

Initiation – II

T115 The Inner Teachings 11th December 1940 St Mary Abbot's Place, London

Invocation:

We kneel in prayer before our Father-Mother God, praying for the blessings of wisdom and love and power. We humbly present before our Lord and Master our hearts and minds, praying that He will teach us the wisdom of the heavens. We would bless all men* through our lives and our willing services.

Amen.

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

We have spoken before about the invisible worlds of beauty, our soul and our spiritual worlds interpenetrating our physical world. There is a path of entry or approach into these worlds of life, a path upon which man was placed at his creation (not at his physical birth into this particular life but at his beginning) countless ages ago, when the divine Spark within each man was sent forth upon this path of spiritual evolution. In the course of that journey it passes through the vegetable, the animal and the human kingdoms; later, emerging from the human, man passes onward into the realms of the divine. The vista of life is beyond our comprehension; all we can say is that before us all lies a path of unending glory; ever grander becomes the soul's conception of life as it journeys onward and upward. Man emerges or progresses from one state to another by initiation. Many erroneous definitions are abroad regarding initiation. Let us explain this word simply—indeed, it is our custom to define spiritual things simply so that every listener can understand. If we appear to be elementary, bear in mind that there may be listening younger brethren who will read this message, who are unable to understand any other but simple things.

Before a child can understand his lessons they have to be explained not once, not twice, but many times; gradually the idea to be imparted is absorbed and the pupil becomes prepared for the moment when suddenly in a flash he will understand. Sometimes it is a long process. A pupil does not understand that which its master is trying to unfold until a certain point is reached, when all of a sudden the pupil knows—understanding comes like a flash. 'Why did I not see that before?' the pupil asks. 'It seems so simple now that I understand.' The old saying affirms that 'It is quite easy when you know how'. Revelation is simple when the soul receives illumination, when it knows. Whereas before the soul was in a state of darkness, with the incoming of intuition or illumination it enters into the light and all is made plain. Such an experience is called initiation. Sometimes the initiations are many in one earth life; indeed, each individual life consists of a series of minor initiations. Suppose a person goes through a particularly dark patch of trouble or sickness or suffers a great loss, undergoes some kind of injustice—all these experiences at the time seem hard and difficult to endure, yet such experiences when seen in their right perspective, with understanding that they are lessons through which your master is trying to make you see and understand life more perfectly, will be recognized as minor initiations.

So all life's deeper experiences, then, are in their way initiations, but there are major initiations as well as minor. The ancients taught that there are three major initiations for man: initiation on the physical plane, initiation on the soul plane and initiation on the spiritual plane of life. There are also four additional major initiations, not quite so important as these

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three. Try to think of the three initiations as the triangle which forms the side of the pyramid. A pyramid being four-sided, the base of the pyramid is the square. The base of the pyramid, then, rests upon the four other major initiations or lessons which the soul must learn. Thus the complete man is symbolized by the pyramid. These four lessons which I am now going to enumerate are the lessons of earth, air, fire, and water. These four form the base of your pyramid and the three great initiations the remainder. Remember that each of the major initiations contains within itself the minor initiations. Thus we have the four major initiations and then the three greater.

You will begin to glimpse the enormity of the lessons to be learnt as the soul journeys from its birthplace, the heart of God, down the arc, first through all the inner or invisible planes to manifest at length on the lowest plane of matter, and then it evolves through the mineral, the vegetable and animal kingdoms to the human, and then it returns on the higher arc, through higher planes in which even grander initiations are taken. We are, however, not concerned with these at the moment, except to bear in mind that as we unfold there comes an indescribable and indefinable joy to the soul and that there are more and more of these wonderful experiences until the human spirit stands forth, a perfect Son of God. Brethren, when you can realize this, your earthly life does not seem so worthless after all; earthly life falls into its true perspective; you begin to realize that every sorrow, every limitation, every self-denial, even the thralldom of fear which grips you sometimes, are all intended to teach or prepare the soul for an illumination which is bound to come. Therefore, those of you who feel that life is particularly troubled and you live in sorrow, do not be sad or resentful. These things are opportunities which the great God has brought. Examine your opportunities and you will find beauty and mercy in the plan.

So in life God lays before you opportunities to learn, to become prepared for initiation; too often in laziness and lethargy the chance is pushed on one side. People prefer to go along with their heads down, looking at the mud, and so do not see the angel—God's messenger, who is holding a golden crown of jewels before them. It is easy enough to talk, you will say. We do not talk without knowledge, for we know the sorrows of the earth life, we know the stones which wound your feet, because we too walk the path with you and our feet are wounded also. Never think that a spirit is free from the experiences that you endure. Had we not felt the cutting of the stones, had we not washed the path with our tears, had we not known the blood of human suffering and sacrifice, we should not dare to speak. But we know the glories of the soul, the heavenly life; we know that you, my brother and my sister, can gain entry into happiness by enduring these lessons, and step by step passing through initiation in illumination of the spirit.

