

Festival of Leo, London, August 2019

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Sensitivity to Impression

Good evening everyone, including those who are tuning into the live broadcast via our website. Tonight, we are taking part in the Leo Festival meeting where the full moon occurs tomorrow afternoon at 13. 29 BST. The soul keynote for Leo is *I am That and That am I*.

In the sign of Leo, the individual awakens to his own identity, develops a sense of purpose, faintly at first, without knowing its source, learns the lessons and uses of selfishness and eventually becomes aware of the futility of self-interest. Through long experience over many lifetimes, having gone through conflict and crisis, the disciple eventually comes to understand the reasons why self-interest must give way to service to the greater good of all; it is an experience that applies to groups and nations not just individuals.

The personality keynote for Leo is “Let other forms exist. I rule because I am” – words which apply to the integrated personality who is ruled by Leo. “Me and Mine” sum up the self-centered subject in Leo, a description that applies to groups and nations as well as individuals, for example, the current focus on nationalism and populism in contrast to the spirit of internationalism which stands at the heart of the United Nations and has led to International Treaties, Agreements and Conventions. These Conventions and Treaties under international law are evidence of the awakening soul of humanity but as with the individual experience there is ever a swinging back and forth between the soul and personality - between inclusiveness and separatism.

There are therefore mixed motives in all peoples and nations, there is light and darkness. The Forces of Light find their adherents and their workers in every nation though some are subjected to greater handicaps in expression than others. The Forces of Materialism are also at work and in between these two great groups stand the masses—awaiting the emergence of fresh opportunity and new revelations.

Through the evolutionary process there lies a better future for humanity, achieved by striving to higher possibilities, inevitably through strain, stress and toil, pain and suffering and, at times, joy and inspiration. The light of the soul expressed through sensitive people working for the good of the whole overcomes personality self-interest, not diminishing the individual sense of self but enriching the collective thought form that shapes the future. Thus, the sense of separateness of the form nature gives way to the inclusiveness of the soul – a process expressed in the words of *The Affirmation of the Disciple* which we will now say together, after pausing for reflection:

*"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, focussed 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."*

We live in uncertain times - times of change, individually, nationally, internationally and planetary. Yet, in standing back and observing the broad sweep of history with an open mind and loving heart, it becomes clear that things never stand still for long - change is always on the horizon and today it is accelerating due to the energies and forces at play as Aquarian influences make their mark. Humanity is approaching a pivotal point in terms of consciousness with a convergence of the personality and soul keynotes of Leo. Whilst there is much self-assertion and selfishness at this time there is also a great deal of selflessness too, through so many local and global service initiatives. Taking a world view, we can see evidence of soul sensitivity and group sensitivity emerging in human consciousness, sensitivity which is a distinctive quality that develops under the influence of Leo.

A study of history reveals many remarkable periods in the evolution of humanity such as the civilisations and cultures of ancient India, Sumeria, Egypt, and China. In the mists of time there are civilisations that have faded from the memory only to remain in myth and legend. In more recent times, the West has been dominant with the rule of the Church giving way to an age of science, technology and information. This has proved a mixed blessing with the development of amazing technological inventions alongside deadly and horrific weapons. Now, the pendulum is swinging back to the East. The human mind can turn its ingenuity towards the light or towards materialism and whilst there are many reasons to be pessimistic, there is also cause for optimism. For example, in recent years there has been a definite shift in awareness of the need for humans to nurture and care for our planetary home and its delicate ecosystems. This is surely evidence of an expanding consciousness which has, for example, enabled humanity to observe the planet from space through advanced technology. Inspiring and informative educational programmes such as *Earth from Space* and *Planet Earth* are helping humanity to become more reflective of our place in the greater scheme of things.

The Observer of life and events sees wars and conflict, inequality and poverty, exploitation and greed and selfishness, but also many service initiatives with people coming together and pooling their resources, at local and global levels. Seeing the world through rose coloured glasses is not helpful but in the midst of a 24-hour news culture, much of which is negative, we should try and develop a sense of perspective and not overlook this amazing expansion of service. As stated in the Ageless Wisdom teachings, the heart of humanity is sound and is being expressed through ideas and practical service that are in tune with the New Age.

It has of course taken a long time in human terms to get where we are today, and challenges continue to pile up with serious global problems that confront us all. Globalisation would seem to have brought things to what has been called a tipping point and, from an esoteric perspective, the underlying energies and forces at work, which condition outer events, have brought humanity face to face with crucial decisions that will determine future progress. In this time of populism and nationalism, the paradox is that the United Nations, as a world forum for discussion and action, is more needed than ever before.

Global communications have brought many challenging issues out into the public domain, for example, climate change, pollution, renewable energy, refugees, inequality, human rights, to name but a few. Although there is increased awareness of there being one world, especially through images of our beautiful planet from space, there is resistance to the application of the principle of oneness and unity being put into practice. Yet, in a time of pivotal change this is to be expected as the personality resists the higher energies of the soul.

Returning to sensitivity we're told it is "the whole story and function of Leo and its influences" ¹. and in this regard let us think of the rapidly changing relationship between humanity and the lower kingdoms with, for example, conservation programmes and care for animals and the environment, and especially The UN Sustainable Development Goals agreed by world leaders. These and other developments can be considered as being due to the developing sensitivity of the soul.

In the book *Esoteric Astrology* ² four stages of sensitivity are discussed:

Firstly, there is sensitivity to conditioning impacts from the environment through the response apparatus of the soul – the threefold personality – the physical/etheric, the astral nature and the lower mind – the intellect.

Secondly there is sensitivity to the will wishes and desires of the personality, the integrated self-conscious man – the lower self.

