

Capricorn Festival Meeting, London, January 2017

Dominic Dibble

Good evening and welcome to our meditation meeting in the sign of Capricorn. Tonight, we will be looking into the subject of direction as it relates to a number of themes on the spiritual path.

Now, you might be saying to yourself, "I see what you did there", because, of course, the very idea of a path necessarily implies a direction. A path is something which extends between a point of departure and a point of arrival - two points, and a line which joins them. Now, the line, the path, might be straight; or it might meander all over a landscape, because of various obstacles and short-cuts. But without an idea of the right direction to move in, to reach the point of arrival, the actual shape of the landscape that confronts the traveller will not matter; for the point of arrival may well be over the horizon and out of sight, until we get quite close. We also have the idea of landmarks, as aids to help maintain our direction. Our civilisation has developed sophisticated techniques for mapping and navigating space - we have longitude and latitude, the four cardinal directions of north, south, east and west, the compass, and the technological marvel that is GPS. All of these aspects of motion through physical space may also have analogies in the realms of consciousness and life.

Since we are talking about direction and paths, we are also implicitly talking about motion, which is said to be the ultimate basis of all existence. As Blavatsky notes in *The Secret Doctrine*, "THE ONE LIFE [is], eternal, invisible, yet Omnipresent, without beginning or end, yet periodical in its regular manifestations,....Its one absolute attribute, which is ITSELF, eternal, ceaseless Motion, is called in esoteric parlance the 'Great Breath', which is the perpetual motion of the universe, in the sense of limitless, ever-present SPACE. That which is motionless cannot be Divine. But then there is nothing in fact and reality absolutely motionless within the universal soul." (*Proem, p.2 of the Secret Doctrine*)

Now by definition, all motion must have a direction. And it is said that the three fundamental aspects of existence, Matter, Consciousness, and Spirit, express themselves through three basic types of motion. Matter, or Active Intelligence, expresses itself through *rotary or circular motion*, which is due to the fire latent in matter itself. Rotary motion is apparent all around us—atoms, planets, solar systems and galaxies all rotate on their axes and within the perimeter of these whirling unified spheres are to be found variety and differentiation. By the revolution of matter, activity is increased, making the material more pliable and adaptable. We will return to the idea of an axis of rotation, as something which defines a direction, later.

Consciousness, or Love-Wisdom, is seeking to blend with this active intelligence of the third aspect and adds to the rotary motion of all atoms *spiralling periodical movement*. By circulation along an orbit around a central focal point in an ever-ascending spiral, two results are brought about: Firstly, the gathering of atoms into

forms. And secondly, by means of these forms, the gaining of needed contact and the development of consciousness through a gradual rarefying and refining of the forms as the spirit of love or the flame divine spirals ever onward towards the source from which it came.

The first Logos of the trinity expresses Spirit or Divine Will through linear motion, a literal driving forward through space. This forward progression is the will behind the evolutionary process that drives spirit onward until it emerges from matter, with added quality and faculty from the experience it has undergone.

Going back to rotary motion or rotation, in its pure form we can think of this as a type of motion or direction which is constantly repeating - it goes from A to B and then back to A, and on to B and so on and so on. Consider this from the standpoint of the disciple as he repeatedly incarnates, and, while details may vary, he encounters the same basic situations over and over again. This repetition offers opportunity to learn and, eventually, when he is able to inject a new direction of motion, to move on. The injection of the new direction of motion is crucial, and shows why a purely material universe, one based only on rotary motion, is one which does not evolve. To escape this perpetual rotation, we have the needed component of free will, which allows the disciple to respond differently when the same situation is encountered again. And if we think about it, this combination of direct linear motion and rotation is, in fact, a spiral: in other words, matter plus spirit produces consciousness, the recognition of evolving sensitivity and ability to respond to our surroundings. Let's pause for a few moments, and then we'll say the Mantram of the Disciple

