

## *Service through Radiation*

The Festival of Leo – New York, August 14, 2019

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Greetings and welcome to this full moon meditation when we are aligning with the energies and potencies pouring into humanity and the earth through the Being that is the Sun – that great burning fire of hot plasma at the center of the solar system. Our alignment is with the energies pouring through the sun, conditioned by the constellation Leo.

It is quite something to ponder the role that the sun plays in the physical life of Earth. It is our major source of light, energy and heat, fueling life on Earth. For the small but growing number of scientists associated with the Thunderbolts Project who are pioneering the Electric Universe theory the sun is regarded as an electrically powered star; the “focus of a cosmic electric discharge”. <https://www.thunderbolts.info> ; <https://www.electricuniverse.info/> .

During the full moon the sun’s emanations are at a peak because, in the evening hours when part of the earth is in darkness, sunlight is reflected off the moon, producing an entrancing twilight effect. So, it is not difficult to imagine that energies radiating from the sun and via the sun are significantly enhanced and intensified for the five days of the full moon cycle.

Metaphysical thinkers throughout the ages have always considered the sun to be a living being, the Solar Logos, with its own magnificent consciousness. The electrical discharge produced by the physical sun is, from this perspective, seen as an expression, a radiation, of the livingness of this being. The names given in esoteric literature to the different levels of the sun’s consciousness help to guide our imagination so that we can better think from this perspective. The solar logos is said to consist of three great cosmic centres associated with the three levels of the being that is the Sun: the ‘physical Sun’; the subjective sun, which we might think of as the Egoic sun, referred to as the ‘heart of the Sun’, and the ‘central spiritual Sun’ which can be thought of as the essence of the Sun – dynamic, pure fire.

Radiation is commonly regarded as a physical phenomenon. One dictionary definition from the field of physics speaks of radiation as: *the complete process in which energy is emitted by one body, transmitted through an intervening medium or space, and absorbed by another body*. Yet as anyone involved in esoteric work understands, just as energy follows thought, radiation also follows thought. A concentrated and focused state of consciousness emits or radiates energy. One of the primary functions of esoteric work is service through radiation – where the quality of alignment between mind and soul and spirit enables the server to radiate the lighted loving energies of divinity into the mental and emotional environment in which human beings operate. Esoteric training (in all esoteric traditions) aims to develop increasing skill and refinement in this process of service through radiation. And organized group activities such as Triangles and the full moon meditation work we will be performing this evening, draw upon the resources of a group of minds, sharing a common purpose, to invoke and radiate energies of the Higher worlds so that these energies may be absorbed by the New Group of World Servers and by the vast networks of goodwill which characterize humanity. The energies radiated evoke

lighted thought and activity from all who are working for the good the beautiful and the true in humanity. The mental and emotional environment in which human beings live out their lives is affected by these radiations in ways that we will probably never truly understand during our time in incarnation. We have no idea what the world would be like if it were not for the radiatory work of the World Esoteric Group down the ages.

One way of pondering the impact of the radiation of collective thinking is to consider the effect of the superficiality and shallow 'littleness' of what is still the dominant material, consumer-oriented understanding of psyche, economics and society of our time. Imagine the devastating effects that the radiation of this base level of thought (what might be thought of as a collective state of depression) has, not only on human development, but equally significantly on the other kingdoms of nature. A contemporary Indian writer, Shakti Maira has written of this, asking his readers to consider the impact that the absence of joy in modern human consciousness, has on the *aesthetic delight* of plants and animals. He uses a telling phrase, referring to the absence of joy in human consciousness and the general state of depression as a *desertification of delight*. This thought of the impact our collective depression has on plants and animals is a clear sign of the negative effects of the radiation of thought.

In esoteric work the object is to develop skills to concentrate and potentize positive joyful radiations, with the goal of empowering the soul in humanity, thereby strengthening the human will to raise the quality of relationships, so that they may be more imbued with love, compassion, wisdom and a will-to-good; and so that they may contribute to and enhance the overall level of the aesthetic delight experienced by human beings.

For our work this evening we will be considering the radiatory emanations of Leo and the vast network of starry world relationships and associations that combine to create the Leo influence. During the five days of the full moon these radiations are passing through the fiery lens of the Sun and streaming into the psyche of humanity.

Can we pause for a moment to identify with the group mind of all who are meditating for world service at this time; a field of mind that is quiet, focused, and flooded with the Light of the Ashram. And then let's reach out to link with fellow servers in the esoteric group, with the Group of World Servers, and with all the people of goodwill in the world, in all their varying degrees of concentrated goodness as we sound together the 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.

