

## Civilisation and the Descent of Light

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Welcome to the festival of Capricorn – let's begin with a few moments silence and then say together the Great Invocation:

From the point of Light within the Mind of God  
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.  
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known  
Let purpose guide the little wills of men—  
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men  
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.  
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth  
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Capricorn is a sign very much associated with the transmission of light and its concretisation on the physical plane. The rapid developments in light technology are a symbol of the soul light that is steadily waxing in human consciousness; energy follows thought and the more enlightened humanity's thinking, the more beautiful and refined will become the illumination of the physical plane. There is still a long way to go, of course, and the following remark made in the book *A Treatise on White Magic* still has relevance today: "The tendencies of human desire and thought are not at this time of the highest order, and...the vast assembly of insects which now haunt our planet and cause increasing concern to the scientist, agriculturist, and all those dealing with the welfare of the human animal, are the direct result of thought precipitation." (*A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 542)

This statement reveals how direct the relationship is between human consciousness and the natural world. The subhuman kingdoms of nature are also in search of greater light, and the quality of human thinking either assists or hinders their cause. To understand how the spiritualization of man's thinking would end the insect pest and bring beauty and harmony to the planetary ecosystem, we can consider the iridescent splendour of a butterfly's wings. According to Rudolph Steiner, the thread of substance that the caterpillar spins into a cocoon from its own body is fused with spiritual force patterns inherent in the sunbeam. Within this spiritual light imprisoned in the chrysalis, a new creature is formed that flies out as a sun-being.

Always the effect of spiritual forces imprisoned in light is to produce colour and this is seen to great effect in the butterfly's wings. It is a lower correspondence of the way in which the soul colours its own body of expression on the mental plane. Here, the light of the spiritual sun is fused with the purified substance of the disciple's thought life. This process can only occur because the human being is individualized and has an aspect of the ego – which we refer to as "I" – residing within his physical plane consciousness which does the thinking. The inhabitants of the

lower kingdoms of nature have no individualized ego and cannot think in this way. Therefore, the group soul of each sub-human species works externally on each life-form in cooperation with sunlight – colouring and beautifying the form nature; and this, in turn, stimulates and refines the nascent point of consciousness within.

As the disciple purifies the “I” state of consciousness, it becomes as a spiritual sun radiating its light into the lower kingdoms of nature. Fused with natural sunlight, it accelerates the evolution of the group souls of all the myriads of species of fauna and flora who work upon refining their form nature. And so, through the transmutation of humanity’s thought life will come the lifting of “Nature, red in tooth and claw” into a more harmonious state of consciousness – the butterfly’s wings being a symbol of this process.

As we work towards that time, the knowledge that human consciousness either enlightens, beautifies and harmonizes the natural world – or darkens, spoils and increases conflict within it – serves as food for thought for every aspiring esotericist. It is the deeper meaning hidden in the quote that “the magical work, and the next twenty-five hundred years will bring about so much change and make possible the working of so many so-called ‘miracles’ that even the outer appearance of the world will be profoundly altered.” (Esoteric Psychology I, p.83)

The bright and delicate butterfly fluttering in the air is a symbol of the world to be when mankind has achieved an enlightened state of mind and is subsequently transforming nature. And just as the caterpillar weaves the cocoon from which the butterfly emerges and takes to the air, so does the disciple weave in the light, colouring his egoic body and spinning the rainbow bridge across the mental plane into the air of the buddhic realm. It is for this reason that meditation on the butterfly stimulates the mind aspect, and why the adept associated with the Alice Bailey teachings gave to one of his disciples the following “magical phrase” for the development of his mental body:

"Like a golden butterfly which flies in the face of the sun, I find myself poised upon the lotus petal of the earth. I hover; I stay a little moment and then I fly—into the golden pathway that leads unto the sun." (Discipleship in the New Age 1 p.460)

