

# CANCER SOLAR FESTIVAL 2017

9 JUL 17

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Happy July 4<sup>th</sup> Everyone!

I was recently in the US on a family matter, and as the fortunes would have it, during the northern summer solstice. That solstice marks the Sun's ingress into the sign Cancer, and as such, brings to mind all matters familial. Also as the fortunes would have it, we were in Washington, DC – Arlington, to be more specific – and for those readers who are familiar with Alice Bailey's books, the US capital has Cancer as its soul ruler. It also has Sagittarius as its personality ruler.<sup>1</sup> For those readers who are familiar with the US and its history, any mention of Arlington automatically brings the National Cemetery to mind, which is why we were there. My father was a WWII veteran and we were there to lay his ashes to rest. It was a very solemn and poignant ceremony, a military ritual, but we were happy that his final wish could be granted as a such. Afterward we toured the cemetery, which is an experience in itself. The National Cemetery is also situated next to the Pentagon, which is an interesting symbolism in itself. In the following day we made our separate tours of Washington monuments and museums, heard the National Symphony orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Symphony no. 9 and had a dinner cruise on the Potomac. In all, it was a celebration of family, of my father's life, a remembrance of the sacrifices that have been made by millions in the nation's name and defense, and a reminder that we never live or do anything alone. We are always acting within a larger group of some sort, having come into life together, and adding our little part to those groups in our own unique way.

Given all that is taking place in the world and our societies these days, the troubling nature of events, the date and my recent travels, the machinations of the current administration and its most recent pronouncements, this letter in the latter part will focus more on the US and its foreign policy. But as we will see, US foreign policy has done much to produce the profound divisiveness we see in all quarters. And the seeds are thus being sewn of new growth. It will perhaps be useful for us to examine the nature of 'family' in this letter in all of its ramifications, since many nations these days are the meeting places of many types of 'family' groups and their intermingling. Our first experience in life is that of family, whether loving or otherwise, and as such, we have the following to consider as a jumping-off point:

In all Teachings the family is decreed to be a pillar of the entire future. Indeed, alongside all the other ways it is significant, the family is a nursery of karmic ties. Thus, a Teaching would not be complete unless it affirmed the significance of the family. The family should be regarded as the hearth of awareness and cooperation. One can come across true humaneness in cooperation, and this quality will lead to the realization of the Hierarchy. Karmic laws should not be neglected. These laws may often be invisible to the cross-eyed, but *an honest observer is shown convincingly each day how the bonds of karma work. But in essence these bonds ought to be wings. The law has foreseen joy and success, not chains.* That is how one should understand this law of life's foundation. But what, if not the heart, will remind us about the karmic dates? It is precisely the heart that will contract and palpitate and open when it senses the wing of the law. So let us once again pay homage to the heart.

*Heart, 549<sup>2</sup>*

We have many 'families' – our birth family, community, national, special groups and astral families, among many others. Through karmic law in its myriad manifestations, we come into this life together, fulfill our obligations, contribute our own special genius, make progress together with any effort at all, and then pass out on the same karmic wave, only to come back again and again as

we strive toward our collective enlightenment. If we think enlightenment and progress comes solely as a result of our individual efforts, we are mistaken. Anyone with whom we might have a close or special connection could in some way be considered as a family member and as a fellow traveler on the path to greater light and service, whether that relation be a close and intimate one or one of enmity. On the latter note, our enemies are in many ways more important for our growth (and theirs) than our supportive relations anyway. The fears our less salubrious relations generate in us should be seen as some of the most significant springboards to our next steps ahead.

Again people will approach with the question as to how to deal with obstacles. Some are handicapped by family, some by distasteful occupation, some by poverty, some by attacks of enemies. But a good horseman likes to practice upon untrained horses, and prefers the obstacle of rough ground and ditches to a level roadway. Every impediment must be made the birth of a possibility...Friends, until impediments appear to us as the birth of possibilities, we will not understand the Teaching...If the path is strewn with bones, one can pass boldly; if people speak in different languages it means the soul can be revealed; if it is necessary to hasten, it means somewhere a new shelter is ready. Blessed be the obstacles, through them we grow!

