

The House of Humanity

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Good afternoon everyone and welcome.

At this time of the full moon when the earth, moon and sun align with one of the signs of the zodiac, the flow of spiritual emanations is at its most potent and there is an unimpeded channel of energy affecting human consciousness. For the spiritual aspirant, the time of the full moon is one of increased sensitivity to the impact of qualities associated with the zodiacal sign the sun is passing through – in this instance, the sign of Cancer. In Cancer, the sensitivity to impact is particularly enhanced for the disciple has "the ability to respond to contacts coming from all points of the compass, and from every angle of the zodiacal wheel, and from that which is within as well as from that which is without." Before we go any further, let's take a few minutes of silent reflection on this thought and then sound together 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.
OM*

We are familiar with the fact that when the aspirant sets forth on the spiritual path of return, he becomes increasingly open to the higher influences of the zodiacal signs – rather than only responding to the forces that stimulate the personality nature, the consciousness is lifted into a state of creativity where it engages with more subtle forces on the plane of the higher mind. The lower keynote of Cancer to which the personality responds to is "Let isolation be the rule and yet the crowd exists." The impulse that this energy represents is one in which the consciousness is trying to establish its own sense of identity and think for itself. However, the mind is not yet strong enough to really do this and it is swayed by the stronger thought currents of others. We can see this demonstrated quite clearly in the field of politics where a large percentage of the public are developing a point of view but not usually an original one – it tends to fall within the ring-pass-not of a political party and echoes the words that the leading lights of that party put forward. The stronger thinkers create the thought structure and then it gathers strength as others are influenced by it and add their energy to it until it becomes a mass thoughtform of considerable power.

When the mind is strong enough to break away from the dominance of mass thought forms and think for itself, we have the creative thinker who analyses each presented line of thought for himself and comes to his own conclusions and his own independent point of view. At this stage, there is no particular allegiance to any particular brand of thinking and the higher influence of Cancer is starting to function represented by the keynote: "I build a lighted house and therein dwell." The mind of the aspirant is now becoming creative, fluid, adaptable and constructive. It deftly builds in flexible mental substance, each construct being allowed to change and develop with no dominant fixation being permitted. There is a continual urge to keep improving on one's thoughts, to rearrange the forces of consciousness, so that new inspirations can fill the mind with light and instil a feeling of progress towards a spiritual goal even if it remains vague and undefined in the early stages.

This desire to create and build new edifices of consciousness is an inherent urge that permeates Space itself. Esoteric teachings regard Space as the ultimate divine being, a vast

unknown deity in which many lesser deities have their being in the form of galaxies, constellations, solar systems and planets. This hierarchy of lives moves down from these exalted beings to the more prosaic – through the human and animal forms and right down into the vegetable and mineral. What unites all these states of consciousness that inhabit this vast array of forms is that they are all equally divine in origin, but some are more limited than others in their capacity to express it. All are from the one source – the great entity, Space, and all are evolving within its body of expression.

Within this body of Space a great law functions and guides the building of forms – it is known as the Law of Economy, the great law of matter which shapes and conditions it in line with the ideas of any particular creator. We see the beauty of the law of economy at work in ecosystems, where no energy is wasted but each unit is related to each of the other units through vast chains of assimilation and distribution. Indeed humanity has learned much from the way in which natural systems function. It seems that humanity stands on the verge of realizing that its behavior and relationships should also work in this way creating a spiritual eco-system between soul and personality, and interactively relating the kingdom of souls – the spiritual Hierarchy – and humanity as a whole. Within such a relationship everyone has the freedom and space for creative expression, but works in the spirit of interdependence, knowing that through this, the system that is created is greater than the sum of its parts.

When humanity fully attains this point of view, people everywhere will perceive that they are part of something much greater than themselves. The term “humanity” will no longer be a noun that signifies the sum total of human beings in the world, but will become a term that describes a living entity that is much more than a collection of individual energy units. In fact, when humanity is fully integrated, the great informing life of the planet will express itself through the collective etheric body of humanity, and every person in the world will live in a constant state of inspiration and wonder as this divine presence sends sublime energies thrilling through the whole in accordance with the Law of Cycles that humanity will then understand and prepare for. Celebration of the full moon periods is one of the first steps towards this goal.

The progress of this will all depend on humanity developing an understanding of the Law of Economy and how to relate energy to matter through the building of forms that unite the two together in harmony. Although the human species is not currently using the law of economy with its shared spiritual evolution in mind, the vanguard of creative thinkers is leading the way forward in the science of green technology and energy efficiency. An interesting branch of thinking known as Ergonomics is rapidly developing too. It studies the conditions in which people work most effectively using tools and machines, and so it is clearly related to the Law of Economy. Although the motive behind modern advancements in technology is often materialistic, the attainment of a more comfortable life style for instance or the creation of more things to fill the emptiness of a consumer driven society, technological innovation still releases many from the toil of mundane tasks, providing more time and space for creative enterprise.

Through the work of sensitive and innovative servers, architecture is one of the great creative enterprises that is now coming to be very much in line with the Law of Economy and the building of the lighted house of humanity. Some of the leading thinkers here are transforming the way we think about the spaces we inhabit. They are helping to shift the theoretical, aesthetic and philosophical attention to building away from the spectacle of architecture to the transcendental questions about the positive role of architecture within culture and society.

