

Cycles of Life

T077 The Inner Teachings 25th May 1938 Pembroke Hall, London

Invocation:

We attune this group to the love of the cosmic Christ; we raise the thoughts and vibrations above the earth, and wait for our response to the rays of wisdom and love and power.

Amen.

We come from the spirit world to bring our love. You await our words, for the mind is hungry. But more: the soul is hungry and, through the mind, desires knowledge, stimulation, growth. But not through the mind only can the message, the revelation of the eternal truths be made known. In moments of silence you may absorb more than words can convey. Some may think that only when alone can good and beautiful vibrations be received and absorbed; they set aside a certain time for contemplation. But this new age is an age of brotherhood and group work. Those who find an urge to isolation should remember that they will, at some time, realise the value of group work, group service. In such a group as this there is an accumulation of rays of love and power, and it is for you to rise above the limitations of the physical, astral and lower mental worlds, until you can breathe in the gracious and all-pervading love.

We have purposely given no title tonight. We do not care for the restrictions of a label. We shall give tonight, and on successive nights, just that which you yourselves permit. Sometimes we find conditions limiting, and you yourselves not equal to journeying with us to those wider planes of consciousness. Then we deal with the simpler truths. At others, we can rise to a greater consciousness. We work on that vibration which is created by you in the group. You are all influenced to a degree by forces outside yourself—I will not say, outside your control, because man* learns eventually to control himself—and however much we aspire to freedom, there are these restricting forces to which we react.

*[*For editorial policy around gender, see the introduction.]*

Humanity craves understanding, and many brethren cannot feel any good can come from theorising on problems far removed (apparently) from everyday life. They feel that only in the simple and obvious can they gain understanding. The grand truths of the universe do not seem to apply to the simple problems of every day, yet they aid the expansion of consciousness, and instead of attention being focused on some simple and limited point, a wider perspective opens, and you begin to recognise how petty are those little problems of human life which seem to threaten to overwhelm and destroy you. When your mind realises the age-long journey which you have travelled, and can absorb the grandeur of life past, present and future, you can be more tranquil, placid, joyous, humorous about some of the overwhelming difficulties in your week's work. Do not think we fail to understand how vitally important your human problems seem, or that they are as great as the birth of a civilisation. But even civilisations are born, live, play their part in the grand scheme of life and then pass away. And then the next civilisation is born, the next great civilisation!

We have often said that man has a wrong conception of time. Historians count the age of the earth in tens of thousands of years, occult scientists in tens of millions of years! And you are

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living in but *one* cycle. We mean by that, your religious teaching of the past goes back some twenty-five thousand years, and this forms but *one* cycle in the world's history. Students of astrology are familiar with the 'ages' relating to the passage, or to the period of time between one sign of the zodiac and the next. You who are commencing to study astrology are familiar with the twelve signs of the zodiac, and begin to understand how these signs can affect the life of the individual. Now, for about two thousand years approximately, the world is said to be in a certain 'age', or under the direct influence of a certain sign.

We will go back a little way to the pre-Christian times, when the sign of Aries, the Ram, was the ruling influence, and we find that there was then the worship of the lamb. The Arietian Age and the religion of the Arietian Age has overlapped a little way into the Christian or the Piscean Age. Hence we hear of the blood of the lamb—all associated with the birth, sacrifice and death of the Son of the Ram, or the Son of God, the Christ. Despite this overlapping, the Christ age is the Piscean Age, the Age of the Fish. We are familiar with the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, or the multitude, with the loaves and the fishes, and have already given one interpretation of this miracle. Do not think that any one interpretation must be the only one, and all others wrong. Be expansive in your response to inner truths, and search for yourselves, seek for other interpretations if necessary.

We see in the feeding of the multitude with the fishes, the descent of the Christ spirit into the waters, or into the depths of materiality. We see symbolised in the taking of the fish from the waters, the teaching, the influence, the spiritual food of the Piscean Age, and the giving of it to the multitude, to the five thousand, to the hungry souls who were craving food. The influence necessary for their sustenance during the Piscean Age, the fish, was given. The loaves symbolised the Bread of Life from heaven: 'every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God',* out of the mouth of the Great Spirit, the Father, God. The Master stands for the symbol revealing this truth to mankind during that age. Do you remember, He bade a disciple put his hand into the water, and draw forth a fish? The Piscean influence again—a fish! And from the fish's mouth drew forth a piece of silver—a treasure! A treasure!—the treasure taken from the mouth of the fish—the Piscean Age. Think this out for yourselves; read the Gospels and, particularly, the Revelation of John. You will find contained therein inner truth, not only of that age—the Piscean Age—but of that which had gone before, and that which is to come: the whole history of this cycle, contained within the Revelation of the beloved disciple of Christ, the cosmic Christ.

