

I leave the Father's home and turning back, I save.

Good evening and welcome to our Full Moon meeting in the sign of Pisces, and a warm welcome to those who are listening in to the live broadcast.

The keynote of Pisces, from the angle of the soul, is “I leave the Father’s home and, turning back, I save” which is the theme of our reflective thinking and meditation this evening. In Pisces we read, in Esoteric Astrology, of “...the fusion or blending of the soul and form as far as man is concerned, producing the manifestation of the Incarnated Christ, the perfected individual soul, the completed manifestation of the microcosm. Thus, the greater and the lesser polar opposites—the human being and God, the microcosm and the Macrocosm—are brought to their destined expression and manifestation.”¹

The esoteric teachings refer to Christ as being the supreme head of the spiritual Hierarchy, an office which is not confined to any one religion, the latest in a long line of World teachers that go back into human history. The historical Christ, the ordained representative of the cosmic Christ² overshadowed His disciple Jesus and revealed the Love of God described in the teachings as “the motivating power of the universe”, which will eventually be expressed as “world understanding, goodwill, cooperation and peace”. For the individual, the Christ consciousness is the indwelling soul the divine intermediary between spirit and matter. Latent at first, the soul remains in its high place whilst man goes into the far country to explore the world and experience life in all of its aspects but eventually there comes a time when desires have been fulfilled. Then there is a yearning for something higher and out of desperation the call goes out to the soul which responds with love, compassion, understanding, responsibility, inclusiveness, tolerance and patience.

As we settle in to the new age it is a time of transition from the old ways to the new with the main work being the manifestation of the Christ principle - the principle of love. So, at this point let us together affirm a mantram which is a statement made by the soul, the Christ principle, to the personality:

*In the centre of the will of God I stand.
Naught shall deflect my will from His.
I implement that will by love.
I turn towards the field of service.
I, the Triangle divine, work out that will
Within the square and serve my fellowmen.*

Symbolically it’s said that the birth of the Christ, is the second birth - the coming together of spirit and matter which brings increased light from the soul realm. Light then illuminates the darker aspects of the personality which is a painful process, hence the analogy with the trauma and pain of the physical birth process prior to the emergence of new life.

The coming together of spirit and matter raises many questions about the purpose of life and the evolutionary process - questions that stretch the minds of all thinking people. In the preface to the book *Education in the New Age* by Alice Bailey, Oliver Reiser raises some basic questions regarding human existence, such as What is Man? the nature of the physical universe,

the nature of evolutionary process that brought humanity to its present stage of awareness, and the kind of society that will serve man's progressive self-evolution. ³ This book was published in 1954 so it just goes to show that thoughts past and present are related to our future understanding with the words of forerunners and Avatars still circulating centuries and millennia later.

Profound philosophical questions that have a direct bearing on human life and civilisation continue to stretch the mind about humanity's place in the scheme of things. The Ageless Wisdom teachings provide many hints and clues about the evolutionary process when the illumined mind is brought into play, one example being the idea that the objective of the Plan is "to reproduce upon the plane of earth the inner kingdom of the soul" ⁴ and, in this regard, we can perhaps imagine a world in which the qualities of the soul are working out in daily life and relationships. To meet this objective, we must build a mechanism that will be receptive to the Christ consciousness. This is the glorious destiny of the human being.

Pisces is said to be a dual sign, with the greater and the lesser polar opposites Spirit and Matter and can be studied in relation to the three keynotes outlined in *Esoteric Astrology* by Alice Bailey:

1. Bondage or captivity
2. Renunciation or detachment
3. Sacrifice and death

Bondage has been defined as "servitude or subjugation to a controlling person or force" and from a spiritual perspective we have the soul imprisoned in the material world of form. Hence the symbolism of the two fishes linked together in Pisces - one standing for the soul and the other the personality linked by a silver chord - the "thread or sutratma" which keeps them bound together during the cycle of manifested life. Later, on the reversed wheel of discipleship, the relationship changes and the personality is brought under the control and direction of the soul and later the Spirit. The threefold personality then becomes a usable instrument for the manifestation of the soul or Christ principle.

Having experienced the sign of Pisces for approx. 2100 years we now have the increasing influence of Aquarius through which the emerging expression of group consciousness will develop - "the first and immediate revelation of the ever-present Christ consciousness on a large scale in humanity" ⁵ As a result, we see countless serving groups, in addition to many individual servers, expressing the principles of love, compassion and goodwill. And in the midst of a world seemingly in turmoil and confusion it's worth considering that the emergence of the soul constitutes a huge crisis for the individual and for humanity as a whole, yet out of the birth trauma will emerge those spiritual values and principles that will build a better and more sustainable world.

