

FULL MOON FESTIVAL - CANCER II - JULY 2024 -LONDON

The Gate of Cancer: Embracing Life in Form as a Means for Service

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Dear co-workers,

A very warm welcome to all of you, those of you here at the library in the Lucis Trust headquarters in London, and those of you, all over the world, who join us on Zoom. We come together, once again, in our monthly ritual to celebrate the Full Moon Festival, today with the Sun in the sign of Cancer – for a second time in this round of the Zodiac. Our ritual gives us the chance to reflect on the meaning of the Sign and on the opportunity that it offers us, so that we may consciously direct our progress as a group of dedicated servers, and open ourselves receptively to the energies that are available at this very special time of the month. We open to these energies as a service, so that we may help anchor them here on earth for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

We know that Cancer is one of two main gateways in the Zodiac. This is the gate through which the Soul enters the world of form, thus marking the transition from the animal state of consciousness into the human experience. The other gate, of course, is Capricorn, which marks the climax of that human experience and opens the way to the kingdom of spirit and universal consciousness.

While a human being can only go through the gate of Capricorn quite consciously and as the result of initiation, the experience of Cancer happens quite inevitably and unconsciously, thus bringing about what we know as a “crisis of incarnation” – in which humanity finds itself in the very basic stage of mass consciousness.

That is, precisely, one of the qualities of Cancer: *mass sensitivity*. For those who are not yet on the conscious path, this will mean to be swayed by the pull of matter, and thus be part of an undifferentiated mass while fully identified with its form aspect, particularly, the emotional plane. For those treading the Path, who, like Hercules, have experienced many cycles on the wheel; who, like him, have laboured through failure and sorrow, conscious effort and learning, it means to surrender to the guidance of the Soul and embrace life in form as a means for service.

The keynote of Cancer shows us what this sensitivity is for and what this service is: *I build a lighted house and therein dwell.*

To build a lighted house, that is the very purpose of incarnation. And the first step towards building that house is to face the crisis of incarnation and respond to it *consciously and willingly*, so that we may have an existence in form, but not be identified with it; so that we may use our awareness to understand the crisis as a phase in an evolutionary plan and use our creative power to give it meaning, purpose and direction. In the process, we will do the alchemy that will take us from mass consciousness to self-consciousness first and to group consciousness eventually.

“Shirk not these crises” – the Teachings tell us – “hard and difficult though they may appear to be (...) Forget not that the habit of confronting crises is a long-established one within the consciousness of humanity. (Crises) are only the points of examination as to strength, purpose, purity and motive and the intent of the soul. They evoke confidence when surmounted... They foster compassion... They release the Light of wisdom”.¹

That is our service: to start in Cancer the self-initiated progress – both at the individual and at the group level - that will release the Light of Wisdom and will take us to the second gate in Capricorn. And in doing so, to lift humanity with us.

Let us pause for a moment, to invoke the Light, the Love and the Will that will help us develop this quality of mass sensitivity, using the statement that the Soul makes to the personality – which you will find in your handout and on your screens:

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.

To face the crisis of incarnation *consciously and willingly* we need to have a deep understanding of the purpose of incarnation and of the nature of form and integrate them both very deeply into the fabric of our existence.

¹ Alice Bailey. *Esoteric Astrology*. Lucis Trust Publications. p. 477.

We know that a Soul incarnates for the purpose of building an adequate physical-etheric form for Its expression, and we understand this to be part of a wider plan for humanity and our planet. The teachings tell us that behind the Soul's intent to incarnate lie "Love as relationship to divinity and wisdom as relationship to form".² This expression reveals the process by which the Soul will learn to control and to use the form in order to produce earthly wisdom. This transformation needs to happen through conflict, through extreme opposites and through distortions, all of them consequences of the laws that rule over matter. It is through them that the Soul can create the lighted house It needs.

For this to occur it is necessary to anchor ourselves to Divine Love and use the light of the mind in order to frame all of our experiences in the context of the crisis of incarnation, constantly attempting to understand its purpose and the process that it needs. Without this anchor, without this understanding, form will be but a dark prison for the Soul.

"Love as relationship to divinity, and wisdom as relationship to form" can thus become an alchemical formula to guide us through the crisis of incarnation consciously and willingly... to guide us through our daily lives consciously and willingly.