Thirdly there is sensitivity to the soul as the conditioning factor

And, finally, there is the spiritual sensitivity of the soul infused personality to the environment. This is the stage of sensitivity to the divine plan and purpose and sensitivity to higher impacts - the liberated man not conditioned by his environment.

In everyday life sensitivity often has negative connotations - such as irritability, hypersensitivity and hurt feelings, although there are many instances of selfless love and compassion. The sensitivity of the soul, transmitted through the receptive personality, can be compared to that of a radio or television receiver which must be tuned into the right frequency or wavelength in order to receive the desired programme. From an esoteric perspective, the human mechanism can tune into and receive many different impressions - consciously and unconsciously.

There are people who are sensitive to the energies of the mountains, forests and oceans, especially the indigenous peoples. Also, animals and humans have a kind of telepathic sensitivity, according to Rupert Sheldrake, and as explained in *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle* by Alice Bailey "the entire human family is today an amazing receiver of impressions..." ³. And for those who tune into the higher plane of the mind through meditation there are impressions from higher sources registering truth, light and quality. Meditation need not be formal - it can be concentrated and one-pointed thought in any creative field. Considering humanity as an entity we're told that the human kingdom, whose function in the scheme of things is to mediate between the higher and lower kingdoms, is "the subject of much divine impression, conveying the Purpose of Sanat Kumara". ⁴

From a deeply esoteric perspective, in relation to spiritual sensitivity, there is an interesting exposition in Esoteric Astrology, where the Tibetan writes through Alice Bailey:

I want you to have this innate spiritual sensitivity and this outer material sensitivity most carefully in mind if you want truly to understand the influences of Leo upon human beings and especially upon the person born in this sign or who has this sign rising, as well as its influences upon the planet. Throughout the universe, it is the soul which is the conscious, sensitive theme of the divine plan ...[the soul within all forms of life and the]... soul as the ego or spiritual soul on its own plane [is] the source of consciousness as far as the three worlds of evolution are concerned, and the goal of all present evolutionary processes. 5.

How then does sensitivity arise and how may it be applied to daily life? Again, the book *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, comes to our aid, where we read that “the medium through which the thought currents or impressions...must pass to make an impact on the human brain is the planetary etheric body. 6 The etheric body makes all relationships possible and is the medium of all instinctual reactions and for the sensitive human being, who has a developed mind, there is the possibility of telepathic contact and impression. This presupposes that impressions and ideas from the higher planes can be tapped into by the sensitive and receptive human mind, although we’re told that the reason why true telepathic contact is rare is that few people think with clarity or create concise and powerful thought forms or, if they do, they are not directed towards their intended objective: However. it’s said that:

When a man is a disciple and deliberately seeks to be impressed by his soul, by the Master or by the Spiritual Triad, the task of the impressing agent is relatively simple; all the disciple has to do is to develop right receptivity, plus an intuitive intelligence which will enable him to make correct interpretations, and to recognise also the source of the communication or impression. 7

The New Group of World Servers, the forerunner of Aquarian principles, are sensitive to the impression of new more spiritual ideas. Whilst sensitivity to impression may be a step too far for the materialist, who views the brain as the source of consciousness, sensitivity may still occur without there being conscious awareness of its source. The esoteric tradition holds that the brain is simply a receiving instrument for the mind – which, in its three aspects, includes the intellect, the soul and the higher or abstract mind – the latter responding to intuitive impressions which are eventually given form. In this regard it is interesting to consider that Nikola Tesla, that extraordinary inventor, engineer and futurist, said in his Autobiography, of his insight that became the basis for the alternating current electrical system:

"The idea came like a flash of lightning, and in an instant the truth was revealed. I drew with a stick on the sand the diagrams shown six years later in my address before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers." (From Intuition in Service <http://www.intuition-in-service.org/intuitionQuotations.cfm?subject=6>)

The New Group of World Servers, working on the mental plane using the higher aspect of mind, can respond to the world of ideas which are defined as “channels for new and desired divine energies...” 8 The New Group have an inner nucleus and outer group, both are needed and constitute a link in the chain of connectivity between the world of souls and the human kingdom. The lighted thought of the New Group of World Servers forms a

magnetic aura around the planet “...on which the highest impressions can play” 9
attracting spiritual ideas and concepts which can be brought down to earth.

Finally, to concentrate the mind as to the purpose of Life on our small planet, we are reminded by the Tibetan that:

...consciousness itself, which is the goal—on this planet—of all the evolutionary process, is simply the demonstrated result of the Science of Contact. It is likewise the goal in some form or other and at some stage or other of all planetary existences within the solar system itself. The unfoldment of this conscious response is, in reality, the growth of the sensitive awareness of the planetary Logos HIMSELF.... Step by step, the forms of life upon the physical plane, down through the ages, have unfolded one sense after another; one form of sensitive response after another becomes possible as the mechanism is produced, until the human being can receive impressions from the physical plane and rightly interpret them; can respond to the emotional contacts of the astral plane and succumb to them or surmount them; and can become telepathic to the world of the mental plane, thus sharing—physically, emotionally and mentally—in the life and contacts of the three worlds which constitute his environment and in which he is submerged whilst in incarnation... 10

Hence the relevance of our work at the time of the full moon where the alignment and interplay which is set up by all who serve to channel spiritual energies is truly a Science of Contact. All individuals and groups who are working together subjectively at this time are radiating the influences of Leo into human consciousness thus strengthening the link between humanity and the spiritual kingdom.

1. *Esoteric Astrology* p. 294
2. *Ibid* pp 294-5
3. *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle* p. 82
4. *Ibid* p. 86
5. *Esoteric Astrology* p. 295
6. *Telepathy* p 114
7. *Ibid* p 115
8. *Discipleship in the New Age* Vol. II p. 170
9. *Telepathy* p 61
10. *Ibid* pp 54-5