

The Boundary: the Guiding Light

The Festival of Leo, July 26, 2018

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A warm welcome to you all here today and also to all who are joining in online. As you know, we are working tonight with the energies of Leo, the fifth sign of the zodiac, symbolized by the lion, an animal that conveys strength and courage. These are qualities we could all use as we work through this difficult transition period

Together with groups large and small throughout the world the monthly full moon opportunity provides an opportunity when we can penetrate into the subjective realities. At this time we radiate the energies of light and love to the planet, each one playing his or her part in helping to shift consciousness towards the light.

This work is composed of people of all nationalities, in all parts of the world. And this work, undertaken by seed groups throughout the world, is going to become an essential aspect of the coming Aquarian age.

A passage from our sister teaching, the Agni Yoga teachings, could be said to encapsulate or find resonance with the work that we do at the time of the full moon:; "The benevolent thinker is surrounded by a rainbow, and through his light brings healing." We can extend this concept from an individual benevolent thinker creating a rainbow within consciousness, to a large group of people throughout the world creating a global web of rainbows releasing healing and blessings into our world.

These energies underlying this full moon period are heightened by the fact that this is one of the major eclipses of the year. And so the time period following upon the eclipse is also overshadowed by the potency or electrical stimulation that an eclipse always brings. To ancient peoples the eclipses were always approached with a certain measure of caution and a need for protection. They were thought to be times of battle between the forces of light and the forces of darkness.

Esoterically we can understand eclipses as a time for us to appropriate the influx of the spiritual will and to use it to penetrate into higher realms of consciousness than that which is normally open to us--and particularly in the sign of Leo which in and of itself is aligned with the will. We can use this energy of the first ray in support of the forces of light for we know that these energies can be appropriated also by individuals and groups who work along the lines of the materialistic forces in our world.

So let us now take a moment of silence and sound together one of the most ancient prayers in the possession of humanity, from the Vedic tradition, the Gayatri--a prayer which has such a profound resonance with the themes of Leo:

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 disk 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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The Gayatri is an homage to the sun itself and the sun is of course a great symbol of Leo. The sun has always been viewed with reverence by ancient peoples who lived in tune with the cycles of nature and thereby divided the day into three parts governed by the cycles of the sun. These were considered times of opportunity for alignment and for drawing strength from this great power source--at sunrise, noon and sunset. It was a time to make a sacred offering or a visualization. Dawn, the most sacred moment naturally corresponds with the spirit or first aspect and the Tibetan suggested to one of his students that he use this time to visualize a rose-colored lotus, emitting light engulfing himself and his co-workers. At noon the soul or middle principle is honored and a yellow colored lotus can be seen. Then, at the sunset hour the third aspect or the personality is highlighted and the Tibetan suggested visualizing a deep electric blue lotus with a yellow sun at the center. And so if we can accustom ourselves, in our busy lives to take a moment at those times to silently link up with divinity, we are placing our vehicles within the cycles of nature which correspond with the cycles of the soul.

The goal of all life within our solar system is concerned with the unfoldment of consciousness. This is of course related to Leo's triple rulership by the sun-- and its qualities of radiation, of giving forth life through love and light and the consequent expansion and illumination that become possible. as a result.

One of Leo's keynotes is simply "the light of the soul." This is also the goal for all those who are taking up the long journey of the path of return. But for many lives this light is hidden by the many constricting veils of maya, glamour and illusion that hold us in their grip and prevent us from seeing the light that is everywhere around us. There is a passage from a scripture in the ancient Upanishads which beautifully expresses how powerful these surrounding veils are and how easy it is for us to succumb to their control and as a result fail to recognize the inner divinity hidden beneath the ordinary aspects of the daily life. "As one not knowing that a golden treasure lies buried beneath his feet may walk over it again and again, yet never find it, so all beings live every moment in the city of Brahman, yet never find him because of the veil of illusion by which he is concealed" (Chondogya 8.3.2)."

Another similar teaching is that which states that the Great One's placed the kingdom of God or of heaven within us because they knew that that was the very last place that we would look for

it and so it would be safe and protected until we reach the stage within consciousness when we begin to move within.

This eternal quest for the light was also the aim of the alchemists of old, who were sometimes depicted as miners who used picks and shovels to dig into the earth in search of the precious metal of the sun, the inner gold, crystallized sunlight. To the alchemists gold was seen as the symbol of the richness of the inner gift whereas the base metals represented the lower desire nature.

As we become more skilled at this mining work, at this digging for the hidden gold, it's said that all the many riches and resources accrued over all the many lives can begin to be tapped and drawn upon in the present life because they will no longer be used for selfish purposes. And this is an idea that is conveyed in the Yoga Sutras of Patanjali which state that when an individual has overcome the allure of the personal self that "all jewels can be his" because he has retained a position of detachment in relation to them.

