

## CANCER FESTIVAL MEETING - LONDON, JUNE 2013

‘I build a Lighted House and Therein Dwell’

Simon Marlow

Friends here at the Lucis Trust welcome to our meditation meeting this afternoon, and a big welcome to all of you who are joining us now over the internet through blog-talk radio. And can we now cast our mind over the planet-wide nature of this monthly meditation ritual and take our place with the millions of people all around the world – and I’m sure there are some in most countries – who are consciously linking up at this time to help build and strengthen the bridge of light between the mind of humanity and the Spiritual Hierarchy and thus serve humanity and the world at this most critical period in planetary evolution. These cyclic meditations are rather like a rhythmic scaffold on which the consciousness of the world esoteric group and, equally importantly, the unitive service of the world esoteric group is growing and flourishing.

This month the sun is in Cancer, and we will be using the keynote of this sign in our meditation later on. It is ‘I build a Lighted House and Therein Dwell’. The full moon actually occurred at just after midday today at 12:33, so we are working in the full flow of lighted energy right now. It’s appropriate to note here that the theme of light underlies the whole fabric of our planetary life and evolution. It is light, the light of the sun, which enables the weather to perform its distributive functions, regulating global temperatures, evaporating moisture, and condensing it so that the rain can fall, and the plants can grow, thus creating the nourishment that makes all physical plane life possible. It is light that underpins all human relationships. It is light that is unifying us into the consciously creative energy centre of the planet. It is light that illumines the problems we need to overcome and also indicates the route to success. It is light that bestows vision and enables us to make progress. It is light that is the radiant essence of the soul. It is light that enables us to sense the Plan of our Logos for this planet which is a great divine experiment in redemptive incarnation, and it is light that gradually deepens our understanding of the part that we, humanity, have to play.

So we will pause for a few moments now to ponder on the meaning of light and then we will sound together the words of the mantram that you have with you.

We reach into the Light  
and bring it down to meet the need.

We reach into the silent Place  
and bring from thence the gift of understanding.

Thus with the light we work  
and turn the darkness into day.

OM

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the challenge to climb the world’s highest mountain – Everest in the Himalayas – inspired many expeditions, and the various unsuccessful attempts and sometimes the accompanying tragedies provided headlines for the world’s newspapers. In the mid- to late 1940s, the Tibetan wrote in Esoteric Astrology about humanity’s ambition to climb Mount Everest in the following words: “The attempt today to climb [this mountain] is amazingly symbolic, and it is being watched with much interest by the Hierarchy, for in this effort we see the attempt of humanity to achieve the top of the mountain whose height has hitherto defeated all efforts. But – and this is the matter of moment and of interest – when humanity emerges into the light and relative glory of the new civilisation, they will at the same time conquer this last remaining summit. That which is of the densest materiality and

which is the consummation of earthly grandeur will remain – but it will be beneath the feet of humanity.”<sup>1</sup>

Almost exactly a month ago when we were celebrating the Gemini festival, there was the well publicised 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first successful ascent of Mount Everest by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hilary in 1953. I am old enough to remember it happening and was fascinated by the newsreels that showed these intrepid climbers at what was called the roof of the world wearing seriously protective clothing and using oxygen masks rather like underwater swimmers. This occurred on May 29<sup>th</sup> just before the coronation on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and, more significantly for us, over the period of the Gemini full moon, which occurred that year on May 28<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderfully symbolic moment this was when two people, representatives of humanity, climbed to the summit at the full moon festival which the Tibetan describes as the “festival of the spirit of humanity – aspiring towards God, seeking conformity with the will of God and dedicated to the expression of right human relations.”<sup>2</sup>

From our vantage point of 60 years on, this perspective of the Tibetan that this ascent would signal the new civilisation presents us with a problem, for where was the light and relative glory of this new civilisation at that time? Indeed, we might ask ourselves if this successful ascent was actually premature? For let us remember: humanity still had to face a worsening cold war, the Cuban missile crisis, the Vietnam War, an insane arms race, Pol Pot in Cambodia, genocide in Yugoslavia and in Rwanda, a gathering financial crisis that still threatens to plunge the world into economic and political chaos and anarchy. The list can go on. Yet it seems to me that this is the wrong way to look at things. And particularly at the time of the Cancer full moon when we are focussing on building a lighted house, we need to cultivate a more spiritually realistic overview not only of the last 60 years but more importantly of our present time and of the immediate future. And when we look over the past few decades with our inner eyes what we actually see is an astonishing growth of light within the human kingdom and an amazing development of our capacity to love and to serve. It is wise to remember that after the great moments of spiritual achievement there always comes a period of consolidation and of hard work to be done.

