

Transformation of the Self
From the Young, Roaring Lion to the Strong, Serene and Noble Lion King
Second Leo 2021 Full Moon, New York

Steve Nation

Greetings and welcome to this full moon meditation. We will be aligning with the energies and potencies pouring into humanity and the earth through the Sun – that great burning fire of hot plasma at the center of the solar system. Right now, with two full moons in the same sign, these energies are conditioned by an unusually abundant flow from that Great Solar Lion, Leo.

Of all the signs of the Zodiac, Leo is particularly related to the sun. So, it is appropriate to think of the role that the sun plays in our lives. Just in a physical sense, it is the source of light, energy, and heat, fueling life on Earth. Yet more than this, the energies flowing through the sun reach into the very core of our being. They provide the driving force in the evolution of consciousness and are of special significance during these difficult decades of transition from Piscean to Aquarian Age. All the transformative changes that are such a feature of the crises of our time are powered by and an expression of energies pouring through the sun. This is especially notable in Leo when these energies are concentrated on the human sense of self stretching from the self-assured personality, depicted as the young Roaring Lion through to the sovereignty of the higher Self – the Strong, Serene and Noble Lion King.

Metaphysical thinkers throughout the ages have looked to the sun as our Solar Logos, with its unimaginably radiant and fiery super-consciousness. The source of light physically, figuratively and numinously. Esoteric literature speaks of different levels of the sun's consciousness as a guide for our imagination. These levels are known by three names, referring to three great cosmic centres. The teachings speak of the 'physical Sun' as the energetic source feeding the three levels of the personality, firing the muscles of personal identity, individuality, and I-ness. Hidden within this physical sun is a centre of subjectivity known as the 'heart of the Sun' feeding the higher Self or Soul of human consciousness. And at its core, as an all-consuming fire, is the 'central spiritual Sun' which feeds the pure Monadic Spirit at the core of Self.

Leo draws our attention to these three elements of Self and the reshaping or transformation of the human sense of self that is at the centre of the transition into the Aquarian Age. It is a central story for our time as the path towards right relations becomes the path from separate self to universal Self.

Radiation is commonly regarded as a physical phenomenon. One dictionary definition from the field of physics speaks of radiation as: *the complete process in which energy is emitted by one body, transmitted through an intervening medium or space, and absorbed by another body.* Yet as anyone involved in esoteric work understands, just as energy follows thought, radiation also follows thought. An organized, concentrated and focused state of consciousness emits or radiates energy. One of the primary functions of esoteric work is service through radiation –

where the quality of alignment between mind and soul and spirit enables the server to grow in their ability to radiate the lighted loving energies of divinity into the mental and emotional environment in which human beings operate and life evolves. Esoteric training (in all esoteric traditions) aims to develop increasing skill and refinement in this process of service through radiation. And carefully coordinated group activities such as Triangles and the full moon meditation we will be performing this afternoon, draw upon the resources of a group of minds, sharing a common purpose, to invoke and radiate energies of the Higher Self and the Higher Worlds so that these energies may exert their influence through the New Group of World Servers and within the vast networks of goodwill which characterize humanity. The energies radiated evoke lighted thought and activity from all who are sensitive to their influence. The mental and emotional environment in which we human beings live out our lives is affected by these radiations in ways that we will probably never truly understand during our time in incarnation. We have no idea what the world would be like if it were not for the radiatory work of the World Esoteric Group down the ages.

One way of pondering the impact of the radiation of collective thinking is to consider the radiation of separative thought. Imagine the effect of the superficiality and shallow 'littleness' of what is still the dominant material, consumer-oriented understanding of psyche, economics and society of our time. While human consciousness has been less developed the footprint of the human psyche on the earth may not have been so significant. But the potency of individualized consciousness is waking up as never before. At its more mature levels this individualized self is organized, purposeful and carefully honed to achieve life goals and ambitions. The physical sun has never been a more powerful presence in the human psyche. An enlivened and primed intellect drives material progress and the acquisition of ever more knowledge. Without the deeper perspective of the soul, the awakened personality is emitting a radiation into the psychic atmosphere of the planet that is a dangerous mix of uncontrolled desires, and the thoughts and musings of unrestrained and undisciplined intellects. The demand for constant stimulation from sensationalized news, highs of happiness and lows of despair and depression produce a background radiation that can be likened to what one writer has called a "desertification of delight".