*[*Matthew 4 : 4 : 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God'.]*

The Age of Taurus: the influence of this age is to be recognised in ancient Egyptian religions; the Arietian Age can be recognised in the Jewish religious rites; the Piscean Age, whose influence is to be recognised throughout the Christian teaching and the Christian rites! And now we are on the cusp, shall we say, or just within, the Aquarian Age. What will this bring? What is it bringing? The symbol of Aquarius is the man carrying the water pot from which are poured the eternal waters of life, the eternal waters of which even the Master Jesus spoke. The spirit, brotherhood, life. In some symbols, in some places, the symbol of the Aquarian

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Age is an angelic figure, that of the complete, the perfected man. Do you realise what this means? That there will come that transmutation of the creative forces in the human from the lower to the higher centre. You are actually on the fringe of this.

There are two kinds of astrology, that which centres round the earth and that which centres round the heavens. We are not dealing with that which centres round the earth and the individual, but more that which is centring round the Sun. Does that convey anything? The sign of the Sun—Leo—brings strength and great force to humanity, and there is a great deal in the symbol of the ‘grip’. Some present will know what I mean by this, and by the raising of Lazarus, the man lying swathed in his grave clothes, from the dead.* The ‘grip of the lion’ will raise that man from death to life. During this present age, events destined to awaken man from materialism (or from death to life) will come about when the Sun is in Leo. The Great War burst forth when the Sun was in Leo. That seemed a tragedy, and you would not think it was symbolical of an advance, but so it was! You have yet to see its outworkings. Actually it was the grip of the lion’s paw on the man (mankind) swathed in grave clothes, self-satisfied, wallowing in luxury and ‘smugness’. There is a danger, when there is peace, a tendency for people to roll themselves up in grave clothes, dead to the grander things of life. So there comes along the ‘lion’s paw’, giving them a tap, bidding them ‘wake up’. Not a very pleasant thing, when a war comes! We do not advocate war, but it is the natural outcome of the follies of man; the time will come when wars will fall into abeyance and be no more. Then the ‘lion’s paw’ will grip and raise men from lethargy in other ways. But we want you to note this fact, of the relationship of the Sun in Leo to this present Aquarian Age.

[*See John ch. 11. The ‘grip of the lion’s paw’ is a masonic reference.]

When we look out upon the mysteries of the universe, we realise how all things work together for good—how all events are within the mind of the Great Architect of the Universe. How small we are! How childish, how babyish to question and reason, instead of opening hearts and minds in confidence—a good word, *in confidence*—to Him, who holds the plan. Let us walk with tranquil hearts, with minds open to the glories of the invisible universe. We can then but be sincere and true in our relationships in everyday life; we can know there is no such thing as death, no separation. All is moving forward in an ordered way. ‘God’s in His heaven!’ We are His labourers. How grateful should be the labourers to the Master!

With reference to what we have already said about the part the sign of Leo has to play in this Age of Aquarius (the complementary sign to Leo) some of you have wondered why we always hark back to Egypt in our teaching. The Age of Taurus was the age of the ancient Egyptian religion; the sign opposite to Taurus is Scorpio, the scorpion, or in higher symbolism, the eagle, and we, you notice, use the name ‘White Eagle’. We want you to understand that ‘White Eagle’ is not just the name of a man. White Eagle is—shall we suggest?—a sign, an influence, a ray, a group. It is an aspect, perhaps, of a higher spiral of Scorpio. But the relationship between the eagle, or the scorpion, and the Taurean Age of Egypt, with this day, is that it is to bring back again to the earth the ancient wisdom which was practised and used in Egypt for healing and for building. Taureans—the builders, the builders of this grand cycle of life.

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Q. Is it significant that the signs you mention—Leo, Aquarius, Taurus and Scorpio—are all fixed signs?

A. In the four fixed signs you have the base of the pyramid, and the pyramid is the grand and ancient symbol of the whole of the world's life—the history of this cycle of life. There you have it, built on the four-square, and the Sphinx, the eternal symbol to man of the way in, the entrance to the temple. Through the Sphinx, or through the great Initiation, will man enter into the grand Temple of the Sun—the pyramid.

Q. With reference to the feeding of the five thousand with the three loaves and seven fishes—both mystical numbers—have you any comment to make on these numbers?

A. The Three is relative, of course, to the Trinity, the triangle of fire, and the seven, the mystical 'seven lights', the seven churches*, the seven vehicles of man, the seven planes of consciousness, the seven centres. The whole Bible is full of mystical symbology: the number twelve, for instance. You have the twelve signs of the zodiac, the twelve disciples round the Son, the Christ, the twelve tribes, again the twelve signs of the zodiac, and the twelve gates of the New Jerusalem, the twelve stones on the breastplate of the priest, and so on.

[*See Revelation ch. 2]

Benediction:

Beloved, on this night let us raise our hearts in thanksgiving to the Grand Master and to the Great Architect of the Universe. In thankfulness we journey forward towards the light. May we be not weary, but refreshed with the joy of Thy life, and praise Thy Holy Name, and bless Thee for our creation, our preservation, and the wondrous path of eternal progress which life unfolds.

Amen.

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