

Reflecting on the Angels

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Tonight we are celebrating the Christ's Festival in Gemini and the culmination of the higher interlude of the spiritual year. Since 1952 the day of the Gemini full moon is also celebrated as World Invocation Day when a focus is placed on the Great Invocation to empower humanity's subconscious appeal for the return of a World Saviour. This full moon is also known as the Festival of Humanity for it celebrates the nascent Christ principle that flickers in every human heart – and it always falls in the sign of Gemini whose “force...produces the changes needed for the evolution of the Christ consciousness at any particular point in time and space.”

So let's begin by taking a few minutes for reflection on the nature of the Christ consciousness, and gather in energy before saying the Great Invocation together.

*From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.*

*From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to Earth.*

*From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men—
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.*

*From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.*

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth

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On the subject of the reappearance of the Christ, the Alice Bailey writings hold that “when He comes Whom angels and men await, and Whose work it is to inaugurate the new age and so complete the work He began in Palestine two thousand years ago, He will bring with Him some of the great Angels, as well as certain of the Masters. The angels have ever been active in Biblical history, and will again enter into the lives of human beings with more power than has lately been the case. The call has gone out for them again to approach humanity, and with their heightened vibration and superior knowledge unite their forces with those of the Christ and His disciples for the helping of the race.”¹

It's quite challenging to think through how angels fit into an industrialized, technologically driven world, inhabited by computers, rapid communication networks, satellites and space telescopes – where scientific understanding of the nature of reality is based on quantum physics, and the search for other forms of life is directed to other planets and star systems. So how do the angels of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, along with their eastern counterparts – the devas in Hinduism and Buddhism, fit into the framework of the natural sciences? In popular culture, angels are often depicted playing harps, blowing trumpets prior to important events and announcements, or singing songs of praise to God – none of which sits easily with scientific laws as presently understood. Nevertheless, in the mystery of electricity, a bridge between the religious and scientific worldviews may be found, along with the future promise of exciting new paradigms in human consciousness.

The A.A.B writings describe the angels or devas as “flaming fire, radiant electric matter,” stating that “it is absolutely essential that students bear in mind here that we are studying the mystery of electricity.”² They go on to say that the greater devas or angels are the positive aspect of electrical phenomena while the lesser lives are the negative aspect, and it is “their interaction and interplay which produces Light, or the manifested solar system.” And while we are all familiar with the wild, destructive power of electricity as demonstrated in lightning strikes and other types of electric discharges, the Tibetan informed us that electricity also has a coordinating, integrating power that scientists would shortly discover. This building power not only gives rise to all the diverse forms seen throughout nature and the cosmos, but also sustains the life within them during their cycle of manifested existence.

Bearing all this in mind and thinking of the angelic or deva kingdoms in terms of electricity, it may be that the writings of some of the great religious thinkers of the past will hold new meaning for us. For instance, the Roman Catholic Saint, Thomas Aquinas, wrote about the Angels’ relationship to space, postulating that the Angel can, in certain respects, be present at a physical location by directing its power towards it – a non-physical being which through its power has contact with a physical thing, holds it and is not held by it. Therefore, it is said that the Angel resides at a physical location as upholder, not as one upheld. The Angel is not circumscribed by space, but encompasses it.³

The power of these greater Angels to hold and configure an area of space and all that is within it, is quite possible to interpret in electrical terms. A case in point is the account of the prophet Mohammad being tightly squeezed by the Angel Gabriel a number of times prior to receiving the first revelation of what would eventually become the Koran.^{4 5} While scholars generally interpret this as a warning to the Prophet that he was about to be given a huge task and “heavy words were going to be revealed upon Him,” another perspective might be that Mohammad was electrically charged and aligned by the archangel Gabriel to bring him into a state of resonance with the frequency of truth that was about to be transmitted to him. From this perspective, the “heavy embrace” of Gabriel is redolent of the gripping power of electricity. This is the capacity of electricity to induce muscular contraction as documented in those instances when a shock to the arm causes the hand to involuntarily grip the current source, or, in the case of a more powerful shock, causes most of the muscles in the body to contract at once sending the victim flying across the room.

We can understand then, why contact with the angels is safest on buddhic levels where the human and angelic kingdoms naturally resonate to the frequency of one another. This still requires the cultivation of a high level of purity in the personality sheaths as was demonstrated in the ascetic lifestyles of the great mystics of the past; but more than this, it requires training in rational, philosophical thinking in order to correctly interpret these contacts and relate them to the mundane world. The Persian sage, Suhrawardi, embraced the spirit of this approach in his School of Illuminationism, which translates as “Wisdom of the Rising Light.” This is a beautiful description of the disciple’s journey in consciousness towards the buddhic plane wherein the intuition has full sway. Suhrawardi described this state of consciousness as “knowledge through presence;” from an electrical perspective we might term it “live knowledge” – direct apprehension in the higher, electric fields of the Logoic body.

