

The Stream Enterers
Festival of Cancer, New York
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Welcome to the Festival of Cancer and this first day of preparation in the five-day cycle.

The full moon, as we know, is a time of opportunity, an opportunity colored by the quality of the sign under consideration. As we deepen our understanding of the sign, we begin to work and serve more effectively--helping to build and strengthen its thoughtform within human consciousness.

This full moon work is one of the most important services we can undertake. As we grow to understand it more fully we come to recognize that in a certain sense the entire month could be viewed as a preparation for this five-day period. The Tibetan advised one of the members of his group to view all his subjective work throughout the entire month as a preparation for the time of the full moon. He advised, "Build towards the full moon moment, when, in company with your fellow disciples, you make your 'approach' and can be the recipient of certain forces which you must learn to wield."¹ DINA 2,432

With our entry into the sign of Cancer each year we begin the time of outbreathing, within the cycle of the breath, when the energies that were accumulated during the previous six-month period of the inbreath and the pause of the higher interlude are now poured forth into the world. And because this particular six month period since the Festival Week in December has been accompanied by such a potent combination of energies, we know that this period of outbreathing should surely produce results although of course we cannot know in what manner those results will manifest.

The released energies are distributed into the masses of humanity through the five planetary inlets. And it's interesting to consider that two of these five centers are governed by this sign of Cancer--New York and Tokyo. It's interesting in the case of New York to realize as well its position as the central point within the five-pointed planetary star. As such, this Cancerian energy, pouring through New York, provides an inlet for the releasing of Hierarchical energies to all parts of the world and to all people who can respond to it, as Cancer is the sign of mass consciousness. Because of New York's place as the central point of the star, some students have speculated that the United States focalizes both the planetary Angel of the Presence as well as the Planetary Dweller, hence the fierce battleground between the forces of darkness and the forces of light working out in this land.

The lower aspects of this Cancerian/sixth ray combination as it conditions the United States can create considerable confusion. This is where the work of the disciples in each nation comes into play, for it is their responsibility to help awaken the soul of their nation. So for those of us

¹ *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II, p. 432*

who live in the United States, perhaps during this weekend which celebrates the principles upon which this nation was founded, we can take time to reflect upon our history and what needs to be done in order to rectify some of the long-standing problems in need of adjustment.

So let's now pause for a brief visualisation, followed by a sounding of the Mantram of Unification.

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.

When considering this quarter of the spiritual year, this time of outbreathing, it's curious to note that each of its three signs that make up this cycle, Cancer, Leo and Virgo, have Neptune as one of their ruling planets. This makes sense as the release of energies is in the nature of Neptune, which carries such a strong current of love, ruling the waters. In the case of the sign of Cancer when considering disciples governed by this influence, Neptune effectively governs on all three levels-- making it a perfect agent for the merging of the inner and outer worlds and for the quelling of the stormy seas of the astral plane..

Essentially Neptune is strongly governed by the second ray of Love-Wisdom. Although it is said to be the sixth ray sacred planet essentially in its role as one of the three synthesizing planets it serves powerfully as the preeminent planet along the second ray line. Blavatsky said that Neptune does not rightly even belong to our system and surely it is here to help bring the entire system under this second ray influence. And closer to home we read in *Cosmic Fire* that Neptune makes possible the taking of the second initiation, in cooperation with the planets Venus and Jupiter, the initiation concerned with the harnessing of the astral plane.

This Neptunian influence is an essential aspect of our planetary life through the agency of the Christ, who is esoterically known as Neptune, he who is able to walk on the waters-- demonstrating his complete mastery of the astral realm and his attunement to the energy working out through this great and sacred planet.

In The New Testament, Matthew 14, there is the famous parable in which we find the disciples one night in a boat on a stormy sea, being battered by fierce winds and rain. And then, early in the morning, they were said to have seen their Teacher walking towards them on the waters in the midst of the tempest and they cried out, terrified, thinking it was a ghost.

Jesus immediately spoke to them, telling them not to fear. Peter answered “if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus complied and Peter left the boat and began walking towards him. But as Peter noticed the strength of the winds he became afraid and began to sink and called out to be saved. Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and saved him but also questioned him. He said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” As they got into the boat the wind died down and the disciples were amazed.

The disciples needed these outer demonstrations in order to bolster their faith. But we live in a different time without such outer demonstrations and that is why we are asked to cultivate an inner faith. This faith forces us back upon ourselves, teaching us to draw upon the strength of our own soul. But the parable also implies that it can be within the midst of chaotic conditions that the spirit moves more fully among us and we must be ready to seize those opportunities that come upon us suddenly amidst the choppy waters of the time.

This full moon constitutes the third consecutive lunation that has been accompanied by an eclipse -- highlighting the potency of this time, alive as it is with that electrical energy that is always released during such cycles. It is said that during eclipse periods things that are hidden can be revealed triggering outer events. And this has certainly proved true in this country as a result of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Police brutality and other forms of institutionalized racism have long festered in this land but perhaps because of the nature of this time the situation stands revealed with greater clarity and has made a much wider impact upon public awareness, an awareness that will hopefully lead to substantive change.

