



**Transforming Planetary Consciousness
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity**

Opening Address, Capricorn Two Solar Festival'

Tuesday, 29 December 2020; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the sign of mysterious, illuminating and powerful Capricorn and all its attendant energies. This year is book-ended by this sign of Capricorn, as we began the year with the first Capricorn Solar Festival on January 10th and here we are, at the end of the year observing a second Capricorn Festival.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs later this evening at 10:28 p.m. Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we're meeting on the Sacred Day of Safeguarding, a day of inner peace and silent solemnity – one in which we attempt to hold ourselves steadily in the light, providing as clear a receptacle as possible, as we focus on the needs of humanity.

Dear Friends, the Winter Solstice is behind us and we are once again looking forward to the daily increase of light; the great conjunction between Saturn and Jupiter has released a wave of new and vital energies that along with this month's solar festival in Capricorn provide a sobering sense of solemnity and responsible optimism about what lies ahead for humanity and for our planet. Simplicity, Clarity, Realism, Loving Understanding, Truth, Transformation and Transfiguration come to mind as the qualities, attitudes and achievements towards which we are advancing.

Finding inspiration from the possibilities engendered by the celestial abundance and profusion and with the aid of the guiding Supermundane world, can we work with all the tension of our forces and with all those throughout the world who serve the Plan of Light and Love and Power as we strive to serve and uplift the whole of humanity?

Let us identify, as best we can, with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” affirming and intensifying our intention to act as a living, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa, and radiated into our planet by the Great Brotherhood, the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2020 Capricorn Two 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>

I would like to say a few words about the concept of “the little wills of men” by way of providing perspective and context. It is of course, Sanat Kumara, The Lord of the World; The Ancient of Days; the Lord of Venusian Love; the Eternal Youth of Endless Summers; the Great Kumara with the Flaming Sword—a few of the names by which He is known, that is the Fountainhead of Will and Purpose.

With our limited understanding and by comparison, our relatively low levels of consciousness, we apply our spiritual will as best we can, as we humbly seek to understand that Greater Purpose while recognizing that it is only Sanat Kumara and His Council at Shamballa Who embody and hold that Purpose in trust for our entire planet.

As most of you by now know, after this opening address, we’ll move to the focus of our meeting, which is group meditation. Following this, you’ll have the opportunity to voice any thoughts and ideas you might like to share.

The photo on your screen is entitled Cassini's Last Ring Portrait at Saturn. It comes from NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day, and I think you will agree that it is quite a dramatic depiction of this ringed planet. Taken with the Cassini spacecraft, which dove through the spaces between Saturn and its rings, we see the light of the sun just above the frame, causing Saturn to cast a dark shadow onto its enormous rings, thus providing this remarkable view of this planet, which is both the exoteric as well as the esoteric ruler of Capricorn.

The Secret Doctrine tells us that Saturn is a sacred planet, embodying the third ray of Active Intelligence or Adaptability, inhabiting the atmic plane of the spiritual will. As a sacred planet it aids in the processes affecting the fusion of soul and body; of consciousness and form while also producing the quickening of the intuition.

Because of a shared third ray, there is a special relationship between Saturn and our planet, Earth. This ray brings in the factor of discrimination through mental activity. Because the third ray dominates humanity at this time, humanity is absorbed by a tremendous activity as it demonstrates everywhere a vital discriminating and penetrating intellectual interest in all types of phenomena. As a result, the attractive power of the soul is growing steadily and the pull of the personality, by contrast, is steadily weakening, leading therefore to a growing appreciation of the world of spiritual values, slowly leading humanity from death to Immortality; from darkness to Light; and from the unreal to the Real.

“One of the most difficult things with which the Masters are today confronted,” states the Tibetan Master, “is to prove to man that the old and recognised values and the tangible world of phenomena (emotional and physical) must be relegated to their right place in the background of [wo/]man's consciousness, and that the intangible realities, and the world of ideas and causes must be, for him [and her], in the immediate future, the main centre of attention. When [humanity]...grasps this and lives by this knowledge, then the glamour which now holds the world will disappear.” (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. I*, p. 341)

Do we not see this process unfolding throughout the planet before our very eyes, as people everywhere search for purpose and meaning while striving to manifest the higher values and ideals in the daily life?

