

Good evening to all, and welcome to our group meditation on this full moon in the sign of Libra.

Meditation at this time is often referred to as, the "full moon approach," when "certain high contacts are easier than at other times." The power of our group thought constitutes an outgoing stream of energy, an invocation, which will in turn evoke a response in the form of spiritual energy, from "those Spiritual Beings which are sensitive and responsive to such impacts." Our work here today is thereby a deliberate and conscious effort to establish divine attributes in the consciousness of the human family - a time to "hold ourselves steadily in the light."

Key to this opportunity for spiritual unfoldment and to the assimilation of the energies which may be contacted, is an understanding of nature of the constellation influencing this full moon, the constellation of Libra.

Libra is the seventh astrological sign in the Zodiac. Its symbol is the balances, the scales of justice held by Themis, the Greek personification of divine law and custom.

It is an air sign governed by the lord of the Third Ray of Active Intelligence, and as such it is mentally orientated. It is one of the four arms of the cardinal cross and represents the energy of Legislation, through which stream the laws governing our solar system. In esoteric teachings, Libra is known as "sponsor of the law," as well as "the place of judgement." It governs the legal profession and holds the balances between right and wrong, negative and positive and East and West.

Much can be intuited about the nature of and quality of Libra merely by considering its symbol. The balance scales, dating as far back as 2400 BC, are still used today. By putting an object of known weight on one side and another, the weight of which is being measured on the opposite side, one can initially determine which of the two objects is heavier. Adjustments are made by adding or subtracting weight on either side until the scales are balanced or, to use a word of the same etymology, until they reach an equilibrium.

The theme of two opposite sides, so aptly depicted in the paradigm of the scales, is one which we encounter time and time again in esoteric teachings under the theme of "duality," also referred to as the "pairs of opposites."

According to the Tibetan Master, the constellation of Libra "connotes the point of balance in the long relationship and interplay between these pairs of opposites. It indicates the will-to-express—in perfected proportion and harmony—both the life of the spirit and the potency of matter." He teaches us that the major task of man is the balancing, or reconciliation of these pairs of opposites - a theme which "runs through the whole story of man's development." Both duality as well as the act of reconciliation are most powerfully conveyed through the keynote for the Disciple under the sign of Libra:

"I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force."

The Tibetan proceeds to draw a parallelism between this fundamental aspect of Libra and the stage of contemplation in the process of meditation, calling it the stage wherein duality is known, the "interlude wherein the soul organises itself for battle and the personality waits."

Let us pause now for a few minutes and contemplate on the point where Libra resides, the pivotal point of the cross, where the polarity of left and right and the duality of above and below meet. Where the known and the unknown, the past and the future are in perfect equilibrium. We will then proceed to say together the Mantram of Unification.

The souls of [all] are one, and I am one with them.

I seek to love, not hate;

I seek to serve and not exact due service;

I seek to heal, not hurt.

Let pain bring due reward of light and love.

Let the soul control the outer form,

And life, and all events,

And bring to light the Love

That underlies the happenings of the time.

Let vision come and insight.

Let the future stand revealed.

Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.

Let love prevail.

Let all [people] love.

Libra holds a very special place amongst the constellations. It is interesting to note that, it is the only constellation represented by an inanimate object - with all others being represented either as animals or mythological characters. This is in agreement with the fact that, as we shall see, its importance lies not as much in the power that it provides, as in the fact that it **empowers**.

The Tibetan Master characteristically notes that "the sign Libra is one of peculiar interest, but in a most paradoxical manner, for much of its interest is based upon the fact that, it lacks spectacular interest of any kind—except in the case of disciples or those nearing the Path."

This last statement can be further elucidated if we consider the nature of the response of the human being subjected to the influence of Libra during the three stages of his development.

In the undeveloped man, the influence of Libra results in "Unbalanced fiery passion." In the advanced man, this same influence results in "the weighing of the opposites." It is only when man reaches the stage where he is a Disciple or Initiate that this same influence brings about concrete results in the form of "Balance Attained," "Divine Love," and "Understanding."

This "weighing of the opposites" which is characteristic of the influence of Libra on the advanced man is especially important to consider at this time, for it is the process by which both the individual, and humanity as a whole progress on their approach to the probationary

path.

In the physical world, when using the scales to measure the weight of objects, we rely on the merciless law of gravity to produce consistent results. The tipping of the scales is not our doing.

However, once we depart from the mundane world of matter and the measurement of mass in terms of pounds and kilograms and first wander into the realm of spiritual matters, weight, substance, value, all become subjective - in the sense that they are **subject to** the quality and nature of the consciousness taking them into consideration. The weighing of the opposites ceases to be a mere observation of the effect of a single physical law and becomes a choice, an act of will. This choice appears to be, on a superficial level, between two competing values.