Suhrawardi taught that every soul exists in the angelic realm before descending into the “dungeon of the body;” and we might equate this with the teaching on the Solar Angel in the Alice Bailey writings. Indeed, the principle of self-consciousness that defines a human being is bestowed on him by this great Angel. In turn, the human being is destined to become one himself and, “in some distant cycle to do for the humanity of that age what the solar Pitris [solar Angels] have done for him, and make their self-conscious expression a possibility.”⁶ This gift of self-consciousness

from the Angelic Kingdom is symbolically recounted in one of Suhrawardi's stories – “The Sound of Gabriel's Wing” – wherein the right wing of Gabriel is pure light and points towards the WORD of God, while the left wing points downward and has dark spots on it from which human spirits are created. When questioned, the storyteller also comments: “Most of the things your senses perceive come from the sound of Gabriel's wing... You are one of the sounds of Gabriel's wing.”⁷

This story might be related to the predicted discovery of the integrating power of electricity as wielded by the angelic kingdom to order and assemble forms of all kinds. As we discussed a few years back at a Lucis Trust webinar entitled “Humanity and the New Fire”, scientists working on the SAFIRE experiment have accrued overwhelming evidence that the universe conforms to very different building laws than currently thought, and ‘circulation and transformation’ lies at their heart.

The film maker Ben Ged Low, who is documenting the progress of this project relates the experiment to an audio phenomenon he discovered, writing:

“I spent decades of my life in recording studios, producing music. Before the advent of synthesized sounds there was a trick we used to do: we would put a brick on the sustain pedal of a grand piano, open the top of the piano, and then with a flute play a single note across the open strings. The strings would start to resonate in sympathy, harmonics would appear... and we would get chord-like washes of sound. Unexpected, unpredictable, absolutely beautiful. And interestingly, we could soon reproduce these sounds predictably, over and over again.”

Relating this to his present observations in the SAFIRE laboratory he writes:

“We hovered around the bell jar, Monty, Yano and I. Monty and Yano were adjusting a number of parameters – the chamber pressure, voltage, current and type of gas. The chamber was dark. The anode was just a chunk of iron. Nothing was happening. Suddenly, in an instant, the whole thing came alive and we were staring at this marvellous pulsing ball of light. In a few moments it was stable and continuous. Monty's eyes were dancing between the anode and the readouts from the different measuring devices – the electromagnetic and radio frequencies of the plasma. He suddenly exclaimed in surprise, and with a hint of awe in his voice: ‘There's a rhythm. It's like a heartbeat!’ Then, a few moments later he added: ‘It's like the universe is singing.’”⁸

This beautiful account of the experiment contains elements of the “Sound of Gabriel's Wing”, or the “Reverberations of Gabriel's Wing” as one scholar has interpreted it.⁹ It points to how all acts of creation in the universe take place through resonances in an electric field. With the connection between electricity and the angelic kingdom held in mind, we can recall the rush of excitation that can be felt in the etheric body when experiencing a lightning storm, and imagine this on a higher turn of the spiral – the rush of energy, the vitalization of the aura that is felt when coming into contact with the higher lives of the angelic kingdom. Dora Van Gelder Kunz – a former president of the Theosophical Society in America summarizes this well in the following words:

“If we could only realize that we live in a world crowded with fairies, angels, and all manner of beings, it would make an immense difference in our attitude and our mode of living. The mere belief that such a world exists should delight us, the knowledge and certainty would follow in due course. We ourselves would become much more alive, for it is impossible to get into touch with that world, which thrills with the sense of being alive, without ourselves catching the same spirit and our own creative energy being awakened.”¹⁰

It is this reimagination of the world that needs to take place to provide the context for the reappearance of the Christ – the “Teacher alike of angels and of men.” Last December, the Lucis Trust held a webinar on the theme “Awakening to the Angels” in which we approached the subject

from many differing angles and perspectives and thought through how humanity might become more open to the energy of the angels. And it's clear that what is really needed as a medium of communication is Love. A new expression of love is required for today's intelligent public, and perhaps, in an era where dynamic, electromagnetic forces are revolutionising the way human beings interact with one another, the expression of the Christ principle will take on an appropriate orientation; one that appeals to mentally focused people everywhere as well as world youth engrossed with electronic media and the high octave energy of popular culture. A dynamic is required that can orient the highly charged etheric body of humanity to a completely new understanding of love on mental levels, without the distortions of the astral plane.