*Leaves of Morya's Garden II, 353<sup>3</sup>*

We face many obstacles to a peaceful family life. If there was ever a time in recent history in which to put our higher intentions into practice it would be now. The path of tremendous growth is laid out before us in these times when unity seems to be a pipe dream – some vague, fond notion out of reach to the ‘realistic’ person. Family relations can be some of the most loving relations we ever have, as well as some of the most acrimonious. If we think about only the loving relations and seek solace in them rather than confronting and resolving the ones that consistently rub us the wrong way, then we miss the true significance of family life. And there seems to be quite a field for family growth before us in these times. We will get to some of the more important family relations later in this letter.

The theme or motto for Cancer is “I build a lighted house and therein dwell.”<sup>4</sup> It is this motto about which we are reminded in the Cancer interval each year. And at the full moon of that period especially, we are enjoined to focus much more strongly on our group relations, for Cancer represents our first experience of group life through the birth family. If we focus more on our personal lives, then the more isolative aspects of the sign manifest, as shown in the personality motto of Cancer: “Let isolation be the rule and yet—the crowd exists.”<sup>5</sup> It is said that we each have an extended ‘astral family’, a study of which (if we had the capacity to do so) would reveal a great many factors to us, which in reality is our ‘occult heredity’.<sup>6</sup> Such a study would reveal factors such as blood ties (blood is related to the heart), ‘soul mates’, atavism, marriage and divorce, intermarriage, etc., in a much extended field of view. Such a study would also lay open the occult history of the rise and fall of civilizations, and it is this latter point with which we are currently all involved if we could realize it, either directly or indirectly. There are ancient Middle Eastern societies, for instance, which are under threat of destruction, as well as Tibet, African societies and others, and other cultures rising in ascendancy. Such events occur under cyclic law, although this in no way negates the suffering that is inflicted upon other cultures by the rising powers, nor the karma engendered by such actions. The study of the astral family also lays open the keys to discovering one’s soul group, and thus ashramic groups.

Cancer rules the natural fourth House of the zodiac, and esoterically that house is the indicator of one’s ashram, or soul group and the conditions related to it in any particular life cycle. The orthodox ruler of Cancer is the Moon, which itself is related to motherhood, to family life, blood lines, heredity and genealogy, as well as emotions in general. Esoterically the Moon is related to the

past and shows one's inclinations from the past as they influence the present life. From prenatal astrology the Moon and the ascendant are intimately and inextricably related and in that relation we have the dance of the soul and the body (personality) from life to life revealed to us. The esoteric ruler of Cancer holds a most revealing factor to us, and that relates back to the first quote of this letter. Neptune is the esoteric and hierarchical ruler of the sign, and Neptune is the doorway to bliss and pure reason, as we have examined in past letters. What we have in the combination of the two rulers in many ways speaks to the 'bonds that ought to be wings' which leads to the 'path of joy and bliss' as outlined in the first quote. The bonds of karma, being the wings to our success, and also the key to joy (meaning bliss in this case, ultimately), show the path between the two rulers of this sign. We are bound by karma to incarnate together as family members, whether as physical family or in our astral family, as shown by the Moon, and in the working out of those relations, we are ultimately led to the doorway of the bliss of enlightenment, as outlined by Neptune. Neptune is related to the heart, being the planet related to the 'Heart of the Sun' in this solar system,<sup>7</sup> and it is the lord of the greater astral plane in this solar system, or 'god of the waters'.<sup>8</sup>

The astral family and thus our soul groups, ultimately, is the one with which we are most concerned at the Cancer interval each year – the family most connected with our causal relationships. This is reflected in the 'soul body', sometimes called the causal body, itself the 'doorway to bliss', if we might use such an expression, standing midway between our personal lives and the clear light of pure reason (known as *buddhi*), or enlightened wisdom. Neptune rules over both the causal body – the 'soul incarnate' – and the light of pure reason, and as such we are each connected with what is actually a vast group of like souls. These groups connect us with nations, with working groups and each of these groups go toward the formation of what is termed the New Group of World Servers, the various groups under the guidance of the great spiritual Teachers (unbeknownst to most of us), the national groups, etc. But, we should not be misguided into thinking that if we are from one national group, for instance, that we are not members of another nation's family group. Family members go on to form other family units. And in these latter thoughts we get a clue as to the alliances and animosities that can exist between nations as well as individual family members. What we see in the world situation today are actually great family conflicts working out, and in that there is much more common ground for understanding than there is for animosity. What would be most helpful to do is to set aside our fears in the process and seek for the other person's point of view. We may not speak the same language, but our needs and desires are more often the same than not, and in understanding that, the nature and purpose of the soul can be revealed. With that, what do we see about this full moon?

