

Leo and the Soul's Integration

We are now in that period of the year called “the dog days,” when Sirius, in the constellation Canis Major – the Great Dog – rises over the eastern horizon preceding the dawn. Alice Bailey writes in her book, *The Labours of Hercules*, that Sirius is called “the leader of the entire heavenly host,” for it is ten or twelve times brighter than any other star of the first magnitude. Sirius has always been associated with great heat; hence we have the saying about the dog days in the middle of the summer when the heat is usually at its greatest. From the standpoint of the occultist, Sirius is of profound significance. It is the symbol of the universal Soul as well as of the individual Soul.

The Tibetan says, in *The Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, that the relationship of Sirius to our Solar Logos corresponds to the relationship of the Soul to the human personality.

We are now in the astrological sign of Leo the Lion, the fixed fire sign that symbolizes the integrated and powerful human personality. Hercules, the archetypal aspirant of old, had the task of slaying the rampaging lion that was terrorizing the inhabitants of the Land of Nemea.

In *The Labors of Hercules* we read:

Hercules, the aspirant, ... symbolized the lion, the royal heir, nobility, the ruler, and because of this, Hercules symbolically wore the lion's skin. The Nemean Lion essentially represents the coordinated, dominant personality, for the aspirant has always to be a highly evolved individual.

With the triple aspects of the lower personal self fused and blended and, therefore, potent beyond the average, the aspirant often becomes a somewhat trying and difficult person. The aspirant has a mind and uses it. The aspirant's emotions are controlled, or else are so blended with his or her mental reactions that they are unusually powerful; hence, the aspirant is exceedingly individual, often very aggressive, self-confident and self-satisfied, and his or her personality is, therefore, a devastating force in the family group, society, or organization with which he or she may be affiliated. Therefore, the aspirant, the lion of Judah, has to slay the lion of the personality. Having emerged out of the mass, and developed individuality, the aspirant then has to slay that which he or she has created, to render helpless that which has been the great protecting agent up to the present time. Selfishness, the self-protecting instinct, has to give place to unselfishness, which is literally the subordination of the self to the whole.

Therefore, the Nemean lion symbolizes the powerful personality running wild and menacing the peace of the countryside.

We are told that this fifth labor is interesting because of its numerical significance. Five is the number of humanity due to the sum total of the mental, emotional, physical and etheric bodies, plus the Soul.

In Aries, the Soul took to itself that type of matter that would enable it to be in relation to the world of ideas. It clothed itself in a mental sheath. It added to individuality those combinations of mental substance through which it could best express itself. And humanity became a thinking soul. In Taurus, the desire world was contacted and a similar procedure ensued. The means of sentiently contacting the world of feeling and emotion were developed and humanity became a sentient soul. In Gemini, a new and vital energy body was constructed by the bringing together of the energies of Soul and matter, and humanity became a living soul, for the two poles were en rapport, and the vital or etheric body came into being. In Cancer, which is the sign of physical birth and of the identification of the unit with the mass, the

work of incarnation was completed and the fourfold nature was manifested. Humanity became a living actor on the physical plane.

But it is in Leo that humanity becomes what is occultly called the five-pointed star, for that star stands as the symbol of individualization, of human beings who knows themselves to be individuals and become aware of themselves as the Self. It is in this sign that we begin to use the words, I, and my and mine.

But the my and mine of the lower self are only the first reflections of the higher, truer Self-Consciousness of the Soul; and this is symbolized in the Fifth Labor of Hercules. The disciple has to realize not only "I am," but in a deeper way, "I am That."

In *Esoteric Astrology*, Leo is the only sign that has the same ruler exoterically, esoterically and Hierarchically – the Sun – as the Physical Sun, the Heart of the Sun, and the Spiritual Sun. This would represent, or symbolize, as the Physical Sun, the personality and its vehicles. The Heart of the Sun would represent the Soul, or Solar Angel, and the Spiritual Sun would represent the Monad.

Let us look more closely at the deeper nature of the physical sun, as presented in *The Theory of Celestial Influence*, by Rodney Collin.

In recent years the idea has grown more and more accepted that the depths of the Milky Way, instead of lying empty between sun and sun, are filled with clouds of drifting gas. Lyttleton and Hoyle further developed the idea that these suns, "tunneling" – as they described it – through this gas, pick up the medium through which they pass. Interstellar gas is sucked into our Sun, they said, and is there consumed or incorporated into the Sun's mass.

This, of course, is an exact description of a being "breathing" the medium through which one passes. For a person could in the same way be said to be "tunneling" through air as he or she sucks it into themselves while walking or running.

