

## **A Time of Choice**

### The Festival of Libra 2020

Barbara Valocore

Good evening everyone for this celebration of the Festival of Libra. As groups around the world meet for the full moon festivals month after month, year after year, the path of energy communication between the spiritual Hierarchy and Humanity, the planetary Antahkarana, continues to strengthen and become wider and more radiant. This increase in radiation has the effect of evoking powerful energies into the planet thereby stimulating all life with consequences that cannot be predicted. Our evolutionary journey is not smooth by any means and as we are part of the body of the Planetary Logos, we navigate together through the karmic journey on this planet of sorrows. But Master Morya counsels us to regard obstacles and challenges along the Way as opportunities for growth and progress rather than impediments. In other words, we should welcome difficulties and consider them as trainers that not only test us but also aid and guide us in our life's journey.

We measure time by the movements of the celestial bodies; by the daily rhythm of night and day, full moons and new moons and the larger cycles of the planets through the zodiac in infinite combinations. As the sun moves through each constellation in the yearly rhythm, and as we meet to ponder and meditate on the qualities of each zodiacal sign, we are afforded the opportunity to deepen our understanding of ourselves through these cosmic messengers. For students of the Bailey teachings, each astrological sign is a teacher which helps uncover the mysteries of the Solar System and more importantly, the inner landscape. The seed thoughts, or Words of the Soul for each sign, create an environment of deep instruction and direction for the soul's evolutionary journey through form. Most of the 12 Seeds contain active verbs that help reveal the qualities of the sign and direct the soul in its next step in the process of the redemption of matter.

One might assume that since Libra is the sign of balancing, that "I balance" would be a central part of the word of the soul for Libra, but instead, we are given the active verb "I choose" implying that at the core, Libra is about decision. We have all freely chosen to participate in this global meditation effort which includes people of many countries as well as those servers on the inner side who silently stand with us. They know the struggle of Humanity "on the ground" and see things from a different perspective while continuing to work in a timeless environment, free from the physical restrictions under which we must work.

We know that on its own plane, all souls are unified and fully group conscious. We try to understand this truth with our limited brains and concrete thinking while the practice of occult meditation helps to release the mind from its physical prison. The vision of wholeness and interconnectedness is growing in human consciousness, especially at this time when a microscopic life form, a virus, is demonstrating to Humanity its own essential oneness. After all, this virus, or any other one, is part of the One Life too. Let us take pause to consider our underlying unity and visualize the soul as the director of our actions. We will use the Mantram of Unification.

The souls of men are one and I am one with them.

I seek to love, not hate;  
I seek to serve and not exact due service;  
I 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 people love.

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The word of the Soul in Libra is, “I choose the Way which leads between the two great lines of force.” I choose. Of course, on the mundane level, there are some things about which we have no choice, but in the context of the soul personality relationship, the idea of choice is the great gift to Humanity of free will. We are *free* to choose for good or ill. Our decisions, our direction and how we choose to behave and respond to others is ours alone, but we also have to accept the consequences of the choices we have made and hopefully learn and grow from them. Learning to choose wisely is a long process taking many incarnations.

So we can learn from the great disciple Hercules who faced many agonizing decisions and choices which now stand as symbolic sign posts for all future generations.

“I choose the Way.” The Way or the Path of spiritual development takes many forms and directions, but always leads to a simplification of life and a distillation into the basic essentials of spiritual Being. Although there are infinite combinations and variations of the Way, it is essentially the One Way, the Path leading back to the source, “from Whom all things proceed, to Whom all things return.” Every religious tradition has the same basic message, known in the West as the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” The differences are simply superficial based on that of cultures, location, climate, etc. The Way is long in terms of physical time, with many twists, turns and unexpected obstacles, and with each life lived, lessons are incorporated into the soul’s experience, bringing it ever closer to perfection.