If the comments in the book *Esoteric Astrology* are anything to go by the energies of Leo will provoke, or rather are provoking, a defining crisis in the transition into Aquarius. This is because Leo governs the sense of self, and because Aquarius is the polar opposite of Leo. A good part of the story of the development of modern consciousness is the rising Leo sense of individuality and self-assertion. But an equally important, and in the long term more significant, part of the story is the transformation of the sense of the separated self into the sense of the universal Self. It is clear that in the issues of this time in history the two aspects of Leo are facing each other – apparently in stark contrast. Those who have a preoccupation with the needs and desires and fears of the separated self, stand in opposition to those who are pre-occupied with the well-being of the whole. The tension between the two is palpable – even if the way forward, the middle way, is sometimes not so easy to discern.

Yet we can also see that this tension only concerns the two extreme poles of human development. The vast numbers of people are somewhere in the middle, neither totally preoccupied with their own personal or family needs and desires nor absorbed in concern about the well-being of the whole. This is where we see the potential for development as wisdom gradually grows out of the experience of living in a polarized world.

Leo achieves its consummation, the peak of its spiritual potential, as ‘service to the self’ transits into ‘service to the Whole’. The Lion who Roars is transiting into the lion who lies down with the lamb. One way of understanding this crisis of transition is to think in terms of a battlefield between forces of materialism and forces of light. However, while it is a very real way of visualizing the current state of affairs in the world, the image of a battle between light and dark tends to emphasize winners and losers and can mask the subtleties of the transition process itself. The lion’s transformation involves the purification of consciousness that is taking place as the multitudes of people of goodwill are provoked to deepen their understanding of their own lives and of the policies and programs they believe will truly benefit all people (and not just their own ethnic group, or their own economic class, or even their own nation). A slow process is underway through history of clarifying a sense of a possible future that will work for the benefit of all and not just a few – regardless of ideologies, marketing claims and political spin.

Ever since the end of the World War the problems of separateness: race, religion, economics, men and women, children and education have been the subject of debate, negotiation, conflict and division. Progress has been made and the quest for societies that enhance human rights and provide opportunities for the exercise of human responsibilities has moved through cycles of obvious progress together with cycles when little seems to be happening – even though the deeper transformation of consciousness has continued out of the spotlight. In 2015 there was a stunning agreement of governments of the world to a shared vision of future possibilities ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ – laid out in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are now fueling activities in every nation as efforts are underway to move towards the goals by the year 2030. Although this process is taking place largely outside of the daily news cycle, it is having a profound effect on development plans at

every level of governance throughout the world – cities, counties, states and nations are changing policies in response to the vision posed by the 17 Goals. And people of goodwill in popular movements as well in every profession are organizing energies around the goals. Nothing like this has ever been seen in human affairs.

The crisis of the times, and the processes of responding to the vision of sustainable, regenerative development reflects the fact that the sense of self is reforming and realigning. This is not something that is happening through one symbolic event or action, but rather through a series of choices and judgements that are leading the psyche to become invocative to the higher, more Real Self. Part of this can be seen in debates about nationhood. There is a tendency to view all aspects of national identification as inherently separative and in opposition to a growing sense of global citizenship. But this is not necessarily the case. National conversations about identity and place in the world are a fundamental part of the maturing of a nation. Even though we think of this period as a time when globalization is the central dynamic in international affairs – the reality is that globalization forces nations to deepen their sense of self. It really challenges ideas of nationhood and national self-interest. The divided nation becomes increasingly divided under the intensity of globalization (just think of the tensions created by national debates about refugees and migration).

Leo directs our focus to national identity and to the challenges of a nation becoming secure and at ease with itself – including its divisions, conflicts and tensions. Before a people can look out to the greater whole with a measure of freedom from fear, pride, and self-centered-ness there needs to be some stability and integration in the national psyche. A true global spirit can only emerge when nations have, at least to some degree, dealt with their glammers and illusions, so that they can stand secure in who they are and freely share the gifts they have to bring to the whole.

The Old Commentary uses the language of symbol to speak of the transformation of self that is what Leo is all about:

*The Lion begins to roar. He rushes forth and, in his urge to live, he wields destruction. And then again he roars and — rushing to the stream of life — drinks deep. Then, having drunk, the magic of the waters works. He stands transformed. The Lion disappears and he who bears the water pot stands forth and starts upon his mission. [Destiny of the Nations, p. 146]*

It is what happens following the working of the magic of the waters that we might focus our attention on. When this magic has done its purifying work, and when the Leo subject has begun to tread the reverse wheel, the process of the lion disappearing to become the one who bears the water pot is a process of fire. The quiet, background, flowing, persistence of purification by water is replaced in Leo by a burning away of all that obstructs the mind's recognition of the strong universal self. Preceding initiation, fire in Leo brings an intensification of light *and eventual revelation to the purified man who stands in light. [Esoteric Astrology, p. 293].*

Leo has been called the *pre-eminent fire sign at this time*. This suggests that we might view what is occurring in the world through the lens of God as a *consuming Fire*. Some of you may be familiar with the writings of Richard Rohr, an ecumenical Christian writer and teacher who draws on the Perennial Tradition and on the writings of Teilhard de Chardin. In his recent book, *The Universal Christ*, Rohr presents a clear, insightful approach to the difference between Jesus and the Christ, affirming that Christ is something much more than *Jesus's last name*. What he refers to as *the Christ Mystery* is presented as an active participant in our world, *wooing us towards wholeness in a vocabulary unique to each soul*. [p. 91]. This universal Christ acts in history as a force of change and transformation.