The full moon takes place on 9 Jul 2017 at 5:30 UT (3:30 PM AEST). The full moon axis is square to Eris, the goddess of strife and conflict. The Sun is conjunct Mars, which has moved in-bounds since the solstice, but which is also square to Eris, who was said to often accompany Mars on the battlefield, reveling in the bloodshed.<sup>9</sup> Ceres is conjunct the Cancerian Aries (world view) point, and also square to the asteroid Chiron, indicating a turning point in world affairs. The Moon is within a degree of a conjunction with Pluto, the latter thus also opposing the Sun. The full moon axis forms a t-square with Jupiter at the apex. The orbs are too wide with Eris to form a great cross. The Moon is conjunct the star Vega, which is said to bring public disgrace (probably through forgery), loss through writings, ill health, but success in business.<sup>10</sup> The Sun is close in zodiacal longitude to Sirius and Canopus, which gives mixed results, especially with regard to business, with combined influences. The reading of Vega is clearer as far as the fixed stars go. Mars is linked to Saturn by quincunx, which gives frustration and ill-thought decisions, and Neptune is similarly linked to Jupiter, which is good for matters of the heart at a personal level, but tends toward 'manufactured consent' in a mundane figure, given the preceding influences. We'll get to the latter point shortly.

In all, this full moon figure shows quite a bit of tension, and hence larger possibilities for growth. The Mars/Eris square could prove to be quite troublesome, but also act as a catalyst, in concert with the Mars/Saturn link, even though Saturn is trine to Eris. There is a significant dwarf planet influence in this chart, indicating that events will conflate a conflict of some sort. Given world tensions at the moment, especially with regard to Syria, we might expect some event in that theater. The White House has started to give indications of such, with its announcement that Assad is getting ready to launch a chemical weapons attack again, which would be a pretext to unilateral US military action there once again,<sup>11</sup> couple with the recent accusations of a chlorine gas attack near Damascus<sup>12</sup> and the recent bombings there. These come as the Syrian army is making gains at reclaiming the remainder of Damascus from rebel forces. We can probably look for a wave of efforts at manufactured consent via the media for an increased military presence in Syria if such an event as a sarin gas attack takes place. This ties in with other efforts in the Middle East, which we will address shortly. Keep in mind that we have a powerful eclipse coming next month on Trump's ascendant, and square to Assad's horizon. It also takes place on Israel's Mars.

In the Cancer ingress figure Mercury and Mars were both out-of-bounds. Out-of-bounds planets show a greater than usual influence, one that is often over the top as to their usual effects. As an example, Mars went out-of-bounds on May 14 this year, and since then we saw the much publicized terrorist incidents in the UK, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Australia, Iran, Somalia, the US, China, France, Belgium and Pakistan. Terrorist incidents occur with such regularity now that we have probably forgotten by now about most of these attacks, so desensitized we have become toward them. There were larger than usual numbers of casualties in many of these attacks. Not all of them were Daesh-related, but many were. And then toward the end of that period we had this announcement and ominous warning about Syria by the White House. Mercury went out-of-bounds on 17 Jun this year, reaching its peak on the 25<sup>th</sup>, just prior to the White House announcement. Out-of-bounds Mercury in a mundane figure can represent many things, but heightened rhetoric is one such manifestation, and that will be valid for the entire quarter. Mercury was on the US Sun, with Jupiter square on the day of the announcement, and the Sun was conjunct the US Jupiter, indicating the emboldened and probably excessive stance of the White House. So, we know pretty much what to expect in this coming quarter. Mercury goes back in-bounds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month (today). It would appear that the White House is seeking some sort of provocation in Syria, which indicates that events are not going to plan for the US in that country.

