

**FESTIVAL OF LIBRA**  
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Good afternoon friends. Welcome to this meeting for group service. Today we have come together to work in meditation with the much needed energies of Libra, the keynote of which is "I choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force." It is a unique time for making right choices and decisions. And we, as a serving group, can, with our meditation work, help to strengthen and build the thoughtforms being impressed, at this time, by the soul qualities of the nation. These thoughtforms of universal love, goodwill, and right human relations already exist in human consciousness, but they need to be moved to the forefront of the human mind so that they will guide humanity to make new choices that will lead human creativity in a new and more wholesome direction, a direction that includes the needs of the whole.

So lets come together and stand as a radiant unit of light and invoke the guidance of our own group soul by reflecting for a moment on the powerful words of the gayatri to "unveil to us the face of the true spiritual sun...that we may know the truth." Once the truth is known of our human destiny on earth, then the right path to take can be chosen. If we make the right spiritual choices that lead us into the Aquarian age, then humanity can stand in its rightful place as a major center of unified light in direct alignment with the Spiritual Hierarchy and Shamballa. So lets take a few moments now to align our group with hundreds of other groups around the world and build that radiating network of light. And then sound together the ancient, invocative prayer, the Gayatri.

O Thou Who givest sustenance to the universe,  
From Whom all things proceed,  
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.

"That we may know the truth and do our whole duty." Truth is a relative term; it is relative to the state of consciousness of the individual. Behind one layer of truth lies many deeper layers; each layer leads to an ever-increasing unfoldment of consciousness. The quest for truth, then, leads from the individual personality's view of truth, to the deeper view of the group conscious soul, to the universal, synthetic view of Monadic Life. For the advanced disciple at this stage, the ultimate truth lies in the divine Purpose as it is expressed through the Plan of God.

And a successful working out of the Plan depends on a constant inflow of the energies of the twelve constellations of our zodiac. As you know, each constellation, each sign provides a particular quality or ability that human beings are expected to acquire and perfect over many lifetimes of experience. Unknowingly, we are slowly developing the capacity to become conscious cooperators in a great creative process and purpose working out on planet Earth. In our personality life we think of this planet as our home, which it is, temporarily in cosmic time. But in reality--in that deeper layer of truth--from the soul's perspective, we are here as co-creators with the great Logos of this planet. It is His Plan and Purpose we are working out. But in the process of this great planetary service, we too are gaining from this earthly experience. We gain in the art of working with and manipulating great energies and forces. We gain by learning to

work as a group in meditation. We gain by aiding the Hierarchy in its work as custodians of the Plan. The work we are called upon to do now is invaluable. We are here in the world at this time, with this group of serving souls, because we have something to contribute in this difficult transition period, some spiritual capacity that is needed to help humanity make the right choices that will set us on the right course toward a new quality of life in the new age. And if we can hear the new note being sounded by the Aquarian influence, we can use that as a guide. What are the new ideas being impressed upon human consciousness by the Hierarchy? In what direction does the Plan of God want us to move? These are the crucial choices facing humanity today, and the growing impact of Libra will, if we can hear it, help us make the right choice.

You are probably familiar with the Tibetan's comment that "In this transition period through which the world is now passing and in this interlude between two activities—that of the Piscean Age which is passing and that of Aquarius which is coming in—Libra will eventually rule, and the end of this (20<sup>th</sup>) century will see the influence of Libra steadily coming into pronounced control and into a position of power in the planetary horoscope." (EA 238)

We are now at that stage where, presumably, Libra is exerting a powerful influence on human consciousness. And if we look closely at world events we can see and hear the influence of Libra coming through public discussion and decision-making. The recent meltdown in the world financial systems has jolted our consciousness out of its material glamor and set off a cry to bring more "balance" and regulation in the financial system. The word "balance", which we hear a lot these days, is the pure note of Libra demanding more legislation and more control over the flow of money. The legislation effect of Libra means not only new congressional or parliamentary legislation, or judicial legislation, it also means developing the ability to legislate and control one's own selfish and desirous impulses and bring them into balance. The recent bubble grew all out of balanced proportion due to unregulated desire and greed for material things; it then collapsed under its own weight. This is not the first time this has happened in human history; this boom and bust pattern has happened many times in the past. But this time we have the powerful extra-planetary power of Libra to help us seek and maintain a more stable human and financial system, based on the realization that if we don't maintain this balanced state, we will simply and tragically repeat it over and over again. It really comes down to invoking the will to control human impulses. If we don't learn from the past, then we will have to legislate by law to save us from ourselves. As long as we allow ourselves to shift back and forth between the opposites of the material and the spiritual paths, then we will never find that balanced middle way that will eventually liberate us from these extreme positions. It is a unique time of decision for humanity, and if we can hear and follow the inner note of Libra, we will be able to "choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force."

