



Virgo Festival

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"I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am"

Derek Fraser

Once a month, as near as possible to the time of the full moon we meet together physically and over the airwaves to participate in an act of world service on a planetary scale. We can gain joy and inspiration from the thought that, in these monthly meetings, the focus is on building a bridge of lighted energy between the human and spiritual worlds – an approach to the spiritual Hierarchy. We are participating in the scientific and intelligent use of Invocation and Evocation which evokes response from the Hierarchy and the Christ and in so doing we are playing our part in bringing the kingdom of the soul down to earth. This must surely be in accord with the divine Plan for all work on the inner planes must be expressed upon the physical plane otherwise the energies dissipate.

Although we focus on the astrological sign each month, we do not need to have a deep knowledge of astrology to work effectively. The main requirement is to work as a group on the mental plane, sensitive to the qualities of the incoming energies – through our thinking and consciousness, in our hearts and minds, thus helping to establish "divine attributes" in human consciousness thereby strengthening the link between the spiritual and human kingdoms. And the implications of this group work are especially significant at this time of planetary crisis, for when the bridge of living light to the spiritual realms is strengthened humanity will be able to see more clearly and perceptively its role as the planetary light bearer – to all of the kingdoms of nature – the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms and including the human kingdom too. Through those crises that touch the soul, and indeed may be evoked by the soul itself, light flows into mind and brain and consciousness unfolds more rapidly. As a result, there is increased sensitivity to the spiritual qualities that are needed to transform the world and bring about right relations between people and the planet. This is being demonstrated by many thinking people of goodwill and by millions of groups whose purpose and objective is to serve the greater good. Service is the impulse of the soul at work in daily life - the horizontal expression of the vertical line of contact of the individual and group with the higher Self – the soul.

The sign of Virgo is one of the four arms of the Mutable Cross – the Cross of the Hidden Christ which is the Cross of "temporal and temporary change of fluidity and of those constantly altering environments which drive the soul within the form from one extreme of experience to another, so that life shuttles between the pairs of opposites". It is the sign whereby the hidden germ of spiritual life develops and leads to an awakening of the soul within the form. Thus, "The Hidden Light of God" is revealed through an awakening sense of responsibility – this being the outstanding quality of the soul.

It's encouraging to consider that in Virgo the awakening of the inner light results in a change from desire for personality satisfaction and immersion in the material form to recognition of the man's true inner reality and the purpose for which form life exists. And in the transition from the age of Pisces to Aquarius it's of significance to read in Esoteric Astrology that:

Virgo symbolises depths, darkness, quiet and warmth; it is the valley of deep experience wherein secrets are discovered and eventually "brought to light"; it is the place of slow, gentle and yet powerful crises and periodic developments which take place in the dark and yet which lead to light. It is the "blinded stage" which is found in Masonic rituals and which ever precedes the gift of light. Virgo stands for the "womb of time" wherein God's plan (the mystery and the secret of the ages) is slowly matured and—with pain and discomfort and through struggle and conflict—brought into manifestation at the end of the appointed time.... 2

The symbology of the womb and of the darkness suggests the mysterious workings of the seed which is described in The Dictionary of the Sacred Language of all Scriptures and Myths as:

".... containing the infinitely great in the infinitely small". Seeds are commonplace and taken for granted yet if we think about it how amazing is it that the design of a magnificent oak tree develops out of the humble acorn.

Furthermore, in the symbol of the seed lies the key to Life and its purpose and meaning. Within the human soul is a spark of the divine - "...every soul being like a seedling in which is wrapped the mysterious potency of life..." (Ibid) imprisoned in its shell until it germinates and begins the journey to fulfil its potential.