We know that humanity stands today at a crucial juncture on its evolutionary journey: with a majority coming out of the state of mass consciousness, the whole having achieved a fair degree of self-consciousness, and a minority moving toward group consciousness.

Mass Consciousness includes a sense of the unity of Life, a deep connection to the natural world, and a tendency towards unity of Purpose. The distortions are that this sense of unity is driven by instinct and not by intelligence; that the connection to nature includes an over-identification with the form aspect and with the emotional plane; and that in the experience of total fusion, each of the units remains unconscious of its own potential.

The journey toward self-consciousness has brought humanity the possibility of discovering the potential of each human being, of understanding the unique contribution each individual can make and thus use our own distinctive intelligence and power. This development, of course, has brought about its own distortions. This higher degree of individuation has taken humanity to the extreme of rejecting altogether the sense of unity, falling prey to the illusion of separation - the personality from the Soul, a human being from another, humanity from nature, from the Divine...

² *Ibid.*, p. 341.

As we move into Group Consciousness we need to rescue the virtues of the two previous stages, while leaving behind their distortions – an instinctive sense of Unity needs to give way, through our intelligence, to a fully conscious experience of Oneness, guided by our intuition; and unity of Purpose must be grounded in the experience of full individuation. In Group Consciousness we all know ourselves to be small and powerful parts of a greater whole.

For humanity this is a long alchemical process through history toward synthesis. And it is essential to remember that this long process would not exist were it not for the very small and yet indispensable moments of alchemy carried out in daily life by all conscious human beings... small and powerful moments that release the Light of wisdom and produce a myriad of partial syntheses.

These small, indispensable moments of alchemy take place when in our daily lives we are able to understand the nature of mass consciousness and thus consciously resist the pull exerted by mass negativity and its astral glimmers - including fear, guilt, shame, lack of vision, or the instant gratification of desire - whether they seek expression in the life of the individual or in the life of the group.

These small, indispensable moments of alchemy take place when, using our intelligence, we become aware of the distortions of self-consciousness, and thus we are able to stand still and strong in the eye of the storm while personalities are seduced by a life expressed in extreme opposites, and while the illusion of separation drives them to either take too much credit for their qualities or to act out too deep a personal drama about their distortions.

Resisting the pull of mass consciousness and accepting the distortions of self-consciousness, each of us can reach a sense of right proportion and open to the intuition that will take us to have a fully conscious experience of Oneness. In the form aspect, this consciousness will be expressed as group fusion around the same purpose, each unit being as powerful and as brilliant as it can be.

This is how we create the building blocks for the lighted house; these are the stepping stones for the long journey through history to synthesis. True compassion - for humanity as a whole, for one another, for oneself - is of paramount importance: when we hold the vision of the Ideal, we can understand and accept the stages of the journey.

To face the crisis of incarnation *willingly* brings a note of surrender to our existence. First and foremost, to surrender to the fact that Life is the result of "cyclic impulsion" and thus it is "intelligent purposeful

repetition".³ This relates not only to the Law of Rebirth but also to the smaller and more numerous cycles of alchemy and synthesis that we experience within a lifetime.

Returning to the Labours of Hercules, after a whole year of hard work, he captures the doe - the elusive intuition - and brings it to Apollo's altar, only to find the shrine of the Sun-God empty again after a short while, and the doe gone. Likewise, after much inner work, we resist the pull of mass consciousness, we dis-identify from the distortions of self-consciousness, we move a bit closer to group consciousness... only to find that another round of the same work is needed again. "Did I perform the test, O Teacher Wise" - cries Hercules close to despair, and we might cry with him - "The fawn is back upon the hill where I earlier saw it stand".⁴

And the wise teacher replies: "Again and yet again must all the sons of men, who are the sons of God, seek for the golden, antlered fawn, and bear it to the holy place, again and yet again".⁵

Life is *intelligent purposeful repetition*. Purposeful, because it is meant to produce wisdom as we go through the different turns of the spiral. Intelligent, because we can be awake in the midst of it, consciously understand its Purpose and willingly surrender to it.

Life itself gives us the Purpose.

We, humans, must provide the intelligence.

"But where to find the willingness for this constant repetition?" - we could cry out, with Hercules. The pull of matter is powerful indeed and so is the darkness that can come with it. But we need to remember the Soul's intent: "Love as relationship to divinity and wisdom as relationship to form".

