

The Path, the Way Between
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Hello everyone and welcome to this Full Moon meeting in the sign of Libra.

Every month at the full moon, our planet is the recipient of more reflected light from the sun than at any other time. This is an astronomical fact. Yet all physical phenomena have their subjective, inner, or occult causes. In this case, the receipt of reflected light from the moon is said to be a great symbol of the cyclic meditation of our Planetary Logos—the great cosmic Intelligence who is the giver and sustainer of all life within our planetary sphere. The high point of His meditation results in an influx of light into His body of manifestation—which is collectively all life upon our planet, the seven kingdoms in nature. Humanity, being an integral part of this body, therefore shares in the spiritual achievement and success of this great Life. At the height of His meditation, the entire mental plane is illuminated facilitating the way of approach to the soul and to all the many spiritual energies which pour through it.

This cyclic illumination is why the full moon is said to be an incredibly propitious time for all serious meditators and those on the spiritual path, for the illumination of the mental plane greatly facilitates spiritual contact. But, it can also be a difficult time—a time of crisis, conflict, and internal struggle. Initially, the inpouring light illumines all the dark places, producing a sense of despair. Every barrier which yet remains in one's path—past mistakes and personal faults—are thrown into stark relief. The spiritual alignment is fleeting and cannot be sustained, and when it fades, the pendulum of the emotional body tends to swing the other way. These are the normal challenges incident to spiritual illumination generally, and they are overcome through the cultivation of right proportion, mental discrimination, detachment, and steady perseverance.

In addition to the difficulties incident to the initial stages of spiritual illumination, the Full Moon also brings a general astral stimulation further complicating humanity's difficulty. Medical professionals acknowledge that at height of the Full Moon there is an increased prevalence of psychoses and neurotic conditions. The word 'lunacy,' in fact, is derived from the Latin 'lunaticus' meaning 'moon struck' and was originally used to describe episodes of periodic insanity correlating with the time of the full moon.

This astral stimulation is caused by the peculiar occult relationship between the Earth and the moon. Occultly, the moon is a body previously inhabited by our Planetary Logos. Though it is a 'dead planet' with its life force withdrawn on the physical plane, its astral body is still linked with the astral body of the Logos and therefore with the astral bodies of all life forms on the planet. Imbalance in the astral body is therefore greatly exaggerated at the Full Moon. Thus, the effect of the reflected light from the moon is dual: on the mental plane it has an illuminating effect providing a 'way of hastened approach', and on the astral plane a 'lighting up' of the veil of illusion which obscures the light of the soul.

It is no coincidence that this is both an opportunity and a test for humanity which as a whole is just beginning to set its feet consciously upon the Path. The first steps of the path are in some ways the most difficult, for one is still trying to build up the courage and will to reverse course and to begin treading the narrow and difficult way. This path leads across the desert of the purified mind and to the unveiling of the hidden Christ, the soul, which lies thereon. As one traverses this desert, the comfort and surety of

the wide and easy way is relinquished. This is referred to as the reversing of the wheel—an apt symbol, as one can imagine the great effort which is required to at first slow, stop, and then reverse the aeonial habits of material existence.

And so today rather than sounding a mantram, let us instead take some time to orient ourselves upon the plane of mind. We will take an extended period of silence aiming to reach a state of equanimity and balance followed by the triple sounding of the sacred Word, the OM.

OM OM OM

The OM and AUM are two great Words of power which together tell the whole story of the descent and triumph of the Christ principle over all evil and even death itself. This is as much a human triumph as it is a divine triumph, for the human personality, once perfected and brought under control of the soul, is the true 'Word made flesh'. The soul must descend into the depths of materialism before it can fulfill its divine calling which is to raise, to redeem, and to save. The OM must be lost to the AUM before it can be recovered again and the purposes of evolution fulfilled. The blending and fusing of soul and personality is the first major step upon the path of recovering this lost Word, for it is only the triumphant soul which can put it to use. The OM is key to the relationship between consciousness and life, or soul and spirit, and the resurrection and raising of Humanity into the highest plane. It is said to be the final Word uttered when all other words have failed. This is only possible when the disciple—not the abstracted soul, but the soul-infused personality—persists through every trial, every failure yet remains poised at the center of the even-armed cross.

This month, the constellation Libra conditions the energies pouring through the Sun and into our planet. Libra is very much key to the persistence, temperance, and judicious reasoning which guides the disciple down the very difficult, narrow, and perilous path which leads between the pairs of opposites to spiritual triumph.

The pairs of opposites revealed, weighed, and balanced in Libra are those of the astral plane, and the resolution of this duality is consummated upon the path of discipleship via the tests in Scorpio. The battles faced on the discipleship path cannot be won with material power, with keen wit, charisma or with any of the faculties of the purely personal self. Success requires humility, self-effacement, spiritual aspiration, sacrificial love, and an unerring commitment to the good and to truth. These tests prove, beyond doubt, that the man or woman can make right choice. This ability to choose the Way is what takes one through and away from the astral plane to the soul, and onwards onto the path of initiation. Libra governs the path of probation, where due preparation is made.

