Welcome to all of you who have just joined us here for the Wesak full moon meeting – including those listening in via our website or joining the livestreaming.

Many of you will be familiar with the description of the Wesak ceremony which takes place in a valley of the Himalayas at the peak of the Taurus full moon. At this ceremony before the waiting Christ and members of the Spiritual Hierarchy, for a few minutes only, the Buddha manifests to relay an aspect of Logoi Purpose. As custodians of this energy, the Hierarchy must then in turn, wisely dispense it through the year ahead to the world-wide group of servers so that it may work its way into expression through people of goodwill everywhere.

For the esoteric group of world servers working in the energy of Taurus, the aim is to realise this sign’s spiritual keynote: “I see and when the eye is open, all is light”. The planetary light is changing rapidly at this time, despite the darkness that has been gathering during the first part of this century. Lighted ideas are descending with facility from the universal mind, and they are taking root in the minds of world servers and flourishing there. We see new thinking in all areas of human endeavour; paradigm shifts are occurring constantly; in fact it is often the case that as soon as an idea is sown, another swiftly follows. Human consciousness is extremely fertile, having been enriched with the energy of goodwill over many decades now by the work of the group of world servers. The ideal of sharing and right relationships is far more evident than it was this time last century, and this steady enrichment of the substance of consciousness with ideals is particularly evident in the young. This promises much for the future.

Vulcan, the esoteric ruler of Taurus, has played a significant part in preparing the field of human consciousness for the new ideas and ideals to take root. Vulcan is a first ray planet that embodies the energy of Will and power – a force that helps to destroy that which is no longer of any spiritual use, while simultaneously helping to inaugurate that which is. This is happening today as never before, and the result is a temporary clouding of the atmosphere that makes it difficult to appreciate that which is replacing the old. The entrenched selfishness and materialism that is being uprooted and brought before the public eye is all part of the process, and when the will has done with its purification, things will start to settle. Then we will see that powerful ideals have also taken root. Throughout this period of confusion, it is important for all world servers to hold the vision and to relay the light that will continue to stimulate these new shoots of growth. The group of world servers has the responsibility of maintaining a lighted sanctuary – an area of illuminated thinking for all who are refugees in search of a new spiritual home of thought.

If we look for the light in the world at this time, we will find it, for it is everywhere. This is the paradox of our times. Granted, terrible things are happening, but the world is not dark in the same way that it was a hundred years ago. The darkness is not like a thick planetary blanket of suffocating fog in which evil can conceal itself and brew unchecked. While the forces of maya are swirling around the planet, the light continues to expose them. The selfish and corrupt wrap themselves in cloaks of maya to conceal their wrongdoings, but the light inevitably catches and
denudes them, revealing their deeds for what they are. Light is the effect of energy condensing into matter, and as it does so all over the planet, “exposure” is the theme of the day. In photography, exposure is the amount of light a sensor or piece of film receives to capture the tonal quality of what is being photographed. Similarly, the group of world servers are focusing the lighted gaze of discernment onto any given situation, capturing the tonal quality – and illuminating the truth or falsity of that to the public. Indeed, it is the ability to shine light onto our own inner nature and to face the tonal quality of our motives that is such a difficult part of treading the spiritual path. But this exposure is a process that we must each apply to ourselves for we have to know our inner psychological condition before we can move out of our old way of thinking and into a new sanctuary of consciousness.

Humanity has allowed many of its established sanctuaries – traditional places of worship and religious shrines - to descend into hot spots of conflict and inlets for the forces of separatism and darkness. We think of Jerusalem where three different religions have important shrines to their faith – which have formed flash points of hatred and violence as each group seeks independent ownership. Whatever practical solutions are proposed, problems such as these can only be solved when the heart is acknowledged as the true spiritual abode, the place where all religions meet and fuse. Without the love that is found in the sanctuary of the heart, people and nations can become susceptible to religious and racial glamours.

It is encouraging however, that many people are now discovering the sanctuary of the heart and, in turn, providing sanctuary for others – be it psychological or physical or both. The world is full of refugees at this time; so many are fleeing from war, persecution, economic hardship or religious intolerance. It is interesting to note the various responses. The current refugee problem in Europe, for example, is testing and revealing much concerning the degree of soul infusion of the nations involved.

