

In the world but not of it
The Festival of Humanity, June 16, 2019

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Welcome everyone to this Gemini Full Moon Festival. It's wonderful to join together with all of you here today, with those online, as well as with the groups large and small throughout the world who are participating in this final phase of the higher interlude period of the spiritual year.

Tomorrow, the day of safe-guarding, the day of the full moon itself, is being celebrated globally as World Invocation Day -- a time when we are asked to hold as much as possible to an inner silence and to sound the Great Invocation.

For during the full moon cycle we have the opportunity to tune in more easily to our soul which in turn is in tune with all souls and with the inner ashrams. As we synchronize the vibration of our personality with this clearer note of the soul we become as the Buddha's followers were called, "the stream enterers." And it is that stream of love divine which underlies all the harshness and chaos of this world of outer seeming.

The exact time of the full moon occurs tomorrow at 4:30 am and so, if possible, at that time let us link together for a period of meditative silence, followed by the sounding forth of the Great Invocation.

These three Spiritual Festivals of the Aries, Taurus and Gemini full moons could really be considered as one event--an event that brings into relationship the three primary planetary centers -- Shamballa, Hierarchy and Humanity, visualizing each Festival as a sphere representing one of these planetary centers and seeing them merging, intermingling--working together. This blending reaches its crescendo each year at the time of the three days of the Gemini full moon--each day surely representing each of the Festivals,

So let's now take a moment of silence followed by the sounding of the Gayatri, one of the oldest prayers in the world.

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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Spiritual groups along all the many lines hold as their primary responsibility the building of bridges between the inner and outer worlds. Our work is, therefore, primarily subjective, releasing, lifting and aiding all those who struggle under the weight of this transition period and lack the inner vision. Our task is to bring them the light.

This Gemini Festival is not only the Festival which celebrates humanity but also the Festival of the World Teacher, the God-man, the first member of the human kingdom to have achieved the goal of divinity--sometimes called the first flower upon the human plant.

It's said that no one within the long history of the human race had ever achieved the goal of spiritual liberation as quickly as He. But due to the conditions within our planet the times are now ripe for a more rapid evolutionary development and it's said that many members of humanity are now rapidly moving forward and preparing for initiation. In the ageless wisdom teachings we read, the present time is "astrologically...propitious" and from "...the planetary angle, great and momentous events are imminent, as the planetary Logos is taking a cosmic initiation...(Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II, p. 426)".

There are, therefore, quite a few flowers beginning to open on the human plant and many buds forming as well. It is said we are approaching a broad time of flowering, for the Solar Angels are preparing for another great influx of energy into humanity, one which will turn ordinary human beings into spiritual beings.

This transition into a new state of consciousness can be facilitated through the use of invocation, which until now has been a largely untapped potential. Human beings have regularly turned to prayer and meditation during times of crisis in their own lives but not enough effort has been placed upon the use of invocation for the solving of global problems, particularly by groups large and small. But as we move into the new age, groups large and small will work together, aligning their efforts to coincide with the full and new moons periods, as well as the solstice and equinox points.

During the time of the Second World War humanity did achieve a united, invocative focus that drew upon the support of the spiritual Hierarchy. This solidarity that occurred through the war was brought home to us during last week's commemorations for the 75th anniversary of D-day in which we remembered the sacrifice and victory of the Allied forces on the beaches of Normandy which liberated France from the Nazi threat.

It was touching to see and listen to the veterans who are now in their 90s speaking of the privilege and pride, the courage and utter terror and the true brotherhood they felt as they fought on the beaches, in the air and upon the sea. Looking on at the scenes and hearing the stories of that time was so inspiring -- to remember how readily people expressed the spirit of sacrifice and surrender to a cause greater than themselves.

Ninety-four year old Len Fox, from Norwich UK took part in the ceremonies. He said: "being here for the anniversary is my way of paying back a little to my comrades who didn't make it.

I wasn't a hero, I was a frightened 19-year-old. They were the brave heroes. We were all comrades together and that's what carried us through." So many of the veterans remembered that time as the high point of their lives and so it surely was. They were the physical plane outposts of a great battle that was being fought out between the Forces of Light and the forces of materialism. Those individuals who were battling on the front lines of the war were supported and strengthened by the many people at home who were holding them and the war in their minds and hearts--using prayer and invocation to strengthen and support them.

