

VIRGO FULL MOON – AUGUST 2018 – LONDON

Clothed by the Sun

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Welcome to the festival of Virgo in which we are working with the influence of one of the oldest signs of the zodiac, Virgo, the Virgin. This sign is related to the feminine aspect which nurtures the spirit within the womb of substance.

Virgo is concerned with the potencies of the Earth Mother, but the divine feminine shouldn't be isolated and considered solely from the material angle. Symbolically Eve holds a baby in her arms, representing the Christ principle – the energy of Love that is being nurtured in this second solar system of Love. The symbolism of this can also be seen in the recent NASA launch of a space probe to examine the sun's corona. The event came at the Leo new moon – Leo being ruled by the sun. All going well, the probe's journey will take in both the sun and Venus, the Earth's alter ego, linking them together symbolically in this scientific investigation that has taken six decades to bring to birth.

The central purpose behind humanity's incarnation is to redeem matter by clothing it with the potencies of the spiritual sun. Matter is already endowed with intelligence, obtained from vast epochs of evolution in the previous solar system. This principle of intelligence is therefore humanity's heritage but not its prime goal. We learn that the extended period of time needed to develop the aspect of intelligent activity in the threefold lower self mirrors that of the first solar system evolution. Over the period of many incarnations and the experiences they yield, manas or mind slowly unfolds until the human being comes more and more under the control of the intellect.

The Theosophist, Anna Kingsford, answered the perennial question "What is the purpose of evolution and separation into many forms?" in the words, "*Life is the elaboration of soul through the varied transformations of matter.* God is separated into many – matter is the wax, the soul is the wick, and God is the flame which illumines". This trinity seems to summarise so well the spiritual keynote of Virgo: *I am the mother and the child, I, God, I, matter am.* This is an affirmation which can only be truly spoken by the soul standing, as it does, midway between spirit and matter and recognising its relationship to both of these aspects of divinity.

Let's pause now for reflection and then say 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.

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It is humanity's mission to become a radiant outpost of the spiritual sun, and we are currently witnessing growing numbers of people beginning to respond to the subtle emanations from the sacred "heart of the sun". Although these emanations are described as being too high to be sensed by humanity at large, the mystics of the world do sense the new vibration and, drawn together by this, they are stepping down its energies for the world's thinkers and servers. It's encouraging to learn that this group of mystics is destined to grow in number because the "heart of the solar Logos" beats now in closer rhythm with the Earth than has ever been the case.¹

It gives us pause to consider the vital importance of these full moon periods. We draw together and approach the spiritual hierarchy at a time when the sun's spiritual potencies flow unobstructed towards the earth, carrying the influences of one of the zodiacal signs. We can sense each of the zodiacal qualities in turn through the course of the year, safeguarding them on the day of the full moon and distributing them into human consciousness. Just by reflecting on the opportunity of the sign in question and its influences we touch the essence, even if unknowingly. No matter what the business of the day, a part of our consciousness holds this alignment and inner sensing of influences that each sign transmits. The tension generated on the day of safeguarding is one of silent reception, reminiscent of the Mother nurturing the Christ child, holding the spiritual essence pouring from the heavens in the chalice of the mind and heart, prior to its radiation into human consciousness on the days of distribution which follow, regenerating the aura of the Earth with Loving intent.

At present, many people are spiritually lost, struggling with obstacles and learning hard lessons which will one day produce harmony and reveal the love "that underlies the happenings of the times". Nevertheless over the centuries humanity has become increasingly intelligent, so preparing a more suitable field for the coming in of the Vishnu or the Love-Wisdom aspect latent in the spiritual Self. But it is the Brahma aspect, the Activity-Intelligence aspect which precedes its manifestation in time. The example is given of the kernel of wheat which has to lie in the darkness of mother Earth before the golden perfected ear can be seen, and the Lotus which has to cast its roots down into the mud before the beauty of the blossom can be produced.

This imagery teaches that the aim of each life (whether human, planetary or solar) should be expressive of a definite purpose. This purpose is the development or perfection of a more adequate form, one where we become better "clothed by the sun". Of course the possibility of failure is there too. It gives us pause to consider the truth that if we could truly comprehend our life purpose, the significance of the opportunity before us, then each life would be one of dignity and offer an aim worthy of our best endeavour. When this truth is universally recognised and the intelligence of humanity progresses, then "evolution will proceed with certainty, and the failures be less numerous".