Let’s pause at this point to say together an ancient mantram that is very relevant to this work to be carried out in Taurus:

*May the energy of the divine self inspire*
*And the light of the soul direct.*
*May I be led from Darkness to Light,*
*From the Unreal to the Real,*
*From Death to Immortality.*

*OM*

As all who are aspiring towards the spiritual life are aware, an intense psychological battle rages between the personality and the soul, and living in accordance with a higher vision is extremely challenging. In every person, two kingdoms of nature are to be found working along their own particular line of evolution. These are the human and the deva kingdoms. The "lesser builders" of the deva or angelic kingdom rule the form and matter aspect of all we can see and touch in the world, including our mental, emotional and physical make-up over which we seek dominion. Many of these fiery lives are moving on the downward arc into denser manifestation, and human evolution is the struggle through this downward moving wave towards liberation from their control by co-operating with the higher devas who, like humanity, find themselves on the upward sweep of evolution.
However far we advance, as long as we find ourselves in form, no matter how subtle, it is the deva kingdom that provides that form. As we move from one place of expression to another, our consciousness constantly finds temporary refuge before moving on again seeking higher goals and sanctuaries of thought in which to abide. Humanity’s major challenge revolves around recognizing that it has outgrown certain frames of thought, certain modes of creativity with the devas, and that it now needs to summon the will to rise into a new sphere of creativity.

Although our line of evolution and goal is fundamentally different to that of the deva kingdom, both are of equal importance: one cannot advance without the other. The human being is the creative, positive element, who needs to remain detached from all creative works, while the deva kingdom supplies the material that clothes the intended creation directed by higher devas that transmit the sound of the idea to the lesser builders. The devas advance through feeling and experience via the forms that they create in cooperation with us. Also known as the angelic kingdom, these lives are the substance and forces of nature and super-nature, the third aspect of divinity. The following quote from A Treatise on Cosmic Fire sums it up well:

"... the groups of devas and elementals [can be divided] into evolutionary and involutionary Builders – those who are in themselves positive force, and those which are negative force, the conscious and the blind workers...The greater Builders are the positive aspect of substance or of electrical phenomena whilst the lesser Builders are the negative aspect. Two types of force are represented in the activities of these two groups and it is their interaction and interplay which produces Light, or the manifested solar system. Their sumtotal is substance in its totality, the intelligent active form, built for the purpose of providing a habitation for a central subjective life"

As human beings we are naturally creative, constantly manipulating deva substance through our thinking, dreaming, imagining. Most are unaware of this of course, but as we develop an understanding of the laws of creative thought and the livingness of the substance we think in, we will start to become purposeful and take care not to become caught up in our creations. The well-known practices of detachment, dispassion and discrimination which the Buddha taught has particular relevance here.

It is when we stop moving forward in consciousness that the mind loses its independence from the deva kingdom and starts to come under the influence of involutionary forces. This deva substance is fiery and frictional and the sparks which fly from it are the cause of sensation – but as we know, we can be burnt by sensation if we become slaves to desire. For those on the spiritual path who are taking responsibility for the quality of their consciousness, it is important to keep reviewing the thinking process with detachment and to keep the mind flexible and set on a spiritual goal. We have to learn to build new homes for consciousness on these levels. When we finally become capable of building on buddhic or intuitional levels, then it will be lawful to make conscious contact with the higher devas that dwell there. From this great plane of love and fusion, the enlightened human being can direct the forces of evolution in the lower kingdoms assisted by devas whose development is equivalent to his own.

On the higher planes of consciousness, there will be a blending of the deva or angel evolution and the human at some point and we are told that this "...is a mystery which will be
solved as man arrives at the consciousness of his own solar angel.” For each of us has a great deva, called the solar angel, that provides a vehicle of consciousness in which the soul resides on the mental plane and from where it works at developing the light reflected back at it from its incarnated aspect - the personality. This light of human experience and expression is developed into quality and attribute on the soul's own plane. Our task while we are in incarnation is to focus on the spiritual light and make the "solar angel the sole luminary in our microcosmic sky" and refuse to let the lesser light of the involutionary devas distract and limit our thinking.

