

## Wesak Festival – New York and London – April 2021

### *A Space for Enlightened Contemplation*

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As we gather in consciousness for this most potent opportunity at the higher interlude of the year, most of us have an image in mind of how the ceremony in the Himalayas, the Wesak Festival, will unfold. At the peak of the full moon (11.31pm EDT New York and 4.31 am London BST tomorrow) the Taurus energy flow, between the sun and the earth, will be at its strongest. At that time, led by the Christ, the slow ceremonial movement and chanting by those gathered in the valley will create a funnel of communication in the substance of the planes to receive the Buddha's enlightened forces.

One can imagine the spiritual tension growing as the gathering awaits the Buddha's appearance from His high place to convey the electrifying charge of His Divine blessing upon humanity and the planet. Many around the world will be holding in the mind's eye, a lighted image, a group creation, which has been growing in their thoughts and imaginations over the years. In so doing, each person adds a unique note and energetic quality to this living event and becomes an integral part of the ceremony. As we prepare in this way, we are guided by the spiritual keynote of the sign of Taurus "I see, and when the eye is opened, all is Light," and our imaginings become further imbued with the energy of illumination.

Let's pause now and then affirm our intention using the Affirmation of the Disciple:

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, focussed within the fiery Will of God.  
And thus I stand.

I am a way by which men 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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The Wesak Festival is in every sense an enlightening experience. Taurus's exoteric ruler, Venus, carries the brilliant light of the 5<sup>th</sup> ray of science, while its esoteric or inner ruler, Vulcan, remains obscured until the Path of return is consciously entered. Representing the spiritual sun, Vulcan reveals itself, but not until a person's consciousness is spiritually awakened at which point this planet's forces reach down into the depths of human nature and bring Light to that which has been deeply hidden. Although Vulcan's potency is only truly experienced at the 4<sup>th</sup> initiation of renunciation, revelation comes from many sources and in many guises. Collectively, humanity has had a foretaste of the power of this type of revelation.

The experience of the pandemic has revealed something of what needs to be changed in terms of values and actions if it is to enter and flourish in a totally new age.

Let us hope that humanity can respond to revelation in the same way that the advanced disciple cooperates with Vulcan's 1st ray powers – to destroy old forms and fashion more suitable ones that can hold the new, inpouring life. It is a process whereby desire and the material life are “unearthed” and put under the spotlight. And this is what humanity has been experiencing of late. We have seen the selfish will deliberately wielded in a way that may remind us of the quote from the Bible that “There are none so blind as those who will not see”. The most deluded are those who choose to ignore what they already know because acknowledging it would present a sacrifice which they are not willing to make. But we can take heart that many will not forget the lessons of this period and will use this brief window of opportunity to keep the momentum of change going.

Humanity is beginning to emerge from that astral stage of desire which is described as “the stage of the half-realised Plan...when one works on partial knowledge... the stage of distortion and of working blindly and seemingly without purpose”<sup>1</sup>. In Taurus this is depicted by the onward rush of the Bull of desire being transformed into potent aspiration and spiritual Will. The stage of personal desire still largely defines the period in which we live and serve but we are now seeing many signs of an awakening consciousness, giving the opportunity for the illuminating energies of the soul to take hold. We seem to have entered an interim period of experimentation with new ideas and paradigms, new forms of energy which fire up the world in new ways. A world in crisis provides a most powerful impetus that sparks many positive ideas and yields penetrating analyses on economic, political and social systems that are no longer “fit for purpose”. These signs of awakening minds are living proof of an emergence into the light of consciousness and of the growing influence of the new group of world servers.

However, the work of the New Group of World Servers takes place in the collective consciousness of humanity and here it must capture the public imagination. The problem is that the public imagination is already being bombarded by all sorts of images from many different sources and getting the public's attention is not easy. This phenomenon is explored by the philosopher, Chiara Bottici. She writes about the difficulty of “making an impression” on a public consciousness that is already being constantly impressed from all directions by the “image generating machinery of our modern societies”. The sheer number of images means that in order to make themselves known to the public they have to become increasingly sensational. From a political or societal sense, this overcrowding of the public consciousness with an excess of imagery also means that it “deprives the imagination of creating something radically new”. We recognise the parallels here to the difficulties found in meditation work when horizontal impacts from the outer environment impose themselves on the silent space that is needed for soul impression.

