

The Festival Week and the Law of Group Progress

by
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The Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers has deeper meaning than many of us may realize. A great cosmic experiment in group training is now underway under the direction of the Guides of the Race. It has been going on for more than 250 years. It is described in a section of *Esoteric Psychology, Vol. I* entitled "Astrology and the New Groups." It is in this section that DK uses the term "festival week" to identify the "week of group impact" that occurs every seven years in the sign of Capricorn from December 21st to December 28th.

In a discussion of the Seven Laws of Soul or Group Life, DK¹ focuses (in this segment on astrology) on the fifth Law of the Soul, called The Law of Group Progress, or the Law of Elevation. It expresses the potent energies of the seventh ray working to bring together spirit and matter. It is through a study of the Law of Group Progress that the deeper meaning of the Festival Week can be realized. The symbol, associated with this law, gives us our first clue. It is "The Mountain and the Goat."

This symbol is described briefly in *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* on page 1221. [Note, if you will, the synchronicity of the page number with December 21st (12/21)—the end-date of the long cycle in the Mayan calendar.] The Law of Group Progress is presented on page 1,221 as follows:

Law 5. The symbol for this is the mountain with a goat standing on the summit, and again an astrological sign, that of Capricorn, can be noted. All hard places can be surmounted, and the summit reached by the "Divine Goat," symbol of the group, viewed as a unit.

The phrase—"the group, viewed as a unit"—is a major clue to understanding, which we will examine shortly, but, first let us consider "The Divine Goat" and try to penetrate its deeper meaning. To aid our quest, it will be useful to take the long view of history. We will stand (as DK advises us) in the present and strive to perceive both "that which has been attained and... that which lies ahead to be attained."² We will look both backward and forward.

This Festival Week of 2012 provides the perfect opportunity for us to do so. Let's take the long view of history and look through the eyes of the Hierarchy for a moment at the "great group training experiment" begun in the early 18th century—first looking to the past to identify the period of first impact of seventh ray energy, proceeding then to follow the development of human consciousness under the Law of Group Progress. For the sake of time, we will only touch briefly on the highlights.

In 1675 Ray 7 came into manifestation creating a rare situation, launching an evolutionary cycle in which "two rays of great potency are functioning simultaneously"—Ray 7, the ray of ceremony and order, and Ray 6, the ray of devotion and idealism. The seventh ray is coming into manifestation; the sixth ray has (even to this day) not yet withdrawn from outer expression. The seventh ray is gradually bringing into

manifestation the ideals envisioned during the preparatory cycle of sixth ray activity. Such periods where two rays follow each other in sequence (seven following six in this instance) are always tumultuous, and DK describes this transition phase, where two rays balance each other out, in the following dramatic terms. It is...

"A time of rending, when the mountains, which have sheltered, fall from their high places, and the voices of men are lost in the crash and thunder of the fall". Such periods come only at rare and long intervals, and each time they come a peculiarly significant period of divine activity is ushered in; old things pass entirely away, yet the ancient landmarks are restored.³

Foreseeing the significance of this momentous turning point in human history, the Hierarchy met in conclave in 1725 to decide what to do. Following their centennial gathering, the decision was made to take steps to "hasten human evolution." A group of souls awaiting incarnation were induced to take on physical plane bodies earlier than planned. They were a group of souls "whose time had not truly come," but their presence on earth was needed as a conditioning influence to avert future difficulties, and to ready human consciousness for the appearance of the New Group of World Servers. Their collective influence over the centuries (through multiple lifetimes) has contributed to such signposts of history as:

- the culture of the Victorian age
- the reaction against Church dogmatism
- the great movements towards freedom
- the great scientific developments, and
- the present sexual and proletarian revolutions.⁴

The presence of this group has brought, as DK notes, both the good and the bad, but, from the point of view of the watching Hierarchy, their entry into physical form "ahead of their time," in the beginning of the 18th century, marked the beginning of "the civilization of modern times."⁵

Parallel to this hastened evolution of modern civilization (beginning in the early 1700s) the Hierarchy added to the mix, gradually releasing potent cosmic energies into the planetary auric field, with a higher goal in view—the elevation of humanity to spiritual levels. The Law of Group Progress "embodies one of these energies"⁶ and the symbol of this law, the "Divine Goat" mounting the summit, represents the spiritual principle of transmutation, or the lifting up of energies from lower to higher centers of focus. The influence of this law, known esoterically as "The Law of Elevation," was first felt by awakening humanity following the hierarchical conclave of 1725.