Fortunately, this is not the whole story. For emanations from the Heart of the Sun are also more present in the human than at any previous time. And this is especially evident in the widespread response to the hazards posed by the unregulated forces of the personal self. The quest for wisdom and for authentic spirituality has never been higher. And the Aquarian sense of universality is sweeping through consciousness as evident in movements like World Unity Week or the massive participation in events like International Day of Women or the growth of interest in meditation, spiritual teachings, Near Death experiences, consciousness studies and so on. Readers of the books by Alice Bailey represent a very small section of a growing interest in the path towards the higher Self, but even here there has been a significant increase. Last year, 2020, saw the largest rise in the sales of Alice Bailey books in English for many years. So, we really are in a Leo phase where the deepest sense of human identity is in flux and just at the time when the lower self is on a drug-like high, there is a marked turning towards the Lion of

detached quiet strength and poise who is sensitive to and moved by both the rich diversity and the wholeness of life.

Can we pause for a moment to identify with the group mind of all who are meditating for world service at this time; a field of mind that is quiet, focused, and flooded with the Light of the Ashram. And then let's reach out to link with fellow servers in the esoteric group, with the Group of World Servers, and with all the people of goodwill in the world, in all their varying degrees of concentrated goodness as we sound together 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.

Leo has been called the “pre-eminent fire sign at this time” [EA, 288]. This suggests that we might view what is occurring in the world through the lens of God as a *consuming Fire*. In his book, *The Universal Christ*, Richard Rohr quotes a comment by Jesus that *I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already blazing*. Rohr refers to this as one of his favorite metaphors, loving the image of fire not for its destructiveness but “as a natural symbol for transformation – literally, the changing of forms. Farmers, forestry workers, and native peoples know that fire is a renewing force, even as it can also be destructive.” [p. 92]

On the reversed wheel of discipleship Leo brings, as its gift, this fiery spirit of transformation. Purifying fires burn away the glammers and illusions of the separated self. As the Universal Self reveals itself to the disciple on the path, the significance of the traumatic experiences begins to be understood. Gradually the disciple learns to cooperate with the process of purification until he or she can stand in the sovereignty of the Universal Self and think from the viewpoint of the whole – from the perspective of ‘isolated unity’. From this perspective one’s own transformation becomes a metaphor for the transformation of humanity.

Increasing sensitivity to the Universal Self does not imply any turning away from the personal, separated self – rather it transforms the relationship with the personal self -seeing it less as a fixed and solid point of identity and more as a field of service and means of relationship with the world. It is the primary reorientation that is needed before we can follow the leadership of our Christ nature and become agents of redemption and liberation in the world -redeeming the matter of the three worlds physical/etheric; astral and mental. Leo must do its work. The fires must burn.

There is a similar path confronting humanity now as we transit into increasing levels of interdependence requiring us to reimagine our relationships and responsibilities as we respond to global forces and carefully seek to craft local and national paths that bridge from nationalism into globalism. There need be no competition and no conflict between local, national, and global identities to the extent that local and the national environments are seen as places of service where the new sense of universal relationship is grounded and worked out.

There is a tendency in esoteric studies to focus on the group identity of the soul, sometimes forgetting that this group identity evolves naturally out of a Leo-type exploration of the individual confronting the question 'who am I'. As the Tibetan notes, in Leo the aspirant necessarily passes through a period of *self-awareness* and self-centered focus before it becomes possible to know the *divine spirit* that is the *true Self*. As the Leo subject deepens their understanding of the Self, so they are led into an understanding of others. The personal self, in its relationship with the Soul, and its dawning sense of identification with the universal Self becomes the place where the New is built. This is very much akin to the modern idea that change in society begins with, and cannot be disassociated from, change in oneself. Right relations are built from the ground up, person by person, self by self. Local, national, global, and planet become fields of expression.

At the core of all of this – of the transformation from Leo to Aquarius and from separated self to Universal Self – lies the principle and practice of freedom. Esotericists recognize this principle as emanating from and empowered by that “vast expression of divinity ... manifesting through Sirius” [RV, 416]. Leo is closely related to Sirius and so it is that the path to full Self-awareness is so closely connected to freedom. Yet the principle of freedom, as discussed by DK, bears little relation to the slogans of freedom so often employed by competing political factions:

“It is the principle of freedom which enables Sanat Kumara to dwell on the Earth and yet stand free from all contacts, ...; it is that which enables the initiate to achieve a state of "isolated unity"; it is that which lies behind the Spirit of Death and forms the motivating power of that great releasing Agency; it is that which provides a "pathway of power" between our Hierarchy and the distant sun, Sirius, and gives the incentive towards the "culture of freedom" or of liberation which motivates the work of the Masters of the Wisdom; it is that which produced the ferment and the vortex of conflict in far distant ages and which has been recognised in the present through the results of the Law of Evolution in every kingdom in nature; ..." [RV, 416 – 7].