As for the second keynote in Pisces, *renunciation or detachment*, it's interesting to consider that the soul is a form from the point of view of the Monad which is the expression of The One - the threefold Spirit on its own plane - symbolised by the words "the Father's home". The soul has renounced the life and light of the Monad to descend into the material world and make its own new and material attachments. Then on the reversed wheel the solar angel, having gained experience in the three worlds, detaches itself from the personality and heads back to its source leaving its wisdom, knowledge and experience in the hands of the

personality who is in direct touch with the Monad - perfectly at one - at the Great Renunciation - the fourth initiation - which sets the disciple free.

In the case of the final keynote for Pisces, *sacrifice and death*, the lower nature - the threefold personality is sacrificed to the higher consciousness - to the Christ consciousness of whom the World Saviour is the symbol and guarantee and in this connection the following passage from *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, is of interest:

...the general concept of a World Saviour (always attached to the office of the Christ, no matter by what name the exalted Son of God may be called in any world cycle) is in reality closely related to the far more important function of World Teacher. People love to be saved, for it ignores their own immediate responsibility...It must be remembered that it is the teaching given by the Christ which saves humanity—not any symbolic death upon a cross. Men must save themselves by their reaction and their response to the teaching given in its purity by the Christ... it is not man-made interpretations which save a man, but his self-initiated application of his own understanding of the teaching.... 6

Sacrifice, the "act of giving up one thing for another; something given up for the sake of another", lies at the heart of the evolutionary process with the "Lords of Will and Sacrifice coming down into manifestation sacrificing their high position" ⁷ At a lower turn of the spiral, down on earth, we have that great group of souls who constitute "the World Saviour at this time" - the New Group of World Servers ⁸ whose task it is to free the prisoners of the planet and fulfil the keynote of Pisces.

As a result of the struggle to fuse the soul and personality the disciple becomes a saviour and is free from the hold of the lower self. Under the control of the higher Self there is no option but to free those imprisoned in form. In this regard, we are reminded of the mission of the New Group of World Servers and the demands of Humanity upon it which are outlined in *The Rays and The Initiations*:

- 1. To receive and transmit illumination from the kingdom of souls.*
- 2. To receive inspiration from the Hierarchy and go forth, consequently, to inspire.*
- 3. To hold the vision of the Plan before the eyes of men, for "where there is no vision, the people perish."*
- 4. To act as an intermediate group between the Hierarchy and humanity, receiving light and power and then using both of these, under the inspiration of love, to build the new world of tomorrow.*
- 5. To toil in Pisces, illumined by Taurus and responsive in degree to the Aquarian impulse coming from the Hierarchy.*

These objectives are not only individual objectives, but the goal for the entire group who may have no could knowledge and have never heard of the term the New Group. 9

The Piscean age has been a necessary stage in the evolution of human consciousness and has been characterised by authority in all areas of life, but also outstanding acts of service and sacrifice. There has been much emphasis on the material form and fulfilment of individual desires alongside remarkable technological achievements. As we begin working under the influence of Aquarius the outstanding characteristic of universality and group awareness will become increasingly influential.

The New Group of World Servers work in the interludes and keep the Plan progressing and in this regard Rule Twelve of the Rules for Magic, in the book by Alice Bailey - *A Treatise on White Magic, or The Way of the Disciple*, is of interest. This rule concerns Interludes and Cycles and The Prisoners of the Planet and our attention is drawn to the opportunity presented by the influences of the fifth ray of Concrete Science or Knowledge which is passing out but is still influential, the third ray of Active Creative Intelligence which is in full sway, and the seventh ray of Order or Ceremonial magic which is rapidly coming into activity. The opportunity is, we're told, that the white magician finds it much easier to work with these ray influences than when the second, sixth, or fourth rays are dominant. ¹⁰ Indeed, under the seventh ray it will be possible to build a new structure and civilisation out of the old.

Thus, we're told that "if disciples can learn to utilise interludes they can then release the "prisoners of the planet" which is the objective of all magical work, performed during this world period. Key interludes for the disciple involve holding the mind steady in the light so that abstract or divine thought impresses the soul and is transmitted to the waiting mind which is related to the higher interlude as in our FM meditation. During the lower interlude it is the mind that impresses the brain and produces right action on the physical plane. This use of the interludes when carried out as an act of service to the Plan is the way of the white magician. In a "cycle of excessive activity" with the coming in of the new age and the accelerated energies and forces which are all too visible at this time, the serving group on the inner planes has the opportunity to work in the interludes and keep the plan progressing thus aiding the externalisation of the mysteries and the reappearance of the World Teacher.