Libra is therefore a very consequential sign for Humanity as we are now setting our feet upon this Path of probation and conscious return. Libra facilitates the aspirant in finding the way through the pairs of opposites by balancing personality and soul. Rather than oscillating between the two, neither is said to predominate in this sign. In the early stages of the Path, the antagonism between soul and personality is profound. The relationship is at first seen as a zero-sum game, with the success of one requiring the failure of the other. In Libra, the means to resolve this basic antagonism is revealed thus bestowing the first real vision of the path.

An example of the profound difficulty of resolving these opposites can be seen in any number of contentious social issues with which Humanity struggles today. So often the emotions obscure the ability

to reason clearly, and this leads to a state wherein the basic idealism of the mind is perverted by the illusions of the astral plane. This is kama-manas wherein mind and emotion function inseparably, one constantly acting upon the other. This is the natural condition of the average human being. But left unchecked, the influential nature of kamas deludes the mind into acknowledging only a limited set of choices. This is the root of the 'us' vs 'them' paradigm wherein the success of one must lead to the failure of another. This quintessential false dichotomy is rooted in the delusion produced when the astral body acts upon and perverts the otherwise clear reasoning of the mind. This astral influence is neutralized through the careful balancing and discrimination of the Libran mind; it leads to a state in which right choice—the way between the false dichotomies—can be seen.

This occurs not only in the problem of ideology, but also with the whole problem of sex which is the very archetype of the pairs of opposites. For humanity, sex remains shrouded in a profound fog of glamour. On one hand, depravity, sexual indulgence, and the psychological delusions caused by the perversions of what should be a natural and wholesome act. On the other, there is repression, inadvertently producing any number of anti-social tendencies. The real problem lies in the details of course which are rather more subtle and complex. But rather than swinging from one extreme to the other or in wandering aimless through a maze of complexity, Libra suggests we first of all relinquish attachment, and then observe within the silence of the mind. Libra also suggests that before the scales are balanced, they necessarily go through a sort of see-saw experience. This allows one the full gamut of perspectives, eventually seeing any sort of deviation from the middle point as undesirable. This middle way is not necessarily a compromise between two camps, or a capitulation, but rather simply right choice based on the clear vision and intuitive perception of the soul.

It is important to recognize that underlying the antagonism of the so called higher and lower way, is simply the correct operation of spiritual law on every plane. Life is; and it is through Christ, through the soul, that we can find our place within the will and purpose which underlies evolution itself. This alignment with the will is the true 'peace which passeth understanding' which is the goal in Libra.

And so, the keynote of the disciple in Libra "I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force" embodies not only mental discernment and balance, but also a special and sustained application of the will. In Libra, the disciple has already experienced the so called 'freedom of choice' in the worldly sense, and now pursues the true key to freedom which lies in discerning 'right choice' and the subsequent alignment with divine law. The Libran attitude seeks the way of perfect balance through the cultivation of judicious reasoning and therefore the mind in all three of its aspects.

Astrologically, Saturn is said to be exalted in this sign, for it is at the point of balance in Libra that a definite choice—entailing both freedom and responsibility—can be taken upon the physical plane and in the waking brain consciousness. But this is only possible in Libra wherein desire is opposed not through eradication, but through its right balancing. When balance is achieved, one then has the freedom to tip the scales in whichever direction they choose. And at the point of balance, the many ways resolve into the Way. It is for this reason that Libra governs the probationary path upon which Humanity is now taking its first steps. This is necessarily bringing difficult choices and deliberate and conscious purificatory measures. The many moral dilemmas and crises of our modern time are clear evidence of the profound influence of Saturn, not just due to the Libran influence of the probationary path, but also as Saturn governs the first decanate of the Aquarian Age.

The balancing of the scales in Libra is in many ways an interlude, of recollection and quiet reflection. Libra is therefore very much related to the stage of contemplation, the higher interlude of the meditation process. Once a state of equilibrium is attained, the reasoning, thinking, and building processes of the lower mind are gradually transcended. One gains the ability not just to think and reason, but to 'enter into their subject'—to perceive meaning directly, through identification or entrainment with the universal source of meaning in all things.

This stage of contemplation is a profoundly difficult stage of the meditation process, but also the most important. When meditation can be carried no further and when all the efforts of the reasoning mind have been extended to their fullest, there comes a dawning of the need for a direct contact and experience of the higher worlds. This state of union can only be achieved when all the extensions and mechanisms of the lower self are entirely 'out of the way' and a new type of perception is awakened and employed.

There are many insightful descriptions of the state of contemplation. Some describe it as a state of relinquishment and sacrifice of the lower self to a higher power. Francois Malaval describes contemplation as the "simple sight of God," and he writes that in this state the meditator "...supposes all reasonings as things passed and known, contemplates its object in God Himself.." The object of meditation becoming God Himself is practically inconceivable to the concrete mind—and this is the point. The beauty of the abstract lies in its exact and untrammled presentation of truth, for it gives us some sense of that which lies beyond our human limitation, and in doing so helps to build in small measure the bridge to those higher worlds.