

## Festival of Capricorn – London – January 2022

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Hello friends,

Thank you for joining us today to work together with the energies flowing into the planet from the sign Capricorn. Each month we have the unique opportunity to be sensitive to the qualities and characteristics of one of these Great Lives who expresses itself through its ruling planets and accompanying ray influences. Change is a universal characteristic of life, and while it is of value to use the concrete mind to understand the details of these energies and forces, it is of value to remember that words and concepts are symbols, and that we must ever seek to penetrate beyond the words to appreciate the underlying meanings. It is also important to remember that the results of these influences depend upon the response mechanism upon which they impinge. We are constantly changing and thus we will react differently in the present moment with regards to the past and no doubt to the future.

The Tibetan has said that Capricorn is one of the most difficult signs to write about, and the most mysterious of all the twelve. He goes on to say that ‘even the symbol of the sign has never been correctly drawn because its correct delineation would produce an inflow of force that would be undesirable’. This symbol is also sometimes called the ‘signature of God’. So we have our work cut out for us today to try to bring our thoughts together and to positively transmit them into the mental body of humanity. Let us take a few moments to calm our minds and to link up with the many groups all over the planet who are sharing today in this group service. We will then sound together the Gayatri which is said to be one of the oldest and most powerful prayers of invocation.

O Thou Who givest sustenance to the universe  
From Whom all things proceed  
To Whom all things return,  
Unveil to us the face of the true Spiritual Sun  
Hidden by a disc of golden light  
That we may know the Truth

And do our whole duty  
As we journey to Thy sacred feet.  
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Capricorn is an earth sign and can express the extreme characteristics of both the best and worst of humanity. It is part of the Cardinal Cross which gives the disciple in Capricorn that drive forward to initiate new projects both material and spiritual. When the focus is materialistic, the man influenced by Capricorn can be ambitious, greedy, ruthless in his driving forward to succeed. This leads to the depths of crystallisation which then produces a shattering of the form in order to release the life within the form. When the focus is spiritual, Capricorn is the sign where initiation becomes possible, when struggle leads to transfiguration and the initiate consciousness.

In the New Testament, Jesus took his disciples Peter, James and John up to the mountaintop and was transfigured before them. This is symbolic of the personality being transfigured by complete soul infusion. Peter represented the physical body, the rock or solid foundation. James, the deceiver, stood for the astral body, the emotions, the plane of glamour. John was the symbol of the mind. This episode revealed the nature of the third initiation, the Transfiguration, which we are told is the first major initiation from the standpoint of the Hierarchy, the Kingdom of Souls, the Fifth kingdom. It is safe to say that most of us have not yet taken the third initiation, so the idea of transfiguration is quite difficult to express. We can grasp transformation as the changing of one form into another. We put several ingredients together, add heat, and they become a delicious cake. We eat too much cake and get fat. Transforming can be grasped.

Transmutation is a bit more complex. To transmute desire into aspiration requires a definite shift in consciousness, moving from the centers below the diaphragm to the heart center. Transmutation is changing force into energy, the force of the personality into the energy of the soul. Transmutation keys up the vibration and moves desire from one level to another. Transfiguration is a whole new ball game. It moves the disciple into another dimension where the duality of personality and soul no longer exists. The personal falls below the threshold of consciousness. The Tibetan gives us a clear and simple definition of initiation when he says, 'Initiation is, in the last analysis, the realisation, the recognition in the

brain consciousness of various spheres and states of divine awareness, with a consequent life demonstration of this fact, this eternal fact. Because of this, the man thinks only in group terms and does this automatically and without any consciousness that he is doing so. He expresses group integrity simply as a part of his nature, just as in the personality stage and during the elapsing aeons since individualisation, he has thought only and naturally in terms of the separated self'. (Rays V p.259) The disciple turned initiate is now part of another kingdom, ready to assume responsibility as a world server in Aquarius and a world saviour in Pisces.