When talking about "The prisoners of the planet" we include all forms of life embodied in form and, in working to release them, the disciple stands at the midway point and becomes a medium for transmitting the qualities of the soul via the mind. The disciple is therefore a link in the great chain of Hierarchy which stretches from the planetary Deity "working under the inspiration of the Universal Mind", down to a soul living in the material world. And, in this process of release it's significant to note that the soul is group conscious on its own plane which means that its qualities when brought down to earth express that level of consciousness.

Humanity, the mediating kingdom between the spiritual and lower kingdoms, has been described as "the brain of the planetary Deity, with its many units being analogous to the brain cells in a human being. So, the more people who become spiritually alive the more receptive will be the brain which is simply a receiving mechanism for the mind. Hence the purpose of meditation whereby reality can be contacted, and the divine plan worked out.

The prisoners of the planet are wide ranging in nature, even including "The Being who is the life of our planet, The One in Whom we live and move and have our being". There are "those lives that constitute the Principle of Limitation in a kingdom of nature, working under the law of sacrifice which runs through all creation. Then, there are the sons of mind, human souls or solar Angels who work through the medium of the human family. There are other prisoners who are limited in form as they are not self-conscious entities which brings into consideration pain, suffering and self-consciousness. Whilst subhuman lives suffer, they lack memory and prevision and are said to be "exempt from the agony of foreboding". It is interesting to note that in the evolutionary scheme each field of awareness has its boundaries and limits and constitutes a prison. ¹¹

In releasing the prisoners, the Tibetan points out that for the subhuman lives man works under the influence of the intuition which has to do with universality and a complete loss of the sense of separateness and is predominantly an identification with all beings. In the case of releasing his fellow men and women he has to know the meaning of illumination which occurs when the

light of the soul pours through mind and brain revealing that which was previously hidden from view.

For humanity we read that there are three divisions of labour, and three groups of prisoners can be released; *“Already human beings are working in all three fields.*

1. *Prisoners within the human form. This involves working with one's fellow men; here we can see the many diverse service initiatives that have developed over the last 100 years or so, especially serving groups and of course the UN Sustainable Development Goals*
2. *Prisoners within the animal kingdom, and already much is being done in this field. Here progress is moving rapidly with care and compassion for domesticated animals and conservation programmes for animals in the wild.*
3. *Prisoners within the forms of the vegetable world. A beginning has been made here and we only have to see the emphasis on national parks, open garden initiatives and encouraging people to enjoy and draw on the energies of nature, to see the value of the plant world to human well-being.* ¹²

In the releasing work the true server becomes a transmitter of light in the darkness dispelling glamour and letting in the radiance of reality. In this sense humanity's mission is to bridge between spirit and matter, work in all directions and lift the subhuman kingdoms into heaven and bring heaven down to earth.

Hence, we have an emphasis on *freedom and release* from the thrall of form, freedom being an eternal spiritual principle, that is brought about by the magical work of the soul. It is this magical transformation that will help restore the divine circulatory flow which has been interrupted by human selfishness. And, in this regard, an outstanding example of the New Group of World Servers working as a releasing agent is through the seeding of new ideas, suitable for the new age, including the fundamental idea, rapidly gaining hold, of there being an interconnected and interrelated world. In this world our current thoughts and desires shape the future such as the developing recognition of the need for the caring and nurturing of our planetary home which is now being demonstrated by many new imaginative ideas some of which have already precipitated onto the physical plane, for example, the seed banks at Kew, animal rights and conservation, re-forestation, renewable energy, and, of course, the SDG's. Thoughts and ideas have great power and can be a saving force in the hands of the New Group - the World Saviour.

On that note we will now work together in meditation.

1. Esoteric Astrology, p. 115
2. Esoteric Psychology, Vol 1 p 95
3. Adapted from Education in the New Age, p. xi
4. Discipleship in the New Age Vol 11 p. 596
5. The Externalisation of the Hierarchy, p. 155
6. Ibid p. 635
7. Esoteric Astrology p. 116
8. Discipleship in the New Age Vol 1 p. 783
9. The Rays and the Initiations pp 232-3
10. A Treatise on White Magic p. 511
11. Ibid pp 531-2
12. Ibid 536