“I choose the Way which leads between.” Libra represents the Middle Way, the so called “razor-edged Path,” first described by the Buddha, which all people must tread before being able to move forward into a full expression of discipleship. It is the place of balance between the opposite poles of spirit and matter, both of which have a strong magnetic attraction. Walking on this narrow way requires a sensitivity to the inner life and a correct sense of proportion and moderation as well as a sense of disinterestedness toward either of the opposites. The spiritual aspect must be able to express itself in form while the form nature recognizes its limitations and relationship with its essential spiritual self. Both aspects are created by God and both are necessary to fulfill the evolutionary purpose.

“I choose the Way which leads between the two great lines of force.” Force is an appropriate term for the Spirit/Matter duality because both poles hold strong attractions for the wanderer. Until decisions and choices are made by the mind, the orientation is through the astral nature making everything muddy and unclear and fraught with powerful feelings. The Middle Way cannot be found. One vacillates between the extremes, testing and experimenting, swinging to and fro with indecision. It is Humanity’s karma to wander in this way until the mind is awakened and the soul, the true middle principle, begins to control the decision making process. Learning to work with energies and forces takes long experience and the development of skill in action.

One reason that Libra is significant at this time is because during the current transition or interlude between the Piscean and Aquarian ages, it is as DK says, “coming into pronounced control and into a position of power in the planetary horoscope.”<sup>1</sup> This is significant because all people who are still on the Probationary Path will be affected by Libra for quite some time, so we should expect to see much swinging back and forth, sometimes violently, between opposites of all kinds, a hallmark of the process Libra stimulates before the pendulum comes to rest. Another reason, perhaps easier for us to understand though, is that the balancing process ruled by Libra between the focus on desires of a material nature and the urge toward spiritual aspiration has taken place on an individual level and now it is involving the majority of the human race. This has huge implications for future trends.

Although DK says that Libra “lacks spectacular interest of any kind,” its place in the zodiac is unique. For countless time, the journey of the soul progresses through the signs from Aries to Taurus via Pisces. But at a certain point, when the energy of the soul is beginning to pull on the personality, a great reversing and turn around happens in Libra so that the personality begins the long journey toward the final liberation moving through the wheel in the other direction. At the point of reversal, things slow to a temporary stop and the reorientation becomes “*The Light that moves to rest.*” Rest that is needed after the often violent swings between opposites and as the aspirant prepares for the arduous trials in Scorpio to come.

This reversing process naturally causes a crisis of identification; a leaving behind of the cherished attachments, comforts and pleasures of material life and facing the unknown without that which is familiar. Confusion, angst and trepidation must be faced until the balance moves decisively toward the soul, the middle principle where all unity is found. Disciples and aspirants have already gone through the balancing and are currently in the Scorpio experience on the reversed wheel, so now, it is the rest of humanity, *as a whole*, which is weighing values and deciding what is important, materialism or spiritual aspiration. As we observe world events at this time, it is very clear that extremely opposite points of view are competing for public attention and support. Shall it be a focus on materialism or spiritual values that will dominate? Will the soul be the guiding light in Humanity’s future direction?

There is always disruption and confusion during the transition between astrological ages and this time is no different. The energies of Pisces, which are fading out, are so very different from the new incoming energies of Aquarius which stimulate the trend toward synthesis and inclusiveness. The great heresy of separateness which is so entrenched in the world is being challenged and threatened. Also, the esoteric rulership of Libra by Uranus means that the powerful 7<sup>th</sup> Ray, the function of which is to blend and combine the two poles of spirit and matter, will continue to strengthen in its influence. New forms will emerge that will be more

refined and suited to work with the Aquarian 7<sup>th</sup> Ray energies and old and clumsy bodies will be replaced with the more refined physical vehicles through which the spirit aspect can freely flow.

