

*Thinking with the Stars*

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Good evening and welcome to you all for our celebration of the Wesak festival. To all of you who are joining us over the airwaves, I welcome you too. Tonight we are at the peak of the spiritual year, and have an opportunity to work with thousands of meditators and servers around the world in the full flow of the energies of Taurus. The Wesak festival is a great annual gathering of light from the lowliest aspirant to the Christ, to the Buddha whose festival it is and, through his representation, to the planetary logos himself. As participants the world over join in silent aspiration and cooperation with the Will of God, it's not difficult to imagine the amplification of brilliant light. Nor is it difficult to visualize the electrification of this channel when the Buddha makes his brief annual appearance in the skies above a valley in the Himalayas to transmit the Enlightened Purpose which the Logos wishes to convey. As more and more discover the significance of the full moon of Taurus and participate in this group service, we can imagine the increasing energy being safely and intelligently distributed throughout the planet in greater spiritual light.

Wesak is known as a linking festival, relating the past to the present in terms of the revelation of truth; it links East and West, uniting the Buddhist tradition, which arose out of Hinduism, with Christianity whose spiritual foundation is Judaism, through the partnership of “the two brothers”—the Buddha and the Christ. They come together annually at this Festival to enact this energy transfer on behalf of humanity. Through their united effort a means of communication is set up between humanity and God—a door is opened, making a two-way passage possible, speaking in terms of energy. Through this door the Love and Wisdom of God can flow into the world and humanity may approach God through the generation of a “spirit of demand” or invocation.

Let us take a moment now silently to connect as we stand within this stream of energy which is already charging the ethers with renewed livingness for the year ahead. Then we'll say together the Affirmation of the Will followed by the sacred word, the OM.

*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.*

OM

At this time of the Wesak full moon the sense of purpose is alive in the ethers, broadening the horizons of identity away from the limitations of self towards a more inclusive group identity. With time this opening of the mind to group impression will become an integral part of life as humanity begins to use the true reasoning power of love as its creative agent. As an integral part of this move away from dependence upon intellectual power alone, humanity will reconnect the individual mind with the universal mind and will tune into the stars and constellations of a cosmos that is alive with love and thrilling with purpose.

A prerequisite for this change is the recognition of the imbalanced way in which modern education develops the right and left hemispheres of the brain. The popular view is that one of the brain's hemispheres is for reasoning and the other for emotion. In his book, *The Master and His Emissary – The Divided Brain and the Making of the Western World*, Dr. McGilchrist challenges this view. He writes “*We now know that every type of function – including reason, emotion, language and imagery – is subserved not by one hemisphere alone, but by both... The division of the brain into two hemispheres is essential to human existence, making possible incompatible versions of the world, with quite different priorities and values.*” He continues by noting that the difference between the two hemispheres does not lie in which skills each hemisphere possesses, but rather that they pay attention in fundamentally different ways. The left hemisphere processing details and the right attending to the whole picture.

According to Dr. McGilchrist, the left hemisphere of the brain is narrowly focused and the right more broadly focused, being alert to what is going on in the wider environment. The analogy is given of a chicken wherein, the left hemisphere of its brain is engrossed looking for seed in the dirt, while its right is alert to its environment, making sure it doesn't become someone else's lunch! The left hemisphere sees things in isolation and only sees what it expects to see. It is this side of the brain that is primarily exercised where education is knowledge-based and specialised facts and figures predominate. It is in this left side of the brain where the memorisation of knowledge and facts and figures predominates. Such education makes it difficult to bring in fresh ideas and perspectives so there is little scope for more creative ways of seeing the world and of understanding who we are as human beings. The left hemisphere gets stuck in a way of thinking and always needs to be in control, whereas the right sees the whole, not needing to compartmentalize or and know everything.

