

Renewal and Recreation

Jillian Somerwill¹

All over the world at this time, groups large and small are gathering together to celebrate the period of the three linked festivals. Each year the spirit of these festivals needs to be reexamined so as to revitalize and renew the underlying meaning.

Beginning at the Easter full moon, and for a two-month period, a special opportunity can be seized and used – an opportunity to relate to that inner world of spiritual purpose and plan that we know exists behind the apparently overwhelming confusion of events in the outer personality world. At this time it is possible to recognize and interact more easily with great spiritual centers – we can more easily hold and maintain that interaction and stabilize it.

It could be said, in thought and imagination, that we are ascending into a high mountain region where the air is pure and the horizon wide. At Wesak we shall have reached a high altitude; now, at Easter, we are climbing up toward it.

Let us register this moment of being together and the chance we have of experiencing a special energizing by saying the following mantra:

The sons of men are one and we are one with them.
We seek to love, not hate;
We seek to serve and not exact due service;
We seek to heal, not hurt.

Let pain bring due reward of light and love.
Let the Soul control the outer form,
And life and all events,
And bring to light the love
That underlies the happenings of the time.

Let vision come and insight.
Let the future stand revealed.
Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.
Let love prevail.
Let all men love.

Now let us focus our attention and concentration upon the age-old theme of Easter, a festival of the sun-god celebrated for thousands of years before the birth of Jesus the Christ – the theme of renewal and recreation.

Someone once wrote that death is “only a horizon, and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight”; so now, at Easter, imbued with thoughts of resurrection, encouraged and stimulated by each other’s company and aspiration, we can make a renewed attempt to move forward in spiritual realization.

Easter is celebrated as the festival of Light, the rising again of the Light of the world, and isn’t the revelation of Light a part of divine purpose for this planet? As evolution proceeds, humanity becomes an advancing point of light, and we understand this in terms of spiritual will, love, intelligence – a shining light energy that redeems and transforms matter.

If this seems abstract, let's first return to the idea of relating to the reality of spiritual purpose and plan that lies behind outer distortion and everyday ordinariness.

Teilhard de Chardin expressed this in stirring words. Speaking of the destiny of humanity he says: "Progress, if it is to continue, will not happen by itself." What steps must we take in relation to this forward march? He says that there are two steps that can be summarized in five words: a great hope, in common.

First *a great hope* must be born spontaneously in every generous Soul in face of the anticipated work; it represents the essential impetus without which nothing will be done. A passionate love of growth and of be-ing, that is what we need; so down with the cowards, the skeptics, the pessimists, the unhappy, the weary and the stagnant.

Second, *in common* – our hope will only be operative if it is expressed in greater cohesion and greater human solidarity. There is only one way that leads upward, the one that through greater organization leads to greater synthesis and unity.

In these words Teilhard suggests that we approach that inner world of purpose and plan with a great hope and united effort. He refers to the anticipated work and, as esotericists, we know that this is where individual responsibility arises.

If we are to rise to this great Easter opportunity, if we are to climb upward together and to receive, so as to transmit, the uniquely available energies, we must first, metaphorically speaking, stand up and throw off whatever may be keeping us imprisoned within the material world. Only then can we set forth as a *new* man or woman. This is entirely possible, for there is not one of us who cannot be transformed by the renewing of the mind that can be the instrument of the Soul and the means whereby the brain becomes illumined. The thinker creates his own world; as he thinks, so is he and so will be his quality of consciousness. If we find ourselves within those categories listed by Teilhard – the skeptics, the cowards, the weary, the stagnant, the pessimists, then we are immersed and imprisoned in a world of phenomena that we ourselves are helping to create and sustain, and – terrible thought – we are then a dead weight within the body of humanity! This can be true of individuals, families and nations. And in order to change and transform, we have to begin with ourselves.

