

The opportunity of the birthing process

Welcome everyone to our Virgo festival meeting which occurs tomorrow morning at 6.22 BST or 5.22 GMT. Each month meditators have the opportunity of observing the rhythm of group meditation over the full moon period during the higher interlude of the month when spiritual energies of great potency can be contacted and used in service to humanity. Groups and individuals all over the world take part in this rhythmic service work and have done so for many years in physical meetings and now over the internet.

We are living in strange and unprecedented times - times of crisis but also of opportunity. Enforced changes have had to be made as a result of the pandemic, changes that are unwelcome, unsettling and sometimes threatening. Change is inevitable, as we know only too well from our own life experiences and the life of communities and nations also change over time as a study of history reveals. The historian views things from a broad perspective but in the midst of immediate fast-moving events it can be difficult to make sense of what is happening; however, from a higher vantage point - from the perspective of the soul - insights emerge. In the search for meaning and understanding the Keynotes of Virgo are of value:

From the angle of the form: "Let matter reign" and from the angle of the soul: "I am the Mother and the Child. I, God, I, matter am".

Virgo is said to be one of the most significant astrological signs in the zodiac and concerns the whole goal of the evolutionary process which is to shield, nurture and finally reveal the hidden spiritual reality. All of the astrological signs can be considered both individually and collectively and a study of the underlying conditioning energies and forces at work brings more understanding of life and events. Such a study, especially as the intuition unfolds, brings a new wider world view which reveals first hand that our small planet does not stand alone in space but is an integral part of our solar system and systems and constellations beyond that, which means that a vast array of energies and forces are at play through the whole field of space.

In Virgo the pairs of opposites - soul and body are blended and become of great importance to each other. The Mother protects and nurtures the germ of the Christ life - the soul - the mediating principle between spirit - the Father aspect and matter the Mother aspect; the result is the Christ life or consciousness. And this is a process that applies throughout the cosmos, which in terms of fire is described as "...the union or atonement of electric fire (Spirit) and fire by friction (energised matter) [and] solar fire is produced". ¹ Thus Virgo is the cosmic mother and the receptive agent to the Father aspect. ²

The Virgin Mother appears in all of the great world religions - which gives rise to the most accurate keynote for this sign "Christ in you, the hope of glory". In other words, the soul or consciousness aspect is the driving force behind all human progress. Interestingly, in our second ray system, we read that one of the names of the second ray Lord of love-wisdom is "The Displayer of Glory...The One who hides the Life". ³ Thus, the Christ consciousness must be brought to birth which may help to explain the whole problem of our current world situation.

The soul is embedded in form, in material substance, and through the birthing process it comes to life and emerges from the womb of matter to express its divinity.

Virgo is one of the four arms of the Mutable Cross - the Cross of the personality or of the steadily developing and finally integrating human being - it is the cross of fluidity and constant change which drives the soul from one extreme of experience to another. In other words, there is a swinging back and forth between the pairs of opposites which is the experience of the individual disciple as well as the experience of the world disciple humanity. In this sign, we have the symbology of the hidden germ of life slowly growing and maturing in the quiet and warmth of the womb - a place of slow, gentle and yet powerful crisis and periodic developments which take place in the dark. Through struggle, conflict, pain and discomfort the soul comes into the world and takes physical form - a divine spark clothed in material substance.

Having briefly considered these basic principles we can pause for a few minutes for reflection and then say 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.

The journey towards inner union is a long and arduous one as awareness progresses from instinct to intuition through the stages of the veiled consciousness, self-consciousness, group consciousness and eventually God consciousness. This journey cannot be considered without taking into consideration the mysterious Laws of Rebirth and Karma. The soul-on-its-own-plane - the Solar Angel takes a set of personality vehicles in each incarnation and the memory cells or permanent atoms, which are carried over from lifetime to lifetime, condition the nature, quality and character of the individual. Each new birth brings opportunity for spiritual progress in the environment "chosen" and whilst Karma and Rebirth conditions each individual life these laws have always to be considered in a group context for souls incarnate in families, groups, communities and nations. Furthermore, we're told by the Tibetan Master that the Law of Karma is cosmic, systemic and planetary and that Cosmic Karma is imposed upon the solar Logos from outside of the system. ⁴ These Laws therefore operate in an interrelated universe where there is no separation of life - only form.

Returning to Spirit and Matter, questions arise that have challenged the minds of thinking people through the ages, such as why we are here, what is the purpose of life? The materialist might well suggest there is no purpose to life and that it appears by luck or chance. However,

according to the Ageless Wisdom teachings, there is a divine purpose, there is a Plan, and Life is all that there is for we live and move in a world of energies and forces - that play through the whole field of space and all that is found within that field. And we read in *Esoteric Psychology Vol 1* that “Every ray Life is an expression of a solar Life and every Planet is linked with every other planetary life in the solar system”.⁵ A glimpse of these profound truths can register when the soul consciousness awakens, taking the thinker beyond existing facts and knowledge. Thus, through the stress and strain of the birthing process light flows into mind and brain bringing new truths and insights.

One of the most profound and fundamental statements, made by Helena Blavatsky, is that: “matter is spirit at the lowest point of cyclic activity and spirit is matter at its highest point”. Hence there is the “great basic duality” of spirit and matter and with the interplay of these “opposites”, the thinking person can move on the upward arc towards a more spiritual life through the blending of intelligence and love-wisdom. On this journey, pain and suffering, as well as joy, are experienced as the soul’s instrument - the personality aligns with it. The mystery of why there is pain and suffering on our planet was revealed by the Buddha some 2,600 years ago, through The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path - the path of right relations. When man identifies with the objective form rather than the inner Reality there is pain and sorrow but through detachment, discrimination and dispassion there is liberation from the hold of the form. Man, then becomes the Thinker and develops the ability to differentiate between the real and the unreal in daily life.