*I am a point of light, within a greater Light.
I am a strand of loving energy, within the stream of Love divine.
I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focused within the fiery Will of God.
And thus I stand.*

*I am a way by which men may achieve.
I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.
I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.
And thus I stand.*

*And standing thus, revolve
And tread this way the ways of men,
And know the ways of God.
And thus I stand.*

Another dimension of rotary motion is that it organises space, creating a symmetrical matrix or lattice which the dynamic impact of spirit can energise and re-configure. In the Bailey teachings, we are familiar with the seventh ray's power to organise through ceremonial ritual. This process is carried right down into the mineral kingdom, where the beauty of crystal structures represents its ultimate expression. What does this have to do with rotation? Well, in crystallography, which is the science of determining the arrangement of atoms in the crystalline solids, one of the main ways of differentiating between the symmetries of different crystal structures is via their rotational axes of symmetry. These axes define specific directions within the structure. Another way in which an axis defines or creates direction through rotation

is seen in gyroscopes, which are themselves models of the rotational motion of atoms, planets and stars. It can be fascinating to play with a gyroscope, and to actually feel how, as its rate of rotation increases, it becomes more and more difficult to deflect the axis of rotation from its current direction. As with the gyroscope, so it is with all rotating bodies, and the directions of north and south are defined on Earth by the axis of its rotation. As we also know from astronomy and astrology, this has the significant consequence of orienting the Earth's axis towards a pole star, which, at the moment, is Polaris, in the Little Bear. I say, at the moment, because there is a 'wobble' in the axis of rotation - the same 'wobble' can be seen also in gyroscopes - which means that the direction of the axis moves in a circle over a period of around 26,000 years, creating new 'pole stars' - for example, Gamma Cephei will be closer to the north celestial pole around 3000 AD. Thus, over that long cycle, the direction of the Earth's axis determines one of the many types of cosmic energies which impact us.

We learn more about the connection of the Pole Star with a spiritual sense of direction in the Tibetan's remarks on Leo, which He says "is the sign wherein the consciousness of individuality is developed, utilised and finally consecrated to divine purpose. It is related to Polaris, the Pole Star (found in the Little Bear) and it is also peculiarly susceptible to the influence of that Pointer in the Great Bear which is the nearest to the Pole Star. Esoterically speaking, the Pole Star is regarded as the 'star of re-orientation' whereby the art of 'refacing and recovering that which is lost' is developed. This eventually brings a man back to his originating source. It might, therefore, be correctly inferred that this Pointer and the energy emanating from it guides humanity upon the involutionary path, and is constantly active in its influence upon the man who is still upon the Mutable Cross. Then the energy of the Pointer furthest from the Pole Star begins to make its presence felt and a sense of right direction or guidance is registered by the disciple upon the Path, and such guidance (when followed) leads man nearer to the Hierarchy. It is here that the divine necessity of achieving *alignment* is portrayed for us in the symbolism of the sky and when it has been achieved then there is a direct inflow of divine energy and man is linked up in a new and creative manner to sources of divine supply. Astrologers will do well (in connection with the horoscopes of disciples and particularly of initiates) to consider the two Pointers and the Pole Star. They are mysteriously connected with the three aspects of incarnated man—Spirit, soul and body. More than this it is not permitted to me to convey to you. I may, however, give you another hint. These three stars are embodiments of the three aspects of divine will. It is the *three aspects of all expressions of divinity in manifestation which underlie the Science of Triangles.*" (Esoteric Astrology pp.196-7)

Now, it is difficult to believe that such a fundamental spiritual property of the Earth as its axial tilt is purely the result of physical rotation. And indeed, according to Helena Blavatsky, the 'karmic disturbance of the axis' has produced periodical deluges and glacial periods. Also, in the words of the Tibetan: "at each of the great shifts in the Earth's axis, there has been upheaval, confusion and cataclysm, preceding reconstruction, stabilisation and relative quiet. Of these macrocosmic events there are similar microcosmic correspondences in the lives of both humanity and individual man. Hence the present world crisis—though precipitated by human error and sinfulness, by past Karma and emerging idealism (responsive to the development of the intellect and the appearance of the intuition)—is basically the

result of much greater and vaster combinations of force currents in macrocosmic relations.” (*Esoteric Astrology* pp.408-9)