Ice ages and tropical periods on Earth may have resulted from variations in the Sun's temperature, associated with deeper or shallower breathing, inhalation or exhalation.

Rodney Collin continues:

The chief point of this idea ... is that the Sun stands to the Milky Way as a person does to the Earth, and it stands to the Absolute as a person does to the Sun.

Various observations support this first relationship. We see the surface or plane of the Milky Way peopled with millions of suns, just as we see the surface of the earth peopled with millions of humans. These suns revolve about the axis of the galaxy, as people revolve about the axis of the Earth. And they are now said to breathe the galactic atmosphere as people breathe the terrestrial one.

Such are the material implications of the comparison. But what of the metaphysical ones? In relation to humanity, the Sun possesses to the utmost the divine attributes of omnipotence, omnipresence, eternity; of creation, maintenance, and destruction. What shall we say then of an Absolute that is as divine to the Sun, as the Sun is to us, which represents, as it were, divinity squared? If anyone fear that a physical approach to the universe may diminish one's conception of God, meditate on this: That the most infinite divinity to which one can pray is but a speck to the Absolute of All.

Let us now consider the "Heart of the Sun," corresponding to the Soul, the Solar Angel. In *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. I*, we read:

Before the gateway of each newborn day, which holds within its sealed hours ordered responsibility, each morn I stand. I cry aloud: "Lord of my life, how can I do the duty of this day yet seek detachment? Meet every need yet free myself from ties and bonds." God said:

“The sun draws near and vivifies the earth. Naught can it take from out the earth. Live likewise. Give and ask naught!”

Is this not the outstanding theme and keynote of the Higher Self, the Soul in its true essence, as it seeks to express itself through us?

As we focus on the Heart of the Sun, the consciousness of the Soul – quite an evolutionary journey for most of us – let us begin to extend our vision toward the Spiritual Sun.

You, a Soul in incarnation, are consciously aware of the fact – subjectively and often dimly sensed – of your real Self, the Soul, the Solar Angel, who is the Angel of the Presence. Deepen this realization, and know yourself to be the Angel, standing between you, the physical plane being, and the Presence. It might elucidate matters if we considered for a moment what reality is represented by that word Presence.

The mystic is ever aware of duality; of the lower individual and the indwelling soul; of the tried disciple and the Angel; of the little self and the real Self; of human life expression and of spiritual life expression. Many other qualities stand for the same expression of reality. But, behind them all looms – immanent, stupendous, and glorious – that of which these dualities are but the aspects; the Presence, immanent, yet transcendent, of Deity. In the nature of this One, all dualities are absorbed and all distinctions and differences lose their meaning.

When you develop the consciousness of the Presence, it indicates, first of all, that you are at this time somewhat aware of the Angel and can now begin to respond, dimly and faintly, to that great Whole which lies behind the physical, tangible world of everyday life.

A symbol of this can be seen in the knowledge that the entire planet lies outside of the room in which you are pondering my words and is only separated from you by the window and the extent of your conscious awareness. The outer universe of the planet, the solar system, and the starry heavens, lies revealed to you through that sheet of glass which reveals, if clean and unveiled, but which acts as a barrier to vision if soiled or hidden by a blind. This and your ability to project yourself into the immensity of the universe, governs the extent of your knowledge at any given time. Think this out, and look through the window of the mind to that Light which reveals the Angel which, in its turn, veils and hides the vast unknown, yet alive and vibrant, Deity.

A slightly different angle of vision is given us by Dane Rudhyar, in *Gifts of the Spirit*:

The sun's power takes the earth in embraces of light. All things are moved thereby into living and dying, into love and the glimmers of love, into growth and the wastefulness of seed. Emotion, dynamism, passion, greatness and evil surge luxuriously from the mating of sun and soil.

But the time comes when the arc of the sun's journey at last bends low toward the horizon; and as light vanishes within the folded robe of the western sky, stars appear in the east. Over the earth, stillness descends with the soft darkness of the night. Humanity's soul, released from the dramas of light, opens to the peace and the grandeur of star-studded skies.

For those, who can meet the sun with simplicity and in truth, the same peace can bless every hour. Satisfied to be only what one is, standing erect and true at one's work in the fields of this earth, the sun-illuminated individual can know the stillness of the stars even at the high noons of creative living. In utmost translucency of mind and of soul, letting through the light in shadowless giving, one is indeed a lens for the rays of the sun. One's path is light, and one's words are true.

One might well speak the words of the Gayatri:

O Thou Who givest sustenance to the Universe,
From Whom all things proceed, and to Whom all things return,
Unveil to us the face of the true Spiritual Sun,
Hidden by a disc of golden light,
That we may know the truth, and do our whole duty
As we journey to Thy Sacred Feet.