We find the Middle East at a climactic point in its history, with ancient sectarian divisions overtly influencing policy decisions between the nations in the Arab world. The Sunni-Shia divide has come to another crisis point, which has been greatly aided and aggravated by Western powers in the past decades, most notably the US and the UK, especially since the discovery of oil in the region. Those divisions are also actively promoted by Israel. What we see with the Western influence is the working out of a much more ancient Atlantean karma, with theft and control of resources as the major driver. Theft was the major sin in Atlantean times, and led ultimately to the sinking of that continent at the culmination of the great war that ended that civilization.<sup>13</sup> And, it is of interest to note that the US and the UK are found on the ancient boundaries of the defunct Atlantean continent, from whence we get the name 'Atlantic Ocean', describing the body of water stretching in between Europe and the Americas. Land has memory, and it influences people and nations far more than we might think. And, in fact, our current financial system, having been given birth in the West, has theft as one of its major driving forces at the moment, witness the continual amassing of wealth by the very few, taking away from the average citizen.

There is ample evidence that The US and UK in particular, along with Israel and other Western powers, want to see a divided and fractured Arab world, kept from any real development and progress, with partitioned lands, such as we are seeing in Iraq and Syria. The real aim at the moment in Syria is to partition that state between Turkish, US and Israeli interests. That was not the

original intent of the civil war there – regime change being the original aim – but since Russian and Iranian intervention aimed at keeping Syria intact, the best hope of the West now is partition. And this brings us to why there is such a pronounced anti-Iranian rhetoric in the US particularly at this moment. It is also tied in with the recent rift between Qatar and its neighboring Arab states, led largely by Saudi Arabia. If we look at certain maps of the region the reasons for the actions being taken now in relation to Syria, Iran and Qatar in particular become clear – the prevention of the completion or unifying of a ‘[Shia Crescent](#)’<sup>14</sup> in the Middle East, which covers most of the [richest oil deposits in the region](#). That crescent begins in Lebanon and Syria, runs through northern Iraq (where US military forces in the region are most active now, and which includes Mosul), arcs down through western and southern Iran, and ends in Qatar and Bahrain. This also includes the Kurdish regions of Turkey and Iraq, although most Kurds are Sunni. The Kurds, though, are liberal in their faith and include many other faiths, hence their being targeted by Sunni extremist elements. Likewise, in Yemen there is a solid Shia population in the west of the country.

According to CIA figures, the population of Iraq is about 65% Shia Muslim, concentrated more in the southeast of the country. Iran is about 90% Shia by population, Bahrain is at about 65%, and so forth. But the major US allies in the region are Sunni Muslim, led largely by Saudi Arabia, as well as is Daesh. And it is the Sunni Muslims who are for the most part involved in extremism and terrorism in the world. Sunni Islam includes the Salafist sect, which is the major power in Saudi Arabia and which is exported worldwide and funded as educational institutions by the Saudi government. The Taliban in Afghanistan are a Sunni extremist group, too, and has caused quite a bit of strife with Iran. But Iran is instead touted by the US as being the major state sponsor of terrorism. This is indeed odd, given the make-up of the Taliban and Daesh. One of the big keys in all this is Hamas and Hezbollah, which have been the most effective groups militarily in the resistance against Israel’s moves in the region. Hezbollah is a Shia-based group, based in Lebanon and financed by Iran. Hamas is a Sunni-based group, also financed by Iran in its military wing, based in Gaza and is an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, formed as a counterbalance to the secular PLO. It was originally countenanced by Israel, but has since fought several wars with it.<sup>15</sup> So, we begin to get a picture. The Israeli and Saudi lobbies are quite powerful in the US. Hamas and Hezbollah have been pegged as two of the worst terrorist organizations in the region. Well, one person’s ‘terrorist’ is another’s ‘freedom fighter’. Israel would like very much to see Hamas and Hezbollah gone, but Hezbollah is supporting the Assad regime in Syria. Israel has occupied the Golan Heights, a Syrian region rich in oil.