As progress on the path is made the inner sun, the spark within the form, begins to merge with the soul on its own plane, resulting eventually in a blaze of glory as the individual becomes a son of Light. It is this growth of light that confers the transformations or expansions of consciousness that allow for the entry into the world of significant realities to become possible.

The individual then moves from personality integration after all the many long cycle of lives and on into the illumination by the soul, followed by the subsequent merging of soul and personality with the spirit. These stages are the three suns which symbolize the sign of Leo. The personality sun corresponds to the physical sun, the soul corresponds to the heart of the sun, and finally the monad corresponds to the central spiritual sun. And these transformations are powerfully illustrated in this seed thought for meditation:

When that which rises over the horizon, the boundary, becomes the guiding light, the Path runs clear from the highest to the lowest and, lo, the three are one.

In other words the disciple takes his stand upon the firm foundation of his radiant sun which is that of the personality and then within that sun's expanding light he sees another sun rising over the horizon. This second sun appears to him a goal. Then, eventually, the second sun obliterates the first and the personality becomes only a shell, a vehicle for the radiation of the soul's energies. And, when these two suns blend and merge, a third is seen.

The pronounced individuality that the influence of Leo can confer, when it's devoid of the soul's light, can lead to an undue sense of separation. Decentralisation is, therefore, one of the lessons needed at the stage of the evolutionary path i—a stage in which many individuals today find themselves, that of the integrated, powerful personality. Decentralisation involves the hard-one recognition that the world does not revolve around us, that we are not the center of our universe and that we are instead all part of the unifying field of the planetary etheric body.

A similar process of decentralisation is also going on on a planetary scale. Due to the amazing developments within the realm of space scientists and advances within technology such as high-powered telescopes and our astronomical computation systems, humanity's conception of the universe has expanded tremendously.

The excitement over the discovery of a lake on Mars has fueled scientists' expectancy that there could be life on that planet. And while this is encouraging on the one hand, it also illustrates how far we have to go in another process of needed decentralization as we move towards the recognition that the entire universe is in fact teeming with life already. Surely one day we will come to view our planet as part of this collective of stars, galaxies and untold suns, all floating within the vast sea of a great Being known as space. This is the teaching conveyed through esoteric astrology, that our world exists within worlds that extend we're told to include ten dimensions of reality.

This transformative journey of the triple suns that rule in Leo begins with alignment, with the ability to bring about a fusion within the lower three vehicles whereby they can be focused and held steady and become illumined eventually by the light of the soul through an application to a life of meditation. Each day then brings this influence of the sun, the soul, directly to bear upon the personality and this is transformative. In ancient times this daily discipline of bringing in the daily light was compared to the coloring of a white cloth with a daily dose of the golden dye of the soul. And then, eventually, as the practice was maintained and strengthened, that white cloth eventually becomes a permanent and beautiful golden color.

This alignment with the soul eventually leads to the freeing of ourselves from the half-light, from the fogs and mists created by the rising sun. This process, which occurs at different turns upon the spiral of the path of return is sometimes known as the burning ground experience, which Leo rules.

The burning ground is the place of the purificatory fires, the fires needed to prepare the instrument to carry out the work. At a certain point upon this path pain no longer forms a detriment as the way of fire begins to call us with fierce appeal. Then, the other side, that which exists beyond the veil, begins to be recognized as our true home. Then it's said that naught in our being seeks the way of peace; naught in us yearns for earth. And if we are truly brave we exclaim, "Let the fire rage, the flames devour, let all the dross be burnt. And let me enter through that gate and tread the way of fire." But these words should not be said lightly. For these fires are real and exact their toll on those aspects of the personality life which no longer serve the purposes of the soul. These fiery energies burn away the dross, they purify by pain and challenges that rise up to confront the seeker on the way. But when they are faced and gone through, they confer a wider horizon within the mind so that the inner light can shine forth more radiantly and the lower vehicles can be enabled to handle the higher vibratory influences.

This mantram can deepen our understanding of this burning ground experience. It says, "The purpose of my soul must show itself through burning. That which obstructs and hinders must disappear before the power of God. That power am I. I, therefore, tread the Way unto the Burning Ground. There hindrances disappear."

We can imagine the effects of the third burning ground experience which surely exacts a heavy toll upon the personality but in its stead the clear-cold light shines forth. Then the false light of the personality no longer holds any allure to the group--for all initiations are group initiations. That personality now stands as nothing more than a purified shell, through which the light and radiance, the quality and characteristics of the Angel can shine.

Hence the tremendous potency of Leo that arise as a result of the concentrated burning influences of the triple sun. Ultimately these expansions conferred through the burning ground lead us into ever widening points of synthetic understanding of our place within the vastness of the Garment of God in our journey from the I consciousness, to the We consciousness, and eventually, at some distant time, to the eventual experience of the Oneness of Being.