This interplay between the polarities and the struggle to achieve liberation from the prison house of form would seem to lie at the heart of all of our world problems. Things and objects are simply the outer effect and result of thoughts of some kind - they are transient and should be discarded once they have served their purpose. Hanging on to outdated forms, whether structures or ways of thinking, brings pain and suffering - a lesson to be learned the hard way. Thankfully, the birthing process brings forth a new energy and life with the opportunity for a new orientation and direction, this being especially relevant at this time of human history during the transition between the ages of Pisces and Aquarius.

Transitions are invariably challenging and in considering the progress of humanity, in the introduction to the book *The Problems of Humanity* by Alice Bailey, there is emphasis on thinking through world problems taking into consideration the growth of human consciousness, in which “lie the grounds for an unshaken optimism as to human destiny”.⁶ Through relatively slow progress over the centuries, through the rise and fall of civilisations in the East and West, we have arrived today in an age of information available at the touch of a keypad. Physical distances have shrunk with people able to travel the world whereas not that long-ago people were walking to the next village or the wealthy using the stagecoach. Now this frantic going back and forth across the globe has been interrupted and brought to a shuddering halt by the pandemic. There is an interlude – a pause for thought amidst the fears, worries, concerns but also the compassion and goodwill of people all over the world for their loved ones, neighbours and fellow citizens.

Whatever may be the causes of the pandemic there seems to be a generally accepted view that the abrupt interruption in the frantic life of the 21st c has brought time for reflection on what constitutes the way forward for humanity. There is now greater public awareness of the way humanity has exploited the resources of the planet and especially the lack of respect and reverence for the natural world. Time will tell whether the pain and suffering of this crisis leads to a life founded on spiritual values and principles. The optimist would suggest that these trials

are part of the birthing process leading to the emergence of a new kind of holistic thinking. The pessimist would not think in this way.

This brings us to the need for change and a new direction or reorientation. In this regard it's of significance that the Fourth Ray figures highly in Virgo - it is the ray that governs humanity. Yet, let us not forget the influence of the fifth ray of Concrete Knowledge or the power to know, because we're told that through the active work of these two rays the fourth ray eventually produces the appearance of the intuition, with the fifth ray responsible for the development of the intellect. Thus, for humanity, we have the problem and hence "his glory" and the struggle to move from the intellect to the intuition - from knowledge and facts and wonderful inventions to the synthetic understanding of the soul. ⁷

The working out of the fourth ray of harmony through conflict, the ray of struggle, strain, pain and conflict, brings about the tension that awakens the light of the indwelling soul. The soul brings forth love and inclusiveness in contrast to the separatism and self-interest of the personality which by its nature operates at the centre of its own little universe. These contrasting forces of the fourth ray "make life one perpetual warfare and unrest..." ⁸

All of the above helps us to understand more deeply the words in the book *The Problems of Humanity*:

"When the birthing process is over, a new humanity will be seen active upon the earth, a new race of men - new because differently oriented. ⁹

The detached Observer viewing the world situation from high on the mental plane – sees more clearly the struggle to find a new direction, a new orientation, a new way of thinking. Orientation means a change of direction and in this context, it means a change in thinking conditioned by the emerging soul or Christ consciousness. Through the wonders of knowledge and technology things are seen from a distance, for example, the beautiful images of our planet from space, changing climatic patterns, environmental changes, the wonders of the auroras as well as the horrific results of war, injustice, inequality. Through the eye of the soul an interconnected world of meaning is intuitively sensed.

Spiritual orientation requires an inner moral compass that sees life in terms of higher values and principles which will lead to right relationships not only between peoples, but with all of kingdoms of nature - the animal kingdom, the plant world and the fabric of the planet - the mineral world. This re-orientation will impact on everyone and all communities, groups and nations, as these higher values emerge from the gestation stage and come to life. Fundamental change takes time and requires patience, understanding and persistence along with the imagination of a new vision. In the face of a planetary crisis humanity must come together in spirit of constructive dialogue to tackle world problems and use the United Nations as a forum for constructive dialogue and not for personality squabbles and disagreements. The United Nations Organisation, which emerged out of the crisis of the world war, was a significant spiritual development for the planet but now some 70 years later the motivating soul impulse is more veiled as the nations of the world temporarily imagine that they are isolated islands and can "go it alone". Yet there is optimism and as a recent Guardian article stated:

Remarkably, one of the optimistic views on the future of international co-operation comes from the man who oversaw the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide. Roméo Dallaire, the Canadian former general and senator who served as force commander for UNAMIR, the UN

peacekeeping force in Rwanda, between 1993-1994, said: “I think we are in a revolutionary time ... The under-25s are going to start to be very active and they are going to start demanding that humanity is treated as one.

“They are a generation without borders. This generation will have the means through the incredible weapons of social media. They have the power to push aside the leaders that hold them back.”

Hence the challenge and the opportunity of the New Age as:

“Aquarius releases Virgo from her load” ¹¹

1 *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 228

2. *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 255

3. *Esoteric Psychology Vol I*, p. 66

4. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 469

5. *Esoteric Psychology Vol I*, p. 152

6. *The Problems of Humanity*, p. 5

7. *Esoteric Psychology Vol I*, pp. 320-22

8. *Ibid.* p. 206

9. *The Problems of Humanity*, p. 6

10 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/23/what-is-the-future-of-the-un-in-the-age-of-impunity>

11 *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 333