Dr. McGilchrist says that “happiness comes from social connectedness and a sense of purpose beyond the immediate.” We might add that it also comes from a feeling of connectedness to the universe itself. Our ancestors exhibited this sense of greater purpose, and it needs to be acquired again on a higher turn of the spiral. We need to awaken to the fact that the universe is alive with love, and allow feelings of awe and wonder to arise within us, inspiring our activities in life. Simply gazing up at the stars goes some way to restoring our sense of spiritual perspective. Drawing upon the creative imagination, we can tune into the rays of etheric light between ourselves and the constellations and awaken a deeper appreciation of astrological forces. While the outer eye observes the dark emptiness of universal space, the imagination can perceive cascades of golden fire – hosts of creative hierarchies spiralling down and interacting with humanity and the earth.

Though only appearing occasionally in mainstream science, the idea of a living, conscious universe will eventually grow strong enough to transform the scientific mindset from the inside out. After all each star in the night sky is a sun like ours, a solar logos with its specific purpose manifesting through its physical trajectory in space. In a London talk a few months back I mentioned a scientist and author, Dr. Greg Matloff, who relates to this because he believes that the stars set their own courses of their own volition. He works at the Physics Department at the New York City College of Technology and is a major figure in the ‘interstellar movement’, which analyses prospects for travel to the stars. His research has been in the field of in-space propulsion, spacecraft navigation and protection from asteroid impacts.

Considering himself as a conservative thinker, Dr. Matloff says that a true scientist cannot ignore observational data and must base hypothesis and theories upon such results, not

upon previous experience, ideology or dogma. He asserts that the only thing we can be absolutely sure of is our own consciousness, and in his book, *“Starlight, Starbright: Are Stars Conscious?”* he expounds on his beliefs. He asks, *“But what is consciousness? Is it a property that is unique to humans or do we share it with other life-forms? Or is the philosophical doctrine of panpsychism correct - are stars and the entire Universe conscious in some sense? It is a disconcerting fact that the Gaia space observatory is bringing in masses of data showing that anomalies in the motion of stars is a galaxy-wide phenomenon. Cool, redder, less massive stars such as our own Sun appear to circle the centre of the galaxy faster than their hotter, bluer, more massive sisters”*. Dr. Matloff proposes that this anomaly in star motion is due to stellar volition, in other words that the stars are conscious entities. They maintain their galactic position and determine their own trajectories through space by their own volition. Expanding on this hypothesis, he contends that it is possible now to construct models of universal consciousness and test them against observational evidence; and he presents a simple model of panpsychism which addresses these anomalies in stellar motions.

If we are now moving into an era where observational evidence can be shown to support the esoteric view that stars demonstrate will and volition, an important milestone will have been reached. This is a beautiful affirmation of the Divine Will. It leads us to ponder as to what, then, might the volition – the Divine Will, of our own Sun be? And what then, might the will of the planets that spiral around this majestic life be? The stars and constellations are the leading lights of our destiny, influencing and conditioning the consciousness of every living thing in line with the divine Plan. As we do at the time of the full moons, we have to learn to think with the stars tuning into their life force. But for the majority of people, thoughts of the heavens are not a part of the daily life even though they are actually an integral part of it.

We still display a “flat earth” mentality, despite all the scientific discoveries that confirm that the earth is a sphere orbiting the sun. Few people ever stop to wonder about the fact that we live on a sphere, spinning on its axis and rushing through space sky at terrific speed. Generally there seems to be no sense of heavenly or even earthly motion, and instead we are divorced from the dance of the heavens, deaf to the music of the spheres. A co-worker, astronomer Greg Quicke, has taken it upon himself to address this, helping people tune into the motion of the earth and the heavenly orbs through his Astro Tours project in Australia. In an interview with ABC TV Australia, Greg said pearl diving was what activated his interest in the stars and planets, because the work revolved around the tides. *“We get a 10-metre [tide] in a six-hour period in Broome and we would dive the smaller tides. ... “Very quickly, I’m working in rhythm with the moon cycle, because the moon governs the tides. It took me a little while. It was a gradual process and not a deliberate thing I set out to do.”*