Since the US invasion of Iraq, Iran has made inroads in that country through its Shia connections in the Iraqi population. Iran recently fired missiles into Syria across Iraqi airspace against Daesh targets, over where the American special forces are operating.<sup>16</sup> This was in response to the recent terrorist attacks in Tehran, claimed by Daesh. It represents a major escalation in the Syrian theater, which is troubling to the US forces across the border in Iraq. And then there was the recent deposing of the Saudi Prince just after Trump’s visit there and his replacement by another Saudi prince.<sup>17</sup> Following on that deposition, the Qatari incident and blockade of the country took place, and a set of rather rich demands were made of Qatar,<sup>18</sup> including the closing of the news network Al Jazeera, which is based in Qatar, and which is viewed widely in the Arab world, also having branches in Western countries. Al Jazeera is a controversial news outlet in the Arab world, which often goes against the grain of Saudi interests. Those demands, which were termed non-negotiable, if adhered to would strip Qatar of its sovereignty and make her simply another province of Saudi Arabia, which is how they are viewed by the Saudis anyway. Saudi Arabia also views Yemen in the same vein, hence its conflict there. The demands would also censor alternative views and news in the region and return individual state control to virtually all Arab-language news outlets. The only thing saving Qatar from that fate is the US Central Command (CENTCOM) military base there and support from Shia states, such as Iran. Turkey also supports Qatar.

If Western interests and Israel want to see a fractured Middle East, then both Iran and Russia have to be removed from the equation. Hence we hear recent statements from Rex Tillerson about regime change in Iran<sup>19</sup>, and US ambassador Nikki Haley's talk of putting Iran and Russia on notice if another gas attack takes place in Syria.<sup>20</sup> And this goes along with her gloating over cuts to US peacekeeping missions overseas to the tune of over \$600 million. The talk of regime change in Iran is also a direct contradiction of one of Trump's key campaign promises of not interfering in other countries' affairs.

To tie this together, in looking at the map of the Shia Crescent, the oil-rich areas in the region, the proposed pipeline and overland routes, the resources in the region, its proximity to central Asia and Russia, and the old animosities between neighbors, then if one wanted to control trade and resources in the region, a clear course of action emerges – break up the Shia crescent and arm and fund the Sunni interests in the region, especially the extremist elements, which would keep the region destabilized and backwards. If this sounds sociopathic and immoral, it is, but morals do not enter into foreign policy or CIA and US defense policy in general. The rise of Russia and Russian and Iranian intervention in the Syrian conflict pose a real threat to US hegemony in the region. The current policy and bellicosity we see now toward Russia and Iran in the West are not about oil in the main. It is about control of the region and maintenance of US military dominance there.<sup>21</sup> The US and the British before them have had sorry track records in Middle East activities from the end of WWI onward, and especially after WWII when the CIA was created. And it is the CIA and more hawkish elements in Washington which are pushing these sorts of policies and have been for some time. This brings us back to Washington.

Cancer, being the soul ruler of Washington, should exhibit as an inclusive, light-building influence in world affairs, promoting cooperation between nations, helping less fortunate nations to achieve their goals, celebrating successes in other countries, seeking world peace, unity and security and encouraging the growth of spiritual light throughout the world, just as any functional family would encourage its individual members to do. And, it should promote the same within the populace of the country itself. I know of many people who would say that we do indeed foster such relations, that the world is more secure because of US policy, that the country is wildly successful. But is that really the case, or is it just a big con which has been sold to the American public and many governments abroad? The American public has been sold on the idea that we are 'the good guys', that we promote democracy and peaceful relations worldwide. But the record says otherwise, examined in the cold light of day. It is a very sobering and alarming thing to examine.

The personality ruler of Washington, the head or governing center of the US, as mentioned previously, is Sagittarius, the natural ruler of the 9<sup>th</sup> house of the zodiac. The ninth house in world affairs is associated with foreign affairs and foreign intelligence. In its baser manifestation, Sagittarians can exhibit a tendency to 'bend the rules' in their favor, all the while espousing the rule of law to everyone else and pointing an accusing finger at people who see through their games and call them on it, instead of tending to their own affairs – trumpeting the 'sins' of the offender when they step over the line, while maintaining imperiously that they are in the right. On the other hand, Cancer in its baser manifestation is the 'terrible mother' or stern overbearing father, who smothers their offspring, has their nose always in their children's affairs and demands, "Do as I say, not as I do!" Such a family is insular, has dark secrets which are protected at all cost and which chokes off the creativity and soul growth of its members. Does any of this sound familiar?