I’m sure it is a common experience for us all that those moments when the light pours in to our awakening consciousness are followed, inevitably it seems, by what appears an interminable age when we are faced with dealing with all the unredeemed aspects of our character which have subsequently come – at first most unwelcomely – to the surface and presented themselves to our dismayed consciousness. Later we realise how beneficent this time of house cleaning is – and how necessary. For how can our vehicles withstand the ever growing intensity of spiritual contact and revelation without a paralleling growth in purity? And these days this involves not only purity of form but, more importantly, purity of motive too.

The Tibetan describes this whole experience in the following words. “When a man literally walks in the light of his soul and the clear light of the sun pours through him – revealing the Path, – it reveals at the same time the Plan. Simultaneously however, he becomes aware of the fact that the Plan is very far as yet from consummation. The dark becomes more truly apparent; the chaos and misery and failure of the world groups stand revealed; the filth and dust of the warring forces are noted, and the whole sorrow of the world bears down upon the astounded, yet illuminated, aspirant. Can he stand this pressure? Can he become indeed acquainted with grief and yet rejoice forever in the divine consciousness? Has he the ability to face what the light reveals and still go his way with serenity, sure of the ultimate triumph of good? Will he be overwhelmed by the surface evil and forget the heart of Love which beats behind all outer seeming? This situation should ever be remembered by the disciple, or he will be shattered by that which he has discovered.”<sup>3</sup> In the past decades much has occurred and been experienced by humanity which has indeed been shattering, but it has also been releasing – releasing us from the chains and shackles of the past, and releasing us into ever

greater light.

Humanity is now the world disciple. The events, the successes and failures and the spiritual triumphs of the twentieth century confirm this. So successful has it been that now the impurities, the false motives and the false values which to an extent still surround the world soul and which keep humanity from its true expression are known and recognised and there is consequently a steady drive towards betterment. All has been brought to the surface. The result seems appalling and uncontrollable to those who only see the surface. But underneath, the deep river of purity and truth is flowing strong. Of course there's been misery; of course there's been selfishness; of course the human personality has had multiple opportunities for rampant expression.

But we need always to remember that this is all the effect of the growing light from the soul bringing everything to the surface where we are now having to deal with it. In the past we have tried to do this in two ways – with indulgent tolerance or with unwise suppression. Neither of these has really worked. But now at the cutting edge of human progress are groups inspired by the values of the soul who are pioneering new ways of confronting humanity's age old problems and dilemmas in every field of human experience. This requires a real intuitive sensitivity, a practical realism and the ability to persist with skill in action until the required results are achieved.

One of the key though slightly hidden qualities of the sign of Cancer is that it leads to the experience of the intuition and to its gradual unfoldment. Now let us say straight away that what we mean by the intuition is not the personal hunches or gut feelings that we all have from time to time. These are the common experiences of all people. For us the intuition is a direct group perception of reality and truth, and an immediate apprehension of the Plan. The Agni Yoga teachings call it "straight knowledge".

When we talk about the Plan we tend to think about it as a great divine experiment in redemptive incarnation that we mentioned earlier, and we interpret this for humanity in terms of establishing right human relationships, and this is correct so far as it goes. It entails redeeming humanity's internal horizontal relationships and activating its vertical relationship upwards (if that is a correct way to put it) towards the Spiritual Hierarchy and downwards towards what we call the lower kingdoms in nature. Perhaps it would be better to call these the pre-human and the post-human kingdoms, for this would help us recollect that life is a continuity and that we have all experienced it in many forms and states of consciousness. The Tibetan puts it rather beautifully: "May I remind you of the occult statement that every living being or manifested life – from the planetary Logos down to the tiniest atom – either has been, is, or will be a man."<sup>4</sup>