The elevating quality of this seed thought is a beautiful tonic when feeling overwhelmed by the technology-based society we live in today. Technology and the electricity that powers it, puts humanity in touch with the elemental electric lives of the planet – the “essence of matter”. These lives are on the involutory path and can ensnare human consciousness in a materialistic mindset if care isn’t taken to offset their downward pull through a cultivation of spiritually elevating thoughts. The technological evolution is not an unwelcome or unplanned development however; for just as the aspirant has to bring the involutory elemental lives of the threefold personality under the control of the Solar Angel, the planetary Logos has to do likewise with all of the lives that constitute His lower sheaths of manifestation as He prepares for a cosmic initiation. The Tibetan explains that:

“All forms in all kingdoms are built by the lunar lords under an impulse emanating from the planetary Logos, working in cooperation with the Spirit of the Earth—the sum total of all the lunar lords and of the three types of energised substance which go to the creation of the physical, astral and mental bodies. The relation of the planetary Logos to this Spirit of the Earth (the relation of an evolutionary Being to an involutory entity) is a reflection (distorted and under the influence of glamour) in the three worlds of the relation of the soul to the personality elemental.... The natural trend of these elemental lives, all of them upon the involutory arc, is to block and to frustrate...the efforts of the soul, and this—for them—is their way of evolution; it is that which will eventually bring them on to the evolutionary arc.” (Esoteric Healing, p. 609)

In this analogy, perhaps we see something of the planetary opportunity that stands before humanity – many of the elementary electrical lives of the planet being organized and brought under the influence of the evolutionary impulse. But while technology may be assisting this process there is also the danger of a growing enthrallment with that which it provides. A materialistic ‘technological vision’ has the potential to obscure humanity’s spiritual vision and sensitivity to higher truth; without these spiritual attributes and strengths, susceptible people may yield to the involutory impulse of these electronic lives and become more materialistic in their outlook.

Technology’s electromagnetic fields are a force that humanity has to accustom itself to and cannot avoid at present as this type of radiation permeates the planet. And it is placing additional stresses and strains on the etheric body of human beings that is doubtless contributing to the social unrest that we are witnessing in these turbulent times. Much of this is to be seen occurring through the medium of the electronic communication networks and the internet. Through the explosion in electronic communication, information, truthful and untruthful is relentlessly circulating the globe at the speed of light; the nature and quality of the information generating crises of moral discrimination in the public consciousness.

Humanity’s sense of discrimination and ethical orientation is being honed and tested as never before, but this is speeding up the pace of planetary redemption. The thought life of humanity has been vigorously stimulated and the substance of the mental plane – the cosmic gaseous plane – is in a volatile condition. This is reflected in the corresponding physical sub-plane – the gaseous – and the fiery deva lives that comprise it. In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, we read:

“These agnichaitans of the third subplane come particularly under the influence of Saturnian energy. They are the great fusers of substance, and it is in connection with them that the transmutation of metals becomes possible.... They are, as will be apparent, connected with the throat centre of a planetary Logos...and it is through their activity that the transmission of sound through the air becomes possible. It might surprise students and inventors could they but realise that the present rapid growth of wireless communication everywhere is due to the swinging into contact with the human vibration of a group of fiery deva lives hitherto uncontacted.” p. 905

It is evident that far greater numbers of agnichaitans are in contact with “the human vibration” since the time this was written – the transmutation of metals and their use in the vast telecommunication networks that encircle the globe has increased enormously. As a consequence of this, the throat centre of the Logos is becoming an increasingly fine-tuned instrument for the sound of divine, loving purpose to ring around the world. This is all part of the vision referred to in the Mantram of Unification – the vision that must stand revealed.

The alternative vision of a bleak, ‘cybernetic’ future, has been effectively portrayed in many science fiction stories – a future wherein the silvery, metallic light of the lunar lords reigns in a world of automation and machines used for corrupt purposes. These portrayals of a soulless, lunar future, provide a stark warning at this point in human evolution. However, the cybernetic vision can be interpreted in a much more positive way as the term appears to have emerged from the Greek *kubernētikós*, meaning “good at steering.” As the worldwide group of servers continues to grow in numbers and power, we can trust that the *speed of truth* will steer humanity in the right direction, and technology will be increasingly used in service of the Plan.

