

FULL MOON TALK GEMINI 2024
Christ's Festival – Festival of Humanity & Goodwill
London

I recognise my other self. And in the waning of that self, I grow and glow.

Mario Eugster

Hello friends,

A warm welcome to this full moon meditation in Gemini, and greetings to all of you here at the Lucis Trust Library in London and wherever you are in the world joining us online. We are gathering in the third of the major Full Moon Periods to celebrate the Christ's Festival which is also known as the Festival of Humanity and of Goodwill. Our shared purpose in coming together as a worldwide group lies in the enormous spiritual opportunity this Full Moon Period affords to disciples, spiritual aspirants and people of goodwill. Therefore we are joined together in the shared commitment and celebration of this spiritual group service.

The fact that this Festival is a celebration of Christ, of Goodwill and of Humanity is deeply meaningful. Being the third of the three major festivals, the Gemini Full Moon builds on and draws from the spiritual highpoints of Easter and Wesak, which are two of the great spiritual high points of the Eastern and Western hemispheres. The lives of the Christ and Buddha, as the two major world avatars, have continued to reverberate throughout the planetary history of humanity and continue to do so. Their spiritual presence and power at the centre of the Spiritual Hierarchy stands steadily behind humanity, laying their loving and compassionate hands on humanity's weary shoulders in these times of profound challenge, trial and spiritual opportunity. The Light and understanding of the Divine Will emanating from these Supreme Spiritual Beings is radiating throughout the planetary life, humanity and the kingdoms of nature. It is for the spiritual aspirants, disciples and world servers to enter into a conscious dialogue with these Spiritual Sources and thereby receive, anchor and transmit the spiritual energies to a world in need. Thus, infused with the synthesis of the energies of Easter and Wesak, the Festival of Humanity avails the Group of World Servers and all people of goodwill with the needed atmosphere to kindle the fires of the Heart of Humanity and infuse the mental life of humanity with Divine Light.

We can visualize the deep spiritual cooperation between Christ and the Buddha as they are bringing their exalted spiritual lives into a living synthesis and unified Spiritual Purpose. The work towards a higher spiritual synthesis is hinted at in the keynote of Gemini, which illumines the path for the disciple: "I recognize my other self, and in the waning of that self I grow and glow". This phrase goes to the heart of the mystery of duality as a dynamic relationship between two poles which allow for conscious creation and revelation of synthesis.

It is well known that Gemini is associated with duality which is depicted in the symbol of the twin. In Greek and Roman mythology this found expression in the two mythic twin half-brothers Castor and Pollux. They were sons of Leda but with two different fathers, Castor having a mortal father, whilst Pollux was the divine son of Zeus. The symbology of the divine-human and mortal-immortal duality of humanity is beautifully expressed in the star constellation of Gemini. The two brightest stars are named after these two mythic characters, the brighter star being Pollux. These two stars can be seen in the night sky in the Northern Hemisphere, even in cities such as London. One might also wonder whether the recent heightened solar activity which brought us the wonderful display of Northern Lights across so many countries has energized the potencies of Gemini energies.

The intensity of solar activity seems to be mirrored in the increasing intensity of planetary life. Therefore, it seems fitting to spiritually honour the Solar Life in a brief period of silence, followed by the Gayatri and the Sacred Word:

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.**

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In the recent wonderful book *"Gemini and the Sacred"*, Kimberley Patton, the author and editor explains that the Gemini constellation is composed of eighty-five visible stars and paints the following heavenly scene, which we can imagine creatively:

"Pollux is the brightest. It is a giant star of orange hue, thirty four light-years from Earth, with an orbiting extrasolar planet. The blue-white Castor, second brightest, is a system of six stars, fifty two light-years away. [...] On March 8, 2021, as the coronavirus washed the globe in death and the fear of death, the orbiting Hubble Telescope sent back a photo, which NASA called "a beautiful stellar nursery located in the constellation of Gemini. At the centre....., a massive star is forming and blasting cavities through the clouds with a pair of powerful jets, extending to the top right and bottom of the image. Light from this star is mostly escaping and reaching us by illuminating these cavities like a lighthouse piercing through the storm clouds."

This is a wonderful and evocative image of a celestial event, described by NASA during a time of planetary crises and suffering. The description and the images, still available on the NASA website, stimulate the sense of imagination and awe. For the esotericist this can be approached as a pointer to the spiritual qualities of Gemini which are expressive of the dynamic relationship between two points of Light – the light of the personality and the Light of the Soul. The personality of Humanity is at present engulfed by storm clouds and visualizing the dynamic interplay of Light between Castor and Pollux acting "like a lighthouse piercing through the storm clouds" is highly evocative.

The duality experienced between personality and Soul and the swings between the pair of opposites are a most familiar experience for aspirants and disciples treading the Path. From an initial reading of the keynote, the phrase can be interpreted as the personality being the 'small other self' giving way to the growing and glowing Light of the Soul or the Higher Self. Many religious traditions have conceptualized this in terms of the higher and lower nature of humanity. And when the dualistic notion has been emphasised at the expense of a deeper unity, the sense of separation tended to treat or even condemn the lower nature to associations with the unholy, impure nature that needed to be denied. But let's consider the keynote again in relation to the two stars of Pollux and Castor as symbols for two points of Light.