Rudolph Steiner, in a lecture given in 1917 refers to:

...the mystery of birth...[where] real cosmic understanding is sought. All such understanding has been replaced for modern men by a purely earthly understanding. If someone wants to investigate, for example, how the embryonic life-cell of animal or man develops, he studies it through a microscope and is concerned only with what lies there directly under his lens. But that is far from being the whole thing. It will be realised... that the forces at work are not contained in the cell but come from the cosmos and its constellations. When a seed of life arises, it does so because the living creature which harbours the seed is receiving forces, cosmic forces, from all sides of the cosmos. And when fertilisation occurs, the results depend on which cosmic forces enter actively into the process. 3

With that profound thought let us pause for a few moments and 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.

Coming back down to earth, the importance of the preservation of seeds in the plant kingdom is recognised by The Millennium Seed Bank situated at Wakehurst Sussex in the UK, a facility of the Royal Botanical Gardens which is "the largest, most diverse wild plant species genetic resource in the world; a fantastic result of contributions from 97 countries since 2000." The Seed Bank has an underground collection of over 2.4 billion seeds from around the world, banking them to conserve them for the future. The scientists at this facility are playing their part in nurturing and sustaining the plant world which, according to the Ageless Wisdom teachings, is said to be one of the responsibilities of the human kingdom. Indeed, Humanity is described as being the planetary light bearer, transmitting the light of knowledge, of wisdom, and of understanding, and this in the esoteric sense.⁴ Turning again to Steiner and his extensive spiritual writings, he wrote that:

"Out of the seed, if planted in the soil, a plant of complex structure will grow." Let him build up this plant in his imagination, and reflect as follows: "What I am now picturing to myself in my imagination will later on be enticed from the seed by the forces of earth and light."⁵

And regarding the magical work of the soul in the human being, there is yet another interesting section in The Dictionary of Sacred Myths referred to earlier:

"Within the human soul itself a portion, so to speak, of the eternal divine essence, the being of God himself. Every soul is like a seedling in which is wrapped up a mysterious

potency of life which may take long to unfold but cannot be destroyed. As a giant oak is hidden away in every acorn, so is the life of God latent within the spirit of man waiting for unfoldment..."

And when considering humanity as a whole - as the mediating kingdom between the higher and lower worlds, we have what the Tibetan calls certain new "inspirations," certain new "seeds of hope" for the future, referred to in the Introductory Statement in *The Rays and the Initiations*:

"Students...would do well to remember that all basic and fundamental changes taking place upon the physical plane are necessarily the result of inner subjective causes, emanating from some level of the divine consciousness, and therefore from some plane other than the physical...It will therefore be apparent to you that the descent of energy brings with it—under the cyclic law—certain new "inspirations," certain new "seeds of hope" for the future, and certain active Agents as well, Who are and will be responsible for the task of preparation, of fertilisation and of all the coming new age enterprises. These descending energies evoke also the obstructing forces, and I would here remind you that these obstructing evil forces (so-called) are met with upon the highest spiritual levels because they are—in their turn—evoked by the impelling impact of the coming Avatar Whose "note is heard ahead of Him, and His energy spreads before Him." 6

Furthermore, in terms of life and death - after the restitution of the physical body to the universal reservoir of substance, there are seeds of hope for the future in accord with the Laws of Rebirth and Karma where we read in *Esoteric Healing* that there are:

Three major conditions factors in the life which has past hold the key to the future incarnation - esoterically called "the three seeds or germs of the future".

Seed One - determines the nature of the physical environment for the return to incarnation.

Seed Two - determines the quality of the etheric body through which the ray forces can make contact with the dense physical body.

