

Aries and Avatars

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A very warm welcome to you on this happy occasion of the Easter Festival – the first of the three linked celebrations of 2010. The Easter Festival is the first full moon of spring – the season of nature’s resurrection, and the universal resurgence of the life stream brings to mind the continuity of existence that underlies all of life’s cyclic activity.

I would like to share some thoughts I have had concerning the energies that Aries brings us and how these energies might impinge on the concepts of resurrection, divine intervention, and the continuity of revelation.

“And the Word said: Let form again be sought.” This is the keynote for Aries from the perspective of the personality. The implication is that a beginning is being made – a new beginning, one of a series. And who is seeking this beginning? We don’t know. The Word announces it and sends out the impetus; “word” translates as Logos. So we get a picture of an exalted being overshadowing the process of incarnation.

The Aries keynote from the perspective of the Soul is “I come forth and from the plane of Mind, I rule.” Here also a beginning is being made. However, in this case there is complete autonomy. “I come forth; I rule.” Overshadowing in the early stages has led to integration and autonomy as new beginnings are made on the higher turn of the spiral. This suggests the analogy of the beginning of physical life. The identity of the infant is of paramount importance. Then, as the young adult strikes out on her own, she embodies in her consciousness of self all these past influences of mind, as it were.

Thus Aries is a sign of beginnings – the first of the three urges that characterize this sign and that take shape in the phrases “Let form be sought” and “I come forth.”

The second is the urge to create, which carries the development to the next level. It is said of many Aries personalities that they have the energy to initiate projects, but tend not to carry them through. Clearly, in these cases, the development of sustained creative drive is the next step.

The third urge in Aries is the urge to *resurrection* – to achieve freedom from form through the agency of the mind. Thus we have “physical commencement and spiritual commencement; physical creation and spiritual creation; physical emergence and spiritual liberation: these are the initial impulses sensed in Aries.”¹

Humanity, it is stated, is on the path of discipleship, but there is no evidence that the majority of people “rule from the plane of mind.” To the contrary, it falls to the clearer-sighted minority to provide education, influence and inspiration in an effort to lead humanity along the path toward freedom from the astral miasma that holds millions in thrall. This responsibility carries the note of the overshadowing hinted at in the phrase “And the Word said:...” as well as aligning with the resurrecting energies of Aries.

There is a large difference between overshadowing and assisting. They are both relationships, but differ in degree of responsibility. The most dramatic and famous example of the former kind is perhaps the overshadowing of Master Jesus by the Christ. Their partnership created the Son of all sons, who could manifest the energy of the Father of all fathers; they demonstrated Love energy compared to which the greatest love most of us can know is a pale reflection.

Perhaps it would be helpful to consider this kind of relationship for a moment. Certainly we, as dedicated members of the New Group of World Servers, have long and seemingly thankless tasks

ahead of us as we try to make a difference in a highly disturbed world. We need to know that Master Jesus was not the last worker to receive divine guidance. Subjective guidance, on one level or another, is a fact of daily life. One source – the most accessible one to most people – is the kingdom of devas. For instance, certain kinds of devas function as the “guardian angels” of fable and legend.

Of great importance to esotericists and spiritual workers is the progressive externalization of the Spiritual Hierarchy, the great teachers of humanity who, in Their various ways, are intimately involved in all the issues that we care so much about. In fact, the degree of our caring has been greatly influenced by Their example and teaching. That demonstration of caring, which goes beyond a mere sense of duty, is the impetus behind the ten thousand pages of instruction, cajoling, prodding, challenging, and constructive criticism that is the body of work Master Djwhal Khul wrote with Alice Bailey. The Hierarchy’s focus on the invocative energies of the world’s serving groups at the time of each full moon, year in and year out, is a demonstration of how close humanity has come to the principal source of divine revelation. In past cycles, the human custodians of divine revelation have been occasional isolated individuals who happened to have the proper equipment or who found themselves in propitious circumstances.

Times have changed, and the opportunity has never been greater. Divine revelation is now understood to exist in a continuum; its sources are understood better than before, but – most important – people working in groups can interrelate with the Hierarchy on a continuing, rhythmic schedule. Training to work in these groups is becoming more widely available through networking and outreach via meditation organizations, consciousness-raising groups and New Age publications. The opportunity has never been greater, and the need has never been greater.

Throughout history, various disciples and initiates have responded to great need by incarnating, singly or in groups. During their lives they played conditioning roles in human history and are remembered as great leaders, philosophers, or artists in their various fields. These are referred to by the Tibetan as the “Lesser Avatars.”