The spiritual qualities of Gemini invite us to explore the dynamic interplay between dual forces and energies within fields of relationships both in the subjective and objective realms of experiences.

Indeed, the terms inner and outer, or objective and subjective point to duality which flows from the more fundamental polarity necessary for form life. This polarity manifests itself in the rhythmic nature of life, the pulse of ebb and flow, the in and out breath, the heartbeat or the poles underlying the phenomena of magnetism and electricity. In all these fundamental polarities, such as the positive and negative poles in electricity, we find that both poles are simultaneously distinct and intrinsically intertwined and essentially one – electricity only flows when both poles are present and in relationship with each other. Likewise we could say no inbreath without outbreath as symbolized in the most familiar symbol of yin-and-yang.

However, in the course of the natural differentiation of human individuality and the development of the lower mind, dualistic perception tended to move into separation which can lead to a sense of profound antagonism and what we might call arrested polarization. Spiritually this results in separation between body, mind, Soul and Spirit, accompanied by many versions of denial or antagonisms. One could say some religious traditions tended to antagonize or deny the body or even material life in general, whilst some materialistic notions tend to antagonize or deny any sense of the “spiritual” or the Soul. Extreme positions might even suggest that all non-material and intangible phenomena such as value are mere socially constructed illusions and reduce reality and life to pure mechanisms and machine-like materiality. Both appear to mirror each other, and form one of the many polarizations in contemporary cultural, religious and philosophical discourses.

One of these polarizations is the debate between religion and atheism which appears to coincide and underly the many conflicts and polarizations in current societies and their political, economic and cultural discourses. These very often result in breakdown of communication and dialogue, presenting us with a key challenge, not least politically, to address the urgent crises and pressing world problems.

Could the energies of Gemini aid in illuminating and addressing these issues?

The Tibetan reminds us that:

“This sign is sometimes called the “constellation of the resolution of duality into a fluid synthesis”. Governing as it does all the pairs of opposites in the zodiac, it preserves the magnetic interplay between them, keeping them fluid in their relations, in order eventually to facilitate their transmutation into unity, for the two must finally become the One.” (Esoteric Astrology, p. 347).

Given that Gemini is concerned with duality and is also strongly associated with the theme of communication, perhaps it can indeed offer some illumination. Calling for dialogue is nothing radically new and can perhaps even become a meaningless platitude in the face of intense human conflicts. But Gemini might ask us to take a closer look. What does dialogue mean? The origins of the word from the Greek “dialogos” are found in “dias” which means “across or between” and “legein” which means “to speak”. Thus, dialogue could be understood as speaking or communicating across or in between, pointing to the space in between different or opposing positions. This ‘space between’ might be the key to the ‘fluid synthesis’ and the ‘magnetic interplay’ between dual poles. From an esoteric angle, the ‘space between’ refers to the space of stillness or silence between in and out breath, or higher and lower interludes in meditation, which of course we will work with later. In human communication this is the space between positions articulated in words, tones and gestures. The space in-between is the space of listening in silence. True and deep listening, as we know, implies a temporary release, or sacrifice if you will, from internal commenting and opining. Practically, this means listening with full Soul Presence, from the stillness in the heart and mind, without formulating a counterargument or thinking how to respond – just listening.

Opening our eyes and ears to the work of the New Group of World Servers we can be certain to find examples demonstrating this dialogical quality. A more recent development in mental health care called “Open Dialogue” founded originally in Finland, uses the therapeutic power of dialogical practice, particularly, but not exclusively for people affected by psychosis. This approach works with dialogue and a polyphony of voices to create shared realities and meaning, working with networks in families and communities and thus activating resources for healing and growth. Large scale studies are currently being conducted on this in the UK.

Another notable, yet controversial example demonstrating a dialogical approach in philosophy and cultural and political discourses is the Hegelian philosopher Slavoj Zizek, who describes himself as a moderate, conservative communist. Zizek is rooted in the German idealist philosophy of Hegel and in psychoanalysis and adds a lively and stimulating, and at times very provocative, voice to the current cultural, political and philosophical debates. He exhibits an uncanny skill to defy rigid polarizations and refuses to be boxed into a stereotypical corner, which becomes very apparent in describing himself as a Christian Atheist. Indeed, his most recent book is called “Christian Atheism – How to be a real materialist”. In the introduction to this book he raises some intriguing questions in response to a priest from Rome called Raffaele Nogaro:

“Raffaele Nogaro [...] claimed that Jesus is the “New Man” who loves everyone without distinction of person, whatever his culture, his colour of skin, his religion or the depth of his atheism – everyone is asked by Jesus the same question: “Who do you say that I am?” Note that for Nogaro, Christ is not a figure of authority telling people what they are: he is asking them about what they are saying that He is. And one should not take this as a cheap rhetorical trick in the sense of “I know who I am, the son of God, I just want to check if you know this.” Christ is aware that, in some way, his very existence is at stake not only in what and how people are talking about him, but above all in how they act (or don’t act) in society. Each of us has to give a reply to Jesus’ question from one’s existential depth, and then enact this reply.” (Zizek, p. 20-21)

