



Capricorn Festival

London, 6 January 2023

Education:

Externalising the light of the Soul.

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Good evening friends and welcome to this group meditation meeting for the festival of Capricorn. As we join in service together, we are conscious of being energetically connected with individuals and groups around the world who are making their approach to the Spiritual Hierarchy over the full moon, when alignment with the sun's energies is enhanced. The Festivals of the full moon are holy days in which we can receive and circulate energies from the Hierarchy and Shamballa on behalf of humanity, and its therefore important to make this approach as part of a group endeavour. The peak of the full moon is tonight at 11.08 GMT, an opportune time for us, as souls, to transmit the higher light into the lower realms to partake in the great work of redemption. The spiritual keynote which we will be working with is "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back", and it's closely related to the ancient aphorism quoted on the full moon meditation outline:

"He who faces the light and stands within its radiance is blinded to the issues of the world of men; he passes on the lighted way to the great Centre of Absorption. But he who feels the urge to pass that way, yet loves his brother on the darkened path, revolves upon the pedestal of light and turns the other way.

He faces towards the dark and then the seven points of light within himself transmit the outward streaming light, and lo! the face of those upon the darkened way receives that light. For them, the way is not so dark. Behind the warriors—twixt the light and dark—blazes the light of Hierarchy."[1]

By learning to stand and radiate light as souls, we support the work of the Spiritual Hierarchy, and act as vital transmitters of light into human consciousness. These meditations always include the Great Invocation, the solar instrument entrusted to us for the precipitation of Light Supernal into the world. Yet especially in these uncertain times, we have to be aware that lighted forces contacting the lower worlds initially unearth evil, bringing it to the surface to be addressed. Other effects that might be ascribed to the "planned precipitation of the 'light supernal' include a changing sense of the relationship between time, space and events; an intensification of the working out of the Law of Cause and Effect; a general foment of activity on the physical plane. If such dramatic phenomena are, at least in part, due to the giving out of the Great

¹ Alice Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age* II 15

Invocation, we can understand why the Tibetan stated that *"right conditions had to be considered before its enunciation was possible."* [2]

In the northern hemisphere, Capricorn begins when daylight is at its lowest point, and yet it is often at the darkest hour that something stirs within our consciousness – something which we already know intuitively. This evocative experience of standing at the threshold of something new and yet at the same time, familiar, is something many people are experiencing today. The principle of limitation or even just dissatisfaction with the way things are, is an imprisoning sense of darkness but it also sparks the creative impulse within. The aspiration to find meaning, greater light, is a journey of self discovery to our true identity which in time draws us onto the Path of discipleship. Here the mystery of Being and of Light leads to the search for something greater, and to create anew at another higher level.

Lets take a moment of quiet and then say together the most ancient of prayers:

*"Lead us, O Lord, from darkness to light;
from the unreal to the real; from death
to immortality."*

(Brihadaranyaki Upanishad I, 3, 28)

Capricorn is the sign in which the festival week of the New Group of World Servers takes place – a celebration that occurs every seven years. It was on the occasion of the most recent one in 2019 that the Lucis Trust placed a strong emphasis on what is called the Law of Group Progress. This spiritual law concerns the mysteries of group realisation, expansions of consciousness and the part each unit plays in the general progress of a group. As described in the Tibetan's teachings, *"The symbol for this is the mountain with a goat standing on the summit, and again an astrological sign, that of Capricorn, can be noted. All hard places can be surmounted, and the summit reached by the "Divine Goat," symbol of the group, viewed as a unit."* [3]

Astrologically, the New Group of World Servers is ruled by Taurus and depicted as the *"bull, rushing forward upon a straight line with its one eye fixed upon the goal and beaming light."* [4] For esoteric groups of servers working at its heart, these two symbols can be synthesized in the following manner:

"Capricorn, the Goat...hiding (as an esoteric blind) the symbolism of the Unicorn in which the two horns and the single eye [of Taurus] are blended and depicted by the long straight horn of the unicorn in the centre of the forehead." [5]

