

**FESTIVAL IN CAPRICORN**  
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Good evening friends. Welcome. Tonight we work with the inpouring energies of Capricorn. It is the sign of man with his feet upon the earth, yet running free and climbing to the heights of worldly ambition or of spiritual aspiration in search of what he realises (at any particular time) to be his major need. He responds to either the higher or the lower keynote of Capricorn.

It is useful to remember that even though we are working with the influence of Capricorn, the energies of all the twelve signs are constantly flowing in all the time; they don't turn on or off at the beginning or end of the monthly cycle. And in reality what humanity is responding to each month, according to the Tibetan, is actually a great thoughtform of each sign first anchored in human consciousness thousands of years ago. As the Tibetan explains it: "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." And the response by humanity to these radiating thoughtforms has always depended upon the degree of sensitivity of the mind at any particular time in history.

Now the one great energy and thoughtform we should be sensitive to today is the energy of love and goodwill to balance out the increasing power of the mind. Because the human mind is so much more awake and active today, its power tends to override the higher energies of the loving soul. As a result, the critical lower mind tends to speak and act without first being checked or conditioned by the love of the heart. So in an effort to invoke more of the power of love into the national consciousness, let us focus on and think deeply on the meaning of the words of the great unifying mantram, the Mantram of Unification.

The sons of men are one and I am one with them.  
I seek to love, not hate;  
I seek to serve and not exact due service;  
I seek to heal, not hurt.

Let pain bring due reward of light and love.  
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.

Let vision come and insight.  
Let the future stand revealed.  
Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.  
Let love prevail.  
Let all men love.

The tremendous power of divine love is the supreme realization that is revealed to the disciple as he struggles up the path of the mountain of initiation in Capricorn. Once at the top he finally understands the significance of the keynote: "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back". That is a supernal moment in the life of the disciple. And when he reaches the summit where he finally experiences, first hand, the depth and brilliance of pure divine light and love, he no doubt is overwhelmed by its shear power. It draws him in and he is absorbed by its radiance. One may wonder why would anyone want to turn his back on that state of bliss? Isn't that what we are all striving for--to return to the blissful state of the Father's home? Yes, that is true. But once one becomes totally fused with the light

and love of the Father, he is seized by an overwhelming sense of compassion for all those still struggling and suffering in the dense material world. Suddenly there needs become uppermost in his mind. He hears the divine note of service resonating in his ears and then he knows he has only one choice--to turn his back on any further advancement for himself; to return to the painful world of life in the form, and help others to find the path of the upward way. He knows that there is no further advancement until "the last weary pilgrim has found his way home", until this vast group of souls can together stand and receive the Father's blessing. As agents working out the Plan of God in the world--this is our task. And if and when we, as a group, reach that stage of fusion with the light supernal, let us hope that divine compassion will continue to rule our destined choice of service.

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 mountain top; 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. 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 mountain top. 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.

The significant fact about this experience is that the disciple returns with a much deeper understanding of compassion, which gives him the strength to face the painful divisions in the world. Love and divine will gives him the power to persist and endure. That is what is needed now because he knows that in spite of the chaos and never ending conflict which seems to dominate human life, eventually the power of the soul will triumph; that humanity will eventually be able to rise above those divisive, critical and fanatical qualities of the lower mind. As the Piscean influence diminishes, the new Aquarian energies pouring in will provide a new direction for human creativity, producing a more vibrant demonstration of livingness, of more abundant life. What is meaningful in life will shift from the present material focus--which leads to crystallisation and death--to the stage where material forces are designed to flow more freely for the benefit of all, thus giving life a better chance to flourish and radiate a more brilliant light.

There are great opportunities for one born in this sign. The Capricornian can express all the worst of which a man is capable and all the best. It is a sign of extremes. Esoterically, all world Saviours and Sun Gods are born in Capricorn but also the very worst type of man—hard, materialistic, cruel, proud, selfishly ambitious and egoistic. The head rules the heart in such cases, whereas in the perfect example of the influences of Capricorn, head and heart are perfectly balanced.

Capricorn rules the knees and this is symbolically true, for only when the Capricornian subject learns to kneel in all humility and with his knees upon the rocky mountain top to offer his heart and life to the soul and to human service, can he be permitted to pass through the door of initiation and be entrusted with the secrets of life. Only on his knees can he go through that door. As long as he arrogantly stands where he has not earned the right to stand, he can never safely be given the information, which is imparted, to all true initiates.

In Capricorn we have the triumph of matter; it reaches its densest and most concrete expression; but this triumph is followed by that of spirit. There is full expression of the earthly nature in Capricorn but also immense spiritual possibilities. And it is the possibilities we should focus on. The possibilities already lie within the great thoughtform of Capricorn anchored in the world thousands of years ago. It just takes an increase in sensitivity to draw them out.

The issues we must now grapple with are "soul size"; the challenge is to listen and to respond to that higher group conscious note and not be fearful of what lies ahead. The fresh energies of the new age cannot flourish within the old attitudes of the past. Those attitudes are too narrow and small to contain the more expansive note of selfless Aquarian service now being impressed upon human consciousness. This greater self is impressing its spiritual values on the new group of world servers especially, and the light they radiate into the world illumines the mistakes of the past as well as new possibilities for the future. We have to face that past, that painful Dweller on the Threshold. But we also must recognize the growing light of the Angel of the Presence and realize that "both the Dweller and the Angel are that complex duality which is the human family." Facing the two extremes of the Dweller and the Angel creates a point of tension which is really a point of opportunity in which the influence of Saturn in Capricorn can play a constructive role.

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 the group should sound.

So let us sound it now as we work in meditation.

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