Some say that initiation is intended to give the candidate a 'boost', a lift up. Initiation is a method of gradual approach to the most High, introduced to mankind after what some call the 'Fall of Man' into the darkness and limitations of the earth life. Initiation is a gift of the Great Ones to enable mankind to regain the heights. Many of you have had experiences by which you have become aware of something not realized before—a deep peace, maybe, a great strength or a great joy. These may have come at some time when you have been alone or

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communing with nature or when listening to music. Something may have happened then which has changed you because you can never lose the memory. That is a small initiation.

Let us return to the four great lessons to be learnt—the lessons of earth, air, fire and water, which lessons will be crowned by three great initiations. I suggest that the three crowning initiations are governed or ruled (a) by the planet Pluto over the earth, (b) by the Moon over the soul and (c) by the Sun over the spirit. Pluto, the Moon and the Sun are the main directors or influences which work through the physical body, the soul and the spirit. To teach the lessons of earth, air, fire, and water, the twelve signs of the zodiac are divided into four sections. The airy signs tend to teach the soul the lessons of that element; all the earthy signs teach the soul the lessons of the earth element—and so on. You can tell your particular lesson by finding out what sign the Sun is in at your birth. Those under earthy signs will find that experience is teaching them the lesson of service. Earthiness may seem to chain them, and they go through some drastic experiences when learning the lesson of service. You must not live for yourself; the bodily nature may self-indulgently want to draw things to itself, to accumulate possessions in order to gratify selfishness, but eventually the soul has to learn there is only one thing to live for—service to humanity. Those on that path of service will often accumulate wealth, only to have it taken away again and again. The lesson to learn is to give in service to God and man, to realize that their life on earth should be lived to serve.

The air lesson is the lesson of brotherhood. The airy signs are mental signs; those under these airy signs tend to be self-centred and engrossed in their own thoughts and world. They want to get away from life and people, like to be free, as the air, and they are constantly changing their ideas, interests and opinions. These people have to learn the lesson of brotherhood. Life won't let them follow self-interest. Later on they will come out into public life. The lesson put before them again and again is that of brotherhood. They may not live to themselves, but have to learn to share with others the wonderful revelation coming to them, the knowledge that is not for themselves alone but for their brothers. They must share, they must give out, they must not be hermits. That is the lesson of brotherhood.

The next lesson is the lesson of love—the fiery lesson, and in the lowest degree can be selfish. But those under these signs have to learn not to draw love to themselves—although they may allow themselves to be unloved, they must still give love. The fiery subject likes to attract attention, but it has to learn so to love its neighbours and love God that it directs all attention to others and to God, the true Light and the heart of Love. It has to learn that only God is wise and only God is great. The little self has to fade right away—it is nothing—only God is good and great.

The last of the four initiations is that of the water element. Water can be turbulent, noisy, unpleasant, dangerous. It can appear a great enemy, a great dragon, but it can also appear to be a divine angel of peace. Do you remember that Christ stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee? Christ was the Master of the Age of Pisces, a water sign; he was thus demonstrating to humanity the great lesson of the water signs, which is peacefulness. He came to teach and to bring peace. All living under a water sign have to strive to learn to be peaceful, to control their passions, jealousy, anxiety and fear. They have to learn to find that place of stillness, to

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gain equilibrium and be at peace, and every experience in life will tend to test them as to their progress.

When the soul has complete dominion over earthiness, the soul is untouched by praise and favour, by blame and disfavour, by the loss of property, the lack of possession. When that soul has reached that stage, it has passed a great initiation. When the soul has learnt the lesson of air—has learnt brotherhood, it is ready to share everything with humanity; when the soul has learnt the lesson of love, it gives itself without thought, does not desire to attract attention, and will labour without any thought except of God; that soul has become an initiate of the fire, for nothing causes it pain, nothing gives it sorrow, it is at-one with Love.

Lastly, the water initiation. The soul which has achieved control over passion and emotion, which is untouched by earthly buffets, by rain and storm, the soul which remains calm and serene in the face of all trial, is an initiate of the element of water and has learnt the lesson of peace.

We beg you not to forget what we have said. Try to meditate upon these things, and may God bless you all, and may you be receptive to the loving guidance and inspiration of the angels of your master and your teacher, so that you may henceforth hasten forward the day of your own initiation into the glories of the invisible world.

Amen.

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Astrology, spirit life, opportunity, elements, dispassion