

FESTIVAL OF CAPRICORN

New York, December 30, 2009

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Good evening friends. Thank you for coming out to join us in our work with the energies of Capricorn. Once again we turn our focus to a consideration of the qualities and characteristics of this most earthly of signs.

As you know, each of the twelve signs of the zodiac convey certain qualities that gradually--over millions of years, actually--shape the forms of life as they evolve on earth. So over the course of those millions of years, great thoughtforms of each sign has been built up in the consciousness of the human race. Taken altogether, these thoughtforms form a huge kaleidoscope of qualities that constantly shape human consciousness and therefore are influential in the choices and decisions we make everyday. It is more complicated than that of course, because when you add in the individual stage of consciousness, the influence of the ruling planets, and the powerful qualities of the seven rays, you then have a very intricate mix of competing energies. All the qualities of the twelve signs pour in upon us all the time; but to try to comprehend and work with them all at once would be overwhelming for our undeveloped brains. So we work with one sign each month and try to concentrate on delving into the internal depth of the signs energies and try to synchronize our consciousness with the inner vibrating qualities. This puts the demand on us to work at the highest point of spiritual contact of which we are capable. That is why this meditative work requires a group focus; it requires a quality of group consciousness to synchronize with the synthetic wholeness of the highest and purest aspects of the divine qualities of each sign. The better that we understand the depth and purity of each sign, the better will be our service as we radiate that quality of energy into human consciousness, and thus help in the redemptive upliftment of humanity.

Our group aim this evening is to stimulate a soul response to the inflowing energies and to draw out the more refined possibilities that are offered to us. The spiritual thought form that we build in meditation can help strengthen and enhance the newly emerging values that reflect the universality of life in the world today. In this age of globalization and expanding economic power there is a need to qualify this outward movement with the soul-sense of universality. This is the quality that needs to be brought to the forefront of human consciousness. And our subjective work in meditation can be highly instrumental in this effort. So let us take a moment to align our minds and hearts with the worldwide group and then sound together the beautiful words of 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.

The disk of golden light which hides the face of the true spiritual sun seems itself hidden at this time of year, when the sun, in the northern hemisphere, is at its nadir, its lowest point, and its light is most dim, the days short and the nights very long. Yet from ancient times this moment of the year has been recognized as one of spiritual opportunity - a deeply holy time in which light plays an especially significant role.

And light certainly does play a part in sign of Capricorn, the keynote of which is: "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back." One might wonder, why--upon achieving the highest point of initiation and being overcome by the brilliance of the light--why would one even want to leave that place of peace and light and return to the darkness that he left behind? Judging this experience with the self-centered mind-set that prevails today, it would be seen as a foolish choice. After all, you have reached the goal, the pinnacle of achievement, and now you want to give it all up? Today's self-centered mind-set might find that hard to comprehend.

But of course if one knows the true nature of the spiritual path, it is not hard to comprehend. In fact, turning back to save is the only right thing to do. It is the obvious choice for the soul-infused disciple; a choice that the self-centered person can never understand. As one treads the path up the mountain of initiation, his consciousness undergoes a complete transformation. As anyone knows who has climbed a mountain or even a sizable hill, with every step up the trail, your view of the surrounding world becomes wider and more inclusive. By the time you reach the top, you see the view in all directions, and the beauty of the world below is at your feet. It gives one a sense of wholeness.

A similar view is achieved with each step on the spiritual path; consciousness is able to comprehend more and more of the whole and with more depth and understanding. Fusion with the soul results in a loss of the individual self and total identity with the divine being within. It is this being that one becomes and takes on all its characteristics of inclusive love, intelligence and wisdom and a deep sense of sacrificial service. That is why, for this divine being, being lost in supernal light and turning back to save is the only choice. This is the task that the soul has come into the world to do--to simply serve the greater redemptive Plan of God. This is our task: "That we may know the truth, and do our whole duty as we journey to thy sacred feet."

This great task was thoroughly understood by the Buddha. His compassion was so strong that he could not turn his back on suffering humanity even though he had gained the right to move on to higher work. He stayed with us, and in doing so, delayed his own advancement on the higher Way. He stayed to work with the Christ, his brother, and the two of them will advance together once the Christ has returned and completed His work of guiding humanity onto the upward Path and revealing the Kingdom of God.