In *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*² the Tibetan categorizes these avatars as follows:

1. Racial Avatars
2. Teaching Avatars
3. Ray Avatars
4. Transmitting Avatars

To elaborate further:

1. The Racial Avatars are “evoked by the genius and destiny of a race, and foreshadow the nature of the race.” As an example, the Tibetan cites Abraham Lincoln, “coming forth from the very soul of a people, and introducing and transmitting racial quality – a quality to be worked out later as the race unfolds.”
2. Teaching Avatars “sound a new note in the realm of thought and consciousness; they reveal the next needed truth; they pronounce those words and formulate those truths that throw light upon the spiritual development of humanity.” Such avatars were Plato, Patanjali and Sankaracharya; they emerged on the Second Ray.
3. Ray Avatars “come forth at relatively long intervals when a ray is coming into manifestation. They embody the quality and force of a particular ray.” The Seventh Ray Avatar is due to appear during the next century when the Seventh Ray has achieved complete manifestation and the Piscean influence has passed.
4. The great Transmitting Avatars are manifestations of divinity that appear at those cyclic moments when humanity needs the expression of a new truth or the expansion of an old one in order to further its evolutionary progress. The outstanding representatives are the Buddha and the Christ.

There is a class of being, centered in a place unknown to us, that exists on a level more exalted than the other four. These great Avatars – also referred to as Divine Embodiments –

appear rarely; and when They do the effectiveness and results of Their work is very great. They issue forth into manifestation via the center at Shamballa, because They are an expression of the will nature of Deity.... They can only be reached by the united voices of the Hierarchy and of humanity speaking in unison.... They never descend lower than the mental plane, and the main emphasis and attention of Their work is directed to the Hierarchy; the Hierarchy is Their transmitting agency. They occasionally reach those thinking people, focused on the mental plane, who have clear vision, potent resolve, directed will and open minds, plus essential purity of form. These Avatars express the Will of God, the energy of Shamballa, and the impulse lying behind divine purpose.

The central and greatest being on this level is called the Avatar of Synthesis, because the cosmic energy He will transmit has the quality of Synthesis. On human levels, there is no word as yet for this energy. The closest – yet inadequate – expression for it that can be found is *“the principle of directed purpose.”*

This “principle of directed purpose” involves

1. Understanding of the Plan;
2. Focused intention to a degree as yet undeveloped in humanity;
3. Capacity to direct energy toward a recognized and desired end, also to a life-strengthening degree as yet undeveloped.

The Avatar of Synthesis is in contact with the Hierarchy and, when He is evoked by the common demand of the Hierarchy and humanity, will descend as far as the mental plane. He will be accompanied by a Forerunner or Representative on the physical plane. As we are told, this may be the Christ.

For this momentous event to take place, the Hierarchy must weigh the following issues, among others:

1. The extremity of the need;
2. Humanity’s progress in its battle with the Forces of Evil;
3. The degree of purification of the vehicles.

Purification is essential because the extra-planetary energy of synthesis, expressed by the Avatar, finds planetary expression along the lines of the First Ray of Will. Even in its stepped-down state, via the First Ray Ashram of the Master Morya, the impact will be powerful.

On the physical plane, the initiates and the disciples working in the Ashram of the Master Morya are primarily occupied with the expression of synthesis in the world of politics and of government, and with offsetting wrong approaches to synthesis, seeking to preserve freedom in unity. It is a subjective synthesis for which they work – a synthesis that will express itself in an outer differentiation. This synthesis will define the many aspects of the essential, basic unity that, working out under the stimulation of the energy of synthesis, will bring about eventual peace and understanding on Earth – a peace that will preserve individual and national cultures, but that will subordinate them to the good of the whole of humanity.³

Learning to cooperate with this vital energy of synthesis is of course a challenge to the whole New Group of World Servers at this time and to all who seek to aid the Hierarchy. Fundamentally, the salvation of the world lies in the hands of this new group, including ourselves if we wish – via our focused intent, our capacity to love, our understanding of the Plan, our capacity to direct constructive

energy, our willingness to assume responsibility and make sacrifices, and our understanding of the “principle of directed purpose.”

As we embark on the major linked festivals of 2010, let us together make a new *beginning* and work together *creatively* to *resurrect* the spirit of downtrodden humanity and to restore the Plan on Earth.

¹ Alice A. Bailey, *The Labours of Hercules*, p. 16.

² The quotations that follow are from p. 297ff.

³ Alice A. Bailey, *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, pp. 663-664.