Midst all our worldly activities, maintaining our daily meditation to charge ourselves up with spiritual energy helps us to maintain detachment. Most meditators establish a "special place" for meditation, a sanctuary that will become magnetised by the regular build-up of energy from our meditations, attracting refined devic substance through which we can more easily tune into the Thinker, the soul on its own plane. We can also create a spiritual refuge in our consciousness which can warm by its fiery love those who need sanctuary and help, as well as attracting those who are one with us in their goal. It can provide a "Tower of Silence" for the lower self, as well as a place of entrance into the "Secret Place of the Most High". Most importantly though, it forms part of the spiritual sanctuary that the worldwide discipleship group is building to embrace humanity with love and bring light into the darkness where isolation and despair might otherwise prevail.

One of the major functions of the spiritual Hierarchy is "to provide sanctuary" to those who have liberated themselves from the ocean of lesser deva energies in which our lower nature operates. The Hierarchy is also working to create new homes in consciousness for receptive people of goodwill everywhere. We are told that the Master K.H., the next world teacher, is attempting to transmute the thoughtform of religious dogma and to promote the idea of the vision of the Christ by working with the rose and blue devas on astral levels, with the help of the great guardian Angel of that plane, Lord Varuna. The activity of the astral plane is being much intensified and the angels of devotion, in whom divine love is pre-eminent, work with the astral bodies of all those who are ready to strengthen and redirect their spiritual aspiration and desire. These angels also guard the sanctuaries of all the churches, cathedrals, temples and mosques of the world working to raise the consciousness of their worshippers.

The evolutionary devas provide hidden sanctuaries all over the planet and ensure the flow of prana and spiritual force to the human kingdom. The time will come when the eye’s vision is no longer obscured by heavy vibration and this world of dynamic lives will open up. The founder of the Liberal Catholic Church, Geoffrey Hodgson in his wonderful book, The Kingdom of the Gods, describes a time when he was ardently seeking to enter the Sanctuary of Nature’s hidden life, and found the heavens suddenly becoming filled with light. He wrote of how his consciousness was caught up into a realm radiant with that light which "never was on land or sea" and he realised the presence of a great Angelic Being from whose mind to his there began to flow a stream of ideas concerning the life, the force and the consciousness of the universe. The interchange took place in a way that the two centres of consciousness became almost co-existent, temporarily forming one being within which the stream of ideas arose. From this he learnt of the Angelic Hosts, their Orders and degrees and he gives some splendid descriptions and illustrations of these angel Gods who preside over the seas, mountains, shrines and forests. In all cases, he wrote, of devic direction of natural energies, however prodigious the outpouring of power may be, the deva always gives the impression of complete mastery of the forces flowing through and all about it.
At the time of the Taurus full moon, the devas are very active in the ceremony and ritual of the Wesak festival. Alongside the Masters and disciples of the Hierarchy gathered to receive the Enlightened Purpose from the Logos are the great Hosts of Devas or Angelic Beings who are equal to the Masters on their Path of Evolution. Together they work and serve humanity, strengthening the group of world servers and waiting for that time when Wisdom and Enlightenment unfold in Human consciousness. The festival itself could be regarded as the building of a sanctuary of light, love and power to embrace and nourish the enlightened minds of the group of world servers throughout the coming year of service. We can imagine the devas of the ethers being particularly active during the ceremony, as they are governed by the seventh ray of ceremonial magic and the Wesak Festival is above all else, a festival of magic.

For those who can clairvoyantly view the scene, the beauty of the geometrical forms is unbelievable, and this is the work of the living deva hierarchies. We can imagine the light and sound of the occasion washing over the assembly bringing surety of the eventual well-being of all who currently suffer in the darkness. The light of the Wesak Festival is for all of humanity and one day every eye will be opened to live permanently in the light of the deva kingdom. As we ponder these thoughts let us visualise a sanctuary of light and love being built through the energy of ceremonial magic. The work to be done is beautifully described in an old stanza:

“Out from the East the word went forth: Open the door to all the sons of men who come from all the darkened valleys of the land and seek the temple of the Lord. Give them the light. Unveil the inner shrine, and through the work of all the craftsmen of the Lord extend the temple’s walls and thus irradiate the world. Sound forth the Word creative and raise the dead to life.”

Let’s go into meditation now using the keynote for Taurus: *I see and when the Eye is opened, all is Light.*

1 A Treatise on White Magic, p.100

2 Esoteric Psychology I, p.84