CIA and defense doctrine since the fall of the Soviet Union, but also since JFK, which includes neocon thinking, can be summarized in the following:

Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival, either on the territory of the former Soviet Union or elsewhere, that poses a threat on the order of that posed

formerly by the Soviet Union [that is another story]. ... we must account sufficiently for the interests of the advanced industrial nations to *discourage* them from challenging our leadership or seeking to overturn the established political and economic order. ... we must maintain the mechanisms for deterring potential competitors *from even aspiring* to a larger regional or global role.<sup>22</sup>

So, the rest of the world is supposed to be compliant and second-best. Let me say at this point that such sentiments are *not* the view or will of the average American. But, these cited sentiments are in fact the very ones that have guided and coerced or even been espoused by every president and administration since JFK, who would have liked to dissolve the CIA, and who fired the CIA director after the Bay of Pigs incident in Cuba. Obama sought to reverse some of the cited policy with his overtures to Cuba and Iran, although his attitude toward Russia was right in line with it. But the present administration would appear to be wholeheartedly embracing this doctrine. We have been warned against these views on several occasions, most notably by Eisenhower in recent history, but the warnings go back to the turn of the last century:

We assert that no nation can long endure half republic and half empire, and we warn the American people that imperialism abroad will lead quickly and inevitably to despotism at home.

Democratic Party (U.S.) National Platform, 1900

Readers outside the US might be well aware of the workings of the CIA, or perhaps not. With all the talk in the US at the moment about Russian interference in the recent election, it's a bit like the pot calling the kettle black, and a bit rich, really. The CIA has routinely interfered in foreign governments, including Russia and many of our closest allies. Australians may not know this, for example, but the dismissal of Gough Whitlam, one of Australia's favorite prime ministers, was done at the behest of the CIA because he bucked the CIA narrative and wanted transparency about the US surveillance apparatus in the country, among other factors.<sup>23</sup> The same is true of governments in Italy, Greece, Germany and Western Europe in general.<sup>24</sup> And much of this type of activity has been directed against communism, the great bogeyman in the US – at least that is the story. What we see with much of the current and past US foreign policy are the baser manifestations of the combined Cancer/Sagittarian influences, and these are being further hardened by the current administration. But that combination also has a higher expression.

The higher expression of Cancer we have already examined. The higher expression of Sagittarius is toward enthusiastic pursuit of wisdom, expansive knowledge, exploration, advancement of law in step with and fostering of human evolution, a broad philosophical outlook, etc. And we do see these qualities in Washington as well, though not to the extent of the other. I saw it there with the architecture and the National Symphony, support for the sciences and NASA, for instance, and the libraries, monuments and museums among other things. The highest expression of the Cancer/Sagittarius combination is the true lighted house, which welcomes and warms all visitors, which rejects none and which fosters all that is best and true in humanity. There are lone voices in Washington who recognize this potential and who work for it. Once empire is lost as the focus of US foreign policy, then perhaps we can begin to see more of this higher expression shine through.

After our family ceremony at Arlington, I went to explore the National Mall, which is a national park. I had never been there before, although we drove past it many times on family trips. It was perhaps appropriate that I was there now, given present events. The first thing that struck me was the architecture, which immediately reminded me of ancient Rome and Greece. There is also copious esoteric symbolism there, right in line with Sagittarius. I explored the western end, between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, which includes all the war memorials and the Reflecting Pool. One could spend days there and I would like to go back to see more, but time

did not permit this go-round. The Lincoln Memorial was a true inspiration – a reminder of some of the best of the US. And then we walked through all the war memorials. The Korean and Vietnam War Memorials are in some ways a legacy of the CIA. The collective grief there is palpable. But there is always more than one side to any story. I have also toured cemeteries in Europe and they too have memorials to war fallen – the names of usually young men and women who sacrificed for their countries and died, breaking apart families, all the while fighting for their beliefs or the behest of their governments. One has to wonder at the sense of it all. The grief in those places is palpable, too. Those countries, some of whom were once enemies, are now allies, family members fighting amongst themselves. Lest we forget.