Rohr quotes a comment by Jesus recoded in Luke 12:49 that *I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing*. In the book Richard Rohr refers to this as one of his favorite metaphors, loving the image of fire not for its destructiveness but *as a natural symbol for transformation – literally, the changing of forms. Farmers, forestry workers, and native peoples know that fire is a renewing force, even as it can also be destructive*. [p. 92]

As Rohr comments, Jesus believed in fundamental deep change. His first recorded public word was the Greek imperative verb *metanoete*, literally translated Rohr notes as “change your mind” or “go beyond your mind”. In the fourth century the word was incorrectly translated into Latin by St Jerome as ‘paenitentia’ which has a completely different meaning: ‘repent’ or ‘do penance’. This helps explain the problem with the way in which so much Christian theology has developed, emphasizing rules of morality rather than the reference by Jesus to the spirit of transformation that comes from a change in worldview. With this in mind, it is heartening to recall the primary vision guiding United Nations policies: ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’

On the reversed wheel of discipleship Leo brings this fiery spirit of transformation as purifying fires burn away the glimmers and illusions of the separated self, allowing the Universal Self to stand at the center, and identifying one's own transformation with the transformation of humanity. The Leo aspirant and disciple begins to see that the alchemical work of purifying and transforming the lower nature is itself a service, and an act of participation in the wider transformation of the Universal Human. There is a tendency in esoteric studies to focus on the group identity of the soul, sometimes forgetting that this group identity evolves out of a Leo-type exploration of the individual confronting the question ‘who am I’. As the Tibetan notes, in Leo the aspirant passes through a period of *self-awareness* and self-centered focus before it becomes possible to know the *divine spirit* that is the *true Self*. As the Leo subject deepens their understanding of the self, so they are led into an understanding of others. The personal self, in its relationship with the Soul, and its dawning sense of identification with the universal Self becomes the place where the New is built. This is very much akin to the modern idea that change in society begins with, and cannot be disassociated from, change in oneself. Right relations are built from the ground up, person by person; self by self.

The disciple is self-made. In this age where it so common for spiritual seekers to be engaged in groups of all types – meditation groups, discussion groups, study groups and so on, it can be easy to by-pass the essential work that must be done by oneself, privately, secretly almost. It is a good time to be reminded to “do the Work”; develop the disciplines of a regular practice. For the esotericist, of any spiritual tradition, this means to follow the path of meditation, study and service.

As we stand in the flow of energies pouring through the sun and into the psyche at this full moon it is good to fix our orientation towards the important upcoming Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers. Every full moon and every new moon between now and December 21, can be thought of as a contribution to the group’s preparation for the energies that will pour into the New Group of World Servers during the week from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. Our task as a global group of meditators is to prepare ourselves to hold a point of heightened group tension during the Week. And we can prepare for this in a number of ways. Some may want to make a special effort to tune their inner clocks to the rhythm of linking with the group and using the Mantram of the New Group of World Servers at 5pm every day. Others will use the Great Invocation with greater focus and dedication. Some will hopefully add the practice of linking with the Goodwill Meditation Group and using the group visualization every Wednesday. World Goodwill is hosting a webinar on the last Wednesday of every month during the period leading up to the Festival Week for participants to work together in real time using the visualization outline. Another way to build towards the Festival Week is to participate in the Cycle of Conferences Visualization initiative that is focused on the Religions for Peace World Assembly now meeting in Lindau Germany with the theme: *Caring for our Common Future – Advancing Shared Well-being*.

It can be helpful to ponder the evocative effect that the energies pouring into humanity in December will have on the New Group of World Servers. Influenced by Capricorn, these energies will surely draw out a new strength and tenacity of will in the group of servers. We might expect to see some of this reflected in social movements and in new initiatives in such fields as education, economics, race relations and so on.

The Festival Week can be anticipated as an important marker in humanity’s journey into the Aquarian Age. Let us look for evidence that the Lion who roars is being transformed. We might expect that those who work together in strong well-integrated serving groups will begin to emerge collectively as the Ones who Carry the Water Pot; and who take a decisive step in leading humanity forward into a New Era. Perhaps, if we look with an intuitive eye, we will see signs of a new abundant radiation of delight and enchantment flowing from the minds and hearts of the servers of the world. May it be so!