

The Light on the Mountain Top
The Festival of Capricorn, New York

Kathy Newburn

Welcome everyone to this Festival of Capricorn. Tonight, we have a somewhat rare opportunity to work together as a group at the exact time of the full moon, which occurs in a little less than 20 minutes, at 6:48 pm. Groups are needed to appropriate the potencies that flow into our system during the full moon and so we are fortunate to be working together.

Capricorn is one of the preeminent signs providing an opportunity to work with and ground the potencies of the spiritual will. And this opportunity is particularly powerful this year on account of the planetary alignment accompanying this full moon period with the first ray planet Pluto, making conditions conducive for bringing in the energy from the highest center Shamballa and grounding it within humanity. This energy can be used to good effect by the spiritual workers of the world as we cooperate with the hierarchical intention.

Each sign conveys a special kind of light and perhaps we might say that the light pouring in through this sign is the most rarefied of all, for this is the sign of highest elevation within the annual cycle. The light from Capricorn is the light of initiation, the light supernal, the light which is described in an ancient passage as that which clears the way to the mountain top...producing transfiguration...and thus revealing the rising sun.¹ This supernal light is said to be tinged with all the many colors of the heavens – the rays, constellations and planetary energies which combine to unveil to the astounded seeker that for which he has sought for aeons of time.

Let's visualize this light and its many colors pouring in and through the center Shamballa and being anchored in the mental plane as a giant waterfall of lighted energy, tincturing our world with its essence as we take this moment of silence prior to sounding the Affirmation of the Will:

In the centre of the will of God I stand.
Naught shall deflect my will from His.
I implement that will by love.
I turn towards the field of service.
I, the Triangle divine, work out that will
Within the square and serve my fellowmen.

OM

This light of initiation, as stated, “clears the way” to the mountain top thereby dispelling the fogs and mists that shroud the rising sun. Capricorn is, after all, the sign of initiation and of the individual in whom the head and heart, the mystic and the occultist, are perfectly blended and fused. The soul triumphs here and now rules the personality self, using that personality as simply a shell through which to pour and freely express its energies. This stage on the path is, as you know, known as the Transfiguration wherein the physical body increasingly becomes the vehicle for the expression of this special light as a result of fusing with the soul. This is the stage which the Christ

¹ *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice A. Bailey, p. 330.

demonstrated when he went up to the mountain, accompanied by his three disciples where it's said he was "...transfigured before them [and] His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."²

There is a particularly close relationship between our planet Earth and the august constellation of Capricorn and this closeness is said to provide ideal conditions on this planet for the achievement of this transfiguration initiation, this third initiation³. This is an amazing thought to consider. It would seem that this is one of the principle reasons why there is such a fierce backlash at this time as increasing numbers of the human kingdom are moving forward into greater light. As a result, there is a concerted effort to arrest our planet's movement into the light. One of the reasons why our planet provides ideal conditions for the taking of the third initiation could stem from the fact that the planet itself, over a long, long period of time, is also passing through a similar stage in its development which may be the reason why these ideal conditions are said to exist.

Initiation is a process that occurs on many different levels of consciousness simultaneously. Great systems of stars, stars of lesser magnitude, planetary Logoi, Masters, human beings and the lives within the three lower kingdoms in nature are all being given the opportunity at this time to take their next step into greater light. As a Master moves forward, for example, the entire ashram of which he is the head, moves forward in like manner. It's said that during the subsequent age of Capricorn, which will follow after the present incoming age of Aquarius, humanity as a whole will pass through the awakening that occurs at the time of the first initiation—a stupendous event in the life of a kingdom in nature which will signal a major step and shift in planetary evolution. But surely a large number of disciples will also be enabled to take the third initiation as a result of the training for group initiation being undertaken by the new group of world servers which will flower forth during the Aquarian age.

There is, after all, a deep relationship between this vast serving group and Capricorn as reflected in the fact that the Festival Week every seven years occurs in this sign. It's interesting to note that at the dawning of the age of Pisces the Christ's teaching to His inner circle of disciples focused much on the symbolism of the Aquarian age—particularly at the Last Supper in the upper chamber. Today, entering as we are into the dawning of the Aquarian age, we see that much of the focus of our work and the teaching that has been given is already heavily colored by Capricornian energies. Hence the growing recognition of the importance of the Capricorn full moon period, the December solstice and particularly the Festival Week of the NGWS.

Saturn, ruling in Capricorn, becomes a potent controlling influence throughout the long stages of human evolution. In the early stages it presents many challenges to the seeker on the way as he or she becomes subject to the materialistic forces playing through it. Saturn brings much karmic reckoning, leaving the individual confused, bewildered, buffeted by the whirling forces which carry him "up and down the land and nowhere is there rest." During this long period the individual becomes subject to the clearing process which Saturn unleashes within the life. But as one enters the path, the influence of Saturn begins to aid the individual and serves as a transforming agent as the life becomes governed by Law. The soul then declares, "I will determine for myself the way to

² *The New Testament*, King James Version, Matthew Chapter 17.

³ *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 620

go. Then onward I will move. I will not travel up and down the land nor turn in space. But onward I will move⁴.

All the planets move round and round the zodiacal wheel, from sign to sign in rhythmic turnings. The cycles of Saturn are extremely important for the discipleship group as a whole, highlight qualities that are working out in rhythmic movement. It's interesting to note, therefore, that as we approach that important year of 2025, Saturn will just be finishing up its nearly 30 year cycle around the entire zodiacal wheel and hence we can see the powerful culminating energies that are being released at this time. A powerful cycle is drawing to a close, paralleling as it does with the climaxing years of the Stage of the Forerunner. So between now and 2025 Saturn will be completing this cycle as it moves through the two final signs of the zodiac, Aquarius and Pisces. And then in 2025 an entirely new cycle begins as Saturn moves into Aries. So we can see how Saturn is moving in perfect tandem with the new group—moving through these final two signs of world service and the world savior as we approach the great centennial conclave. What a potent opportunity the new group has over this next three-year period.

We now approach the exact time of the full moon. Let us together appropriate the potent and transfiguring light that is available at this time. This light awakens within us the truth of our fundamental interrelatedness. This interrelatedness is mirrored in our breathing, enabling us to establish a rhythm with our group brothers, in the recognition that we all breathe the same cool, clear air as we take this yearly opportunity to strive towards the heights. This united breath, this pure light, strengthens us. With each turning of the spiral of the path we are aided to keep going through the cultivation of Shraddha, that Sanskrit term which translates as utter fearlessness. Like the young mountain goat, following his elders, jumping daringly across treacherous high mountain ravines, the group together forges bridges within consciousness. Fearlessness for the disciple is an inner condition, a cultivated quality that quite often belies outer conditions that might be crashing down. The materialistic forces foment fear but the goats of the world learn to rise above it. Let us so work at this time of the Capricorn full moon to instead cultivate Shraddha, and thereby strengthen the hands of all those who stand together with us within the periphery of the great Ashram.

⁴ *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice A. Bailey, p. 21.