The needed aspirational will is uniquely available *now* at Easter. There is a Being, the Spirit of Resurrection, that impulses life-giving energy. At this full moon we can invoke this spirit with such intensity that there must be an answering release of potency. The force will be greater because we stand together and invoke as one. Every single one of us, whether we are old or young, sick or healthy, can take heart and renew our courage; we can renew the mind and take what is for each of us the next step forward. The procedure is well known but ever bears reiteration.

We have to change and transform old thought and desire patterns by ascertaining and considering new concepts, by imagining these made manifest, by visualizing the effects of these made manifest. In this way there is a current of vitalized energy equivalent to the higher objectives, and the transformation can take place. The imagination plays a large part as we seek to change outworn, outgrown attitudes and as we seek to understand what ought to be according to the intention of our Souls. Imagination will make us alert, flexible, open-minded; we begin by aspiring toward that which is beyond our ken and end by being inspired by it.

Miracles can happen and "the desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose." [Isaiah 35:1] So often we are convinced that if only circumstances were different we could achieve, we could move forward, we could overcome all difficulties, but in truth these very circumstances constitute the material substance on which, and in which, we must work. We don't seek to escape; we seek to transform. We first discriminate between that which should and can be changed and that which must be experienced, since "cosmic justice" brings about an interplay of relationships involving obligations, debts and claims to be fulfilled. As Souls we have the responsibility of irradiating the substance through which we are manifesting. At Easter the will and love and wisdom to accomplish this is strongly available. Together,

at this festival, we can become aware of the existence of currents of thought, ideas and vitalizing power emanating from great spiritual centers; we can tap this source, and the livingness of the Christ nature – which is light – can shine in our lives. Here we come back to that idea of shining light energy that redeems and transforms matter. It is not an abstraction; it is will, love, intelligence, insight and wisdom. It is all that is needed to transform our planet.

The next stage of Teilhard's "anticipated work" concerns the attempt to take part in the renewal and recreation of the world in which we live – not only of the individual circumstances in which we live. This thought has been beautifully expressed by the late Arnold J. Toynbee in his monumental work *A Study of History*:

When a civilization comes to a time of trouble such as we are now in, individuals here and there turn from the outer world of social and political chaos to the inner world of the psyche. There they come upon the vision of a new way of life and, returning to the outer world, form the nucleus of a creative minority through whom that world may find renewal.

Do we not recognize here in these words a description of members of the New Group of World Servers? In common with them we turn to that inner world of the reality of purpose and plan – the world of the psyche as Toynbee says. Then we return to the outer world bearing gifts of new energies, of *light*, which we can use to find higher values, new aims and new solutions. "To throw light upon" a problem, condition or situation is the recognition of the inner and spiritual reality that produces the outer and visible form. This light energy is the livingness of the Christ nature that we are to manifest right where we are, in the scene in which we find ourselves.

We are thus facing a tremendous challenge to try to recreate and rectify all relationships between all the kingdoms of nature, and to do this we need all the warmth of the heart and the light of the Soul. Thus we can be creative agents through whom the world may find renewal, adding our quota of loving understanding and intelligent thought so that the mind of *humanity* may be renewed.

Can we rise to the task? Can we so exemplify and portray the power of spirit that together we can transform society? Only by awakening the livingness of the Christ nature, the Soul; and we can only hope to do this when something of that radiance exists within ourselves – and exist it does. There is not one of us who cannot come to this realization anew this Easter, here and now. We do not need to have great visions or to have heard voices giving great directives – all we need is the heartfelt conviction of the reality of the living, risen Christ and His transforming power, the light of the Soul. Through this power we can find solutions to the terrible problems of present-day humanity.

Quoting from *Esoteric Healing*, p. 586: "When the Christ consciousness is radiantly present, then the life aspect, the will-to-good, can flow in, fresh and impelling. It can flow through humanity to the subhuman kingdoms. This is the outstanding testimony of man's divine origin, and it is the saving hope of the world."

As we enter into meditation, we might take as our seed thought: May the rhythm of the transforming power vibrate within our lives, awakening, transmuting, and bringing about that which ought to be.



¹ Originally given at the Meditation Group Meeting in New York, April 15, 1984.