

Humanity as Mediator
PISCES FESTIVAL – NEW YORK – MARCH 2018

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The symbol for Pisces is of two fishes, bound together by a connecting band, reminding us of the dualism that is inherent in human existence. Personality and soul, spirit and body - two apparently contradictory points of identity held together in relationship by an unbreakable band.

For a time, the personality has little awareness of its other self: the Christ within is submissive, withdrawn and silent – without focus or definition in the awareness of the person; experienced only in vague sensings and psychic impressions.

But as the Great Work proceeds, experience leads to an awakening of mind, the discovery of a whole new layer of Self. This discovery brings with it inspiration as well as irritation – a conflicted self. Yet this conflict is necessary before clear choice can be made to identify with and become attached to Soul. And all of this takes time – cycles of incarnation – birth and death.

Pisces presents two images of bondage. Initially it is the Soul who is held prisoner as all the focus is on the growth and development of the incarnated personality. But as the wheel of the zodiac reverses and as the seeker makes progress on the Path it becomes the turn of the personality to freely submit to imprisonment and immersion in the Christ consciousness – becoming in the process the one who serves and ultimately the one who saves.

It is important to remind ourselves of this grand trajectory as we stand this evening within the full flow of the energies of Pisces. Once our feet are placed upon the Path we are headed towards a time when we will ultimately choose to sacrifice our own spiritual advancement, returning to incarnation with no other purpose than to free others from the bondage of maya, glamour and illusion. In the language of the bodhisattva's vow: Pisces holds before us a time when we will willingly renounce any quest for our own personal enlightenment until all sentient beings have been liberated.

There will be periods on the path when glamour veils reality and what we believe to be a sacrificial act, or a sacrificial thought is more truly a mask, hiding our self-interest. But the true renunciation envisioned in Pisces is something different. Its selflessness is transparent, reflecting an achieved dispassion and detachment from the personal identity. Personality is held captive by the Soul, so it is the soul's nature, the detached love; the lighted intuitive mind; the purified will that shines through. Only when the veil of the Grand Illusion of human existence has been parted; can the choice be made to live as the Observer, identified with the perspective of the Soul and using body, emotions and concrete mind as vehicles of service.

Repression is a response by the personality to what is experienced as the oppressive nature of duality. The vision of the soul has become a part of experience. And the response to this vision is to shrink back in fear, attempting to eliminate aspects of personality by force, creating artificial blocks that feed a fear of those parts of ourselves that we do not understand and that are outside of our idealistic notion of who we are. The Piscean saviour image is of work to bring the personal psyche into rapport with the soul using education, guidance, love and understanding as the driving principles of discipline and will.

Words are so interesting. When, from the perspective of our individual, incarnated personal self we say the words: 'Let the Soul control the outer form, and life and all events' the word *control* can seem to suggest a repression of the personal and it can be understood to imply a disrespect for the incarnated self. Yet from the perspective of the long path of Pisces, 'soul control' suggests an incarnated self that has brought the light and love of the soul into all the places of the personal. It is through the path of developing the mind to become a centre of detachment and dispassion – where the Self becomes the observer - that this redemptive work of the soul is carried forward. Soul control is another way of speaking of a fusion of soul and personality. Let's pause here as we work with mind now – to link with fellow meditators around the world and to take our stand in alignment with the community of Great Beings on the inner side of life; with the Buddhas and the Christ. Under the guidance of these Great One's humanity is moving forward on the Path and as a great field of consciousness the human family as a whole is in process of stepping onto the discipleship path.

*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.*

The core of our work during these full moon festivals is to be part of a group mind, observing humanity's long process of becoming World Disciple, and supporting this process. It is so important to train our observation so that we see the emerging World Disciple in action ... so that we know the seeds of the new in a visceral, human sense. This always seems to be especially important in the fields of expertise where our life expresses itself with the greatest concentration of purpose. For many this is the field of their profession, where they are constantly acquiring new knowledge as the thought-form at the heart of the profession becomes empowered from the ashram and becomes a factor of use in the working out of the Plan. In every profession, alongside every field of art and science, there are networks of thought and experiment where the laws and principles of the New Era are impressing and guiding the thought of key servers and networks.

