

The Mobilization of the Planets

(Feb. 14, 1940)

During the remaining half of this month and the first part of March we are the witnesses of a rare astronomical event. All five of the visible planets will stand collected in a narrow arc, necessarily near the sun. A combination of this kind will not occur again for hundreds of years, at least, and so it is astronomically a very impressive event. But for those who realize that astronomical configurations form the visible symbols of the action of collective psychic or occult forces, this event is more than an impressive view. Since the visible planets are the symbols of psychical forces and qualities of consciousness which determine the patterns of human and other forms of consciousness and of unconscious psychological processes, rare configurations of the planets indicate equally rare events in the life of the world. Thus we do well to seek what the alignment of five planets near the *sun* may mean for us, individually, as a group and as humanity. Upon this question we have received some esoteric Light.

Let us first remind ourselves of the functions symbolized by the five planets.

Mercury is the Messenger, and corresponds to Buddhi. *This* is the planet closest to the Sun, which is the visible symbol of the Atman or the Higher Self. But only through the Messenger can the formless ^{Atmic} Atmic Light be so transformed that it may be realized by embodied consciousness.

Jupiter is the great planet of majestic Beneficence. Physically large enough to contain all the other planets taken together, it is also that which envelops the totality of psychic being, conscious and unconscious. Thus it represents the Aura.

Venus, on one side of its nature, is Love, on another, Intelligence. Hence its composite significance is Loving-Intelligence. It is the planet which gives to the earth the greatest amount of light, a fit physical correspondence of its nature of Loving-Intelligence.

Saturn is the Initiator and, hence, the power which tests ~~the candidate~~ and guards the secret, on one hand, and initiates into new realizations and power those who have proven worthy.

Mars is Energy, which on its negative ~~is~~ side is destructive conflict, but on its positive side the power that builds.

The consummating position of these planets on the 29th of this month is as follows: First, Mercury, nearest the sun, then in order, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn and Mars forming, as nearly as possible, a straight line. (This arrangement will be visible in the western heavens soon after sunset.) It will be noted that the most potent and pre-eminently beneficent combination ^{of Planets} lies between Saturn and the sun. It is a combination of very high powers and carries the potential of an enormous transformation and uplift in the consciousness of the whole of humanity. But beyond Saturn lies Mars, of which the negative aspect is obviously extremely operative in the world at the present hour. The great question is: Is it possible to pass the sifting and testing power of the Initiator and so enter the zone of the great beneficent combination? It is always possible, but never inevitably, that any man or humanity will pass.

We live in a cycle of very great possibility. But whenever there is a combination of the forces of Light, a similar coalescence of the forces of Darkness occurs. The individual

or humanity stands in the field of tension formed by these two centers of force. And for those who stand in this field it is possible to go either way. The man who has, on the whole, focused himself most to the Light will meet the sifting of the Initiator and pass on to the Light, the zone of higher possibilities of evolution. But he, who, has focused his interests mostly in the direction of the Darkness, is likely not to pass the Initiator and then he will be thrown back to await another opportunity in another Manvantara where he will begin again at the level of a primitive humanity. There are profound reasons for saying that the field of tension is good, for otherwise the course of life would be merely fated. Because man has the possibility of going the dark path, it is also possible for him to choose voluntarily the Path of Light. In such a case, to choose Light is virtue, otherwise it would be merely fated, and there would be no virtue in goodness.

The tragic fact is that this humanity, on the whole, has been oriented mostly to Darkness, otherwise there would not have been the two great world wars or, rather, two phases of one war. This war could have been avoided, but was not. It is still possible that an early peace may come. It is also possible that all people may become involved. Under such circumstances all those who take an uncompromising attitude of fighting through to an end without compromise or adjustment are guilty of the gravest kind of sin. For thereby a circumscribed evil threatens to become an universal contagion. It is better that a restricted portion of humanity should suffer injustice than that all should be drawn within the maelstrom

of darkness. The war of killing and hatred is never a cure of evil. The first phase of the world-war did not make the world safe for Democracy, but gave inhuman dictatorship a tremendous boost. So also, in this phase, the triumph of the so-called Democracies will not mean a rejuvenation of world-wide Liberalism. The best possibility lies in an early peace with some adjustment based on compromise.

It is highly important that every student should orient his consciousness to the powers symbolized especially by Mercury, Jupiter and Venus. The coming weeks ^{are} especially a time for meditation, study of the true Doctrine, of going into retreat, and of spreading the work. Let each one try to avoid becoming emotionally involved in the the warlike issues, but hold steady. Hold with will the thought that the lines in the world and especially in our nation shall be made to come straight. The latter is of the highest importance. In the last ten years there has been a tremendous let-down of American character and a production of great confusion. Forces are now being mobilized to bring about a stiffening of national character and a ~~realignm~~ realignment of the lines in the American social life. These should have the inner support of all students. The present confusion must be corrected.

There is a tremendous power supporting us. It was said in relation to the combination of the forces represented by the planets: "I do not see how it can fail". This is a cheering word indeed. So, stand firm and steady in thought and feeling, holding the banner of Light high in confidence, regardless of all surrounding turmoil.