

**FESTIVAL OF CANCER**  
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Welcome friends. Tonight we work in meditation with the inflowing energies of the sign of Cancer. Actually, we are told, the specific energies to which we are responding don't come to us directly from the constellation of Cancer. Those energies enter our planetary Life by way of other planets which add their conditioning influence before being passed on to planet Earth. So what we respond to, when it comes to the sign of Cancer, is more in the nature of an ancient but powerful thoughtform built up over thousands of years. It is this thoughtform that now conditions our response to the sign of Cancer.

As the Tibetan reminds us, "These thoughtforms were originally constructed or anchored upon the mental plane by the Hierarchy in Atlantean days and they have steadily gained in power ever since. They serve as focal points for certain forces and enable the individual, for instance, to be in touch with great reservoirs of energy which then definitely condition him." (EA p.69)

The link which enables us to be in touch with that reservoir of the energy and thoughtform of Cancer is its keynote: "I build a lighted house and therein dwell." Of course this keynote is not about literally building a house made of wood or stone or glass or any other physical material. It is about the essential purpose of why the human soul incarnates or takes on a physical appearance in the first place. It is about bringing light--the light of the soul-- into the world. It is about the great sacrificial service the soul performs to work out the Plan of God on Earth. It is about guidance on the path of the soul that leads from revelation to revelation.

We and hundreds of other individuals and groups are working at this time to awaken to the new revelations revealed by the inpouring light of the soul. It is a time of universal group invocation. To help us in this invocative work we sound the ancient prayer, the Gayatri. So let us take a moment now to link up in reflective thought with all these groups around the world in a great act of planetary service; let us invoke the revelatory light of the soul to inspire the spiritual work of humanity.

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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The Gayatri is a prayer for the revelation of Truth, a truth that will guide us as we in the human kingdom go about our duty to bring light into the world. The sign of Cancer is where this ancient process of incarnating in material form all began. As it is said, "Through the door of Cancer streams the 'magnetic magical light which guides the soul into the dark place of experience'". Very few people in the human kingdom have any idea of this spiritual duty to bring light into the world; most are so caught up in the small duties of their daily life. We haven't yet acquired the depth of vision to make the connection that our life has meaning and purpose beyond our individual existence. We don't yet see our "whole duty". And it is the realization of our "whole duty" that brings the factor of the soul into our daily life.

The even-armed cross of service looms large in our consciousness and as we stand at the center of that cross we realize that there is a vertical as well as a horizontal component to life. We must be mindful of the

necessity of following both paths, which often makes daily life a little more difficult. Conflicts begin to arise between the growing impulses of the soul and its quality of inclusive love, and those long established selfish desires of the outer personality life. But this is when the light of the soul begins to make its presence felt, and when the soul can finally begin to work out its destined objectives in line with the Plan of God. That is when the soul can begin to build its lighted house in which it must dwell.

This represents a real turning point for both the incarnating soul and its personality reflection. And it is said that at this time the Moon (governing the form) and Neptune (influencing the astral-emotional nature) play an influencing role in the evolutionary process. "These two", says the Tibetan, "the Moon and Neptune—are, therefore, the direct influences which are brought to bear upon the Cancer subject and thus lead to the unfoldment of the form of life and of the emotional-astral body. The supreme usefulness of these aspects will be grasped if you will intelligently realise that without the form 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" (EA p. 323)

Now that gives us a hint of what the soul is trying to accomplish as it undertakes its sacrificial service to fulfill the Plan of God. God's intention—if we can presume to understand it—is to eventually manifest Himself through the refined and lighted qualities of planet Earth. The soul, in the initial phase of this vast process, acts as His intermediary spiritual agent, laying the groundwork, building the foundation, so to speak. And the distant objective is the complete integration and merging of the human kingdom with the highly refined kingdom of souls or Kingdom of God.

This is why our work in group meditation is so important; because the merging process takes place primarily in the realm of higher consciousness, where our work takes place. It is working in the realm of light—the light of knowledge, the light of wisdom, the light which conveys understanding and reveals and irradiates the inward pathway of the soul.

The intensification of light is bringing significant changes in human consciousness, and consequently in the physical form and in how we organize the physical world. It is said that "all forms of life on our planet are affected by three types of light substance, and at the present time a fourth type is gradually making its presence felt.