We might of course argue with Zizek’s atheism and materialism, which appears complex and ambiguous. But let’s also remember the visionary approach Alice Bailey took in her lectures on “Consciousness of the Atom”, suggesting that “Realism or Materialism” is a “perfectly legitimate method of solution” but for us it is incomplete and suggests that the “three standpoints – the frankly materialistic, the purely supernatural, and the idealistic” are partial truths and should be “synthesised, blended and unified”, which speaks wonderfully to the dialogical position between different viewpoints (*The Consciousness of the Atom*, p. 15). To return to Zizek, his methods of questioning and deep inquiry exemplify dialogical practice which startles the lower the mind and has a dispelling and unsettling effect on mental fixations, including in spiritual and philosophical domains. We don’t have to agree with Zizek, as a matter of fact he often invites disagreement in public discourses. And from an esoteric and spiritual point of view we will have plenty to disagree with. Nevertheless, this dialectic questioning can propel us into a deeper examination of spiritual and religious ideas, terms and concepts which we sometimes assume to know and understand. However, it is the political and cultural zeitgeist in which Zizek seems to be most potent in his service on the mental plane. In these areas, his way of challenging and questioning softens the stereotypical and crystallized thoughtforms and emotional identifications with fixed positions, which so often lead humanity down the path of near or full breakdown in communication between political, religious and cultural groups. By politically defying the pull towards left and right, he weaves philosophical arguments in the “between” spaces, thus achieving in his own way a Gemini-like “fluid synthesis” in the realm of philosophy, which unsurprisingly also echoes aspects of the dialectic principle in Hegel’s philosophy.

Another beautiful example from literature illustrating this dialogical principle we can find it Goethe, the German poet, novelist, and natural philosopher. In one of his more revolutionary series of poems called the 'West Eastern Divan' he weaves elements from oriental and occidental traditions into a beautiful synthesis and brings his own voice into an imaginary dialogue with the Persian poet Hafiz. In a recent bilingual edition, Eric Ormsby points out what he calls the doubleness of the West-Eastern Divan, referring to one of the symbols used by Goethe: the "Ginkgo Biloba", the 'tree from the East'. The shape of the leaf of the Ginkgo Biloba symbolizes a Gemini-like "doubleness-in-one".

Returning to present times, the just mentioned work has inspired the name of the revolutionary "West-Eastern Divan Orchestra" founded in 1999 by the Argentinian-Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim and the Palestinian-American academic Edward Said. The orchestra is composed of musicians across the Middle East and Spain, including from Egyptian, Iranian, Israeli, Palestinian and Syrian backgrounds. The orchestra is performing world-wide, including in the BBC Proms this year, and Barenboim wrote the following in an article called "Our Message Must be Stronger Than Ever", which was published in many newspapers a few months ago:

"In the current situation, we naturally ask ourselves about the significance of our joint work in both the orchestra and the academy. It may seem little - but the mere fact that Arab and Israeli musicians share a podium at every concert and make music together, that is of immense value to us. Over the years, through this commonality of music-making, but also through our countless, sometimes heated discussions, we have learned to better understand the supposed other, to approach them and to find common ground in our humanity and in music." (Barenboim, D. "Our Message Must be Stronger Than Ever", October 2023).

This shining example demonstrates the power of music in cultivating dialogue and deep listening and creating the fluid synthesis in the spirit of Gemini. The fruits of this deep work are now shared in performances around the world. In midst of the current darkness and turmoil, numerous examples around the world demonstrate the Spirit of Humanity in all areas of human life. May we draw courage, strength and inspiration from such shining examples in the world. May we join hands within the Group of World Servers and cultivate the loving fire of dialogue in our daily lives and serve in meditation in cooperation with the Spiritual Hierarchy, the World Avatars and the Coming One.

Before we go into meditation, let's lift our gaze once again upwards to the stars, in keeping with our dual, yet unified stance. The Tibetan reminds us that "the love of Deity reaches our solar system primarily through Gemini", which forms with the Great Bear and the Pleiades a great cosmic triangle: the golden triangle of the cosmic Christ. The following passage from an Old Commentary can inspire us to lift the inner eye towards heaven, whilst standing firmly on the sacred ground of Earth, awakening the inner spiritual eye - our "inner, esoteric Hubble telescope" - to visualize and realize how our planetary Life on earth is embedded within a greater cosmic Life:

"Upon the golden triangle, the cosmic Christ appeared; His head in Gemini, one foot upon the field of the Seven Fathers and the other planted in the field of the Seven Mothers. Thus for aeons, the Great One Stood, His consciousness in-turned, aware of three but not of four. Intent, with suddenness, He heard a sound go forth....arousing to that cry, he stretched himself, reached forth both arms in understanding love, and lo, the Cross was formed. He heard the cry of the Mother, of the Seeker, and of the submerged Fish. Then, lo, the Cross of change appeared, though Gemini remained the head, This is the mystery".

(Esoteric Astrology, p.349/350)

Let us meditate now.

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