



**Transforming Planetary Consciousness
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity
Opening Address, Capricorn Solar Festival*
Monday, 1 January 2018**

Good afternoon, friends! Welcome and Happy New Year to each of you! May it be a joyous year full of many inspired opportunities for world service—for us as a group and for each of you, individually!

We are here to celebrate and observe the first Solar Festival of this New Year, auspiciously occurring on this very first day—in the sign of sensible, sagacious, complicated and illuminating Capricorn.

The exact time of the Festival will occur this evening at 9:24 p.m., in the U.S. Eastern time zone, which makes today a day of “Safeguarding”, a day of inner peace and silent solemnity—one in which we focus on the needs of humanity.

Identifying with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” our intention at these Webinars is to become as a living bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom, while recognizing ourselves as part of the world-wide group through which the available spiritual energies can be poured throughout the whole body of humanity.

In some traditions, it is thought that whatever we think and do on this first day of the year, sets the pattern for the rest of the year—what a good way for us then to begin the New Year!

As is our monthly practice, after this opening address, intended to unify, stimulate and prepare our group mind, we will move to the focus of our meeting, which is Group Meditation. Can we use this opportunity to cultivate and improve our ability to hold the mind, “steady in the light” as we proceed with our work?

Following the Group Meditation, you will have an opportunity to voice your thoughts and ideas, if you like.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2018 Capricorn Solar Festival Webinar Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the Aquarian Age Community. The books cited in parentheses are copyrighted, published and available from the Lucis Trust at www.lucistrust.org and from the Agni Yoga Society at <http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php>

The photo on your screen features the famous star Polaris—also known as the North Star or Polestar. As NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) explains, although it is only the 45th brightest star in the sky, Polaris is famous for appearing stationary. Once you find it, it will always appear in the same direction—all night and all day—for the rest of our lives.

Although, due to the precession of the equinoxes, first discovered around 127 BC by the Greek astronomer and mathematician, Hipparchus, we know that stars change their relative position over time and it is thought that a thousand years from now, around 3,000 A.D., another star, Gamma Cephei will take the place of Polaris.

The esoteric wisdom recognizes Polaris as the brightest star in the constellation of Ursa Minor. It is the star of direction, which governs Shamballa, the source of “unavoidable and directed planetary purpose”—the most spiritually advanced center of consciousness on our planet. As we know, it is from within this planetary Center that the course of Earth’s destiny is overseen and aligned with the greater Universal Whole of which our Earth is a part.

It’s also important to note that Polaris is esoterically regarded as the “star of re-orientation” whereby the art of “refacing and recovering that which is lost” is developed. It’s this process that eventually will see us all returning to our originating source—from which all things proceed and to which all things return. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 196)

More specifically, *Esoteric Astrology* teaches that Polaris is “peculiarly susceptible to the influence of that Pointer in the constellation of the Great Bear which is nearest to the Pole Star.”

This is significant because, whereas Polaris guides humanity upon the involutory path of outgoing and is constantly active in its influence upon the individual who is still upon the Mutable Cross, the energy of the Pointer furthest from the Pole Star begins to make its presence felt, resulting in a sense of right direction or guidance registered by the disciple upon the Path. It is this guidance—when followed—which will lead all disciples nearer to the Hierarchy. (ibid.)

And so we have depicted in this stellar symbolism, the necessity for achieving alignment, which allows for a direct inflow of divine energy, linking the individual in a new and creative manner to sources of divine supply. The intended divine circulatory flow is then constant and uninterrupted. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 196-197)

“Picture to yourself all the boundlessness of the stellar universe”, states the Agni Yoga wisdom, and “imagine that out of a closed house, you are coming into the Light. (*Leaves of Morya’s Garden*, Vo. II, 235)

With these preliminary thoughts in mind, can we together sound the Noon-time recollection?

“I know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch my heart anew with love that I too may love and give.”

[PAUSE.]

On the ordinary wheel of life, the keynote for Capricorn is, "And the Word said: Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide."

Here we have the key to the evolutionary urge, to the secret of rebirth, and the word which reverberates from Cancer to Capricorn.