The influence of Gemini fits well into this scenario as it relates the Christ principle to the etheric body, driving the evolving relationship between the two forward in time and space. The Love-Wisdom that pours through Gemini is adapted by the Spiritual Hierarchy on the buddhic plane, which is sometimes referred to as the plane of violet. From here the adapted energies are precipitated onto the etheric levels of the physical plane which are also characterised by a violet light due to their close association with the Buddhist realm. Because Gemini's energy is so closely tied to the Christ principle and is descending through the violet planes, the violet angels or devas are predicted to become especially active when the Christ Himself appears. Their activities will include:

Teaching humanity to see etherically, by heightening human vibration by interaction with their own.

Instruction in the...efficiency of violet light in lessening human ills.

Demonstrate the fact that the super-conscious world exists and that angels and men who are out of incarnation can be contacted and known.

Teach humanity how rightly to feed the human body by drawing nourishment from the surrounding ethers.

Concentrate man's attention upon the etheric body so that the work and health of the physical body will become increasingly automatic.

Teach humanity to expand consciousness to include the super-physical so that the separating web (the veil of the temple) which divides the physical plane from the unseen world will eventually be destroyed. The date is said to be imminent.¹¹

With all this planned activity by the violet devas, it's not surprising that even now violet light is playing a significant role in human enterprise. The place of violet in the spectrum is of prime importance in connection with the greater cycles, and marks the end of one cycle and the beginning of another. For this reason ultraviolet light has been instrumental in the inauguration of this new cycle of the information age, shifting humanity's use of force from the material levels of the physical plane to the etheric; and if we take this as a symbol or portent of the times, we might conclude that the preparations for the reappearance are well underway already.

Our role as esoteric servers in this great preparatory work is to intensify our ability to think in the light. Esotericism is not only as the science of 'thinking in the light' – but in many respects, of 'thinking with the Angels.'

In a text from the eighteenth-century anthology of spiritual texts from the Eastern Orthodox church known as the *Philokalia*, Evagrius Ponticus, distinguishes between thinking of the things of the world with and without desire, and further elaborates it in terms of the differences between

angelic, diabolical* and human awareness. The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams summarizes it in the following way:

“Angelic thought searches for the spiritual *logoi* within what is perceived; diabolical thought proposes to the perceiving self the acquisition of what is perceived; and human thought simply registers the *morphe psile*, the simple form, that is there to be perceived. As such, it is neither acquisitive nor contemplative. Where angelic knowledge grasps the symbolic significance of things and how all external phenomena have something to convey from God to the nous, [mind] and where diabolical knowledge seeks to use the things perceived for gratification, human *logismos* [‘a process of reflecting’] is primitively just the receiving of an intelligible form... True knowledge, so this implies, is the receptivity of human *logismos* instructed and enlarged by angelic...

If we are genuinely able to see ‘humanly’, to allow the simple contact of the knowing subject and the ‘simple form’, we may also be free to see ‘angelically’; but the fragility of our capacity to know truly is there from the start, so that the innate freedom to grow from human to angelic perception is in no way automatic; we may be lured into a thinking that is ‘sub-human’. The defensive/aggressive spirit in us will always be present, pushing us towards the refusal of the simple *logoi* in themselves that prevents genuine gnosis. Or...it may equally be the acquisitive spirit that distorts and diabolizes our relation with what we encounter...

...what is given/acquired in the state of ‘graced’ knowledge, ‘angelic’ thinking, is a habit of perceiving the world that is irreducibly linked with ethical practice... It is ‘angelic’ because its rationale is really liturgical: it exists in the ‘now’ of work conducted worshipfully and worship conceived as intense and creative work.”¹²

Bearing in mind that ‘liturgy’ means the form or rites for public religious worship, this last paragraph adds much to our understanding of service facilitated through the seventh ray of ceremony and ritual. As we learn to think with the angels and prepare for the reappearance of the Christ, may each one of us experience the beautiful message that Gemini holds for the disciple: *I recognise my other self and in the waning of that self I grow and glow.*

1. A.A. Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 508
2. A.A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 612
3. Ref: Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, First Part, 1.52.1 *Of the Angels in Relation to Place.*
4. Darul Ifta Birmingham, Institute of Islamic Jurisprudence *Why did Angel Jibreel Squeeze the Prophet Mohammed.*
5. Islamweb.net: *First revealed verses of Ouran*
6. A.A. Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 836
7. Ref: Mohammed Rustom, *Story-Telling as Philosophical Pedagogy: The Case of Suhrawardī*
8. Ben Ged Low, *SAFIRE: A Filmmaker’s Observations*
9. Mohammed Rustom, *Story-Telling as Philosophical Pedagogy: The Case of Suhrawardī*
10. Dora Van Gelder Kunz, *The Real World of Fairies*, p. 13 Kindle edition
11. Ref: A.A. Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, pp 508-9
12. Rowan Williams, *Looking East in Winter*, pp. 69-70 & 276 Kindle edition