Libra can also help us choose the balanced way when it comes to dealing with the environment and global warming, an issue in which all the nations of the world must be involved. And the fact that this issue is being dealt with on a global scale is truly significant. It indicates that human consciousness has expanded to the point where it is now sensitive to a universal will and can see the issue as it affects the whole earth. This is approaching the view and the mind capacity of the spiritual Hierarchy. This new and inclusive capacity of human thought is likely the result of the impact of the synthetic first Ray energy of Shamballa, the energy of the greater Will of God. The great force of the spiritual Will-to-Good is now needed to strengthen humanity's will to follow through in a cooperative effort to adopt and adjust to the balanced way. With all the major issues we face, the problem is not the lack of a solution; we know what needs to be done. The real question is: Do we have the will to do it? It is human will that needs to be ignited, and this is the task of the new group of world servers. As the Tibetan reminds us, "the function of the new group of world servers is dynamically to 'force' the energy of the will-to-good into the world."

The issue of terrorism might also be helped by the influence of Libra. The major battles being fought out in the world today are no longer between great armies facing each other on a battlefield. The field of combat has shifted to one of winning over hearts and minds in the realization that building cooperative relationships will achieve more in the long run than the old way of continuous combat. Our new global consciousness makes this possible and it indicates the higher path that the disciple, humanity, must take. Human consciousness has come a long way in its preparation for stepping onto the path of initiation.

To illustrate this, the Tibetan relates the story from *The Bhagavad Gita* of Arjuna's problem when he sat down in despair between the two opposing armies. "The great battle which is related in that ancient scripture of India really took place in the first instance in mid-Atlantean days and in the sign Libra. The major conflict of this present, Aryan period is being waged upon a higher turn of the spiral and is under the influence of Scorpio. That in the past prepared the world probationary disciple, humanity, for the path of true discipleship. That in the present is preparing the world disciple to take initiation. During the vast interim between the Atlantean decisive happening and the present time, a great re-orientation upon the wheel of life has taken place; since then, several million men have passed from Scorpio into Libra (symbolically speaking) and there have been "weighed in the balances" and have afterwards refocussed their desire life towards spiritual aspiration and reinforced their determination to move forward and thus have returned into Scorpio upon the reversing wheel."

There are two wheels the soul must consider: the wheel of rebirth, of life after life, and the greater Wheel of the zodiac. It is on this Wheel that the incarnating soul faces the most significant choice of all: the choice of when, in which life, to reverse its direction on the Wheel. This reversal takes place under the judicial influence of Libra. It is why this sign is sometimes called "the place of judgment." Here a choice must be made to either move forward on the upward path, a path full of testing, trial and uncertainty, or to remain in the comfort and assurance of the old ways, old habits and old desires. Here, all the experiences and lessons learned from millions of choices made in past lives comes to the foreground. The reason why the free will to choose is given by God to every soul becomes clear. Without the will to choose, one could not survive in this dense material existence. And especially now at this pivotal point in Libra, the test of the strength of will to reverse the direction on the Wheel is crucial. It's the dividing line which separates the "sheep from the goats", between the ordinary wheel of life and the reverse direction that leads to freedom and liberation from the Wheel. It is the wisdom of Deity to provide a place to pause on the wheel where a sense of balance and equilibrium can be found before undertaking the more intense choices that face the soul on the upward path of initiation.

Humanity as a whole is today facing this great struggle with the opposites. The judicial impact of Libra, along with the magnetic and destructive touch of the Shamballa force is bringing many of these opposites into the light, bringing the extremes up for resolution. A few decades ago the Tibetan wrote of a previous period of world tension, but his words are still applicable today. "World tension today", he said, "consists in the fact that physical force and etheric energy are at grips. (The physical and the etheric are the first basic pairs of opposites that one has to deal with). Etheric force is closely related to the Monad or the highest spiritual aspect. It is life itself on the verge of externalization. Hence the emphasis today upon the spirit of humanity, upon the spirit of a nation, and the spirit of a group. This is all the result of the battle going on between this pair of opposites in the field of human affairs and in the field of individual average human living. It is, however, this conflict—fought out to the point of synthesis and of at-one-ment—which produces the re-orientation of the race and of the individual to the truer values and to the world of reality. It is this conflict—successfully waged—which lands the man, as an individual,

and the mass, as a whole, upon the Path of Purification. When there is unification of these energies upon the physical plane, you then have one-pointed activity and a determination to travel in a specific direction. There follows the resolution...of the duality into a unity.”

The impact of Libra and Shamballa, working together, is forcing individuals, groups and nations to make hard choices, particularly in the fields of politics, religion and in the world economy. The imprisoning attachments we have in all these fields are more and more evident, which is all to the good. We hang on to our old religious beliefs, thinking that they are the chosen way of God. We hang on to our political beliefs because we desire the illusions of power they seem to bring. And we become blinded by the economic power of “having” while not seeing the poverty of those who “have not.”

These tough choices are being forced upon us because of where we human beings stand on the Path, be it the Path Purification or the Path of Discipleship. It is time, according to the timing of the Plan, to move the revelation forward, and to envision the greater things to come that lie just over the horizon—those greater things of the Kingdom of God. Somehow we have to find that light that will help us to “choose the way which leads between the two great lines of force”, and find the center point of balance. In our meditative work this afternoon we can help to strengthen the vision of right, balanced relationships which is the real need if we are to find the razor-edged path and move forward into the light.

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