The door of initiation stands ever open, but for eons of time the individual man and woman prefers the open door in Cancer. Ambition urges us on from life to life until all earthly gratification ceases to be fulfilling or meaningful. Gradually then, spiritual ambition and a desire for liberation take the place of worldly ambition, and it is this desire that becomes an impelling impulse, until finally the time arrives when a true sense of reality supersedes both earthly and spiritual ambition.

The individual can then say with truth, "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back."

There now remains no goal but service. The disciple then passes back through the gate of Cancer, but this time with the consciousness held steadily in the sign Aquarius.

From being the world initiate in Capricorn the spiritual seeker becomes an incarnated world server in Aquarius, and later, a world savior in Pisces.

And thus we have a clear explanation of the opening quote from this month's newsletter:

"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." (*Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II, p. 15*)

Through six stages—those of instinct, intellect, intuition, illumination, inspiration, and identification is human consciousness unfolded; this, as a result of the influence of the energies emanating from the zodiacal signs flooding our planet and available to us if, and when we prepare ourselves to receive them.

As we know, these energies are ever present, but responsiveness and sensitivity are always dependent on the nature of the individual or the responding unit.

Representing Soul consciousness in its later stages, Capricorn brings illumination and eventually, this results in the liberation of the initiate.

"I realize", proclaims the initiate who undergoes this experience.

Capricorn, we are told, is one of the most difficult signs about which to write as it is the most mysterious of all the twelve signs. The individual governed by Capricorn can express all the worst of which a person is capable and all the best! It is a sign of extremes.

For example, it is the sign of the Goat which seeks its sustenance in the most rocky and arid of the world's places and it therefore relates humanity to the mineral kingdom; it is also the sign of the Crocodiles which live half in the water and half on dry land; and, it is spiritually the sign of the Unicorn which is the "fighting and triumphant creature" of the ancient myths.

Under such diverse symbolism, this sign gives us a rather complete picture of individual man and woman with his/her feet upon the earth, yet running free and climbing to the heights of worldly ambition or of spiritual aspiration in search of what is seen to be at any particular point in time, his/her major need.

Esoteric Astrology describes these possibilities in this way:

“As the Goat, he is man, the earthly, human, greedy seeker after the satisfaction of desire, or man, the equally selfish aspirant hunting for the satisfaction of his aspiration. This sign portrays to us man, an ambitious animal in two senses of the word: in the early stage upon the Mutable Cross, man [is] the blend of desire (water) and the animal nature (earth), and upon the reversed wheel, man, [is] the blend of soul and form. It gives us the picture also of the triumphant initiate, the ‘unicorn of God,’ the symbol of the unicorn, with its one horn out-thrust like a single spear upon his brow instead of the two horns of the scavenging goat.” (pp. 153-154)

“In Capricorn, the initiate learns to realise the meaning of the growing light which greets his progress as he climbs upward to the mountain top.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 181)

“When we summon to the far-off worlds,” counsels the Agni Yoga wisdom, “it is not for a detachment from life, but for a discovery of new ways....Having deprived itself of the knowledge of cosmic vistas, humanity has dissociated itself from the manifestations of Infinity and has lost the thread of unity with the beauty of life and with cosmic energy. This cleavage is cruel.

“....Affirm yourselves in the acceptance of the great beauty of Infinity!” continues this wisdom. “Let the far-off worlds live in the consciousness of men as a wondrous kingdom. This is just as indisputable and just as real as the fact that a growing seed gives birth to a flower....We, the Brothers of Humanity, sound the summons to the far-off worlds!” (*Infinity I*, 44)

It is from the Mount of Vision, so-called, that spiritual seekers become aware of the beauty, glory and reasoned justice that lies just beyond the horizon, wherein humanity can begin to grasp the next peak of attainment.

Technically and specifically, spiritual vision opens up the world of the intuitional or buddhic plane, taking the spiritual seeker beyond the abstract levels of the mental plane. Herein, the basic purposes underlying all manifestation are realized. The alta major center becomes active and the thousand-petalled lotus within the crown chakra is unfolded. Thus, begins the reign of the Soul or the solar Angel.