After a while, Greg was able to look at the moon and know when the tide was going to be that day. He said that “tuned him in” to the relationship between the earth, the sun and the moon to the point where he said he could “feel” it. *I could feel the journey of the earth going around the sun and I can feel the moon swinging around the earth*, he said. *“It’s not something I feel every day walking around the streets, but when I stop and tune into it, it’s something I have a very real sense of.* Greg’s Stargazing Tours are a 2-hour ‘edutainment’ experience using giant telescopes, lasers and “fun” under some of the best stargazing skies on the planet. He says of his work that giving people *“a living breathing conscious experience of being on a planet that is turning as it hurtles through space is our most profound task... With this experience comes an ability to see things for what they really are, to see yourself in relation to the whole and to know that everything is on track.”*

With Professor Brian Cox, Greg has recently become a big hit in the UK and Australia as a co-host on the BBC programme “Stargazing Live”. His long white hair and beard, twinkling eyes and hat, and use of a laser pointer quickly led to him to the nickname “Space Gandalf.” Pointing out the beauty and the reality of our living on a rapidly moving sphere which is revealed by observing the starry heavens, he calls his approach to astronomy “Earth Turning Consciousness”. By connecting with the stars and planets frequently, he believes that we awaken the sense of our oneness and the journey we are making together.

The joy of such astronomical observations comes from an unconscious tuning into the fact that the heavenly bodies are living beings qualified by particular energies. Esoteric or soul astrology is the true science of relationships and any idea of separateness, of individual isolation, we know to be illusory. Closer to home on our own planet, we understand that in reality everything is connected—every form and every organism in every kingdom in nature is intimately related to every other through the planetary etheric body. All share with us the vast circulatory life of the planet as it streams into, through and out of every aspect of the form nature. The only differences which exist are those in consciousness for there is only One Life, pouring through them.

From the perspective of the soul, this interrelationship of forms, held together by the planetary etheric body, gives one the sense of one great unfolding consciousness. In the book *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, we read, “*Lines of light pass from form to form. Some are bright and some are dim; some move or circulate with rapidity, others are lethargic and slow in their interplay; some seem to circulate with facility in some particular kingdom in nature and some in another; some come from one direction and some from a different one, but all are in movement all the time; it is a constant circulation. All are passing on and into and through, and there is not one single atom in the body which is not the recipient of this living, moving energy; there is no single form that is not "kept in shape and livingness" by this determined inflow and outflow, and there is therefore no part of the body of manifestation (which is an integral part of the planetary vehicle of the Lord of the World) which is not in complex but complete touch with HIS divine intention—through the medium of HIS three major centres: Shamballa, the Hierarchy, and Humanity.*”<sup>1</sup>

This divine intention brings us back to our work tonight in the just released energies of the Wesak Festival, the festival of the Buddha, whose wisdom brought us the key to our freedom from earthly struggle – namely that all suffering is due to misplaced desire. Struggle, through the impulse of desire, is very characteristic of Taurus as symbolised by the bull – the bull of the personality which rushes forward blindly and destructively until, through pain and lessons learnt, the will and wisdom of the soul finally conditions. In Taurus we have two planets to help us through this difficult process: Venus, carrying the light of knowledge and facilitating the emergence of the love principle through the directing power of the mind; and Vulcan, the soul ruler and “the God of beneficial fire”, is the custodian of the dynamic energy of the Will. Known also as the divine fashioner of souls, it carries this energy of Will and together with Venus, works to reveal the spiritual keynote of Taurus: *I see and when the eye is opened, all is light.*

The examples of thinkers and servers given tonight have all reached their illumined thinking through the power of observation. As we go into our meditation tonight, we strive to hold the mind steady in the light and work with the enlightening forces available to us; and we are conscious too of the volition of the Lord of the World, the planetary Logos, on his sacred journey through Space. Let us draw on the imagery of the Buddha’s Wesak ceremony and find through this, a more inclusive and vivid connection with the higher energies of the

inner universal light. Remote in distance but closer in consciousness, we can participate in receiving the Buddha's blessing for humanity and co-operate in its distribution, lifting and aiding humanity on its journey to becoming a lighted outpost of the consciousness of God in the solar system.