

***The World is a Spiritual Thing***  
**The Festival of Cancer**  
**June 2026, New York**

**Steve Nation**

Greetings friends and welcome to this Full Moon Meditation meeting when the sun is in the sign of Cancer. These monthly group meditations have been going on now for at least nine decades. The fact that the group has persisted in maintaining a regular rhythm throughout all these years means that every time we step into this work we are stepping into a well-established energetic pathway – human minds approaching Hierarchy and the Plan in total synchronicity with the rhythm that Hierarchy and all the Forces of Light use in their approach to humanity. Because the rhythm has become so well established, this work is now solidly embedded in the spiritual life of humanity and of Hierarchy. In this we stand together with all the established cycles of approach to Hierarchy that are a part of religious and spiritual traditions. This full moon work is one of the unique contributions that ageless wisdom students are making to these traditions.

We can sometimes forget the importance of the spiritual life of humanity – thinking of it perhaps as something that may have meaning privately for a very small section of the 8 billion plus human beings in incarnation at this time. Yet it is the quality and clarity of spiritual thought and of alignment; and the care and attention given to it at any time in the evolutionary cycle that produces the breakthroughs in ideas and thinking which mark all the great evolutionary leaps in human affairs. And we should remember that there is no way of measuring the numbers of people who are thinking deeply about spirituality and soul-oriented ethics. There is a richness and a concentration in the spiritual life today that is evident in countless writings, media reports, and online programs in all traditions, and it's important to acknowledge this – whether we find this spiritual richness in the communications from the Vatican and other major religious centers of learning, in the vast literature from thinkers in every tradition on media like Substack, from enlightened publishing houses, and popular radio and television programs.

As the energies of Cancer condition this full moon period it seems useful to ponder the keynote of building a lighted house. What does it mean to build such a house – in ourselves and in our societies and the world? What does it mean esoterically and exoterically, and how does our understanding of the energies of Cancer influence the way we observe the work of building a lighted house in humanity and where we focus our gaze as we look out on the world? Building a lighted house proceeds from the spiritual life of humanity in all its current richness and diversity.

The second Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld often used his public position to draw attention to the role that thought, philosophy and spirituality play in the work of shaping a new order in world affairs. His insights seem especially appropriate to our reflections this evening on the Cancer theme of building a lighted house.

In a talk he gave in September 1953 Hammarskjold reminded his listeners that all who are working to help the United Nations succeed need the sort of deep faith that is expressed in words from the Bhagavad Gita: “Work with anxiety about results is far inferior to work without such anxiety, in calm self-surrender”.

He went on to refer to an insight from “the classical Chinese collection of poetic philosophy”, the Tao, where it is said that “whoever wants to grip the world and shape it will fail, because the world is a spiritual thing that cannot be shaped.” While this seems to be the anthesis of everything that the UN does, Hammarskjold reminded his audience that while the history of humanity is made by men and women, we “partly make it blindly. No one can foresee with certainty what will emerge from the give and take of the forces at work in any age. For that reason history often seems to run its course beyond the reach of any man or nation. We cannot make the world as masters of a material thing ... But we can influence the development of the world from within as a spiritual thing ... As individuals and as groups we can put our influence to the best of our understanding and ability on the side of what we believe is right and true. We can help in the movement towards those ends that inspire our lives and are shared by all [people] of good will – in terms very close to those of the Charter of the United Nations – peace and freedom for all, in a world of equal rights for all.”

[\[https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3946542?v=pdf\]](https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3946542?v=pdf)

This year’s High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is about to begin in the UN buildings adjacent to the Lucis Trust offices here in New York. It will be the subject of a Cycle of Conferences visualisation and those who are participating in this energetic work will shortly receive an email with more details. The annual Forum at the UN provides an opportunity to further think through the relationship between our energetic work designed to serve in the building of a lighted house and the inevitably flawed and compromised political efforts to facilitate a transformation of local, national and global affairs around a vision of sustainable development. The Forum begins next Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup>, and ends on the following Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Cycles visualisation work begins tomorrow – those who are interested and have not yet subscribed can find details in the Cycle of Conferences section of the World Goodwill website. [www.worldgoodwill/cycles]

But for now, let us focus on the flow of Cancer energies pouring into humanity. We are working right in the peak flow leading up to the time of the full moon, which occurs at 7. 58 – and with this in mind we will extend the meditation a little beyond the usual 20 minutes, with a period of silence following the lower interlude before we begin the stage of distribution with the sounding of the Great Invocation, which we will do just after 7.58. So, the meeting will be a little longer this evening.