These types of light are:

1. The light of the sun.
2. The light in the planet itself—not the reflected light of the sun but its own inherent radiance.
3. A light seeping in from the astral plane, a steady and gradual penetration of the "astral light" and its fusion with the other two types of radiance.
4. A light which is beginning to merge itself with the other three types and which comes from that state of matter which we call the mental plane—a light in its turn reflected from the realm of the soul.

An intensification of the light is going on all the time, and this increase in intensity began on the earth at about the time when man discovered the uses of electricity, which discovery was a direct result of this intensification. The electrification of the planet through the wide-spread use of electricity is one of the things which is inaugurating the new age, and which will aid in bringing about the revelation of the presence of the soul. Before long this intensification will become so great that it will materially assist in the rending of the veil which separates the astral plane from the physical plane; the dividing etheric web will shortly be dissipated, and this will permit a more rapid inflow of the third aspect of light. The light from the astral plane (a starry radiance) and the light of the planet itself will be more closely blended, and the result upon

humanity and upon the three other kingdoms in nature cannot be over-emphasized. It will, for one thing, profoundly affect the human eye and make the present sporadic etheric vision a universal asset. It will bring within the radius of our range of contact the infra-red and ultra-violet gamut of colours, and we shall see what at present is hidden. All this will tend to destroy the platform upon which the materialists stand, and to pave the way, first, for the admission of the soul as a sound hypothesis, and secondly, for the demonstration of its existence. We only need more light, in the esoteric sense, in order to see the soul, and that light will shortly be available and we shall understand the meaning of the words, "And in Thy light shall we see light" (EPI, p. 102-3).

"We only need more light...in order to see the soul." Of course we have been given a powerful tool--the Great Invocation--to do just that, to invoke more light. That is its primary function: to invoke the light that exists in the mind of God. We can intensify the light in two ways:

1. we can draw the source of the light closer to us through prayer and invocation, or
2. we can move ourselves, through concentrated effort in consciousness, closer to the source.

The second way is more beneficial for disciples, because it requires merging and integrating with the refined qualities of the soul. We, humanity, have to make the effort if we want the benefit of the light.

It is said that the Great Invocation "embodies the divine intent and summarises the conclusions of the thinking of the planetary Logos". It is an Invocation for Power and Light. In our meditation work we are challenged to penetrate deeply into the vital meaning of these words. It is said that they embody a formula which has been in possession of the Hierarchy ever since it was founded on Earth, but which is only now available for use, owing to the point in evolution reached by mankind.

The Invocation has also a direct relation to the inner intent of Cancer: to build a lighted house. And the builder, of course, is the soul. "In the first three lines of the Invocation you have reference to the Mind of God as a focal point for the divine light. This refers to the soul of all things. The term "soul," with its major attribute of enlightenment, includes the anima mundi, the animal soul, the human soul, and that consummating point of light which we regard as the "overshadowing" soul of humanity. It is an aspect of the divine manifestation to which that great Son of God, the Christ, refers when (as Shri Krishna) He remarks, "Having pervaded this entire universe with a fragment of Myself, I remain." That fragment is the soul of all things. That soul brings light and spreads enlightenment."

The spreading of enlightenment is much needed now at this crucial time in the world when the dense forces of materialism are very active. The more light that pours in affecting human consciousness, the harder the material forces fight to hold on to humanity's attention. We seem, on the one hand, to be willingly imprisoned by the need for oil from the mineral kingdom. On the other hand, the counter forces that emphasize the energy of the air, the sun and the refined energy of the atom are trying hard to offer alternatives that release us from our dependency on oil. So it is time for a real sustained effort to let in the liberating light of the soul.

Last month at the time of the Christ Festival, the Great Invocation was emphasized and the celebration of World Invocation Day. It would be good if the group would now continue the sustained effort to promote and sound out the Invocation as often as possible throughout the year. It is the most potent tool we have to help the spiritual Hierarchy in its work of bringing more light into the world. Now let us sustain the effort by working in meditation with the potent energies of Cancer. Let the soul of humanity come forth and build a brilliant, lighted house in which God may dwell.

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