But we need to remember that the Plan is not primarily a collection of concepts on the mental plane which we have precipitated into word formulas, it is much deeper than that; it is the expression of the Will of God. And the more we attempt to grasp what this means the more we realise that we are faced with the mystery of mysteries. In the end we can only stand before it in humility and silence. For what is this all-embracing Will? We can try to think of it as timeless hidden intention. We can reason about it by looking back at the slow unfolding of human consciousness over the aeons and extend this logically into the future. We can sense something of its sublimity when we, with awe, recognise the beauty and the love that seem to be an intrinsic part of it. At the same time we recoil with horror as the tragedies of human cruelty and selfishness and nature's violence play out before our eyes. Yet simultaneously we do our outmost and with love to alleviate suffering and to help all to step forward to a world of better values. Thus we incidentally validate the universal assertion that good assuredly comes out of evil. At the same time, though, do we not all wish heartily that there was a kinder way for this to happen?

Jung made an interesting comment about the Will, for he noted with irony that orthodox religion seemed so certain about what the will of God was. "This was preached from the pulpit ... but always on the assumption that revelation had made the will of God plain. To me, on the other hand, it seemed the most obscure and unknown thing of all. To me it seemed that one's duty was to explore daily the will of God."<sup>5</sup> For us to explore the divine will means cultivating the intuition as the first step in this process. This is something which we are perhaps in the habit of approaching with a certain trepidation, for it means we have to go beyond the comfort zone of our normal spiritual achievement. Perhaps we think about it as something that should be reserved for those specialists whose spiritual expertise has been honed for many years, thus making it something of a spiritual Mount Everest.

Surely, though, the unfolding of this faculty is open to all of us who love and serve; surely we can all undertake the ascent in consciousness with expectancy and joyful enthusiasm. Then we can experience as a group that when we touch the intuition there comes "the realisation of the unity of all beings, of the synthesis of world evolution and of the unity of the divine objective. All life and all forms are seen then in their true perspective; a right sense of values and of time then eventuates. When the Plan is truly intuited and at first hand, then constructive effort becomes inevitable and there is no lost motion."<sup>6</sup> From this perspective, we suddenly realise that humanity, in its leading servers, has indeed been functioning in an intuitive way for decades, truly in touch with the Plan. What else is the environment movement but a practical application of the realisation of the "unity of all beings"? What else is the interfaith movement but an attempt to discover the "unity of divine objective"? What else is the work to readjust the financial structures of the world but an attempt to implement a "right sense of values"?

Thus we see that the spiritual Everest of the intuition is being scaled by men and women every day all around the world, who then implement their achievement in practical ways in the service network within the human kingdom. Thus their inner work of the intuitive mountain top experience has been gradually being anchored over the past decades through the cyclic influence of Cancer and its theme of building a lighted house. Interestingly this is being paralleled on the outer plane by the fact that after the achievement of Tenzing and Hilary in 1953, there have been more than 5,000 ascents of the mountain. Some have climbed it many times and many have done it without oxygen. The 80-year-old Japanese climber Yuichiro Miura broke the record for the oldest person to climb it last month. The ascent is now so popular that apparently queues form at times, leading to an amusing cartoon in *Private Eye* which shows a supermarket ticket dispenser for climbers at the base of the mountain so that they can know when their turn is.

But whereas a physical mountain can be climbed by only a few people at a time, the ascent to the intuition is unlimited by such constrictions. It is open to us all daily to work at its unfolding. It is possible for us all to know the Plan as the timeless fiery energy, intention and purpose of our Planetary life. And finally, it is possible for us all to anchor that truth in better understanding, more effective service and the increasing radiance of every aspect of that energy which we call light. Thus we will truly help to make our world a lighted house.

So now let us go into our meditation using the keynote "I build a lighted house and therein dwell".

---

<sup>1</sup> Alice Bailey: *Esoteric Astrology*, p 158

<sup>2</sup> Alice Bailey: *Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 421

<sup>3</sup> Alice Bailey: *A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 355

<sup>4</sup> Alice Bailey: *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, p. 126

<sup>5</sup> C. G. Jung: *Memories, Dreams Reflections*

<sup>6</sup> Alice Bailey: *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. I*, p. 25