Cancer is a sign related to the third aspect of divinity, it is a building sign, a sign of manifestation, of concretization transmitting both third and seventh ray energies. We can visualise this building work symbolized in various ways. It can be reflected in a planetary sense through the work of such activities as Triangles, which has as one of its primary objectives the restructuring and rebuilding of the planetary etheric body and, as a consequence, leading to the sacredization of planet earth. As more and more people join the network, and this is happening now, we can see its outer reflection manifesting in the overall awakening that is taking place throughout the world.

Another level of the Cancerian work of manifestation is related of course to the causal vehicle, the inner house of the soul that is constructed stone by stone, life after life. It is from this house that we can draw, using its many gifts in our lives.

This sign is also related to the personality itself embodied in a form, and the need to make it a lighted house. And we're reminded by the symbol of the crab to look beyond that form's hard and sometimes crusty exterior to the softness and sensitivity of the inner life which it shields.

One of the liabilities of the Cancer experience is that it can lead the person so conditioned to retreat inside that shell, in order to guard against the oftentimes harsh reality of life in the three worlds. The disciple must guard against this liability by cultivating an inner quiet, a subjectivity--an ability to live within and work outwards from that perspective. The meaning of life in form is to establish those conditions whereby that form becomes simply a translucent vehicle, a receptacle, through which the soul's light can shine.

Esoterically, Cancer is also a sign related to the inner home, the inner ashram, the place of retreat in which we learn to live. As more and more people begin approaching the spiritual path, these ashrams are challenged to accommodate the many who are clamouring outside the gate. All of us, therefore, with whatever capacity we possess, can help to meet this need, by letting our own light shine forth--a seemingly simple act but one which the Tibetan states is actually a keynote for some of the greatest Lives who inform this planet and we, in our own way, are asked to likewise make it a keynote in our own lives.

In Cancer we're working with a quiet energy -- but as Hercules learned in his 4th labour -- this quietness takes persistent effort for the doe, the symbol of the intuition, which Hercules is charged to capture, is seen at the beginning of the labour as darting from place to place through the forest--here one moment and seemingly in reach, yet gone the next. The labour is achieved when finally Hercules sees the hitherto illusive doe stretched out and resting beside a quiet pool. There he is able to capture it and hold it close to his heart.

Hercules had learned the lesson of discrimination in the preceding Gemini labour, particularly in relation to spiritual teachers, and this attainment proved valuable in his ability to triumph in this labour. As a result he was no longer taken in by personalities -- represented here by the enticing goddesses of the sun and moon. Instead, he had learned to seek beneath the outer veil, revealing the light of the intuition. His task was then to take the doe to the inner temple, the secret place, and leave it there in recognition that he did not own it, did not own the gifts he received through its means. Instead he learned the intuition belongs to all who seek after truth. And it was through this development, this inner knowing, that he was guided through all the subsequent labours and this is surely why Alice Bailey said this labour although quiet and seemingly relatively easy of accomplishment was, in fact, one of the most important labours of them all.

In one of the sutras of Patanjali we're told that "all things can be known in the vivid light of intuition." This in itself can be a challenge. The commentary speaks of the progressive development of the light which qualifies the seeker as he moves from knowledge, to discrimination, and on to a cultivated non-attachment. And as the life of meditation deepens the initial flashes of intuitive perception eventually merge into a steady stream that becomes the guiding principle in one's life.

At this point the seeker comes to embody the name Buddha gave to those of his followers who were beginning to go deeper into their practice-- he called them the "stream enterers." As they entered that stream they became better able to withstand its flow, and then the normal and

gentler currents of what is sometimes called the clockwise wheel of existence, came to gradually lose its appeal.

However, at this point on the path the seeker comes to understand that this new current will take him in the opposite direction to the way he had been travelling for aeons of time, leading into uncharted territory. But as he takes the plunge, eventually the waters which previously appeared cold and dark now appear as refreshing and the seeker begins to drink deeply of their life-giving sustenance. Then the seeker begins to notice the others who are also following this way--they begin to appear to his view and then the way is not so solitary. The inner light is quickening and becomes the guiding principle. This light is then used and turned upon all matters "obscure, subtle and remote" thus enlarging the horizon of his life to ever wider fields of existence.

It's interesting to note that for the past ten years and continuing until 2026-- the planet Neptune has been passing through Pisces, the sign which it rules from the global perspective. On the one hand, this is a highly spiritual combination, holding out opportunity to all those who can partake of the influence and we certainly today see an explosion of interest in spirituality. But the clouds and mists that populate the astral plane are also fed and strengthened by this influence and we can certainly see this occurring on every hand.

So let us work now together, using the energies of Cancer, to cooperate with the higher aspects of Neptune, pouring its energies through the Christ within and releasing them into the three lower worlds, making our planet a lighted house. This sign holds within its symbolism the clear pool and the restful poise, through which the needed solutions to our crises can be found.