It’s clear then, that humanity is passing through a testing period in the transition towards a new era. While energies are impacting upon human consciousness from a multitude of sources as we move into the Aquarian age, they are still only dimly perceived and initially causing feelings of unease and disorientation. This is termed a “crisis of spatial extension” in esoteric teachings – a transformation in the way time and space are registered in the subconscious as a result of

increased spiritual influences. Although the disturbance is hard to bear, this crisis is establishing the foundations of a new, more vital reality.

In Alice Bailey's *The Rays and the Initiations*, we read: "the widespread reaction to ideals (in spite of all the efforts of the evil and reactionary forces), and the seething turmoil reaching throughout all levels of human consciousness, plus the inspiration of disaster and suffering, are blasting open hitherto sealed areas in human minds, letting in illumination, sweeping away the bad old conditions... These expansions in human understanding will, in the next one hundred and fifty years, completely alter the manner of human thinking... All is planned and ordered; the right energies and forces will be available, for the Hierarchy works ever under the Law of Cycles and of Cyclic Compensation. The Masters know exactly that which must be done by right timing and by what has been called 'the crisis of spatial extension'. They call this the interchangeableness of time and space...which is already being dimly sensed". (pp. 237-8)

Since the time of writing, some sixty years ago, the crisis of spatial extension has grown in scale. The many ideas and ideals that are now being expressed by the group of world servers are of such a high vibration that they are helping to thin the planetary veils dividing the inner and outer realms of being. This results in the sense of time speeding up. Consequently, we have the quickened pace of modern living – the hectic, disorderly lives experienced by so many today. We live in an age of 'paradigms and narratives' that quickly change in response to the constant fluctuations of human consciousness. And in scientific thinking, we have the illusory perception of a rapidly expanding universe, with distant galaxies receding faster than the speed of light!

The crisis of spatial extension is evidenced in other ways too, indicating that the Christ consciousness is emerging within humanity and within the planet's force-substance, the Mother aspect. Even in the distress of the birth process and despite all the pain and suffering in the world, this emerging spirituality is the cause for optimism and expectancy. As the planetary veils steadily dissolve, it becomes possible for the spiritually minded to sense more clearly the approaching Christ and the Spiritual Hierarchy at work behind the scenes of world affairs. This may even contribute to the current prevalence of conspiracy theories. Something mysterious is vaguely sensed on the other side of the veils and, because its nature is unclear, it is interpreted negatively.

With all of this in mind, understanding what is happening in world affairs is a great challenge in these tumultuous times. The views relayed by much of the media are not always helpful – a higher point of view is required, one that is freed from national, cultural and ideological bias. Ever finer levels of dispassion, discrimination and detachment are needed by all who serve humanity and who long for evidence that the Plan of love and light is externalizing. We can become so focused on outer effects and events that hope and despair distort our insight. The spirit lifts with signs of growing synthesis only to be dashed again by the separatism that is still expressed. The stroboscopic effect of alternating forces of light and dark can leave the server of humanity in a state of confusion as to where the world stands in relation to the Divine Plan – what the Hierarchy is thinking and planning at this time – whether humanity is moving towards spiritual triumph or defeat.

New patterns of world interaction are on the verge of externalising and the ethers are currently being subjected to much stress and strain. In many of a sensitive disposition, this is generating strange new psychological pressures that are hard to bear, but it is under such conditions that the strength and the power to serve are cultivated, and the opportunities that lie in the "tension of the time" are to be welcomed therefore. It is indeed a serious time in which global events are being generated, but this is indicative of energetic activity taking place in the world of causes where powerful new ideas are moving outwards from the world of meaning and into human consciousness. Like the seed that pushes its way through the earth into the light of day, all that lies in the way is being disturbed, broken up and cast aside. The destructive forces that we see

at work on so many levels are not so much the work of evil forces as the result of humanity's own resistance to the new, externalising pattern of things. While it is true that evil will take hold and utilise any opportunity it is provided with, we are assured that the heart of humanity is sound, and can ultimately be relied upon to side with the forces of light.

With this in mind let us join together to direct the light of Capricorn into that which is in process of externalising and further prepare the way for the lighted civilization that is to come.