

FESTIVAL IN CANCER
New York, July 6, 2009

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Good evening, everyone and welcome. Today we celebrate the Festival of Cancer. The keynote of the disciple in Cancer is, "I build a lighted house and therein dwell." In this keynote is the concept of the light of the soul infusing and illuminating the lower self such that it becomes truly a "lighted house in which the radiant soul may dwell" thereby casting forth light to all.

Our purpose at these meetings is to "let in the light"; to create a channel or avenue of light through which the spiritual Hierarchy can illumine and inspire our thinking resulting in the creation of an energy sphere by means of which these inspired thoughts and higher energies can be radiated outward into human consciousness. This effort to illuminate the mental plane, to clarify and stabilize the emotional plane will eventually manifest on the physical plane in improved conditions for all. This is essentially the service rendered through these meditation meetings. Humanity learns by doing. Learning to shed light abroad thereby casting out all shadows is something we are only beginning to learn, as a group.

So shall we take a moment to link up in thought with all the many other groups and individuals throughout the world who are meditating, as we are, as an act of service to help bring through added light on our collective way.

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.

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We have just come through the high point of the spiritual year with the signs of Aries. Taurus and Gemini. These three signs, in our long evolutionary journey, are providing the development of our sense of the subtle or subjective realities of the will-to-be in Aries, the desire to know in Taurus, and the establishment of relationship in Gemini. To be, to know and the ability to reach out and relate--all very necessary qualities for the service of the soul in this world.

But now with the sign of Cancer, we focus more on developing the tangible--that which has to do with the outer form. And this will be the emphasis for the next nine signs in the annual cycle. About these nine signs, it is said that they "carry a man from the stage of imprisonment in form to the freedom of the kingdom of God, from the state of embryonic consciousness to the full flower of divine knowledge, from the condition of human awareness to the conscious wisdom of the initiated disciple. These nine signs are strictly expressive of human unfoldment—conscious and superconscious, though beginning with the mass awareness of Cancer."

So what is important to keep in mind, as we serve each month in the full moon meditation work, is that each sign stimulates and awakens certain qualities that are necessary for the incarnating soul; qualities that enable the soul to more effectively manifest its light and love in the world. It is a long, slow, arduous process, full of pain. But gradually the influence of these signs mould

and shape our consciousness so that it more accurately reflects the divine intent of the soul. Each life is meant to refine our senses and sensitivities a little more. It is by way of the senses that we extend our contact with the physical and non-physical world. "Without the form", the Tibetan reminds us, "and without the ability to bear in mind the need to respond sensitively to the environing conditions and circumstance, the soul would never awaken to knowledge in the three worlds and, therefore, would never know God in manifestation."

There we have, in those few words, the ultimate purpose of our existence and service on this planet: to know God in manifestation. It's not enough to know God the Father in Heaven, out there somewhere. We must also realize and know God imminent, the God within, that divine spark that can be fanned into a brilliant, radiating flame. Our objective is to find and release that inner radiance. Everything about our life, then, is about the expression of this inner light.

The Tibetan has much to say about this divine purpose: "It must ever be borne in mind that the great theme of LIGHT underlies our entire planetary purpose. The full expression of perfect LIGHT, occultly understood, is the engrossing life-purpose of our planetary Logos. Light is the great and obsessing enterprise in the three worlds of human evolution. The light of knowledge, as the reward of educational processes, is the incentive behind all our great schools of learning in every country in the world and is the goal of much of our world organisation; the terminology of light controls even our computation of time. The mystery of electricity is unfolding gradually before our eyes and the electrical nature of man is being slowly proven and will later demonstrate that, throughout the human structure and form, man is composed primarily of light atoms, and that the light in the head is no fiction or figment of wishful thinking or of a hallucinated imagination, but is definitely brought about by the junction or fusion of the light inherent in substance itself and the light of the soul.

The soul itself is light, and the entire Hierarchy is a great centre of light, causing the symbology of light to govern our thinking, our approach to God, and enabling us to understand somewhat the meaning of the words of Christ "I am the Light of the world." These words carry meaning to all true disciples and present them with an analogous goal which they define to themselves as that of finding the light, appropriating the light, and themselves becoming light-bearers. The theme of light runs through all the world Scriptures; the idea of enlightenment conditions all the training given to the youth of the world and the thought of more light governs all the inchoate yearnings of the human spirit.