In the evolution of human consciousness, the Leonine transformation from separated self to Universal Self is an organic process that can only occur when it is self-directed and freely chosen. It cannot be forced on an individual by another. In today's world of the overstimulated personality Leo holds out the possibility for individuals and communities to be free from the

prison of unrequited desires and appetites. It also means freedom from the influence of marketing and social media forces that are designed to manipulate our desires and even our sense of self and our vision of the future. One of the primary tasks of the New Group of World Servers is to “free the prisoners of the planet”

The recent issue of the World Goodwill Newsletter explores the role that educators are playing in developing curricular and approaches to the classroom that actively help students to learn to understand and be free from the worlds of instinct and desire. This is especially noticeable in approaches that seek to prepare students for the future world, recognizing that the future is inherently unknowable for it is a result of individual and collective imagination of future possibilities and responses to those possibilities in the present.

UNESCO’s Futures of Education initiative provides insight into ways in which education might foster an inclusive spirit – in other words might foster the higher potentialities of Leo as it reaches into Aquarius. The UNESCO Initiative draws on a global network of educators to reimagine “how knowledge and learning can shape the future of humanity and the planet”. One of these thinkers, Gert Biesta from University of Maynooth in Ireland, has written extensively about the need for teachers to interrupt their student’s absorption in their own individual needs and desires so that they can develop the thinking skills needed to choose and plan how they will live in the world and, most importantly, choose how they will respond to the ethical choices posed by the problems facing modern humanity. As Biesta has written, there is a need for teaching that “frees us from the ways in which we are bound to or even determined by our desires.” This can be achieved in an educational environment where students think through “whether what we desire is actually desirable, both for ourselves and for the life we live with what and who is the other”.

Keri Facer, another participant in the UNESCO project, suggests that in preparing for the future educators need to transform their understanding of the nature of the human being. We need, she writes, to educate a “a different sort of human from the one we have been thinking with for far too long”. Rather than being separate and apart from each other and the world, she suggests that students are “deeply entangled” with each other (“humans have always, and in ways that are intensifying, thought with each other”). For Facer education will increasingly be about practices of “encounter and revelation” by which she means: “encounter with the other actors in the world (human, technological, material, more-than human) of which we are a part, and of revelation of the possibilities in the self and in the world of the forms of being that might emerge from this encounter”. [‘Thinking together so we can act together to make the futures we want’, in [World Goodwill Newsletter, 2021#2](#), pp. 6-7]

These thinkers, and others like them, can be seen as focusing the mind of concerned intelligent people of goodwill on ideas which carry the potentials of Leo and its bridging through fire between separation and full engagement with the world revealed by the universal Self.

Another interesting reflection of this transition between the two selves that is essentially the gift of Leo is in an article in the New York Times on April 11 about how the isolation imposed on people through the pandemic is leading to a realisation that the person coming out of quarantine can choose to be a new person. Under the title “You Can be a New You After the Pandemic” Olga Khazan cites psychologists and scientists who provide evidence that “people can change their personalities well into adulthood” “Researchers, she writes, “have found that adults can change the five traits that make up personality – extroversion, openness to experience, emotional stability, agreeableness and conscientiousness – within just a few months”. One of the sources referred to is a book by Psychology Professor, Richard Wiseman, titled “The As If Principle” outlining evidence that actions to behave as if you are the person you want to be can lead to you becoming that person. [Olga Khazan, ‘You Can be A New You After the Pandemic’, [The New York Times, Review, April 11, p. 2](#)]

Transformation is very much in the air. Someone commented to me not so long ago how often they were hearing the phrase ‘the common good’. We are all active participants in this transformation of the lion who roars into the lion who is becoming the water-carrier. In public discourse the two are beginning to engage directly with each other – conversation and dialogue is becoming essential. Through our meditation practice, through the positivity of our lives, and through the radiation of group thought, may we strengthen the emergence of the universal Self.