Bottici's work highlights the serious obstacles to new creative ideas and thought forms taking root in these somewhat chaotic times. A thoughtful TV program on BBC, *The World of Images*, also highlights how people are today interacting with images in a different manner than they used to. The example was given of that most famous of all paintings, the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, which over the years has attracted admirers in their droves. The presenter noted however that there is a significant difference in the way that the painting is now viewed. Few visitors look directly at it, instead they are more concerned with taking an image of it on their

mobile phones. It's not so important to actually see the painting they have come so far to see, as it is to capture it on their mobile devices. And, of course, many photograph the painting in the background with their own face and possibly that of their companion in the foreground. There is little time or perhaps desire in some cases to contemplate its beauty directly.

This example also reminded me of Herman Grimm's comment on Raphael's painting, "The Sistine Madonna," when he said that there was once an age in the evolution of humanity when the mysteries of existence were revealed through mighty creations even though, at that time, people couldn't readily penetrate into these mysteries through the printed word. In the age of Raphael, he said, they read less, but they beheld a great deal more.

The New Group of World Servers face many challenges in attracting humanity's attention long enough for the creative ideas descending from the realm of the Divine Plan to receive the attention they deserve. And in this information age where social media and news is disseminated worldwide at the speed of light, we also have the rising phenomenon of global thoughtforms to contend with. These transitory entities arise as a collective response to 'World news' and we can imagine they are predominantly charged with the reactive emotional forces of large sections of the population. Nevertheless, there are so many enlightened thinkers and people of goodwill now in incarnation that many of these thoughtforms can stimulate constructive and potent mental activity.

It's helpful, in this context, to ponder on a passage<sup>2</sup> which was written during the Second World War where the Tibetan described "a great and vital thoughtform... in process of construction upon our planet and within our planetary aura." This thoughtform was made "potent spiritually, owing to the scientific work of the occult Hierarchy and Their trained helpers". The Tibetan went on to say that "a thoughtform of this importance and potency and which has been built over a long period of time by the people of the world enables a further and final stage. The form can be rendered so magnetic that it can attract an energy which will inform it so that it becomes a link between the inner world of energy and outer world of forces. It is built by humanity but animated with the will to good of "some great spiritual Entity". At that time, the planetary thoughtform of which he spoke failed to fulfil its promise due to its weakness on mental levels which, he said, was the fault of the disciples of the world. He described their attitude as one of feeling "inwardly quite hopeless and uninspired... even though they realise that a united front and a spirit of joyous certainty are psychological assets'... and he went on to say that "It is this negative and lukewarm attitude, this mental uncertainty and this failure to link up the spiritual and the physical worlds in a positive relationship which is holding back the Forces of Light and the actual presence of the Spirit of Peace, and thus negating a possible divine intervention. It is the test of group work."

Today, the application of the buddhic principle, often called pure reason, is growing in the thought-life of discipleship groups who stand at the heart of the New Group of World Servers. Their faith in the divine plan and in the reality of the Hierarchy can help raise global thoughtforms into the realm in which the Hierarchy operates where they can be related to "extra planetary energy" from Shamballa. And surely, one of the most powerful global thoughtforms in humanity's consciousness, is the one that has been constructed of the Wesak Festival by spiritual aspirants and disciples over the decades. This is an ongoing creative work in which we can all participate through thoughtful reflection on the rich imagery and significance that is associated with the festival.

We are helped in this endeavour by the beautiful keynote of the sign of Taurus in which the festival takes place: *“I see, and when the eye is opened, all is Light”*. This can be used as a seed thought in meditation to lift the mind into the contemplative stage. The imagination is a powerful tool in this process, as long, that is, as it is under the guidance of the reasoning mind. We use seed thoughts in meditation so that the mind can guide the imagination towards the higher reality. Only when this facility is cultivated can a seed thought be dispensed with and the more advanced stage of contemplation be achieved. In practice this means moving beyond the image to directly sense its informing quality and initiating purpose.

In Jeremy Taylor’s words, quoted in the book, *From Intellect to Intuition*, this is the *transition from intense meditation to that contemplation which attains to the vision of the wonders of God, as the human soul enters the realm of the divine light*.