2 Alice Bailey, *Discipleship in the New Age* II 426

3 Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* 1221

4 Alice Bailey, *The Rays and the Initiations* 232

5 Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* 154

The unicorn is a very evocative symbol and it preserves a great secret for us in its relationship to the Lion *"in an ancient nursery rhyme, which describes the "lion and the unicorn going up to town." It seems that in a peculiar way this holds "the secret of initiation and the 'going up' of the human being to the portal of admittance into the Hierarchy as well as the 'mystic raising' of which Masonry holds the key. This deals with the emergence of the consciousness of the initiate (white and one-pointed) and the defeat of the king of beasts (the personality) leading to the triumph of group and world consciousness, of selflessness and illumination over self-consciousness and selfishness. In the true rendition of this ancient myth, the king of beasts is blinded and killed by the piercing of his eye and heart by the long horn of the unicorn."* [6]

At this Capricorn full moon, we can visualize the circulation of energy through all of us together bringing about the "mystic raising" that is the result of the right application of Capricorn's influence through the Law of Group Progress, and the reason why it is sometimes called The Law of Elevation. It is out of this mystic raising that the unicorn emerges piercing through the veils that hide the mysteries. The symbol of the unicorn and the motto, *"white and one pointed"*, is also useful in considering white magic in relation to the problems of humanity as they exist today – especially in the field of education. For while it might be argued that educational techniques already train the young in one-pointedness, it is largely through the means of the intellect without adequate attention to the love-wisdom of the soul.

This absence results in the narrow competitive spirit that is causing so much psychological difficulty for the youth of today. Love-wisdom is imperative for understanding the network of relationships that makes up any field of activity for it is the building force of the entire universe. Focused through the mind, love-wisdom illuminates the field of knowledge and it brings a sense of purpose and belonging that is vital for healthy minds. As W.B. Yeats is thought to have said, *"education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire."* The objective of education is to stimulate the solar fire that resides in every child, to draw it out and focus it as "a point of light within a greater Light" – a spark of consciousness related to all other sparks of consciousness in the world mind.

As the evolutionary process moves on, it also needs to be remembered that, that which once expressed truth and served as a liberating force, eventually crystallizes. This applies to all forms of education including esotericism. For this reason, it is worth heeding the advice of philosopher and social theorist, Michel Foucault, who wrote: *"There are times in life when the question of knowing if one can think differently than one thinks, and perceive differently than one sees, is absolutely necessary if one is to go on looking and reflecting at all."* [7]

In this spirit, we enter into a year in which each of us is challenged to discover a fresh approach to knowing and perceiving so that we may not ourselves unwittingly become imprisoned. Instead of becoming crystallized, let each of us in essence seek the unicorn within. Being "white and one-pointed", it's possible to pierce through the veils into the realm of ideas – to "that which must take form in its stead." White magic is the art of

6 Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology* 155

7 Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality II*

clothing and vitalizing ideas that resonate with both the philosophy of the Ageless Wisdom as well as with progressive, contemporary thinking. This type of magic has an 'abstract practicality' that creates a bridge of communication between the higher and lower levels of the mental plane, and consequently, between the human and superhuman kingdoms. Bridging this gap in consciousness between the personality and the soul is destined to become a major goal of education in the future. The Tibetan's book, *Education in the New Age*, reminds its readers that "as the group thought-waves penetrate into the mental atmosphere of humanity...[people] become impressed and the inaugurating of the new ways of living and of developing proceeds with increased facility." [8]

One possible future development might be a new way of treating the basic educational skills taught in schools everywhere. A different approach to reading, writing and arithmetic could bring to light some of the magical process working through them as described in *Education in the New Age*, as follows:

"Reading is concerned essentially with the realisation of a clothed idea of some kind, whereas writing is, curiously enough, concerned with the individual's conscious selfrelation to ideas, and his use of words in writing is the measure of the grasp he may have of these universal ideas. Arithmetic (and the power to add, to subtract, and to multiply) is related also to the creative process and concerns the production of those forms upon the physical plane which will adequately produce the idea and bring it to manifestation." [9]

While arithmetic concerns *quantity*, other mathematical topics concern *structure*, *geometry* and *change*. These four domains describe the production and metamorphosis of all forms in time and space as they are subjected to the evolutionary process. In this connection, we read:

"From another angle, man reads his destiny in the heavens and writes out that destiny in his life upon the earth; he reduces, knowingly or unknowingly, the idea of his soul to due and proper form, so that each life adds, subtracts and multiplies, until the sum of each soul's experiencing is complete. Thus, symbolically, the three basic ideas are held in elementary education, though their true meaning is divorced from reality and the right significance is entirely lost. All that we have, however, emerging slowly and definitely through the medium of world education, is built upon this unrealised scaffolding." [10]