Therefore, in answer to our cry, while we go round in circles producing wisdom, the Soul, the Master, the Hierarchy will say, as reflected in this beautiful Agni Yoga sloka - "I know your tension, but accept it as a sacred ascent (...) let us not lose the moment to unite (...) hold my hand as an anchor".⁶

Perhaps this is one of the ways in which we can understand the nature of the second ray of Love and Wisdom: that it is only when we are anchored to Divine Love that we can stand the experience in matter, with its pull

³ *Ibid*, p. 325.

⁴ Alice Bailey. *The Labours of Hercules*. Lucis Trust Publishing, p. 81.

⁵ *Ibid*.

⁶ *Hierarchy*. Agni Yoga Society, p. 142.

and its darkness, and break through all of it, in the process producing deep wisdom to use as building blocks for our lighted house.

Perhaps we can even consider that the whole process - darkness and all - is, in fact, an act of Divine Love. For is not Love "the wielding of the force that guides the worlds and which leads to the integration, unity and inclusiveness which impels Deity itself to action?".⁷ Even the darkness of mass consciousness is part of the wielding of that force. And without the experience in Cancer, the soul would never awaken in the midst of matter and therefore would "never know God in manifestation".⁸

Only anchored to Divine Love can we survive intelligently the pull of matter, so that it does not become a prison. Without this anchor, we will find ourselves struggling to capture and master our own instrument, while surrounded by a multitude of forces that will claim ownership of it, just as Hercules was challenged by Artemis, the goddess of the moon, and Diana, the huntress of the heavens, who also claimed the doe as theirs.

Oh, this beautiful human instrument, endowed with the potential to have a supreme intellect of unparalleled power and to be driven by a formidable force of desire, destined to fully control the form aspect... to whom shall this beautiful and extremely powerful instrument belong?

"That instrument is mine" - says humanity's astral plane - "for all human beings are mine".

"No. It is mine" - says the individual personality - "for all instruments are mine".

"No. It is ours" - say the social, political and religious institutions and the constructs they have created and we have internalised - "for all minds are ours".

"No" - say the institutions that govern us - "it is ours".

"No" - says a so-called leader looking for a herd - "it is mine, for all individuals are mine".

"No!" - says the Soul to all of them -. "It belongs to God. It is an instrument for Light. It is meant to be an immaculate conception of Divine Love and to wisely create other forms in its own image". And turning towards the instrument itself, the Soul continues: "Let us not lose the moment to unite ... hold my hand as an anchor".

⁷ Alice Bailey. *Discipleship in the New Age*, Vol. I, p. 10.

⁸ *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 323.

Let us then, ready ourselves to go through the gate of Cancer for a second time, so that we can accept our daily life as *intelligent purposeful repetition* and experience this repetition consciously and willingly.

With our alchemical formula in hand, we will know that when we face the crisis of incarnation consciously, we create wisdom in our relationship to form, and that when we face it willingly we establish love in our relationship to divinity.

We have an opportunity to embrace the energies of Cancer and the quality of mass sensitivity, so deeply as to take them with us as fuel for our daily lives, where we must bring intelligence to the purposeful repetition life is offering us. Let us be distribution points for these energies so that they can reach the whole of humanity, but not just now, in our receptive meditation, but at every opportunity, by radiating this intelligence in our daily lives, practising it with everyone we meet, and bringing it to the core of our group activity.

Once upon a time humans were like little worms, working away underground. But really, they were wise alchemists in disguise, taking the darkness and dampness of the soil as basic ingredients for their creative power. Intelligence, made out of consciousness and will, has taken humanity to start building a lighted house. We knew that the underground soil was but a temporary prison and that we had been created to be free. Today so many of us stand firmly on the ground, conscious of our power as individuals, aiming to be high-soaring eagles flying steadily toward the new age of Aquarius and of group consciousness.

Our ingredients are now Light, Love and Goodwill, and the New Group of World Servers uses them in order to expand the lighted house, so that it can accommodate the whole of humanity. We are guided by the doe of Intuition, and we will bring it to Apollo's altar *again, and yet again*, bringing intelligence to the purposeful repetition.

Let us not lose the moment to unite.

Let us meditate together as a group, to hold to our anchor.