Before moving on to further consideration of the effects of rotation, it is worth noting the Sufi term “qutb”, which, literally translated, means “axis” or “pole”. “Qutb” can simply mean a great holy man in Islam; or more profoundly, it can refer to the one person in each age who serves as the spiritual anchor for humanity, who resides at the top of the hierarchy of saints and exerts significant unseen influence on human affairs. This definition naturally leads us to think of the Christ, or, beyond Him, Sanat Kumara; and it is also in keeping with the idea of an axis of rotation which is fixed in direction, and which determines the general orientation of whole systems of beings.

Another well-known physical phenomenon associated with rotation, which also connects strongly with the direction of forces and energies, is its power to attract and to repel, as shown in the vortices of whirlpools, tornadoes, and hurricanes. Indeed, this vortical structure is evident in the more fundamental structure, the chakra or centre as it appears at many different scales, although we are most familiar with its manifestations in the etheric, astral and mental vehicles of human beings. So we read: “Each centre or chakra is composed of three concentric interblending whorls or wheels which in the spiritual man upon the probationary path move slowly in one direction, but gradually quicken their activity as he nears the portal of the Path of Initiation. On initiation, the centre of the chakra (a point of latent fire) is touched, and the rotation becomes intensified, and the activity, fourth dimensional.” (*A Treatise on White Magic* p.362)

Thus we can say that the centres are points in space, somehow defined to a degree by their rotary motion, which in turn means that they are attractive to certain forces and energies, and are able to channel them in specific directions. As we read in *Telepathy* “The centres are, in reality, focal points through which energy can be distributed, under skilled direction, in order to make a needed impact upon those centres or individuals which the disciple seeks to aid.” (*Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle* p.172) We should of course bear in mind that this process is learnt not by concentrating on the centres themselves, as this can over-stimulate them, but rather on the energies which the centres receive and transmit.

This description of the centres brings us back full circle to the directive power of the will, which should be conditioned by the love-wisdom of the soul as it seeks to serve the Plan. In *Destiny of the Nations*, the Tibetan remarks that, “the first thing which every disciple has to learn is the nature, control and direction of energy;... this involves the constant investigation of his motives until he has discovered what they are and has so **directed his thought** that those motives can, in every case, be depended upon to work automatically and dynamically under soul direction.” (*Destiny of the Nations* p.128 **emph. added**)

This theme of right direction of energy continues on and up the scale as the disciple advances, as we can see from this passage on the Master forming an Ashram.

“How does a Master form and organise His Ashram or inner group of which the personnel is provided from the outer group of aspirants? It must surely be apparent to you that a Master, in forming His Ashram, proceeds as automatically as does the

Creator. He meditates; He visualises; He speaks and that which He seeks to create and to materialise (in line with the hierarchical Plan) begins to take form. By the power of His focussed and directed thought, He attracts to Him those whose type of mind synchronises with His, because of ray, karmic relationships, point in evolution and love for humanity. In the words *focus* and *direction* lie the key to any technique or method of contributing to what I might here call the reservoir of thought which is an Ashram. It is a sustained focus, plus a dynamic direction which makes this reservoir of thought contributory to world service and creatively effective.”
(*Discipleship in the New Age* Vol.I p.696)

So let's now turn to our work of meditation together, bearing in mind that we are seeking to receive and direct energies into human consciousness as a whole. In so doing, we are helping humanity to recognise and to follow the spiritual direction of evolution, in line with the Plan and the Logoic Purpose. Our seed thought is, “Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.”