We can begin by taking a deep breath and imaginatively standing together as a unified field of lighted thought – a group mind, fused and standing together in the light of the keynote for Cancer *I build a lighted house, and therein dwell.*

The souls of all 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 people love.

Cancer is notable in the night sky for its diffused light. It is the dimmest of all the constellations in the zodiac. In ancient times it used to be referred to as the ‘dark sign’. Its name, ‘Cancer’ is Latin for ‘crab’, symbolizing the *liabilities of the incarnation process* and the *handicaps* besetting the soul as it enters into the world of form and physical incarnation to *travel along the path of evolution*. [The Labours of Hercules, p. 85] The soul becomes lost, imprisoned in the material world; immersed in watery impulses of desire and instinct; with a consciousness that has yet to be fully individualized, primarily identifying with a mass identity (perhaps today we might think of a widespread national ideology, or a common culture, or with an economic class or an ethnic group) and yet with a private, undefined, mystical and psychic sense of a spiritual identity. The keyword from the angle of form and personality for the early stages of development under Cancer captures this notion of an almost unconscious pull between two poles two identities: *Let isolation be the rule, and yet the crowd exists*. It is this psychic, largely unconscious, fluid and instinctive relationship between spirit and matter; and the watery nature of the sign, that makes it so difficult for the large masses of people who constitute the nations of the world to guide their affairs in any long-lasting pattern around values, principles, and spiritual laws – there is some sense of these principles but it is vague and fluid and easily swamped by the immediate play of desires and emotions. The theme of a nation as a ‘home’ is somehow unstable and fraught with undefined contradictions. It is an imprisonment for the soul; and the personality has not yet seen that the walls of this prison are made out of its own sense of separation – yet at the same time the personality is unconsciously disturbed, seeking some sort of ease with itself. Nations today, apart from a few exceptions, are not at ease with themselves, sensing a dichotomy and drawn into ideologies that seem to make sense of that dichotomy by imagining some simple policy or program, or some charismatic leader, will resolve the lack of ease with the home.

At another level humanity as a species, alongside the nations that make up the species, and the individuals that make up the nations, are clearly not at ease in their relations with the earth and the other kingdoms of nature. It is as if we are imprisoned in an environment of inherited cultures, and social structures that contradict all our higher values; and as a result, largely imprisoned within a physical environment that has become polluted, poisoned and distressed. Only we as local and national communities can change that – but changing it requires a change in the nature of the relationship between the soul and personality of communities and nations and that requires a transformation in the orientation of large numbers of individuals so that the goodwill which is always present becomes a stronger presence and priority in the national life. This is what makes the Cancer keynote so meaningful. For there is a transformation occurring in the soul-personality relationship. More energy in humanity is going into shaping the world as a spiritual thing than has happened in recent decades, and this is where our work with the Cancer keynote can be so helpful. As a group we are called to ‘see’ the world in the light of the Cancer keynote. Each one of us needs to do this for ourselves – to ponder for ourselves; to really explore DK’s teachings, or any other teachings that our soul may have called us to, and clarify our understanding of the role that the New Group of World Servers is playing today, as it turns its attention to the work of shaping the world as a spiritual thing. To truly see the world in the light of the Cancer energies we need to recognize the potency and strength of the discipleship path as reflected in the lives and work of the New Group of World Servers in the nations of the world.

Cancer is largely conditioned by third ray energies, and this can help us to understand why so much of the New Group’s approach to reshaping the world comes through plans, policies and goals that are produced from the lower mind and have, as their focus, regulations that are designed to shape the world as if it were a material thing. The creative intelligence of the third ray can be characterized by an over-stimulated busyness and speed that comes from the concrete rational mind and veils or blocks out deeper thought or an ability to approach the realm of ideas encountered through the abstract mind. The over-organized approach to planning and regulating behaviors can easily block out the natural spirit of goodwill. Yet as soul energies become a stronger presence in nations and groups the natural agile intelligence of the Ray begins to be reoriented so that it serves the higher, intuitive mind, leaving an openness to serendipity, as described several years ago by a co-worker May East in various presentations at the World Goodwill Seminar and during goodwill webinars. As intuitive perception begins to breathe more freely in the mind of the new group, the focus on Cancer energies in large collectives and groupings shifts. Instead of tending to reinforce isolation and separation, strong intelligent and wise approaches to addressing the causes of a nation’s problems begin to gain traction – and the focus shifts up a notch towards work that actually builds a lighted house from inside out.