These words of the Tibetan are a poignant message given the large number of suicides that are arising from growing mental health issues and the pain of physical illnesses, particularly the illnesses of old age. A recent ruling by the UK's highest court upheld the end of life decision of an elderly man with an extensive brain injury. This ruling means that families will no longer need to go before the courts for approval to withdraw feeding tubes from loved ones who are in a permanent vegetative state, provided both family and doctors agree. While this ruling is to be cautiously welcomed, its heart breaking to think of the number of people, young people in particular, who take their own lives nowadays. Theosophical teachings speak of the severe consequences for those who are in good physical health, but who through psychological pain and despair commit suicide to escape. As they go against the laws of karma whereby the lessons of life are learned, they are said to be destined to be earth bound and required to live out their appointed term before their release to higher levels. However, we mustn't overlook the fact that this system is a system of Love. It's not for us to judge of course as we don't understand the factors involved or the soul's purpose. Alice Bailey herself made three suicide attempts before the age of 15, although the consciousness of a teenager is different from that of an adult.

As a contrasting perspective to the spiritual illegality of suicide, in a short section on Euthanasia in the book *Esoteric Healing*, the following comment is made which can be considered in the light of recent changes in the law:

"The man whose time has come to die may avail himself of certain methods of release which, from the average point of view, might be regarded as involving euthanasia. Modes of abstraction

will be studied and applied when death is near, and the process will be regarded as soul withdrawal, as a process of liberation and release. That time is not so far away as you might think.

Today, grave dangers attend the process of hastening withdrawal, and the legal safeguards will require most careful working out, and even then grave and serious issues might develop. But some hastening of the processes of death is in order and must be worked out. Primarily, however, the will-to-die of the patient is not based at this time on knowledge and on mental polarisation, or upon an achieved continuity of consciousness, but on emotional reactions and a shrinking from pain and from fear.

Where, however, there is terrible suffering and absolutely no hope of real help or of recovery, and where the patient is willing (or if too ill, the family is willing), then, under proper safeguards, something should be done. But this arranging of the time to go will not be based on emotion and upon compassion, but on the spiritual sciences and upon a right understanding of the spiritual possibilities of death." [p. 319]

Only when humanity has some understanding that there is purpose to life, that each individual life has a spiritual goal set by the soul, and understands that there is no such thing as death, can a more intelligent approach to the big decisions of any specific incarnation be made. The termination of a life due to severe illness and incapacity will be made in connection with the feasibility of continuing to work out the soul's plans and reap the benefit of experience in the physical world. These decisions will be made without intense emotions clouding the issue. The inadvisability of suicide will be understood, and the temptation to seek a way out will lessen when it is understood that, in future incarnations, similar conditions will recur until their inherent lessons are learned.

The realisation that life is purposeful is greatly needed today. We are seeing the effects of meaningless existence and the attempts to fill this emptiness with the accumulation of as much material wealth as possible and the striving to satisfy rampant desire by ever greater and diverse sensations. The simple realisation that there is a Divine Plan and we are all part of it, and that the main ingredient of this Plan is love, will ignite the public imagination and transform the intellect of humanity in wisdom. Then humanity can work with nature, learning from her intelligence, and in turn, making use of the living materials of the earth in ways that infuse it with the energy of magnetic, loving attraction.

Considering the range and effectiveness of the intelligent activity and adaptability of nature, we are seeing fascinating advances currently in the field of biomimicry, which draws its inspiration from nature. One Biomimicry website states that Mother Nature has perfected the biomechanics of everything from tiny leaf cells to whale fins over millennia, adapting their functions to be as efficient and effective as possible for each particular set of circumstances and environments. So it's no surprise that designers, architects and engineers are taking cues from nature when they set out to create buildings, trains, prosthetics, robots etc. Examples abound. As the fastest train in the world at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, Japan's Shinkansen Bullet Train was always a marvel of modern technology. But there was one major problem after its initial debut: noise. Each time the train emerged from the tunnel, it caused a change in air pressure that led to thunder-like sounds that could be heard by people a quarter of a mile away. The train's chief engineer, a bird-watcher, had the idea to take inspiration from the shape of a bird's beak to make it more aerodynamic. The resulting design was based on the narrow profile of a kingfisher's beak, resulting in a quieter train that also consumes 15% less electricity and goes 10% faster than before.