In truth, however, the gravity acting on each side, and consequently the manner in which the scales will lean is a function of consciousness. The two opposites are ultimately the real and the unreal and the true choice is whether to apply the will in order to distinguish between the two.

A common example of this on the level of the personality, is one whereby an emotionally-polarised individual is called upon to decide on a course of action. The scales for such a person will most likely tip on the side of emotion, simply because in this case it is the primary value, the standard of measurement. Truth or lie, right or wrong may not matter, if the counteracting emotion against which they are being measured is powerful enough. Regardless of the importance or gravity of the impending choice, regardless of the consequences, the underlying sense of equilibrium is conditioned in such a way that disproportionate weight is attributed to the emotional aspect, resulting in a specific type of decision - and behaviour. In many cases, the mental faculty then is forced to comply through a process of what is known in modern psychology as "rationalisation," of desperately attempting to find a rationale, after-the-fact.

Another manifestation of this, on the group level, can be seen where human law is concerned, a field of endeavour ruled by Libra. Loosely defined as a "system of rules" ideally aiming to serve as the objective standard by which social or governmental institutions attempt to regulate behaviour, human law cannot be but a reflection of the state of consciousness of the underlying group.

It comes as no surprise then that, historically, societal evolution is paved with injustice, imposed by individuals and groups on the whole, and vice-versa, which were shamelessly sanctioned by the legal systems of the respective periods in history. Racial and gender discrimination are only two of the most blatant injustices which come to mind, and they were enforced by human laws created by a system that balanced its scales of justice using then-prevalent distorted values.

The influence of Libra is pivotal in the process by which man escapes such wrongful conditions. "Choices and aims... motivated by the personality and determined by the lower self" are succeeded by periods of "decision and indecision" which eventually give way to action whereby karma is consciously transmuted.

The incongruence between human and divine justice, that justice whereby "everything of life-giving value is shared," cannot be sustained indefinitely. By law, it is the lower nature that must succumb to the higher. Though the desire to be entirely human is always present, the call of the soul brings about those awakenings which drive man "on to something ... higher."

Motives thereby become purified and objectives shift from those of personality ambition to the spiritual goals of humanity.

Man then adjusts his behaviour, and by consequence human law, to reflect his newfound, highest, universally accepted ideals and ideas, reaching a new, more truthful point of equilibrium, a purer form of justice.

Every time, a new "balance of cooperation" is struck between soul and personality, and in this process the energy of Libra is instrumental since it "expresses ... the period of assimilation by the mind of past experience," a process which has the potential to "evoke the intuition and bring into activity what is called the super-mind, ...the response of the illumined mind to the Mind of God."

At the level of the personality, as well as that of the wider exoteric group, contact with energies of this quality must eventually result in what are essentially expansions of consciousness: Small - in the wider context - but very important steps on the path of human evolution. With each such step, yet another part of the personality is sacrificed, and man - and humanity - is transformed. Each iteration constitutes what the Tibetan refers to as an "experiment" or "adjustment" which results in a new "balancing" on the astral plane.

This process is of course cyclical and forever repeating, on all levels. While most advanced societies of today's world have done away with the blatant injustices and imbalances of the past, new, ever-more elusive distortions constantly have to be dealt with on humanity's course. It is blatantly evident, especially at this point in time, that the task of separating the "unreal from the real" is as challenging as ever since, with each new attainment in consciousness we are called upon to deal with increasingly more subtle nuances of glamour.

For example, in the last few decades some aspects of science and technology appear to be demonstrating centrifugal tendencies, something which, if left unchecked, could arguably lead humanity into a self-defeating position. Whether these appearances are founded in reality or not, now, more than ever, it is crucial for us to keep cultivating our sense of values, and the "power to utilise rightly the balancing analytical faculty of the mind," both prerequisites for the safe passage through the razor-edged path which runs between the pairs of opposites.

Let us therefore renew today our commitment towards the cultivation of critical thinking and correct discrimination, continue to practice right human relations in our daily lives and remain true to our daily practice of meditation, in preparation for what is to come. Let us welcome the sense of self-direction, the realisation of free choice, and the exercise of sound judgement, all gifts that stream through the energies of this month's Libra full moon.

But most importantly, let us take advantage of today's most favourable conditions and of this unique opportunity, to balance those forces pushing and pulling us all in so many directions by sinking a space of creative inactivity, into the silent, inert centre of the cross.

Let us, at this time, sit on the battleground and allow the war to wage around us, not in despair, or denial, or surrender, but in order to decide on the next step ahead, under the counsel of our soul. In the words of the Tibetan Master:

"- Know thyself to be the undying One.

- Control thy mind, for through that mind the undying One can be known.

- Learn that the form is but the veil which hides the splendour of Divinity.

- Realise that the One Life pervades all forms, so there is no death, no distress, no separation.
- Detach thyself therefore from the form side and come to me, so dwelling in the place where Light and Life are found. Thus illusion ends.”