The full moon rhythm is an incredible thing to ponder. Every month without fail, for tens of thousands, millions of years, the earth stands for a moment quite naked before the full fiery light of the sun. The moon, which is our protector from the over-stimulation of this light, moves, for a moment, out of the way. And in our little, miniscule, apparently insignificant lives, there is something which draws us to the drama and the poetry of this planetary ritual. The beauty of the full moon means that every month literally millions of people are inspired by thoughts of love and romance. In the religious world the full moon plays a significant role in the calendar of festivals observed by most of the major faiths. For the esoterically minded the outer beauty of the full moon signifies an inner event, and an opportunity to play a not insignificant part, in a great cosmic drama. For many of us the full moon rhythm has become a part of the poetry of our inner lives – it has become real in a way that the outer world is not real – real in the way that beauty is real, or that a profoundly significant dream is real.

From the Alice Bailey perspective this reality of the full moon rhythm might be thought of as our tuning in to the meaningful, purposeful aspect of sunlight. The bathing of the planet in the full power of the sun's rays becomes the bathing of consciousness, of mind and heart in the radiance of the One in Whom we Live and Move and have our Being. This stirs our deepest sense of the redemptive purposes of Life, it awakens our intuitive sense that we are participants in a cosmic evolutionary drama. And it helps us to see that beyond our small lives there is a collective exercise occurring in human consciousness which is all about the substance of mind and heart breaking free from prisons of illusion, desire, idealism and belief.

Two of the most interesting images in Alice Bailey's description of the Pisces energy flow are of medium and mediator. In the early stages of the Piscean path, when soul is held captive by personality, consciousness tends to be mediumistic. When the mind is quiescent and sleeping, soul has no structure or substance through which to express itself with any definition. There might be feelings or sensings of a Presence, but there is no means of approaching this Presence. Impressionable and receptive we may be, but we have no way of assessing our sensibilities – is it desire and elemental feeling that flows through us, or is it something higher? Psychic sensitivity is the major problem and difficulty presented by Pisces. It provides the opportunity to develop mind to discriminate and manage psychic impressions so that they may be a resource for development of insight and intuition, enhancing our ability to dissipate illusion, see life as it truly is, and as a result, cooperate with the purposes of Divinity.

On the higher turn of the spiral the medium becomes the mediator. This is a useful way of understanding where humanity is headed now in its progress onto the discipleship path. The medium receives impression without any way of discriminating or controlling where that impression comes from – and without any way of interpreting or understanding the impression. There are no maps, no body of understandings to make sense of the vertical dimension of consciousness; let alone to guide the pilgrim through the deceptive and distracting forces of glamour and maya. The mediator is a creative,

conscious worker – mediating between different states or levels of consciousness. To mediate is to be sensitive to different perspectives and to act to bring those different viewpoints into a useful relationship. Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines the adjective *mediate* as *occupying a middle position* and the verb as *acting through an intervening agency or exhibiting indirect causation, connection, or relation*. Dictionary.com gives three definitions of the verb mediate:

to settle (disputes, strikes, etc.) as an intermediary between parties; reconcile

to bring about (an agreement, accord, truce, peace, etc.) as an intermediary between parties by compromise, reconciliation, removal of misunderstanding, etc.

to effect (a result) or convey (a message, gift, etc.) by or as if by an intermediary.

This process of mediation seems to be incredibly active in human affairs now. Faced with the emerging voices of extreme and partisan views on all sides, those who are searching for expressions of fundamental qualities like goodwill, justice and truth are being forced to reject the emotional pull of easily manipulated fears, nationalism, or strong racial identifications that classify people by race or class to emphasize differences.

This process of societies and people learning to become mediators is happening behind the scenes and out of the spotlight of the flash-points where the problems of a humanity in transition are emotionally raw and over-stimulated. Yet all the time societies are mediating between principles of universal law (human rights, cooperation for the common good) and the realities of communities as they are – seeking to lift the level of relationships to bring them more into harmony with universal law. This is what we see as the dynamics, for example, in national and international programmes to reduce violence against women.