Seed Three - gives the key to the astral vehicle in which the man will be polarised in the next incarnation.... *It is this seed which—through the forces it attracts—brings the man again into relation with those he previously loved or with whom he had close contact. It can be accepted as a fact that the group idea governs subjectively all incarnations, and that reincarnated man is brought into incarnation not only through his own desire for physical plane experience, but also under group impulse and in line with the group karma as well as with his own....7*

Then there are the seed groups discussed by the Tibetan in the Alice Bailey books which are intended to be channels for "peculiar types of force" which will help humanity fulfil its destiny as a vast station of light and a powerhouse of spiritual force and a centre of distribution to the other kingdoms of nature. There are ten inner seed groups which will eventually lead to a new state of consciousness and a new culture – "...which can constitute magnetic centres or rallying points for the new religion, the new medicine, the new psychology and education and the new politics" 8

These seed groups like plant seeds go through the silent dark growing stage casting strong roots downwards and penetrate slowly and steadily upwards towards the light. This is necessarily slow work which according to DK will unfold over the next two hundred and seventy-five years 9 (published in 1944). Thus, in these frantic times, we are reminded of the idea that progress in all occult work is slow and steadily achieved.

Returning to the sign of Virgo, wherein God's plan is slowly matured as the seeds of the new age germinate, we may reflect upon the nature of the Plan as being:

...as much of the divine Purpose as can be brought into expression upon the planet—under the Law of Evolution and the tension of this planetary crisis through which we are passing at this time—or at any one time or particular epoch in time and space. 10

Furthermore, in a passage from the Old Commentary we read that:

He stands in strength who sees the Will of God behind the Plan. The will-to-good substands all true goodwill. That will is he.

The Plan for this cycle... is goodwill for all men, and through all men, goodwill. That Plan starts now.

The Plan, within our planet as a whole, is the changing of the energy discharging unit (the etheric subplanes—A.A.B.). The fourfold form must assume triangular relation. Ponder on this.

The objective of the Plan is to reproduce upon the plane of earth the inner kingdom of the soul. This has the Master of the Masters long foretold. Prepare the way." 11

Thus, in the apparent complexity of the esoteric teachings we have simplicity in the objectives of the Plan which is to bring down to earth the qualities of the soul which will lead from the unreal to the real during these times when illusion and glamour is rife.

The simplicity of the soul is already being demonstrated through the awakening sense of responsibility of so many individuals and serving groups, as compared to just a few decades ago. The qualities of the soul must be expressed through its instrument in the three worlds – the threefold personality, there is no other way. This awakening sensitivity means that the light of wisdom is being added to knowledge and increasingly the light of the intuition is bringing recognition of the universality of all life and how the apparently separated parts fit together, not being separate at all. The analogy of the jigsaw comes to mind where with only one part missing the whole picture is incomplete.

Notwithstanding the many points of crisis that confront us all, and perhaps because of them, the green shoots of a new spirit of relationship with people and the planet are emerging from the dark depths of matter.

Hence, the keynotes of this sign convey their meaning clearly as noted in *Esoteric Astrology*:

On the ordinary wheel, the command goes forth in the following words which institute the activity of Virgo: "And the Word said, Let Matter reign." Later, upon the wheel of the disciple, the voice emerges from the Virgin Herself and she says: "I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am."

We are advised to "Ponder upon the beauty of this synthesis and teaching and know that you yourself have said the first word as the soul, descending into the womb of time and space in a far and distant past. The time has now come when you can, if you so choose, proclaim your identity with both divine aspects—matter and Spirit, the mother and the Christ. 12

On that note we shall now go into our meditation...

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1. *Esoteric Astrology* p. 553
 2. *Ibid* p. 260
 3. <https://rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA178/English/RSP1966/19171125p02.html>
 4. *A Treatise on White Magic* p. 100
 5. <https://rsarchive.org/Search.php?q=a+seed&type=phrase&start=40> GA 10
 6. *The Rays and the Initiations*, pp 12/15
 7. *Esoteric Healing* pp 491-2
 8. *Discipleship in the New Age* Vol 1 pages 52 and p 71
 9. *Discipleship in the New Age* Vol 1 p. 54
 10. *Discipleship in the New Age* Vol 11 pp. 371-2
 11. *Ibid* pp 595-6
 12. *Esoteric Astrology* p. 284-5