There are two great gates in the zodiac, Cancer and Capricorn. Cancer is the gate where the soul incarnates into the three worlds of the personality, the world of appearance. Capricorn is the gate where the initiate leaves the three worlds for the kingdom of souls. If achievement is not complete in Capricorn, the urge and ambition to incarnate leads again to Cancer, and the wheel of rebirth continues. It is interesting to note that there are three signs which have the same planetary rulers, both exoteric and esoteric. In Leo the Sun rules all three levels, exoteric, esoteric, and hierarchical. The disciple is totally subjected to the energies of love/wisdom, although the sun in Leo does veil Neptune and Uranus. It seems that when a sign is ruled by the same exoteric and esoteric planet, the disciple has a good chance to recognise the higher aspect of that planet and its ray conditioning, thus facilitating the bridging of the gap between soul and personality. The Leo subject can move from an integrated, and often self-centered personality, into a soul-infusing leader and server. In Scorpio, with Mars as both exoteric and esoteric ruler, the disciple, as did Hercules, can lift the Hydra of glamour into the light of the higher aspect of the 6th ray to become ready for directed purpose in Sagittarius and the trials of initiation in Capricorn. Capricorn has Saturn as its exoteric and esoteric ruler, making the climb up the mountain difficult and torturous. In the labour of Hercules in Capricorn, Hercules had to descend into Hell and suffocate the three-headed dog, Cerberus in order to later unchain Prometheus, the symbol of Humanity. It is said that the three heads of Cerberus correspond to sensation, desire, and good intentions not carried out to conclusion. It is the entire personality, physical, emotional, and mental which has to be occultly killed, rendered inactive before the mountain top can be reached. Mars and Saturn are exceedingly potent in connection with initiation into the life of the Hierarchy, the Kingdom of

Souls. They provide the disciple with the pain and suffering which is an integral part of Humanity's path.

There is a natural tendency for the disciple to want to flee pain and suffering, to move away from pain and move towards pleasure. In *The Rays and Initiations*, (page 243), the Tibetan discusses the 'mysterious purpose which has necessitated calling into activity the Principle of Pain'. He states, 'Suffering and Pain are essential requirements in order to carry this purpose to completion. The capacity to suffer, which is distinctive of humanity, is the outstanding conscious reaction to environment of the fourth kingdom in nature, the human. It is related to the power to think and consciously to relate cause and effect. It is a process on the way to something undreamt of today. And when I say this, my brother, I mean just exactly that. This same ability to respond through pain is not to be found (in the sense in which the human being comprehends it) in any of the subhuman kingdoms, nor in the superhuman kingdoms, any more than it was found in the previous solar system or will be found in the next. It is related to an aspect of the creative intelligence, an aspect and characteristic peculiar to humanity.' It is through the recognition and acceptance of pain that the disciple can develop compassion. It is interesting to note the Buddhist technique of tonglen which uses pain and suffering as fuel for service. In this practice, pain and distress are absorbed in the in-breath, and compassion towards all who suffer the same pain is sent out on the out-breath. This fosters the development of inclusivity and unity with all of humanity.

Saturn, as one of the four Lords of Karma, represents that power to think and to relate cause and effect. This powerful sacred planet transmits the energy of the Third Ray of Active Intelligence, the ray of aspect, the energy so characteristic of the fourth kingdom, the human. This Lord of Karma 'is the imposer of retribution and the one who demands full payment of all debts and who therefore condemns us to the struggle for existence, both from the form side and from the soul side'. Yet we are told that we are never given obstacles which we do not have the strength and wherewithal to overcome. This is somehow related to the fact that God is Love, and that the energy of love permeates and conditions all within our system, including our planet in which we live and move and have our being. So Saturn appears to create a wall between the fourth and fifth kingdoms for our protection, the gate within the wall only opening when we are ready. This pain and suffering is an integral part of the Plan which

is based upon a Purpose which we can only vaguely perceive. It is interesting that the Tibetan remarks that ‘esoterically Saturn cannot follow man onto the Cardinal Cross’. The hierarchical ruler of Capricorn is Venus, the sacred planet which leads the disciple onto the buddhic plane where the Hierarchy functions. This is the plane of the intuition where love is pure reason. It is the gift of the Third Ray of Active Intelligence to provide man with the power to think and to make choices. Karma, cause and effect, is the accumulation of choices, conscious or unconscious. Choices in line with the Plan and planetary Purpose create what we call good karma. Choices which seek to increase the sense of separatism and selfishness create what is considered bad karma. In reality good and bad are relative terms. Choices cause effects. Yet we are all part of the larger whole, and karma also refers to group karma, national karma, even planetary karma. We are all in this together, and the disciple in Capricorn assumes karma which goes beyond his own little personality. The Christ symbolised this through his acceptance of human karma and through his acceptance of suffering on behalf of humanity. He was known as ‘a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief’.

