, he radiates pure light which is a synthesis of all the other radiant lights¹⁰.

When we look up at the sky at night we are aware of the vastness of the universe and when we hear of the staggering distances that exist between the stars, suns and planets it makes it seem as though we are isolated, a separate entity, alone in a vast cosmos. We see our own planet and the other planetary bodies as points of light in a vast blackness. Yet, we are told, that what can now be seen in the organisation of a crystal, a jewel and a diamond, with their beauty of form, line and colour and their radiance and geometrical perfection, will appear likewise through the medium of the universe as a whole¹¹. This suggests that the whole universe is a massive diamond like structure, and in the empty space, the blackness there is in reality a myriad of colour and connecting energies.

The universe is tending towards this geometrical perfection and therefore, so is the planet earth. As the earth is not yet a sacred planet it could be surmised that it is actually a flaw, and maybe one of many, in this massive diamond universe. The process of redemption that is happening on earth will transform it from a flaw to a point of perfection and will contribute to the eventual flawless perfection of the whole. This redemption process is transforming the intersecting energies in the etheric body of the planet from a network of squares into a network of triangles, for it is triangles that increase the radiance of the diamond. As each human monad shifts his consciousness away from the square towards the triangle he transforms himself into a facet of the radiant whole.

These interlocking triangles of energy are seen at all levels of manifestation. For example, the entire zodiac is divided into fourfold groups of interlacing and interrelated triads, each conditioned by one of the basic elements, air, fire and water or identified as cardinal, fixed or mutable. Constant movement is inherent in the solar system which gives an idea of the intricacy of the entire pattern. The essential beauty of this coordinated and organised movement with its power to qualify and condition the entire universal pattern can be understood more easily if related to the various centres to be found in the etheric body of man. The etheric body has been described as a network of fine interlacing strands, permeated with fire, or as a web animated with golden light. The seven etheric centres are all inter-related and when awakened and alive are swept into the radius of each other's sphere of action. The centres are in reality those "crossing points" of energies where the etheric body possesses seven triangles or transformed points. From the point of view of living energy the circumference of these wheels or vortices of force becomes so enlarged that they eventually overlap and touch, presenting on a tiny scale a condition analogous to the contacting and interlocking series of triangles that exist within the universe¹².

It is in the final kingdom on earth, the solar kingdom, that all the etheric centres of the planet will be activated, and this we are told, is definitely related to the mineral kingdom. The solar kingdom, the seventh kingdom, will be the final and glorious consummation of the earth's evolution and will be brought about by the play of the seventh ray. It is through this ray that the Grand Geometrician of the universe works, a reality we are told, that the Masonic Fraternity has always known and a concept that has been perpetually symbolised in the great world cathedrals, which embody the glory of the mineral world¹³.

This diamond shaped formation of the inter-related energies is the prototypal pattern which lies behind the etheric network and is its final, conditioning influence as far as the earth is concerned. When this great work is consummated we shall see the Temple of God, the solar system, organised objectively and subjectively; its courts and holy places will then be accessible to the sons of men, who will work then without limitation and who will have free access to all its parts. The mineral kingdom is therefore the symbol

and the undertaking, the beginning and also the concrete expression, of divine purpose¹⁴.

The human monads when fused with the spiritual triad will be facets in this perfected diamond shaped structure of the earth, which exists within the infinite layers of greater and greater diamonds. It is perhaps to this that the Tibetan refers when he writes of the amazement that will befall those that have regained their etheric sight. The interconnected, multifaceted and multi-layered nature of the whole will be revealed and no longer will there be a sense of separation, of aloneness in the vastness of space.

Just as the diamond is the perfect exponent of the mineral kingdom, we have demonstrations of perfection by the great sons of God, like the Christ and the Buddha. It is the Christ whose resurrection we celebrate tonight, not as has been emphasized by the Church in terms of death and sacrifice, but in terms of the resurrection of the spirit in mankind; the resurrection of the livingness of the Christ nature in every human being where the use of the will brings about a living transfiguration of the lower nature. This is the "Way of Resurrection", the lighted Way which expresses the light of the intelligence, the radiant substance of true love, and the inflexible will which permits of no defeat or withdrawal.

References:

- 1 *Esoteric Astrology* pg. 95
- 2 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* pg. 96
- 3 *The Light of the Soul* pg. 349
- 4 *The Light of the Soul* pg. 350
- 5 *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle* pg. 91
- 6 *Esoteric Psychology I* pg. 230
- 7 *Esoteric Psychology I* pg. 230
- 8 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* pg. 1132
- 9 [Kunz, pp. 325-326] George Frederick Kunz, *The Curious Lore of Precious Stones* (New York: Dover Publications, 1971).
- 10 *The Rays and Initiations* pg. 505
- 11 *Esoteric Psychology* pg. 373
- 12 *Esoteric Astrology* pg. 419
- 13 *Esoteric Psychology* pg. 373
- 14 *Esoteric Psychology* pg. 373