This is a beautiful description of the goal ahead, for the “vision of the wonders of God” is surely first revealed to us as that dynamic pattern of energies which constitutes the Divine Plan, adapted by those in the Hierarchy of Love and Wisdom who have touched the vision of God. It is contemplation which reveals the vision in the “realm of the divine light” and it’s not a passive activity – for ‘seeing’ on any plane involves the reception of energy transmitted from the organ of vision. It is an interaction between the observer and the observed. It is only when the intuition awakens, that we begin to see the unfolding qualities of light which reveal the underlying purpose of our planet. What that divine purpose entails is not really possible for us to know now except in general terms, but when stepped down by the Hierarchy into a dynamic and adaptable Plan or pattern of intention, then as souls we can touch and cooperate with it. In this way the triangular cooperation between the three centres – Shamballa, Hierarchy and Humanity – is activated and strengthened.

We can imagine too how the interplay between these planetary centres is growing with the increasing number of disciples stepping onto the Path. Disciples who penetrate the ashram of Sanat Kumara liberate those further up the great chain of hierarchy to move on to a higher destiny. So much seems to rest on the vanguard of humanity, on those who are beginning to see more clearly, to enable the evolutionary process to move forward into greater livingness. In this connection, the Tibetan highlighted the following objective:

“the development of the intuition and discrimination of the disciples in the world, and their ability to sense the higher vision and to achieve at the cost of the lower, the consciousness of that higher plane. They will have to remember that the lower objective, owing to its proximity, will loom in many ways more attractive, and can only be transcended at infinite cost. Intuition must be developed in many people, and their sense of values adequately adjusted before this group, which must inaugurate the New Age, can measure up to the requirements<sup>3</sup>”.

The disciples and esotericists of the world are preparing the way for the coming of the new world religion of Invocation and Evocation. Through alignment and an act of invocation, Shamballa—the planetary head centre—is enabled to invoke energies outside the planetary life with the result that the inflow of cosmic and solar energies will be very much greater. “It will also produce the advent or appearance of many Avatars, bringing with Them many and very different kinds of energies to those which hitherto have controlled human affairs and the events and evolution of the subhuman kingdoms in nature. With the reappearance of the Christ as the focal point or the supreme Agent of the planetary heart centre, a new era or ‘divine epoch’ will

be instituted. The Avatar of Synthesis will draw very close to humanity and He will inaugurate the "reign of Avatars" Who will be embodied Purpose and spiritual Will; They will initiate both the Hierarchy and Humanity into phases of the divine character of which, at present, nothing is known and for which we have no terminology that could convey the exact facts and nature<sup>4</sup>.”

This inspiring image of events to come “centuries ahead” widens our appreciation of what the future holds for us - whether we will then be on the inner side of life or back in incarnation. The prospect of a future reign of Avatars on earth is an awesome one and one that requires a considerable leap of the imagination to visualise from the perspective of present world conditions. However, all meditation on this prospect helps to condition human consciousness and prepare it for the tremendous planetary events that lie ahead.

So as we prepare for our meditation now we can reflect on the Sanskrit word ‘Avatar’, meaning literally "coming down from far away”. While an Avatar comes forth to express a Higher Will or Cause, this Being does so on the demand or the invocation of humanity itself. An Avatar has been described as a *spiritual event* in the same way as the Wesak Festival is a spiritual event; they both bring about great changes and lift us nearer to the divine. Avatars are vehicles of Enlightened Will of all degrees and kinds, some expressing whole cycles of future development within Themselves, while other, lesser ones, represent the ideal of the race at any time. As we approach the time of the Wesak Festival let us work imaginatively to evoke the Transmitting Avatars, the Buddha and the Christ, Who are the custodians of a cosmic principle from the heart of the sun to the heart of every human being on the planet.

Let’s go into meditation now using the Taurus keynote for the disciple – “I see and when the eye is opened, all is Light”.

<sup>1</sup> A Treatise on White Magic, p613

<sup>2</sup> The Externalisation of the Hierarchy, p223/4

<sup>3</sup> A Treatise on White Magic, p136

<sup>4</sup> Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle, p134