So each of the traditional skills - reading, writing and arithmetic – can be thought of in terms of spiritual mathematics. When reading a page of text, the mind automatically converts the sequence of shapes that the eye sees into a multidimensional image in consciousness, and it has all the attributes of *quantity*, *structure*, *geometry* and (capacity to) *change*. What we read now exists as a construct in consciousness that we can 'know and feel' with the mind outside of time and space. Writing reverses this process and provides a way of introducing a construct in consciousness into time and space via a sequence of two-dimensional shapes (letters). Arithmetic concerns adding

8 Alice Bailey, *Education in the New Age* 2

9 As above 15

10 As above 16

and subtracting quantities of energy to matter to produce the sequence of shapes in writing, speech or actions.

In terms of spiritual mathematics, evolution is the progressive concentration of energy in time and space until, ultimately, the archetypal idea behind the human being – the Monad – is perfectly represented in the lowest world through the beauty and order created in matter. The final rule of White Magic touches upon the mathematical process of quantity, structure, geometry and change from the perspective of the transmutation of matter:

“...the fires...of matter...rise up from the second darkness at the call of the spirit of light and meet in their appointed place that which will absorb them and raise them to the fiery point from whence the fires of living light and radiant life have come.”[11]

This process is forging ahead right now through the world educational process and deeper revelations await our discovery. We are in a time when the whole meaning and purpose of education is being revisited. While the ‘purpose of education’ is a fruitful topic for exploring in an imaginative way with children, it is a discussion for educators and parents too – in fact – the whole of civil society. The persistent problems of humanity seem unlikely to be resolved without it, for the way we educate children greatly influences the way they will relate to the world as adults. This need is now being addressed by UNESCO in its worldwide initiative, Futures of Education: Learning to Become. World Goodwill attended the various meetings held in New York, and informative reports on them can be found on its blog, World Goodwill.

“Learning to Become” is an inspiring definition of what education could be. Standard dictionaries define education more in terms of acquiring knowledge, skills, values and beliefs through systematic instruction. Far more uplifting though, is the second definition in The Oxford Dictionary of English, which simply describes education as “an enlightening experience.” This can be applied to the most mundane of experiences that everyone can relate to, but equally to the most profound – an ideal education being a sequence of unfolding realizations that point towards the enlightenment experience of the Buddha.

Most of us will be familiar with the Buddha's Four Noble Truths that arose from His enlightenment; simply stated they concern: the truth of suffering, the cause of suffering, the end of suffering, and the path that leads to the end of suffering. Together, they reveal that the energy of Desire enables us to be active in the world, but without right direction, it degenerates into a craving for the sensations arising from interactions with matter. The true Self is lost, but the suffering endured finally turns the search inwards and the energy of desire is transformed into aspiration towards the Soul.

The right understanding and direction of desire energy is beginning to inform educational thinking, as the influential specialist in the science of education, Philippe Meirieu, suggests with his definition of education as *“the difficult work to help children to create a space between their desires and themselves...It's about being in the world without putting yourself in the centre of the world.”* [12] While the educator, Gert Biesta,

11 Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic* 611

12 Philippe Meirieu >> <https://www.meirieu.com>

gives another similar view to define the art of teaching as the "interruption of identity" in order to "examine the desires we have in connection with the outer world as well as the desire we have about ourselves." He proposes that a "living question" should be continually engaged with throughout a child's education: "*Is that which I desire desirable? Is it what I should desire? for my own life, for my life with others, on this planet?*"

Schools could then become places to experience a different sense of time and space in order to become the detached observer and examine these questions. Whereas modern education is mostly a reflection of the personality keynote of Capricorn "Let Ambition rule..." with its worldwide competition with league tables, true education is a dialogue that is a challenge for life.

With the current engagement with the redirection of education and the exploration into the world of meaning, the Law of Group Progress, related to Capricorn, will gradually be realized along with its concerns of group realisation, expansions of consciousness and the part each of us plays in the general progress of a group. Lets now take another step together along this path of "enlightening experiences" with our meditation, "letting in the light", using the keynote for the disciple in Capricorn *Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back.*