It is said that Capricorn guards the secret of the soul itself, and this it reveals to the initiate at the time of the third initiation. It is at this time that the soul is admitted into conscious participation in the life of the Hierarchy. The disciple must face up to the past, the present, and the preparation for the future. Capricorn is the sign of conclusion. If further progress is impossible, the disciple must descend once more into the valley of pain, despair, and death in order for a new cycle of effort can bring further progress and new levels of achievement accomplished. This brings to mind the Tibetan’s injunction to ‘Transfigure life in terms of accomplishment’. In Capricorn the disciple has flashes of intuition and the fusing of the greater and lesser lights. Venus acts to fuse the different levels of the mind as the conveyor of Fifth Ray energy and Saturn, working with Third Ray energy expresses the word of power, ‘Purpose Itself am I’. The line of Rays 1, 3, 5, and 7 infuse the entire planetary life with the greater Purpose of the solar system, and the initiate joins the Hierarchy to formulate the Plan in line with that Purpose. The disciple in Capricorn recognises that all experiences are needed before initiation is possible; the depths of the valleys, the aridness of the deserts, the desolation of the vast plains, the rugged mountain paths. We are told that Capricorn ‘is a sad sign, it is the sign of intense suffering and loneliness,

for these are the marks of the initiate'. Yet we are also told that as the initiate moves into Aquarius to enter into world service, that joy is the characteristic of his endeavours. He realises that pain and joy are synonymous when service to others is the goal. He learns the lesson of the Christ who willfully took on the suffering of others to lift and to heal.

The disciple in Capricorn uses his creative intelligence to surmount his trials. He avails himself both with the restraint and persistence of Saturn, and with the illuminating light of Venus. The common saying, 'Necessity is the mother of invention', is interesting in this context. Problems cause the necessity of creative solutions. This is the blessing of karma. We always get another chance to make things right, to perfect the ways and means, the techniques to move ahead and to prepare for the time when the Fifth kingdom and Fourth will be more closely integrated. Humanity is now faced with global problems not just isolated ones which can be put aside and swept under the rug and ignored. Climate change, pandemics, global imbalances in wealth distribution resulting in the crises of vast movements of populations fleeing devastating poverty. The disciple, Humanity, is facing the crises of Capricorn as it prepares for the increasing potency of Aquarian energies and the approaching externalisation of the Hierarchy. Important choices must be made, and the required political will applied. Humanity has to face the Dweller as well as the Angel of the Presence, both making up the complex duality which is the human family.

The New Group of World Servers was created by the Hierarchy in response to the vast numbers of aspiring disciples moving forward on the evolutionary path. The coming New Age will be one of group work and group initiation, and the Hierarchical methods and techniques are being adapted accordingly. The millions of serving groups are testimony to the success of eons of struggle and pain on the part of individuals seeking light and achieving. In the future, groups will be climbing the mountain in Capricorn in order to enter the gate and consciously cooperate with the Hierarchy. It is said that India is ruled by Capricorn. India is a nation with great extremes, widespread poverty and degradation alongside the heights of spiritual attainment. It is the world's largest democracy, and projected to be the most populous nation in the future. One of the five planetary centers, inlets of energy, is located in the area of the city of Darjeeling in India. One can imagine the time when this large part of humanity will

contribute even more to the work of inclusivity, equality, and justice for all.

A good example of someone born in Capricorn and who personifies its quality of discipline and persistence is the late theoretical physicist, Steven Hawking. Suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, that wasting neuro-muscular disease which confined him to his wheelchair, and made communication possible only through his computer, he became famous for presenting to the general public, in an understandable way, the most abstract and far-reaching theories of the universe. Through sheer determination and tremendous personal will, he served. It is interesting to note that he had Aries rising, with its keynote of coming forth from the mental plane. A few quotes from this extraordinary server indicates that the energy and light of creative, active intelligence radiated from him. He defined intelligence as 'the ability to adapt to change'. His sheer will to continue he expressed by saying, 'However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at'. Hawking gave three simple bits of advice by saying, 'One, remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Two, never give up work. Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it. Three, if you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away'. When asked what was his goal in life he replied, 'My goal is simple. It is a complete understanding of the universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all'.

Capricorn indicates that the Way is discipline tempered by love. The word of the personality states, 'Let ambition rule and the door stand wide'. To the very depths of matter the soul plunges until crystallisation shatters the form and the disciple, as the soul, proclaims, 'Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back'. For the initiate, service always comes first.

So let us now get down to work, using the meditation outline, Letting in the Light and the keynote of the soul, 'Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back'.