We don't even need to think much about the Libran process of balancing to know that the whole world is in turmoil and confusion due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone is readjusting in some way to a new reality and no one can predict what the world will look like when this crisis has been resolved. Although the following passage in *Esoteric Psychology* was written about 80 years ago, DK could easily have been describing the current situation:

“We live in an era of extremes,—of extreme riches and extreme poverty; of extreme ignorance and extreme learning; of extreme discontent and the extreme satisfaction of personal ambitions; of extreme selfishness and extreme self-sacrifice. On every hand can be seen the wrecking of the institutions of the past, with consequent chaos and disaster, despair and suffering. At the same time we have the loud shouting and the active work of certain idealists, who seize upon the presented opportunity to swing the masses and the nations into certain activities in the spheres of government and religion. Their measures seem right and good to the self-imposed leaders, but they are often, in the last analysis, only misinterpreted ideals, growing out of a dimly sensed idea, and are usually unjustly enforced and wrongly applied. Between these extremes the masses swing,—inert, helpless, unthinking....”<sup>2</sup>

We are asked to ponder on the idea that Libra is “closely connected with the third aspect of the Godhead and hence it is a governing sign and a major conditioning factor where Law, Sex and Money are concerned.”<sup>3</sup> The history of money is a fascinating story of how Humanity has used something material and tangible, such as a metal or any other substance to which value can be applied, as a medium of exchange. In order for this to work, everyone must agree on the value of the medium, be it food products, services, precious metals or gemstones. Clearly, the production of money is related to the mineral kingdom and DK offers an intriguing prophecy that at some point, money will reveal to Humanity the secret of the mineral kingdom.

The Ageless Wisdom suggests that we should think of money as concretized energy to be used for selfish and material ends or to be channeled into forms that support the work of the Hierarchy and redeem and uplift Humanity. The manifestation of money for spiritual purposes is made successful by utilizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> aspect of creative intelligence to voice an invocative appeal based on selfless service with no thought of the separated self. It is a demand for the resources to meet spiritual need and when the demand is made by the soul and the dedicated group, the financial resources are naturally and freely evoked. Supply meets demand.

But in recent years, money has become completely abstract in the form of credit cards and electronic transfers. In the stock market, powerful computers make trades faster than a person can and they create all kinds of false and meaningless movements which imply value but are really meaningless. Money has become a commodity in itself rather than a method of exchange. Of all the systems and structures of our modern world, the financial system is dangerously out of balance. The level of inequality known as the “wealth gap” is getting wider, a situation that always precedes the transformation of a civilization. Especially since the onset of Covid-19, a crisis in itself, governmental policy has actually created more wealth for the very wealthy by moving money away from the middle class. The rich are richer and the middle class is becoming poorer. What hope is there for the truly poor?

The Master DK urges all aspirants and disciples to bend every effort toward making preparations for the Reappearance of the Christ, the World Teacher. Every Thursday, we

"dedicate ourselves anew to the service of the Coming One" and look for ways to prepare humanity for this stupendous event. We know that in order for the Christ to reappear, there has to be a universal sharing of resources and we seem to be far from this goal. But if one takes a closer look, during the current crisis many groups and individuals have set up their own systems of sharing when friends and neighbors are in need. Neighborhoods in less affluent communities have pooled their resources and skills and volunteered their time to help others. This attitude has to grow in the public consciousness so that rich countries take care of the least among them, just as the Christ would do.

The evocation of the Forces of Light is central to our work and as we prepare to work together in meditation, we can be assured that together with the spiritual Hierarchy, we are helping to throw light on the dark areas of our world. The advancing Christ energy is stirring the etheric, and Humanity as a whole is becoming increasingly sensitive to Shamballa, the center where the will of God is known. We know that ultimately, the Forces of Light will prevail, and at this critical time of the shift into Aquarius, we must embrace our existence in the material world and realize that the spiritualization and redemption of matter is the divine work; of the Planetary Logos, the spiritual Hierarchy and all of Humanity.

1. Esoteric Astrology pp. 238
2. Esoteric Psychology II pp. 670
3. Esoteric Astrology pp. 243