

Strengthening: Through the Stages of Probation and Awakening

Festival of Virgo

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Today, and for the few days following, let us deliberately link our thoughts/thinking to the following significant quote, “Virgo is related to Taurus through Vulcan, which brings in what might be called the *endurance* aspect of the will-to-be which carries the incarnated son of God through the experience of the dark time wherein the personality becomes the Mother in the stage of gestation, through the period of infancy upon the physical plane and through the stage of adolescence until the initiate attains full maturity” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 274). This is the full-grown man in Christ of St. Paul, the Anagamin in Buddhism, the Hindus call this the Hamsa stage and the Christians, the Transfiguration on a High Mountain -- the transfiguration of the personality by the Soul, which is the completed soul-infused personality of esoteric psychology, culminating in the third initiation of the Wisdom Religion.

In all of these, Virgo gives birth to the Christ child and nurtures the infant, and the fragment that was put down at individualization, when animal man became the human being. This inner life increases imperceptibly at first, then gradually and increasingly one comes to realize that “I am the Mother and the Child. I, God, I, matter am.” This involves a vast period of painstaking work, which leads to the “stage of quickened life and the stage of Probation or Awakening”. In this brief reflection on Virgo and its Keynote, the human-divine adventure is summarized.

Let us pause for few moments to sound the Affirmation of the Disciple, aligning ourselves with the current of energies increasingly pouring in from Virgo, as it reaches its culmination tomorrow at 5:59 am, EDT.

I am a point of light within a greater Light.
I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of Love divine.
I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focused within the fiery Will of God.
And thus I stand.

I am a way by which all people may achieve.
I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.
I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.
And thus I stand.

And standing thus, revolve
And tread this way the ways of men, and know the ways of God.
And thus I stand.

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It would seem that we are passing through a period of this “dark time”, mentioned above, “when the personality becomes the Mother in the stage of gestation ...”. And during the duration, what is needed is indicated by the rest of the above quote which reads as follows: “This necessitates persistence, endurance and continuity of effort ...” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p.274). These words of the Tibetan, may be considered as the components of the definition of STRENGTH. And the good news is that these

energies are abundantly present and increasingly accessible during the times of the full moons, as we continue to use the formula: “energy follows thought”.

Strength is needed in these turbulent days when everything appears to be shifting; Strength is needed to hold the Vision; strength is needed to stand in the face of gross inhumanity; many times, strength is needed just to stand and wait in the face of the inexplicable—for in the words of the poet-- “they also serve, who only stand and wait.” Strength is needed when the wrongs, the evil, the injustices and ill-will appear triumphant, due to the glamour cast on events by the deceptive sequencing of time. Time renders the immediate pain and agony, attendant to seeming losses and defeats and failures, interminable. Strength is needed to face the challenges of illness.

This energy of persistence, the strength to hold onto the right, the good, the beautiful and the true is pouring in this very moment among other beneficent energies and forces, as we participate in this full moon festival in Virgo. Also needed is the energy of endurance, another attribute of strength—one that is uniquely available for world service today. The ability to sustain a prolonged stressful effort or activity is today needed more than ever before. Concerning endurance, the Webster dictionary expresses it beautifully and clearly as ‘the ability to withstand hardship or adversity’.

Then we come to the energy of Continuity, which demands from us the ceaselessness of effort, of service, the ceaselessness of faith and the ceaselessness of hope. Here we are encouraged by the continuity of the Earth itself and her humanity and the moon and the stars and the progress that has been made, in spite of many new and growing challenges. The world continues and we must participate in its continuity, and in service as long as we are present in this threefold vehicle--the present time leaves us no other alternative as aspirants and disciples.

And so, for aspirants and disciples, persistence, endurance and continuity are peculiarly relevant from the point of view of service. We are living in peculiar and challenging times; and we are also living in an amazingly great time for group service, where many people are being trained for this new mode of world service and we are, also,” being fitted for this work through experience, difficulties and the tension of world service” (*The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 529).

The increasing use of the Great Invocation, the spread of mass education, plus the present advances in learning and, in particular, in science and technology have made available much light in the world. The result is that everything is coming under increasing scrutiny, and the aspirant and disciple are under the most intense scrutiny of all as they navigate the soul-personality world, employing what measure of light they are engendering. The unremitting revelations of themselves/ourselves in the light of the acute issues of daily living, in one of the most amazing times of planet Earth, calls for all the persistence, endurance and continuity that we are capable of, and the energies streaming in from Virgo are aiding.

This time period of the world, the present cycle, up to the year 2025, has been called “The Stage of the Forerunner” and was described by the Tibetan as follows: “It is preparatory in nature, testing in its methods, and intended to be revelatory in its techniques and results” (*The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 530). Therefore, the need for the energies of persistence, endurance and continuity, emanating from soul levels, cannot be over emphasized. This period it would seem, carries its own special and peculiar opportune spiritual Tension of energies, which are available till 2025. Again, it would seem that we are simultaneously fortunate and challenged, for we are working at a most

extraordinarily propitious time, which accordingly, has its unique demands on aspirants and disciples assembling presently.