The force of the lunar Lord—of the form, which has heretofore kept the energy of the higher centers imprisoned and quiescent, is now superseded by the solar Angel who can then freely pour in the Soul’s radiant energies—thus, does illumination occur.

It is helpful to keep in mind that all of humanity to one degree or another—either consciously or unconsciously, is involved in this fundamental struggle to attain the freedom whereby the Soul and its powers can unfold.

In *Esoteric Astrology*, the Tibetan Master explains that in a non-sacred planet, the higher divine aspects are not synthesized into one unit of conscious response and activity.

“Basically”, he states, “it might be said that a planet is regarded as ‘sacred’ when its informing spiritual Life has taken five of the major *cosmic* initiations and that a ‘non-sacred’ planet is one whose planetary Logos has not taken these initiations.

“This [he clarifies] is an inadequate definition and is only in any way to be understood if you bear in mind that initiation is a process of developing *inclusiveness*.”

He adds:

“Man is becoming inclusive in the planetary sense; the five major initiations which he eventually takes give to him a range of awareness which is infinitely beyond anything of which he can conceive at present. These initiations endow him with the ‘freedom of the planet.’ He is then responsive to all states of consciousness within the planetary ring-pass-not, and is becoming sensitive to extra-planetary perception.” (p. 503)

Dear Friends, given the current crises of our day, wherein so many of our brothers and sisters and innocent children the world over appallingly and tragically suffer, it is helpful to recollect the long evolutionary history of humanity that provides the context for today’s events.

It was in Atlantean days when individuals became so responsive to the then planetary and solar influences that the door of initiation into hierarchical experience was opened and two more signs were available to earth humanity. These two signs were the higher correspondences of Leo and Virgo—their polar opposites, Aquarius and Pisces. Their influence became active and effective and thus they formed part of the zodiacal wheel *because* man began to respond to their potencies.

It then became possible for the Fixed Cross to function esoterically in the life of humanity, and the first reversals of the wheel in the life of the advanced individuals of the time took place.

Understandably, it was this reversal which was the true cause of the great contest or battle between those who wished to progress into the Light and those who did not.

At that time, certain individuals had reached the stage of discipleship wherein they could consciously mount the Fixed Cross and be prepared for a major initiation. This, the Forces of Materiality and of Obstruction (as they are sometimes called) fought and the battle began.

Today, a similar conflict, but upon a higher turn of the spiral is taking place. The reason is that certain world disciples and initiates have reached the point in their unfoldment wherein they are ready to mount the Cardinal Cross and take some of the higher initiations.

Thus, the conflict is on between humanity (under the control of the Lords of Materiality) and the Hierarchy (under the control of the Forces of Light and Love), and right before our eyes and within our midst, the battle is being waged. Because the forces of the Cardinal Cross are so powerful at this time, the battle, as we can see, is terrific!

And so we are beginning to understand and accept the fact that the spiritual path is one of continuous cycles of growth and destruction, of rebuilding followed again by disruption—all part of the process that is the magical work of the Soul as it prepares the field of matter and form for its complete manifestation on planet earth.

As one of the four planetary Guardians of the Four Secrets, Capricorn guards the secret of the soul itself—the “secret of the hidden glory” and this it reveals at the time of the third initiation.

At this Transfiguration initiation, a vision appears before the eyes of the astounded disciple: the interlocking forces of all the twelve constellations, as they pour into and through all the kingdoms in nature, carrying with them also not only their own individual potencies but also those of the seven rays, focussed through the sacred and non-sacred planets—the discovered and undiscovered planetary Lives and their many weaving lines (seen as rivers and streams of light)—it is this vision that is given to the initiate from the mountain top of Capricorn, once the summit has been reached. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 167)

As a result of this realization, the initiate, who loves his brother on the darkened way, turns towards the dark and transmits the outward streaming light, and lo! the light increases on Planet Earth.

With these thoughts in mind can we now take up our meditation?