

From Instinct to Intuition:
From Mass Consciousness to Group Consciousness
The Festival of Cancer: New York

Emmanuel Sackeyfio

“We are told that in Lemurian times, during the early period of animal man and before humanity appeared on earth ... eight signs influenced the planet and the kingdoms of nature found upon it” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 159). Animal man could not or did not respond to the influences of Leo and Virgo, which are the sources of individual consciousness and the seed of Christhood respectively, and the zodiac had 8 signs. Then later in Lemurian times, “individualisation took place, and the seed of Christhood was planted in man and these two signs began to influence humanity, and gradually that influence was recognized, and the zodiac was then known to have ten signs. The Mutable Cross dominated, ... Aries to Capricorn [the opposite sign to Cancer] marked the circle of experience” (*Ibid.*, p.160).

Thus, beginning in Atlantean times there were already 10 signs and humanity became increasingly responsive to the planetary and solar influences and this led to the opening of the door of initiation into hierarchical experience as a result of the influence of these two additional signs. This development made possible the esoteric effect of the Fixed Cross on humanity, and certain advanced humanity began to mount that cross of the heavens and this caused the first reversal on the zodiacal wheel in their lives. This reversal “was the true cause of the great contest or battle between the Lords of the Dark Face and the Lords of Light -- a contest which is today persisting” (*Ibid.* , p. 160).

Presently in our Aryan times, humanity, in its advanced groups— disciples and initiates – is responding to the influences of two more signs, making 12. The two additional signs have made it possible for humanity to respond to the esoteric influence of the Cardinal Cross, of which Cancer is one of the four arms. As a result, certain world disciples and initiates, we are told, have reached a point in their unfoldment where they are ready to mount the Cardinal Cross and take some of the higher initiations’ (*Ibid.* , pp. 160-61). And an additional and increasing “conflict is on between humanity (under the control of the Forces of Materiality) and the Hierarchy (under the control of the Forces of Light and Love), And right before our eyes the battle is being waged” (*Ibid.*, p. 161). One of the influences of the Cardinal Cross, the sign of Cancer, is involutory in nature and embroils humanity in its mass consciousness. The Cardinal cross is also called the Cross of the initiate and the cross of the spirit and in these names are hinted some of the reasons for its present terrific potency on humanity.

The Tibetan clearly summarized the challenging state of humanity in its three essential groupings, first He states that: “Humanity as a whole, is in a state of turmoil, prior to a great step forward in self-conscious unfoldment, and in the expression of the sense of responsibility which is the first flower and fruit of self-conscious awareness” (*Ibid.*, p. 161). Secondly, “The disciples of the world and advanced humanity are equally in a state of turmoil. They are being tested and tried, prior to taking a major step forward – in some cases this will be the taking of the first initiation and in others the second. ...”(*Ibid.*, p. 162)

Finally, the initiates in the world are being subjected to the impacts of energies emanating from all three zodiacal Crosses simultaneously, making their ordeal terrific indeed. Humanity is in a battle

individually and in all its groups and the need for understanding, brotherhood and goodwill cannot be overstated; and also, there is much reason for hope.

This battle is met squarely, entered into deliberately, and confronted intelligently in Cancer, as the disciple enters again and again through this sign. In terms of humanity as a whole this sign represents the strenuous struggle to transition from the stages and states of mass consciousness in Cancer, through the stage and state of individual consciousness in Leo and then, into the state of group consciousness or intuitional awareness in Aquarius. To the untrained eyes, the growth of these states in the individual and humanity blending into each other, in the process of transitioning, in a most confusing and bewildering manner, could not be evidence of spiritual progress, but so it is to the discerning student.

Let us pause here and sound the Mantram of Unification with conscious attention:

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 people love.

OM

It is the group consciousness and intuitive awareness in Aquarius, in contrast to the mass consciousness in Cancer, which is the true goal of the beginning efforts in Cancer. This may also be considered as the effort to transition from the instinctive racial awareness in Cancer, through the intelligent and responsible awareness in Leo into the group or intuitional awareness in Aquarius. In all of this, we must see the true goal of achieving group consciousness, as the essential inspiration motivating the establishment of Right Human Relations through cooperation and sharing and working out gradually through the mass consciousness and individual consciousness.

Cooperation and sharing may be considered as a pair of major techniques developed as a means of implementing Right Human Relationship, the White magic of the soul and the great seventh Ray, and the abundant life-giving energies and forces of Aquarius. Cooperation is also the active demonstration of our one humanity, while sharing opens the floodgates of life and that life more abundantly. And all of this is being made possible through the successful passage through the states of mass consciousness, individual consciousness, and towards the Christ consciousness.