At a wider level the Pisces energy holds before humanity the potential to act as a species as mediator – as intermediary between higher realms of being and the animal, plant and mineral kingdoms. The focus on climate change, scientific and emotional, can be understood in this light – where humanity is learning (under pressure from computer models as well as experience of extreme weather conditions) to regulate its affairs in such a way as to protect and enhance the lives of the other kingdoms of nature. Of course, progress is up and down – this is to be expected. Yet the thrust of history throughout the world suggests that humanity is regulating its economic and social behaviors in response to climate change. We see the same thing in many of the agendas at the United Nations, especially the Sustainable Development Goals. The human family is in process of learning to fulfill its role as mediator or intermediary – acquiring wisdom by learning to reconcile conflicting needs of different groups.

In a message received by Alice Bailey between 1939 and 1942, DK noted that the *higher aspect of the energy of Pisces... is pushing through and producing effects upon those in the human family who not only respond to the Leo force and are consequently individuals in their own consciousness but are responding also to the steadily expanding Christ consciousness...* He says of this higher Piscean energy that *it is awareness of the group, of the whole and of the universe. It is the energy of buddhi, the higher aspect of the lower psychic nature; it is the aspect of the mediator in contra-distinction to the medium.* [Esoteric Astrology, p. 471]

One of the greatest challenges at this time is to recognize the degree to which human development is being shaped by forces of light and love; that the Plan actually is unfolding; or in Martin Luther King's words, that *the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.* There is such an intensity to the events, issues and headlines that flow through the global conversation today on social media, broadcast media, the internet and so on that it is very easy to lose sight of the genuine development that is taking place. A few years ago, Steven Pinker published a remarkable survey of the history of the decline in violence, *The Better Angels of our Nature.* In spite of recent events, spurred in part by the massive waves of refugees and the violence that spawned them, the long-term evidence, presented in detail in Pinker's book, is that through the spread of government, literacy, trade and cosmopolitanism we are, as a species, increasingly learning to control our impulses, empathize with others, bargain rather than plunder, debunk toxic ideologies, and deploy our powers of reason to reduce the temptations of violence.

Our awareness of the exploitation and abuse that continues to occur in human relationships is much higher than it has ever been. So, we tend to focus on all the areas in need of transformation; on what needs to be done now and what are the most immediate problems that current generations are called upon to address. Yet this can blind us to the fact that long-term trends are positive and in line with the Plan. New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristoff, known as an advocate for women's rights and for human rights in general, and a strong critic of government inaction in these areas, wrote a piece in January 6 drawing attention to the steady progress in human relations. Under the banner 'Why 2017 was the best year in human history' he noted the widespread notion that 2017 was the 'worst year ever'. And then he looked at some of the realities that we can imagine members of Hierarchy notice: *A smaller share of the world's people were hungry, impoverished or illiterate than at any time before. A smaller proportion of children died than ever before. ... Every day, the number of people around the world living in extreme poverty (less than about \$2 a day) goes down by 217,000 ... Every day, 325,000 more people gain access to electricity. And 300,000 more gain access to clean drinking water.* The details are stunning, and Kristoff cites a new book just published by Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now*, in which Pinker details progress in areas of health, wars, environment, human happiness, equal rights and quality of life. A similar argument is made in another new book by Gregg Easterbrook: *It's Better than it Looks: Reasons for Optimism in an Age of Fear.* In an NPR interview Easterbrook notes

that a review of facts in people's lives suggests that the US and the EU *have never been in better condition ... but we've come to believe that our emotions, not the facts, should dominate how we perceive events.*

As we ponder the Piscean energy during this full moon period – let us reflect on the myriad ways in which human consciousness is acquiring the skills of the mediator, and actively building right relations. And let us hold these stirring signs of evolutionary development in the light of a far greater Wisdom and Purpose. As we as a species grow through the practice of mediation we are learning to act cooperatively as saviors for the planet ... and so are we creating an environment conducive to the emergence of a World Savior.