

## The Spirit of Resurrection

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The new world religion will be based on invocation and evocation – massed approaches to the higher realms of divine energy. These will occur at the full moon periods, with three special occasions or festivals each year.

We have now arrived at the first of these for this year – the first major festival of spring. For ages past there has been a special solstice festival heralding renewal, and this is continued in the great Christian festival of Easter. It is fixed in relation to the first full moon in spring, when the sun has entered the astrological sign Aries. Its inspiring theme, as you know, is Resurrection.

The first words of the higher keynote of the sign of Aries are *I come forth* – signifying dynamic emergence into new Light and Life.

We cannot help but be aware of a stirring in the depths of our being at this time of the year; there is an emergence from winter and new growth bursts forth in all of nature. In fact, one is reminded of the words from the Song of Solomon:

The winter is past, the rain is over and gone, flowers appear on the Earth, the time of the singing of the birds is come.

The most significant recognition is a sense of renewal; a certainty that “to come forth” is instinctively right, because of the new strength and creative power available, which seems to be “affirming all existence.”

As aspirants to discipleship we find ourselves ready for a renewed effort to face up to the challenges of treading the Path. “Aries is the sign of outgoing power; of the streaming forth of divine energy from the central deity. Reorganization, reorientation, repolarizing, regeneration are all characteristics of this power and all are expressions of the same great Life Force.” (*The Labours of Hercules*, p.15)

We can begin to get an idea of a new concept of death, seeing it as part of the great *Life* process. Inevitably there is change, deterioration, and ending of the outer forms, for they are transitory, but the surging, dynamic power of Life must proceed with its eternal recreation of ever-finer forms through which to manifest on the outer plane.

There are marvelous words from the *Bhagavad Gita* (in the Edwin Arnold translation) showing us the truth about Spirit, beyond space and time:

Never the Spirit was born. The Spirit shall cease to be, never.  
Never was the time it was not; end and beginning are dreams.  
Birthless and deathless and changeless remaineth the Spirit forever,  
Death has not touched it at all; dead though the house of it seems.

Meanwhile we humans exist on this planet Earth, taking part in the divine Plan, immersed in the marvelous process of the revelation of the Soul; the evolution of consciousness.

The second phrase of the astrological keynote is *from the plane of mind, I rule*. It reminds us of our task, and where we stand.

If we are to be renewed and, more importantly, if we are to renew our environment, then a focus on the mental plane is essential. A “coming forth” and a steady conscious focus on the mental plane – that is the inspirational message at this festival time.

All beginnings originate on the mental plane, and in the mind of a creator, whether that creator is God or man. The universe had its origin in the thought of God, the cosmic Thinker; the Soul started on its career in matter through the same process, thought. The human family, the fourth kingdom in nature, came into being when mind emerged and differentiated man from the animals. The aspirant begins his work when he truly becomes a thinker and, in full awareness, proceeds to function as the arbiter of his own destiny. (*Ibid.*, p. 15)

Two thoughts seem important here: being arbiters of our own destiny and making sure that this helps us to renew our environment. Both these factors are intertwined but it takes us a long time and many lifetimes to recognize it. Here is a relevant passage from Arthur Koestler:

All living organisms are “open systems” which feed on energies and materials found in their environment. Instead of running down like clockwork, which dissipates energy through friction, a living organism is, all the time, building up more complex chemicals from the chemicals it feeds on; more complex forms of energy from the energy it absorbs, and more complex patterns of information – perceptions, memories, ideas – from the input of its receptors. It is active instead of being just reactive; adapts the environment to its needs instead of passively adapting to it; it learns from experience and constructs systems of knowledge out of the chaos of sensations impinging on it. (From *Roots of Coincidence*)

The esotericist is indeed learning to recognize subtleties of the subjective world, seeing that it is energy and forces that really constitute the environment and that we ourselves are energy units seeking to integrate into a sea of energies. We learn that, in this respect, there is a “given” environment, in the sense that we, as Souls, engineered it for ourselves, knowing full well what energy conditions were needed to give us opportunity of growth so as to become more effective servers within group patterns of relationship. These group patterns are of a most complex nature, difficult to comprehend in detail at present by the human participants. Glimmerings of understanding can only reach our brains via the mind from intuitional levels.

“Correct response to one’s environment results in rapport between the Soul aspect hidden in every form and will produce right relationships between the various parts of the inner nervous structure to be found in every kingdom of nature, subhuman and superhuman.” (*A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 21)

Here we may surely find a key to the renewal of our environment. Tiny though it may be in relation to the Whole, we can be creative within it when we have “come forth” in consciousness – when we are, as Souls, in control from the plane of mind.