The mass consciousness experienced in Cancer, in truth, hides a deeper soul activity, that flowers forth in Aquarius, and consummates in Capricorn, just as the corresponding instinctive racial awareness in Cancer, is the seed of the intuitional or Christ consciousness and the initiate consciousness in Aquarius and Capricorn respectively. Cancer is the opposite sign to Capricorn; these two signs are the two gates or doors of entrance. Cancer is the gate into form life, sometimes

called the “gate of man” and proffers the opportunity to identify with the mass consciousness of human life, while Capricorn, on the opposite end, offers entrance into the universal state of consciousness, into the realm of the spirit, through initiation.

In the relationships between Cancer and Aquarius on the one hand and between Cancer and Capricorn on the other, the consummating achievements were already preexistent in Cancer as a seed inherent in the instinct, even though the path from instinct to intuition is a truly long journey. The cultivation of patience, the Tibetan says, signifies embryonic immortality and persistence.

The student seemingly goes through these stages individually, yet all the time, he is essentially participating in a group process in consciousness. For example, the significant group nature of Cancer is highlighted by the emphasis that the Tibetan places on the need for recognizing and realizing that the door of opportunity into incarnation, which Cancer represents, is an expression of the group impulse and that we should strive to appreciate reincarnations as a group process and to desist from the petty and selfish appropriation of reincarnation, which clouds our perspectives and understanding of its processes. A deepened understanding of reincarnation is more appropriately worded by the Tibetan as, “ ‘cyclic impulsations’, ‘intelligent purposeful repetitions’ and ‘conscious in-breathing and out-breathing.’ ”

When such a wholesome perception characterizes our attitude, and we consider reincarnation in the terms suggested above, we shall begin to see the true nature of incarnations and the passages through Cancer and Capricorn. We will then regard incarnation not as individual appearances motivated by desire for form life, but as a soul activity motivated by group service, in order to liberate and lift matter up to heaven.

The Tibetan puts it beautifully and clearly in the following words: “Basically it is not desire which prompts return but will and knowledge of the plan. It is not the need to achieve an ultimate perfection which goads the ego on to experience in form, for the ego is already perfect. The main incentive is sacrifice and service to those lesser lives that are dependent upon the higher inspiration (which the spiritual soul can give) *and* the determination that they too may attain planetary status equivalent to that of the sacrificing soul. It is in order eventually to negate the space-time concept [in the three-fold world] and to prove it an illusion that the door in Cancer opens to the sacrificing, serving soul” (*Ibid.*, p. 324). Perhaps our social recognition of generations: baby boomers, X, Y and Z is an unconscious effort in this right direction.

The effort started from the racially instinctive awareness in Cancer has progressed quite well despite humanity’s many challenges today. In His appraisal of the modern situation, the Tibetan was generous and positive, this generosity may serve as a source of much hope for all of us. He notes the following: “Human beings stand today at a midway point, generally speaking, between these two states of mind, though perhaps it might be more correct to say that a fairly large minority are becoming group conscious, whilst the majority are emerging out of the mass conscious stage and becoming self-conscious individuals. This accounts for much of the present world difficulty and the clash of idealisms. The two groups bring different approaches to the world problems as we now find them” (*Ibid.*, pp. 311-12). As stated, He implicated three signs influencing human consciousness as follows: Cancer—mass consciousness—instinctual awareness. Leo—self-consciousness—intelligent awareness. Aquarius—group consciousness—intuitional awareness.

The development of intuitional awareness – the Christ consciousness -- which is the consummation of the tentative instinctive mass and racial beginnings in the earlier experiences in Cancer – is the dramatic challenge with which Hercules is confronted in the Labor in Cancer. Let's briefly follow some of His endeavors in Cancer: Hercules' Teacher received the following conditions that must characterize the test in Cancer from the Presiding One: "Provide a test which will evoke his wisest choice. Send him to labor in a field wherein he [Hercules] must decide which voice, of all the many voices, will arouse the obedience of his heart. Provide likewise a test of great simplicity upon the outer plane, and yet a test which will awaken, on the inner side of life, the fulness of his wisdom and the rightness of his power to choose. Let him proceed with the fourth test." (*The Labours of Hercules*, p.77).

Let's expand a little on the injunctions or conditions attached to the test in Cancer. The test must evoke his wisest choice: this is the awakening into a functioning activity of the love petals of the egoic lotus, for wisdom is part of the dual nature of love. Hercules must be confronted with the need to decide as to which of the many pairs of opposites he will attend to in their ever-increasing subtlety and difficulty, this is the demonstration of wisdom in service. This decision is also concerned with recognizing and responding to the One voice, that clarion call of the soul, a voice which clarion though it be, is seldom heard among the many conflicting, confusing and enticing voices of the form nature.