From the Centre Shamballa streams what has been called the Light of Life, the Light Supernal. Light is a symptom and an expression of Life, and essentially, occultly and in a most mysterious way the terms, Light and Life, are interchangeable within the limits of the planetary ring-pass-not. Light can be regarded as a reaction to the meeting and consequent fusion of spirit and matter.

Only when the will of the personality and the will of the soul come together—evoked by love—does the light of the soul dominate the material light of the personality. Only when the will of the Monad and the will of the Hierarchy of souls meet and blend can the radiant light of Life dominate the blended lights of Humanity and of the Hierarchy. Faintly this group fusion and junction can be seen to be taking place."

Now apply these thoughts on light to the theme of Cancer: "I build a lighted house and therein dwell." That which we build becomes a place where Life and substance meet. As the Tibetan has said "Light can be regarded as a symptom, a reaction to the meeting and consequent fusion of

spirit and matter. Light and Life at that point become interchangeable and near to the expression of God in manifestation."

Now as we get caught up in the details of daily living, it is easy to become distracted by the needs of just coping with the material world. The material world has its own innate power to control and we have seen graphic evidence of that power in recent years. But we are also seeing how the light of human intelligence is revealing the underlying problem and that many are now taking steps to exercise more control over their material living. Many are scaling back, often out of necessity, and are finding that "less is more"; that a more simplified quality of life can be more rewarding. So what the light is revealing in this period of crisis is that a total focus on the desire and attraction of the form, and to the form, can lead to more pain and unhappiness and more darkness. Giving in to the power of tangible substance doesn't necessarily bring happiness. As far as the soul is concerned, it is a question of control: will matter control or will Spirit? That's the major struggle going on today. The power of the note of the soul is the one we need to hear and follow more than ever. As it says in the *Mantram of Unification*, "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." Once the inspiration of the soul begins to change and condition our decision-making, then the forms, the institutions and structures we build will reflect a higher degree of the light within substance. When we realize that we are building not just for ourselves and for our happiness, but we are also contributing to the refinement of substance, of matter itself, then we will be truly serving the great Purpose of God on this planet. In other words, it is not about us; it is about God's Light and Love in manifestation. We are simply the refining agents in this great work.

Now this should not diminish our importance. This great Plan would never work out without the sacrificial work of humanity. For age and ages we, as a group soul, responding to the Law of Rebirth and "cyclic impulse", have plunged ourselves into this dense layer of substance; we temporarily lose touch with our divine source and enter into a world defined by division and separation; we are caught up in endless painful conflicts; but we come with a mandate to somehow heal and fuse all the divisions into a synthetic whole so that the energy of Love--the energy of God within His Creation--can freely flow. We are here, as they say, "to release the prisoners of the planet", to release the units of light within the form.

But before we can do that effectively we have to recapture the power to release the light within ourselves. This is the power that comes through the cultivation of the attitude of detachment and indifference. As the soul we must live within the material world, but not be bound by the world. As the soul we can build a lighted house, but not be swayed or controlled by the form of the house itself, because our interest is only in the light it gives off. That should be our focus.

Finally we might think about, in our meditation work, a familiar reminder from the Tibetan: He said, "You are in process of incarnation; you are following your chosen way. Is the house you are building yet lit? Is it a lighted house, or is it a dark prison? If it is a lighted house, you will attract to its light and warmth all who are around you and the magnetic pull of your soul, whose nature is light and love, will save many. If you are still an isolated soul, you will have to pass through the horrors of a more complete isolation and loneliness, treading alone the dark way of the soul. Yet this isolation, this loneliness and this separation in the dark night are all part of the Great Illusion. It is, however, an illusion into which the whole of humanity is now precipitated in preparation for unity, freedom and release. Some are lost in the illusion and know not what is reality and truth. Others walk free in the world of illusion for the purposes of saving and lifting their brothers, and if you cannot do this, you will have to learn so to walk." Let us learn to walk by letting in the light.