I'll say more about Saturn in a little while, but, for now, can we pause for a moment, as we normally do, and together sound the Noon-time recollection? Remembering, as we do, that it is the free and unimpeded circulation of energy between the three planetary centres of Shamballa, Hierarchy and humanity - *that we are striving to achieve* - which motivates this mantric thought.

“We know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch our hearts anew with love that we too may love and give.” [PAUSE]

Dear Friends, the keywords of Capricorn are significant and illuminating. Upon the ordinary wheel, the individual affirms, "And the Word said: Let ambition rule and let the door stand wide." As we know, the door of initiation into higher consciousness stands ever open, but for eons of time the individual prefers the open door of involution in Cancer. Ambition urges him and her on from life to life until s/he discovers the circumscribed limits of all earthly gratification.

Gradually then spiritual ambition and a desire for liberation take the place of worldly ambition, and become an impelling impulse, until finally, the moment arrives when a true sense of reality supersedes both earthly and spiritual ambition. The disciple can then say with truth, "Lost am I in light supernal, yet on that light I turn my back."

Capricorn is one of the most difficult signs to comprehend. *Esoteric Astrology* (p. 153) tells us it is the most mysterious of all the twelve zodiacal signs. 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.

Additionally, it is the sign of the triumphant initiate, sometimes called the "unicorn of God" who overcomes the personality, the king of beasts, leading to the triumph of group and world consciousness; the victory of selflessness and illumination over self-consciousness and selfishness. Indeed, a most complicated and mysterious amalgam of forces and energies!

Under the symbolism of the above creatures, this sign gives us a rather complete picture of the human being with his and 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 realized in any particular time to be the major need.

The symbol of this sign, sometimes called the "signature of God," is indecipherable and intentionally so. We are told that it has never yet been correctly drawn, partly because it is so powerful that its correct delineation and the ability of the initiate to depict it, produces an inflow of force which would not be desirable, except after due preparation and understanding.

Along with Aries and Taurus, Capricorn is one of the great transformers of the zodiac. The energies of these three signs work as catalysts — each of them opening a door into one of the three divine centres of expression reflected in the three higher centres in each individual: the head, the heart and the throat.

Aries opens the door into Shamballa, when the experience of Taurus and Capricorn has been undergone. Taurus opens the door into the Hierarchy when the significance of Gemini and Leo is understood and the first two initiations can therefore be taken. And, Capricorn opens the door into the Hierarchy in a higher aspect when the last three initiations can be undergone and the significance of Scorpio and of Virgo is understood.

Dear Friends, as we can see all around us, humanity is in a state of turmoil – an indication that it is preparing to take a great step forward in self-conscious unfoldment, and in the expression of the sense of responsibility, which is the first flower and fruit of self-conscious awareness.

The disciples of the world and advanced humanity are equally in a state of turmoil. As we know from our own lives and those of co-workers, disciples are experiencing trials and tribulations as they are tested and tried, prior to taking a major step forward, with some preparing to take the first initiation and others, the second.

The initiates of the world, in their turn, are being subjected to an inflow of force from each of the three Crosses. Once the lessons of these three forces are mastered, the initiates can then take the third initiation.

Seven constellations impact the above three groupings, all brought into a close combination at this moment of crisis and all responsible for world affairs as they are found today. These constellations are Cancer and Capricorn, two arms of the Cardinal Cross; Taurus, Leo and Scorpio of the Fixed Cross and Gemini and Pisces of the Mutable Cross.

Through its two rulers, Saturn and Venus, Capricorn is also connected with Libra, Gemini and Taurus. These four constellations make up a quaternary of energies and between them produce those conditions and situations which will enable the initiate to demonstrate his and her readiness and capacity for initiation. Together they are called the *"Guardians of the Four Secrets,"* with Capricorn guarding the secret of the soul itself – the “secret of the hidden glory” – revealed to the initiate at the time of the third initiation.