A soul's history covers at least millions of years, a single lifetime being but the briefest of moments in that vast span of time. Yet, our true soul groups, reflected through our astral families, have the wisdom of shared experiences garnered through hundreds and thousands of lifetimes in many cases. If only we could each see and contact that wisdom even a few times in a given lifetime, the complete folly of many of our actions and plans would be revealed and peace would reign instead of empire, caste, religious bias, *et al.* Our fellow souls in other countries, races and religions would beckon us to achieve our best, and we would inspire them in kind. The more cynical reader would call this sort of thing pie-in-the-sky thinking, but the potency of even a single soul when realized in one's personal life should never be underestimated. It is through the power of thought that the most sweeping changes are wrought in this reality. And it is in the realm of thought that the soul in incarnation operates, in the end guided thereto by the blissful wisdom of the higher Self. We are each universal in our scope, transcending all religions, societies, all temporal associations. What is a religion, for instance, in the long experience of the soul, but the briefest of experiences, an experience to be discarded once the work is done and the experience fulfilled? The thing that remains from life to life is our shared soul history – transcendent, universal in consciousness, all-wise and all-loving – rather than what we find as the circumstance of our present birth.

As we Americans celebrate our independence, let us also remember the national families and cultures that gave us birth – British, Italian, African, Chinese, German, aboriginal American, Mexican, and yes, even Arabic-speaking cultures and nations – cultures and groups too numerous to mention, 'family' one and all. We are for the largest part a country built of immigrants. Little as the more nationalistic types would like to admit, we are all more likely than not descended from one of those groups, share karmic bonds with them for good and ill in one way or another, and thus owe it to ourselves and to them to ensure a world where each nation can excel at its own rate, in its own way and be a lighted house. Why would we deny a family member the opportunity to be the best they can possibly be, save for our own fears, lack of vision or petty differences? As we gather with our families on this holiday and celebrate, let us also celebrate our shared heritage with all countries, for that is the truth of it, really. And let them celebrate with us in kind, if they can. We will eventually all come to a place of understanding, peaceful coexistence and shared effort. It is guaranteed by our shared soul history. Happy 4<sup>th</sup>, everyone!

Blessings,

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3 Jul 17

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<sup>1</sup> Bailey, Alice A, *The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 69

<sup>2</sup> Roerich, Helena, *Heart*, Agni Yoga Society (1934)

<sup>3</sup> Roerich, *Leaves of Morya's Garden II* (1952)



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- <sup>4</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 343
- <sup>5</sup> Op cit.
- <sup>6</sup> Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 797
- <sup>7</sup> *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 296
- <sup>8</sup> *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 1179
- <sup>9</sup> <http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Eris.html>
- <sup>10</sup> Robson, Vivian, *Fixed Stars and Constellations in Astrology* (1923), p. 217.
- <sup>11</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/27/assad-further-chemical-weapons-attack-syria-white-house-claims>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ghouta-idUSKBN19M3SB>
- <sup>13</sup> Bailey, *Esoteric Healing*, p. 231
- <sup>14</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia\\_Crescent](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shia_Crescent)
- <sup>15</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas#Gaza\\_Israelic\\_roots\\_and\\_establishment\\_of\\_Hamas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hamas#Gaza_Israelic_roots_and_establishment_of_Hamas)
- <sup>16</sup> <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/18/middleeast/iran-launches-missiles-into-syria/index.html>
- <sup>17</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/saudi-arabia-appoints-king-salman-son-crown-prince-170621033707437.html>
- <sup>18</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/23/close-al-jazeera-saudi-arabia-issues-qatar-with-13-demands-to-end-blockade>
- <sup>19</sup> <http://globalnews.ca/news/3561215/rex-tillerson-iran-plan/>
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- <sup>21</sup> <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/37685-the-war-against-the-assad-regime-is-not-a-pipeline-war>
- <sup>22</sup> “Defense Planning Guidance for the Fiscal Years 1994-1999”, as quoted in New York Times, 8 March 1992, p.14 (emphasis added)
- <sup>23</sup> Blum, William. *Killing Hope: U.S. and C.I.A. Interventions Since World War II--Updated Through 2003* (Kindle Locations 12980-12982). Common Courage Press. Kindle Edition, ch. 40
- <sup>24</sup> Ibid. Chs.18, 35, 8 and 15 resp. The entire book is well worth a read.