From the above considerations, the significance of Persistence, Endurance and Continuity, as expressions of and aspects of the will-to-be, made available through the Virgo-Taurus-Vulcan triangle of relationship, and increasingly present today, strongly demand to be understood anew. This significance needs to be comprehended not through ordinary mental understanding of the three words, for that will not provide the needed insight, and mere mental understanding of these three words, while helpful, does not provide the point of view of the soul, which must be present if we are to wrestle from these three words their group implications. We are considering a penetration into the significance of the three words -- persistence, endurance and continuity which, when successful, will complete and lead to a polarization that will instigate the right precipitation of that which lies hidden and which is a gift, in the custody of "The Stage of the Forerunner". To put it in simpler terms, there is a special and unique spiritual Tension available for group service based on individual responsibility and appreciation during this "Stage of the Forerunner" that may be taken advantage of by present day aspirants and disciples.

The Keynote to the Mission of Virgo is provided on page 252 of *Esoteric Astrology*. There the Tibetan provided a second keynote for Virgo, which He characterized as "the keynote of the Mission of Virgo," and stated it as "Christ in you the hope of glory." In relation to this keynote the Tibetan made the following remarks: "The keynote which embodies the truth as to the mission of Virgo most accurately is 'Christ in you the hope of glory.'. There is no clearer or more adequate definition of this[zodiacal] sign than that: I would have you bear it in mind throughout our discussion upon this sixth sign of the zodiac (or the seventh if one is not considering the reversed wheel)" (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 252).

Interestingly, the same exact words of this second keynote of Virgo were earlier stated by the apostle Paul in the *New Testament*, and the idea of Christ immanent in every human being was progressively presented by Paul in his Epistle (Letters) to the Romans in chapter 8, verse 10, where he said: "And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness." Here, the words are not direct and are a blind. But later, in the second Epistle to the Corinthians, a portion of the blind is removed and more light is shed, making the idea clearer in chapter 13, verse 5 as follows "... Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" Paul is advancing towards a higher and deeper consciousness and accordingly illuminating the people with his words. Then, later still, in His Epistle (Letter) to the Colossians, chapter 1, verse 27, Paul unveils the whole mystery, most clearly, He unveils the mystery of the Christ consciousness--immanent and given birth and nurtured in the human form, and the full keynote is revealed, the light bursts forth, the mystery of the glory is proclaimed for all to hear and Paul sounds the following words: "... the riches of the glory of this mystery ...; which is 'CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY'"(emphasis added).

Paul, in giving this revelation, indicated that it was a great mystery, which had been hidden for ages and generations, but now is being made known. And in our own times, it's been made even clearer, and light on these seven words — "Christ in you, the hope of glory" – have been amplified and carried to a new level of illumination and understanding. And today we can interpret the same words from the point of view of the many different religions, for example: Krishna in you, the hope of glory; the Imam Mahdi in you, the hope of glory; the Shekinah in you, the hope of glory; the Messiah in you, the hope of glory; the Bodhisattva in you, the hope of glory; and the Light in you, the hope of glory.

Here the words are not related to the zodiac at all, that will come later, from the Tibetan, through Alice Bailey, and to a more receptive world group. We are indeed fortunate.

In Virgo, a significant dual process is going on, a distant version of the “dual the moving forward” of the new age discipleship groups. We are given or made to understand the evolution of the form nature as the vehicle for the birth and growth of the Christ consciousness. The importance of the form is thereby indicated, simultaneously with the usually recognized importance given to the soul, for there is nothing that we can achieve without this triple form.

Now there is increasing appreciation on the part of modern occult students of the importance of the form nature, for, again, there is nothing that we can achieve without the form. And our present challenges are intimately connected with this birth and growth of the Christ child into the biblical “full grown man in Christ,” as He is nurtured by the triple personality. The welfare or care for this triple form—the etheric-physical, the emotional and the mental bodies— is increasingly evoking understanding response from esoteric students in terms of service. These vehicles must be carefully developed, in order to produce “a sound mind in a sound body,” an integrated personality, as a proper and fitting vessel for the Christ Child.

One presentation of the teaching about this form nature, the personality and its development, particularly during our present civilization, is conveyed through three of the goddesses--Eve, Isis and Mary, and this is emphasized by the Tibetan. *Eve* is said to be the symbol of the mental nature, “and of the mind of man attracted by the lure of knowledge to be gained through the experience of incarnation. *Eve*, therefore, took the apple of knowledge from the serpent of matter, and started the long human undertaking of experiment, experience and expression which was initiated—from the mental plane in our Aryan times. *Isis*, stands for this same expression down on to the emotional or astral plane. ... in Isis the midway point is reached; the quickening of that which is desired ... has taken place and Isis consequently stands in the ancient zodiac for fertility, for motherhood and as the guardian of the child. *Mary* carries the process down to the plane or place of incarnation, the physical plane, and there gives birth to the Christ child.”

Every aspect of the problems of humanity or turmoil in the world, or should one say the crises in the world are connected or implicated in this dual process proceeding under the influence of Virgo, which is illumined and summarized in its first keynote—“I am the Mother and the Child. I, God, I, matter am”.

There is no greater evidence of the rapidly increasing growth of the Soul, the Christ consciousness, and its counterpart/or parallel in all the other religions, without exception, than the growing and almost radical awareness abroad in the world that humanity’s proper and fitting occupation is the establishment of Right Relationship. Right Relationship is needed in every aspect of life on earth, starting with Right Human Relationship, and this is a significant contribution to the maturity of the Christ in all of us, which is “...the hope of glory.” Let us commence our meditation on Letting in the Light.

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