As we can see, there is a continuous and constant interlocking of the forces and energies among all the twelve constellations, as they pour into and through all the kingdoms in nature, carrying with them not only their individual energies and forces, but also those of the seven rays focused through the sacred and non-sacred planets – the discovered and undiscovered planetary Lives. It is at the Transfiguration initiation that a vision of these energies and their many weaving lines, seen as rivers and streams of light, is revealed to the astounded initiate. And, dear friends, we are daily showered with this abundance of energies, providing humanity with incalculable possibilities.

Along with the signs of Leo and Libra, Capricorn is a sign of crisis that indicates the progressive influence of the other nine. Capricorn brings about the crisis of initiation with each of the five stages, increasingly signifying the emergence of the dominating Christ life, which eventually brings about the control of the Christ consciousness or, group consciousness.

This triangle of energies also constitutes the triangle of the father or will aspect of life, marking points of attainment, through crises met and triumphant achievement.

It is via Capricorn that we experience the conquering will which releases us from form life and initiates the individual into the kingdom wherein the will aspect (not the soul aspect) of divinity expresses itself. As such, Capricorn is a transfiguring agent and there is a close connection between our planet Earth and Capricorn. Earth provides ideal conditions for this particular type of achievement because, as we know, it is in the process of transforming from the stage of a "non-sacred planet" into that of a "sacred planet."

It is for this reason that Saturn is such a powerful ruler and transmitter to the Earth of the dynamic quality of the first ray of power, which is becoming increasingly accelerated — a fact we see reflected in our existing planetary crises.

Esoteric Astrology teaches that Saturn is one of the most powerful of the four Lords of Karma. Because of the recent grand conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter, this is of special importance to us. It is Saturn which forces the individual and humanity, at large, to face up to the past and, in the present to prepare for the future.

Interestingly, and related to this statement, from certain angles, Saturn can be regarded as *both* the planetary Dweller on the Threshold, as well as the Angel of the Presence. As humanity faces its own Dweller, it discovers that both the Dweller and the Angel are that complex duality which is the human family.

Standing at the midway point between the material side of evolution and pure, divine energy, humanity is a product of the union of the two. According to the Ageless Wisdom, wo/man is "the child born of their marriage or at-one-ment. [S/]he assumes objectivity in order to express that which is in each of the two opposites, plus the result of their merging in him [and her]self."

This merging within humanity of the two poles of life gives birth to consciousness which allows humanity to understand "the relation of the Self to the not-self, of the Knower to the Known, and of the Thinker to that which is thought about." (*A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 243)

In Capricorn we have the triumph of matter, which in this sign reaches its densest and most concrete expression; however, this triumph is followed by that of spirit. There is full expression of the earthly nature in Capricorn but also immense spiritual possibilities.

It is understandable then that the planet Saturn rules the individual until he and she has taken the third initiation and can consciously mount the Cardinal Cross at which point the Initiate is released from the ruling of Saturn, coming then, instead, under the influence of Venus.

Here, it's important to recollect that Christ was born in Capricorn, fulfilled the law under Saturn, initiated the era of intelligent brotherhood under Venus and is the perfect example of the Capricornian initiate who becomes the world Server in Aquarius, and the world Saviour in Pisces, thus completing the round of the zodiac and able to say triumphantly in Pisces "It is finished." (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 168)

Dear friends, today, an evolutionary alignment is taking place. The planetary centre which we call Humanity is active and vibrant, and it is now possible to "progress along the Upward Way and create the line which links the lesser with the higher, permitting thus an interplay."

Individuals and groups are rapidly moving out of the human centre into the hierarchical centre; the masses within humanity are responding to spiritual impression.

At the same time, the heart centre of the planetary Logos, the Hierarchy, whilst it is being responsive to the invocation of the throat centre, Humanity, is becoming increasingly evocative and is itself attaining a much higher contact and alignment with the head centre of the planetary Logos; it is, therefore, capable of receiving a constantly developing dynamic impression from Shamballa.

Thus a great alignment is being achieved through the relationship and the interplay going on between these three major planetary centres, producing a constant inflow of energies from several different sources. These energies galvanize these three centres into a new and increased activity, assuring us that the streams of possibilities are incalculable and unutterable are the Forces which serve humanity, if we but pay attention. (*Telepathy, and the Etheric Vehicle*, pp. 132-133)

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