The light of that Kingdom is the supernal light of the mountaintop; and the brilliance of the revelatory light is relative to the stage on the evolutionary path of initiation. Initiation is simply a process of unfolding revelations. But it is only after the fourth initiation that one encounters the true light supernal. All preceding initiations involve a certain degree of light, whether it be the initial light of the Christ in the heart, or the light that illumines the mind with the second and third initiations; these are all of lesser degree but equally meaningful and significant at the time. With each initiation the lesson learned, the revelation seen, is still the same; no matter how attractive and impelling the light may be, it is not the prime objective. Light and revelation gradually reveal to us the inner kingdom of the soul and the greater responsibilities of that realm. More sensitivity to the light means more responsibility to serve what the light reveals; it is no less so with the supernal light on which one must turn his back. The greater the light, the greater the service, the greater the sacrifice. The great sacrifice and service of God is what is gradually revealed by the unfolding revelations on the mountaintop. This is why the initiate knows at that moment why he must turn his back on the light; he can progress no further. And this is why Capricorn is a sign of conclusion; the mountain top marks a point beyond which further ascent in any particular life cycle is not possible. Instead, there has to be the descent into the valley of pain, despair and death, and there to serve, before any new ascent can take place.

Capricorn is an earth sign; its energies tend toward an expression of the densest point of concrete materialization of which the human soul is capable. This is why it is said that Capricorn holds in itself the seeds of death and finality. When crystallization has reached a certain degree of density and hardness, it is easily shattered and destroyed. A person born in this sign then brings about his or her own destruction. This is due fundamentally to the materialistic nature, plus the "blows of fate", which is simply the working out of the law of karma. Again and again, it is said, a certain measure of concreteness is achieved, only again to undergo destruction, prior to the release of the life and the rebuilding of the form.

When crystallization is seen in this light, we see it as not necessarily a bad thing. In order for life and consciousness to be released and expand, forms have to be shattered and destroyed so that the released life, the soul within, may move on to build a new, more adequate form for its future use. This is a process taking place constantly—at the kingdom level, at the human level, at the planetary level and at the cosmic level. Whether it be the death and the decay of the body of a human being, or the explosive shattering of a supernova in space, life, at some stage, is being released. Crystallization and the destruction of a form is simply a necessary part of the process of life. Form is temporary; life is eternal. If we are bothered by the shattering or death of a form, then maybe we are identified too closely with the form itself and not enough with the essential life expression within.

Crystallization is occurring all around us. We may see it in ourselves, in our own attitudes - our ideas and thoughtforms crystallize also. We may see it in our friends and relatives whether their birth sign be Capricorn or not; it's a phenomenon of life that we have to accept. It seems to come on with age. That is why at the end of this Piscean age we see the signs of crystallized thought in religious fundamentalism whether it be Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism or Hinduism. All expressions of religious ideals are in need of a new form through which God's Life can find expression. None of them today are really adequate for the new teachings which are already present in the world or are just on the horizon awaiting their time to appear. Our own full moon meditation work each month is perhaps laying the foundation for a possible new form more adequate to express spiritual ideals in the future. Only time will tell. Our work is also part of the ongoing new birth process, and of this we must be constantly aware.

Capricorn is said to govern the mineral kingdom and money, as the concrete expression of the Law of Supply and Demand. And around this issue may be focussed the worst of humanity's anger and sense of injustice. Money is said to provide the clue to the mineral kingdom. The Tibetan has told us that the occult significance of money is little appreciated, yet one of the greatest tests as to one's position upon the probationary path is one's attitude towards and handling of money: "that which all men seek in order to gratify desire".

Money has always been associated with power, but power too often used for selfish purposes rather than for spiritual ends. Yet energy is impersonal, and money is simply the densest expression of energy. What happens when the energy of money is channeled towards spiritual goals? That is a significant revelation lying ahead for humanity. The way we view money is the best expression of our values. How we use money, why we want it and how we possess it - with an open hand ready to release it in sharing to meet real need, or a vise-like grip which says it's mine, I earned it and I'll keep it for me and mine. How we interpret the Law of Supply and Demand, and our attitudes of limitation or abundance, say so much about our fundamental view of the structure and foundation of life. When we have learned how to handle the energy of money in a more spiritual way, we will be on the verge of an initiation.

The door of initiation stands wide open in Capricorn. For many ages, however, we have heard only the lower note of the ordinary wheel of rebirth which says "Let ambition rule..." We have been content to follow the evolutionary urge, and we have gradually discovered the worthlessness of all earthly gratification. But finally we are hearing the new note of initiation and can take our life in hand until the moment arrives when a true sense of reality supersedes all selfish, worldly ambitions. We then will say with truth "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back." From then on there remains no goal but the goal of selfless service in the world. Service is the keynote of the soul, and that is the note which we should sound.

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