We can affect the quality, the color, and the sound of our surroundings. We can, if we will, vitalize all circumstances with beneficent forces. Slowly we become aware of the process of integration as we become conscious of fields within fields within more fields of energy. We see ourselves as units within family and other groups, part of the social order of a nation of people. We see the nations becoming ever more interdependent within the international scene and we become aware of the interaction between the great kingdoms of nature, including our own – humanity. This picture and its greater context is summed up in these words:

Man’s tiny world, his small environment, exists for the sake of the experience it brings him and the final liberation to be brought about. He is a cause of manifestation, which is brought about by his own thought power. But around him and through him is to be found that greater Whole of which he is a part. The entire vast Universe, planetary and Solar, exists for the sake of the vaster Life in Whose body Man is but an atom. The whole diversity of forms is the result of the thought activity of some Life; the whole universe of matter is the field of awareness of some great Existence. (*The Light of the Soul*, p. 164)

It is within this context that we “come forth and from the plane of mind begin to rule.” By the light of the Soul we begin to be arbiters of our own destiny. When this possibility begins to dawn upon us, our lives can be transformed and we can emerge from what Joseph Campbell so powerfully describes as the “private web of unreal terror.” (*Hero with a Thousand Faces*, p. 164)

It is this web (immersed as we are in the process of evolution) that encases us in apparent suffering and pain. We are enmeshed in glamor and illusion, falsely identifying ourselves with desires and misunderstandings. Not only that, there are more subtle attitudes from which we need to emerge as well. For example: We can sometimes go through a stage of blind acceptance or acquiescence when we regard certain circumstances as being imposed by an inscrutable power. Many lifetimes may pass in this state of mind, and indeed we may be learning a great deal about endurance! But, inevitably, the time will arrive when there will be a “rising up” of the will-to-go-forward. Instead of the blind acceptance of the victim role, we will feel the power of resurrection.

The Soul plans our destiny and, in order that we may fulfill it, opportunities are constantly presented. If we realize that our circumstances call for a fighting spirit of courage and creativity, we may be sure it is a *great* opportunity. Over a period of time, long or short, and perhaps with intimations of divine love and blessing, we begin to change our conscious thinking state to a higher level. Energy follows thought, so this will have the effect of tuning up all the vehicles to a higher sound or vibration.

Do you remember the words of St. Paul? “Be ye therefore transformed, by the renewing of your mind.” And the words of Alice Bailey: “Change your line of thought and you will change your nature. Desire that which is pure and holy, right and true, and your consciousness of these things will create, out of the old, a new vehicle; a new man or woman, an instrument fit for service.” (*The Light of the Soul*, p. 382)

We begin to understand something of the Law of Cause and Effect. To do this we transfer our attention from outer effects to the inner causes that have produced them. Standing steadily at as high a point of consciousness as we are able (and is this not what is meant by the words of the keynote *I come forth?*) we find that we begin to be dispassionate, discriminating and free.

So we come back to a consideration of the opportunity offered by this Full Moon, the first festival of spring. All over the world, groups are meeting at this time, to invoke the Spirit of Resurrection.

It is interesting to ponder upon this living Spiritual Energy – a Being known also by another name, the *Sun* of Righteousness, and Who is a Member of the Council Chamber at Shamballa (which, by the way, is not the name of a location but a state of awareness in the all-enveloping Life). This great spiritual Entity is an emissary, and from Him (to personalize the impersonal!) comes the healing energy of Resurrection and Renewal. The planning of this dynamic livingness is under the direction of the Hierarchy and its Head, the Christ; and at this Full Moon, humanity has a special opportunity to invoke its power. Then it can be released into the hearts and minds of the New Group of World Servers, and from that point on it is our responsibility to make it actually appear on the outer physical plane.

In Joseph Campbell’s book, *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, there is a final chapter entitled “The Hero Today,” in which we are led to a recognition of where we stand now. Campbell speaks of the problem of rendering the modern world spiritually significant; making it possible, he says, “for men and women to come to full maturity through the conditions of contemporary life. We, in our role of servers, have to work exactly where we find ourselves, facing up to contemporary planetary conditions.” We “come forth and from the plane of mind” we endeavor to stand as steady as a rock, centers of strength, even though, in the words of W.B. Yeats, things may be falling apart all around us. Actually, his words, if you remember, implied that the center could not hold! But we can and must stand as steady centers of spiritual Love, and Will. We cannot wait for different conditions. As Nietzsche said, we must live as if the day were here.

That is why we gather together, in company with others all over the world, at these Full Moon festivals, for the express purpose of meditating and invoking as a group. As we have said, this Easter fes-

tival has special relevance to the new world religion, springing from the Rising Light of the Risen Christ. The accent is on resurrection, livingness, hope, and joy. Already this concept begins to be meaningful in the world, as the human consciousness vibrates to a higher note. It is, we know, similarity of vibration between a person and the idea that makes the apprehension of that idea possible.

Do you know the wonderful statement by Sri Aurobindo about a spiritualized society? Writing of divine immanence he says,

It is into the divine within each man and each people that we have to grow; it is not an external idea or rule that has to be imposed from without. It is the law of a growing inner freedom that will be most honored in the spiritual age of mankind. When we have made our personalities the conscious, ennobled, illumined instruments of the divine Being within each of us, these our lives will be led by the law of the Divine, which means that we shall not only see and find the divine in ourselves, but in all.

At such a festival time as Easter, visionary ideas, whether from the famous or from any one of us, can receive a great impetus. If we are to act as if the day were here, then the impetus must carry us to actual accomplishment. We recognize that we are dealing with energy and forces, so we must be aware that this group meditation can produce a surge of Light and Love, if we invoke and respond to the Hierarchy and the Spirit of Resurrection. In group formation we can carry the charge of power outward in service.



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