A good example of this ideal is the city of Chandigarh. After Independence in 1947, India's first Prime Minister, Nehru, laid down the founding principles of this new city which served as the capital of two regions – the states of Haryana and Punjab. It was decided to build the city on a gently sloping terrain within the foothills of the Himalayas. Nehru said "Let this be a new town, symbolic of freedom, of India unfettered by the traditions of the past... an expression of the nation's faith in the future". The city is a product of Nehru's vision and was designed by the architect, Le Corbusier, whose modern architecture is always human centered, minimalist and who

believes that the functions of living should occupy a primary place. He kept in mind the habits of the peoples, and planned that every dwelling should have three elements of sun, space and greenery.

In “The Edict of Chandigarh” Corbusier set out some principles and the object of the edict he said was to enlighten the present and future citizens of Chandigarh about the basic concepts of the planning of the city so that they could become its guardians and save it from the whims of individuals. The city of Chandigarh was planned to human scale, allowing people to be in touch with the infinite cosmos and nature. Its design provided places and buildings for all human activities by which the citizens could live a full and harmonious life. Here the age of personal statues is no more – no personal statues are erected in the city or parks of Chandigarh. The city was planned to breathe the new sublimated spirit of art. Also the Edict stated that “vehicular traffic is completely forbidden in the green strips, where tranquility shall reign and the curse of noise shall not penetrate.” Here the radiance of nature and heart are within reach.

Architecture has been described by Le Corbusier, as “the masterly, correct and magnificent play of masses brought together in light. Our eyes are made to see forms in light; light and shade reveal these forms; cubes, cones, spheres, cylinders or pyramids are the great primary forms which light reveals to advantage; the image of these is distinct and tangible within us without ambiguity. It is for this reason that these are beautiful forms, the most beautiful forms. Everybody is agreed to that, the child, the savage and the metaphysician”. He added that modern life demands, and is waiting for, a new kind of plan, both for the house and the city. The vision of Architects such as Le Corbusier are important in reminding us of the importance of light and form in our immediate environment – of working with nature and producing buildings and cities that are in line with the Law of Economy and express spiritual energy through matter in the most energy efficient way.

Another area where energy efficiency is addressed was initiated in the Time and Motion studies introduced in the middle of the last century. These studies introduced the concept of producing something in the least amount of time in the most "energy efficient" or cost efficient way. And the work of the soul has a similar objective to this branch of ergonomics. The soul aims to streamline the personality vehicles, by aligning them so that the soul's intention is unimpeded in its interpretation by the mind as it is conveyed to the brain in time and space. This might be understood as letting light into the personality and, with all the demands of modern life, it is necessary to consciously prioritise the time and space for this to happen. One of the first points to consider here is that our thoughts occupy time and space and that this time and space has to be reorganized to create room for abstract concepts and, later on, for the intuition to be able to filter through. If space is not created, no added light can enter which is why meditation is such an important means of keeping open the lines of communication between the world of meaning and the world of effects.

So we see that by holding the meditative attitude as much as possible throughout the day's activities, we can engage in creating this needed mental space for growth. In doing this we are helping to eliminate the superfluous activity of the lower mind – all those passing, incidental thoughts, that we have not purposefully created but which are a product of the monkey mind. As these empty thoughts are replaced by higher, creative thinking, the disciple discovers that the consciousness can be directed across all boundaries of time and space. Through the evocation of the Will and persistent spiritual intention, a continuity of consciousness can be reached and a mastery of time and space can be gained.

The Tibetan said that it is in order to negate the "time-space" concept and to prove it an illusion that the door in Cancer opens to the sacrificing, serving soul. The great task ahead of humanity in building a lighted house is to re-build each body of manifestation, to enhance the luminosity, step up the vibration, and refine it in such a way that the lower forms can perfectly reflect the highest light. And of course it is part of the Plan that humanity itself becomes a light bearer for the sub-human lives, using its higher consciousness to establish right relations with the

animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms. Its sacrifice involves "taking over" this responsibility. The soul, being group conscious, activates the process of rebirth not so much as an opportunity to fulfil the desire and to continue to perfect the personality, but as a service to the lesser lives which are dependent upon its higher inspiration. The Old Commentary beautifully describes the cries of the lesser lives demanding to be saved and the cries of those who have pledged themselves to save, stating that "a vortex is established and kept alive by that constant dual sound. And then a touch is made and for a space and during time, the two are one - the Saving Souls and the Units to be served. Slowly the vision of the Saving One becomes a light which guides the Crying Ones into the place of light."

Of course, this definition of service would sound very strange or even ludicrous to the average man or woman, and before this occult work of redeeming substance can take place en masse, humanity itself has to be served in order to fit it for this greater purpose. The majority are still under the influence of the lower keynote of Cancer – *Let isolation be the rule and yet - the crowd exists*, and so they are experiencing the light of individuality and knowledge, until a growing sense of loneliness and dissatisfaction sees them pierce through this state of consciousness and understand the great illusion of separateness. The ray of humanity from the personality angle is the 4th ray of "harmony through conflict" which governs this sign through the influence of the Moon.

As the spiritual path is entered, the new birth brings the freedom and release of the lighted consciousness which sees itself as a part of a great chain of relationships and which in turn illumines the masses through the saving force of the spirit within. The synthesizing planet of Neptune, bestows intuition and spiritual sensitivity as the soul consciously builds anew, directing its energy to align the previously scattered forces which are home to its incarnated aspect. Each incarnation sees the beauty, the colour and quality of the lighted house of the causal body on the mental plane enhanced until the flame of the spirit which burns within its heart causes it to shatter so freeing the imprisoned life. Through the gateway of initiation in Capricorn, the polar opposite of Cancer, the spirit is lead into further identification with the whole, released from the imprisoning effect of time but continuing its journey of expansion into the consciousness of that great Divine being – SPACE.

1. Vers une architecture [Towards a new Architecture] (1923)