It is useful to consider Cancer in relation to its polar opposite sign, Capricorn, and this is especially significant this year when Capricorn will have a powerful influence on the energetic life of the Group of World Servers – the Group in every nation of those who are in process of reorienting themselves to the higher potentials of all the rays. The Capricorn full moon occurs

this year during the Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers beginning with the Solstice on December 21<sup>st</sup> and concluding seven days later on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Every seven years, energies pour into the New Group during these seven days – and occasionally the impact is magnified because the Capricorn full moon falls during the week. While the full moons are an annual cycle of alignments and approaches between the three centers, Shamballa, Hierarchy, Humanity; these annual lunar cycles also fit within the pulse of a Festival Week every seven years ... just as the full moons and Festival weeks themselves take their place within a wider symphony of events in the esoteric calendar of relationships, such as the twenty-five year and 100-year cycles of Hierarchical Conclaves, or the much broader transition from the Piscean to the Aquarian Age, or the culminating occurrence of a Christ who will initiate a whole new cycle in human history.

So, as we approach the peak alignment of the Cancer full moon we can also have in mind that this links us with the Capricorn full moon, and with the Festival Week. In Cancer the energies flowing into the New Group help to empower and lift the New Groups leadership role in shaping the world as a spiritual thing and building a lighted house -partly by a transformation of the way in which mind and intelligence are used; and in Capricorn the New Group is under the influence of energies that create an environment conducive to initiation – lifting the mind in a different way, with a seventh ray element that enables the light of life itself, Light supernal, to shine through the mind of the New Group and into the world of outer activity. Subjectively the Tibetan relates the seventh ray influence in the Capricornian facilitation of initiation to “the overcoming of materialism.” [Esoteric Astrology, p. 490].

Drawing on a seventh ray sense of relationship and the strengthening of the spiritual environment necessary for materialism to be overcome, we might imagine the twin aspects in the reorientation of the group of all who seek to be of service to humanity at this time as if there were two movements; two complementary pulses: lifting the mind in Cancer so that intelligence can become more sensitive to the Plan and social, political and legislative actions can begin to flow from a deeper understanding of what it is to build a lighted house; and this preparing the way for and leading into the Light Supernal radiating throughout the group of servers. As the rhythm established by these two energetic pulses proceeds, through the ongoing annual influence of Cancer and Capricorn full moons, and through the cyclic flow of succeeding Festival Weeks, we can well imagine how the spiritual life of humanity is being transformed. We don't need to look at this in some time-bound way as if there will be a sudden moment of transformation accompanying a particular full moon or Festival Week. It's more a matter of noticing and looking out for the underlying effect in the world of these cyclic flows.

Another approach to this Cancer/Capricorn pulse comes when we view these two signs in terms of the relation between incarnated soul and form. In Cancer, it is the soul's sensitivity to form life, driven by the responsibility to redeem matter, that produces incarnation into what is initially an imprisonment in form, but leading to the long learning curve involved in the soul's transforming of the form life to make it a fit and lighted home. And in Capricorn the process is

reversed. The soul's sensitivity to form leads to crystallization and a breaking up of the prison walls so that liberation from the binding ties of materialism can occur. Just as Cancer brings a "magnetic magical light which guides the soul into the dark place of experience", the "magical pull of Capricornian energy ... upon the returning wheel ... of expression and of discipleship draws the soul steadily away from form life and experience and constitutes that "radiant light which leads the soul in safety to the mountain top." [Esoteric Astrology, pp. 336 – 7]

Hammarskjold can be understood as a disciple called to play a strong role in establishing spiritual principles at the heart of the newly established United Nations. His focus on the guiding principles, loyalties and responsibilities for international civil servants continue to be a source of inspiration for many dedicated workers within the UN system and within the network of agencies and think tanks surrounding and supporting the United Nations. And behind all this solid work in establishing principles to guide the team of UN workers was his recognition that it is not through outer actions by governments, or through treaties and agreements between governments that the direction of the world can be shaped. For the world is a spiritual thing, and it is as a spiritual thing that we can influence the development of qualities at the heart of national and international relationships. And yet, he also recognised the power that comes when outer efforts in diplomacy or in the multilateral development of policies are aligned with and in full respect for the deeper spiritual process that must be followed to truly transform the spirit of international relations.

Cancer and Capricorn remind us that as evolution proceeds, the souls work with form and sensitivity to the potentialities of form, begins to be balanced and complemented by the form's respect for and ultimate alignment with the soul.

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