Currently the "many voices" are legion, and many are the numbers of humanity who are falling victim to the lies, the propaganda, the innuendos, the falsehoods, and the devious manipulations, the self-aggrandizement and self-serving hypocrisy clothed in a pretense of concern for humanity which is deceiving and confusing many. But through the discord Hercules, the aspirant and the disciple, is learning to listen and to hear. He is learning learn that "Before the soul can hear, the image (man) must become as deaf to roarings as to whispers, to cries of bellowing elephants as to the silvery buzzing of the golden firefly. ... 12. For then the soul will hear and will remember. 13. And then to the inner ear will speak THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE ... (*The Voice Of The Silence*, para. 10 - 13). This is the intuition. This hearing leads to the harmony within, and this harmony is also evidence of an obedient heart. In such a case the soul has so essentially reflected its nature in the personality to the extent that the soul-infused -personality state is appreciably present, and the life anchored in the soul from the Spiritual Triad, is strongly felt, and there is conformity, agreeableness, and obedience to the life expression of divinity.

The test must also be one of "great simplicity", and for the son of man who is also the son of God, we cannot expand any better on this demanded simplicity than to quote the words of the Tibetan Himself, that "the simplicity of the soul opens the door to Shamballa". But this simplicity is also shown in the ordinary way of mundane life in the simplicity and singleness of the discipleship life in the three-worlds of human endeavor as kindness and goodwill. Shamballah is both a commencement and a consummation, a beginning and an end, the Alpha and Omega of Revelations in the New Testament of the Christian bible. Simplicity ties these two together, so that "the end approaches the beginning".

The test also demanded that all these conditions must produce "an awakening on the inner side which will demonstrate the fulness of his wisdom" and the "rightness of his power". Here is depicted for us the essentially dual nature of the Spiritual Triad – Buddhi and Atma—the fulness of Wisdom and the rightness of Power, before they are reflected in the substance of the mind (manas) and then become Atma-Buddhi-Manas.

But way before these higher developments and demonstrations fully unfold, the disciple will have multiple opportunities to manifest these qualities in everyday life. Even before he consciously and deliberately reverses his path on the zodiac, many virtues are becoming his as he is part of the heritage of humanity as a whole, in all levels of life. It is not uncommon to meet the expressions of virtue in both the so-called lowly places as in the high places of life.

These qualities that we are reflecting upon are all aspects, forces and energies and demonstrations of buddhic substance and founded on the functioning of the intuition. Perhaps, the significance of the intuition, whose development is symbolically unfolded in Cancer, is that there is no initiation possible for the aspirant and disciple unless the intuition is beginning to function in some measure. It is akin to the esoteric sense.

Through all these stages, we slowly come to the realization that the compassion and wisdom of divinity ensures that each of us reincarnate again and again and again. Thus, in the second part of the Labour in Cancer, the repetition of the reincarnation process is illustrated and emphasized.

After Hercules had captured the sacred doe/hind, held it close to his heart and placed it on the altar of the holy place in the shrine of the sun God, he comes back to the teacher of his life and announces: "I have fulfilled the task, set by the Presiding One. Simple it was, except for length of time and wariness of search. I listened not to those who made their claim, nor faltered on the Way. The doe is in the holy place, close to the heart of God and likewise, in the hour of need, close to my heart."

To his declaration Hercules is told by the Teacher:

"Go look again, Hercules, my son, between the pillars of the Gate". And Hercules obeyed. Beyond the Gate, ... whilst on a nearby hill there stood a slender fawn." And Hercules asked: "Did I perform the task, O Teacher wise? 'The fawn/doe/hind is back upon the hill where I earlier saw it stand'.

And from the council chamber of the Lord, where sits the great Presiding One, there came a voice: 'Again and yet again must all the sons of men, who are the sons of God, seek for the golden antlered fawn – representing the intuition -- and bear it to the holy place; again and yet again'. Thus, was indicated to Hercules, the aspirant, the disciple, the soul in form and to all of future humanity the endless repetition of the reincarnating process, the group process in the long and patient development of the intuition, the Christ consciousness, buddhi and the esoteric sense.

The Keynote of Cancer, on the reversed wheel of the zodiac is: "I build a lighted house and therein dwell". The Tibetan concludes the chapter on Cancer, in *Esoteric Astrology* with the following: "This sign can carry deep meaning to all. You are in process of incarnation; you are following your chosen way. Is the house you are building yet lit? Is it a lighted house? Or is it a dark prison? If it is a lighted house, you will attract to its light and warmth all who are around you and the magnetic pull of soul, whose nature is light and love, will save many."