Another example was inspired by getting a positive use out of a mosquito! Researchers and engineers at Kansai University in Japan saw amazing potential in the structure of the mosquito's mouth. They used sophisticated engineering techniques that can carve out structures on the

nanometer scale. The result of this blend of materials science and biology was a needle that penetrates like a mosquito, using pressure to stabilize and painlessly glide into skin. Tests proved it worked flawlessly. An experiment conducted at Imperial College and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in the UK applied similar engineering techniques. They showed that a neuroprobe tipped with this biomimetic design required the least amount of force to move. The less force a neurosurgeon can use, the more they can be certain to leave the brain undamaged. Along similar lines, researchers at a German institute noted the spider's ability to squeeze through tight spaces and turn on a dime and are using it as an ideal model for lifesaving robots that could make their way through rubble after a disaster to locate survivors. They further envision its use as an exploratory tool in environments that are inaccessible or too hazardous for humans.

The intelligence and adaptability of nature is a constant source of wonder for us to observe, mimic and use. The power of *anima mundi*, the universal soul, pours through all substance down to the smallest atom. The Tibetan once noted that "There is a point in the initiate process when the initiate becomes aware—in a manner which I cannot or may not explain to you—of the light as it blazed forth at the consummation of the previous solar system; to it we give the inadequate name of the "light of the intelligence." It is really the light of what we call the light of the *anima mundi*."² This is now replaced by the light of the kingdom of souls as intelligence becomes instinctual, but it is thanks to this intelligent activity permeating all substance that Nature's designs give us such an amazing living laboratory to solve all our needs and perfect our technology in service to humanity.

Mastery over our own nature will free us to greater creativity. The complexity of world problems arise from separateness and materialism and require something more than technology, for only the electro-magnetic attractive force of Love can truly reform and unify us. At the end of this second solar system and at the start of the third, we can only imagine what it will then mean to use forms whose substance is permeated with Love-Wisdom (intelligent Love?) in the same way as we experience the intelligence principle in nature today. If we are astonished by the adaptability and designs of nature, the design and alchemy wrought in the fires of Love will bring redeemed forms of great beauty, vibrancy and spiritual purpose to house the Life or Spirit.

Humanity now has the power to shape the future; it stands as the Mother, with the choice to carry on identifying with the matter aspect that has so long controlled it, or to recognise the Christ within and prepare the way for this future. Between these polarities lies the group of world servers forging a path to the higher polarity, consciously raising the vibration of the form nature by responding to energies of Love with intelligent application. Through this process the forms of the kingdoms of nature are being purified. At the same time however, they are also being corrupted by separative and materialistic motives, so reflecting the duality and the strongly polarised and volatile situations so evident today.

Deep thinking on these issues can reveal the nature and purpose of form. As the form comes to be regarded as simply a vehicle of the indwelling life, perspectives will change and understanding will grow. The glimmers which veil, and which the media so often reflects, will gradually dissipate as physical vehicles begin to be scientifically and spiritually prepared for expressing the divine. The Mother will give birth to the son. For now, our immediate task is to raise and purify matter and form, conscious that the earth is regarded as the turning point or the battle-ground between Spirit and matter. For the Spiritual hierarchy, the kingdom of souls, the goal which They have in view and the end towards which They are working has been summed up for us in the following commentary upon an ancient Tibetan scripture.

"All beauty, all goodness, all that makes for the eradication of sorrow and ignorance upon earth must be devoted to the one Great Consummation. Then when the Lords of Compassion shall have spiritually civilised the Earth and made of it a Heaven, there will be revealed to the Pilgrims the Endless Path, which reaches to the heart of the universe. Man, then no longer man, will transcend Nature, and impersonally, yet consciously, in at-one-ment with all the Enlightened Ones, help to fulfil the Law of the Higher Evolution, of which Nirvana is but the beginning."³

This is the long term goal but Alice Bailey shared with us the first step towards its realisation depicted in the words of an unknown poet:

When thou canst see
Beneath the outer seeming
The causes which to all effects give birth,
When thou canst feel, in warmth of sunlight streaming
The Love of God, encircling all the earth,
Then know thyself initiate in the Mysteries
The wise men ever deemed of greatest worth."⁴

Let's go into meditation now recalling the great service of the discipleship groups in the world to act as a catalyst in the laboratory of Earth.

- 1 Adapted from *A Treatise on White Magic*, p.314
- 2 Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II,p436
- 3 Tibetan Yoga and Secret Doctrines, by W.Y. Evans-Wentz, p. 12.
- 4 From Bethlehem to Calvary, p30