During the war there was an added effort that coordinated this invocative appeal. It was called the Silent Minute and was started by a British man, Tudor Pole. The idea behind this Silent Minute was initially conceived during a conversation he had with another soldier on the eve of a battle in the mountains around Jerusalem during the First World War. The soldier told Tudor Pole that he knew he would not survive the battle and prophesied the coming of an even greater conflict in the years ahead. He urged his comrade to provide an opportunity for him, and millions like him, to assist from the "other side". He said: "lend us a moment... each day and through your silence give us an opportunity. The power of silence is greater than you know."

So as the Second World War materialized, Tudor Pole remembered this request and started a movement wherein each night at 9 pm people throughout the UK paused for a minute of silence to provide support and spiritual strength not only from those joining in around the country but also from those who had passed over to the other side. Years later a German officer said that the Allied Forces had a secret weapon that helped turn the tide of events in the war and that weapon, he said, was this Silent Minute.

This year as many of you know we are celebrating the Festival Week of the New Group of World servers and there is an effort being made to begin the week with a moment of silence on the day of the winter solstice, December 21st, at 9 pm GMT. And all men and women of goodwill throughout the world are asked to join in at that time. And hopefully as we move through these final year before 2025 humanity will increasingly come to cooperate with the Forces of Light, at set times and conditions, to allow the soul of humanity come to fuller expression in the life of the planet.

World Invocation Day gives power to the so-called powerless people of the world. For it is the voice of the people that can and will and is changing the world. This awakening among humanity to its potential to affect change is the greatest movement in planetary history because it is not localized but rather extends to all parts of the planet

Everywhere people are seeking alternatives to the established order of things and calling for the implementation of change in all aspects of our planetary life. These changes are becoming possible because humanity is learning to live intentionally. Intentional living is defined as "that unbreakable, immovable determination that a situation shall be handled, that what is needed in order to release humanity assuredly must appear" (*The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 273). As we forge these new ways of living and being under the impress of intentionality, we're

learning to work together as a symphony and no longer as solo artists. The solo artist might receive more acclaim and glory by demonstrating his or her virtuosity. For it is through the symphony, through the intricate combination of the many notes and tones, that the real release of spiritual and healing energies becomes possible.

At the full moon we are carrying out a dual work. Simultaneously we are learning to focus an inner sphere of tension while at the same time being focused in a sphere of activity in the three worlds through which the work and service is carried out. The spiritual stimulation generated through this effort can then be effectively applied by those who learn to stand collectively, in concert with the inner ashrams, and then release the generated energies upon the massed groupings of people living in the major cities of the world, most importantly within the five planetary inlets of London, Darjeeling, New York, Geneva, and Tokyo.

We can participate in this work as we appropriate the counsel which Christ gave to his disciples in his last public teaching 2,000 years ago. In that teaching he asked them to "be in the world but not of the world". Today those who have dedicated themselves to the spiritual life, do not live sequestered away in the monasteries and retreat centers. Instead, they live in the midst of all of the chaos of the world but, within that midst, they are learning the art of isolated unity and drawing upon the collective strength of the inner centers. Through this means the channel remains open.

We are asked to work at the task of releasing the light that is to be found in the magnetised areas of the planet, as well as cleansing those places that are in need of light. Some years ago it was suggested by Mary Bailey that at the close of the sounding of the Great Invocation we visualize a white five-pointed star hovering over the area of the Middle East. With the present tension in the region it might be useful for us to implement that strategy again at this time.

So as we approach the exact moment of the full moon -- in a little over 12 hours, we can turn our attention to the World Teacher and each in our own way, seek to make contact with Him, to support Him, and in concert with all others throughout the world, release the energy that pours in as He sends out His blessing to the world.

Let us ponder the example that He holds out to us, for He surely embodies the soul of the planet, the Light of the World. He stands at the center of the whole energy structure within the planet--the central point, the communicating life, between all planes and states of consciousness. So at this time let us also stand at that center, within that heart of love and, in concert with all true servers, irradiate the worlds with the energies that are being released at this time.