Every seven years since then these energies have impacted humanity, but initially they were registered only faintly, if at all. As time progressed the human capacity to respond to these cosmic forces increased and, finally, in the early part of the twentieth century, the more evolved souls within the body

of humanity began to work consciously with the Law of Group Progress in service to the greater whole, and thus the New Group of World Servers took form.

As DK puts it, “the emergence of a band of ‘conditioning souls’, under the name of the New Group of World Servers, has been possible since 1925” because of the increase of “light” within humanity over a period of 200 years (1725 through 1925). This increase was due, in large part, to the influence of these advanced souls *incarnate ahead of their time* who prepared the way.⁷

The goal of the hierarchy in releasing the potency of the "Law of Group Progress" during this period (to impact the human psyche rhythmically every seven years)⁸ was to produce what DK calls “the coherence of units in a group” with the intent of “forming them into one living organism.” We show ourselves ready to participate in this *group work* once we begin to recognize three group essentials and set them as personal priorities: “group affinity, group objective, and group goal.”⁹

For some of us these essentials fall into the category of “that which has been attained.” For others, they can be viewed as “that which lies ahead to be attained.” What the Hierarchy is looking for (and building toward), no doubt, is for enough of us to have mastered these essentials of group work that the Group of World Servers may be viewed (and used) by the Hierarchy “as a unit.” When this is a reality the Divine Goat (awakened humanity) will have mounted the summit and the real work will begin.

In the final analysis, the Divine Goat stands for humanity as a whole—or, at the very least, the awakened members of the human family working together as a group. It is a macrocosmic symbol presenting a vision of possible attainment for humanity. It offers us the image of a World Group united, functioning as a cooperative unit...hinting of a future possibility—calling to mind the image of an awakened humanity, raised up in consciousness and consciously carrying, or transmitting, cosmic energies in service to the Plan.

On a planetary level, the higher center of force to which energies are being lifted is the planetary ajna center, corresponding to the brow chakra in the human being. This center embodies the directing energy of the personality once the personality is fully integrated. As is the case with individuals, for the earth as a whole, the collective persona (in the developmental stages) serves as the mask or veil of the True Spiritual Self, until the evolutionary cycle nears completion.

In the early stages of evolution the New Group of World Servers existed only in potential. Thus, prior to 1725, the still evolving lower self of humanity served as a mask of the soul, veiling the light of the World Soul from expression until the personality instrument had become adapted for fit use. Once the personality instrument (the New Group) had become somewhat organized—integrated, and aligned with the Soul (early in the 20th century)—it began to fulfill its destined role in the unfolding Plan. The planetary ajna center was now capable of transmitting higher energies. DK put it this way in 1942:

The ajna centre of the Lord of the World is just beginning to express itself in a recognisable manner through the New Group of World Servers. This intermediate

group—between the Hierarchy and Humanity—is a carrier of the energy which makes the Plan possible (the Plan of which the Hierarchy is the custodian).¹⁰

DK points to the role of the New Group as mediator between the Custodians of the Plan and humanity in need. The life purpose of the Spiritual Hierarchy is “the good of humanity” and the “Members of the Hierarchy are...the Custodians of the divine Plan and expressions of the Love of God.”¹¹ The members of the New Group recognize this inner world government and the emerging evolutionary plan (consciously or unconsciously) and seek to cooperate with it. As DK states, those who are attuned to the values of the World Group...

...appreciate the necessity for world peace, international order and religious understanding—all leading...to economic stability... [They strive towards] Unity, Peace and Plenty...[leading] sequentially and automatically from one to the other.¹²

Finally, he concludes: “The major instrument today for the achievement of world unity is the New Group of World Servers.”¹³ This was, however, “only in potential” in the 1940s when this statement was made. The full function of the New Group of World Servers had yet to be realized and the energies of the Law of Elevation and Group Progress had not reached full expression (as is still the case today). The Hierarchy (in preparation for the New Age) had only just begun to influence the collective consciousness of the race through the release of cosmic forces.

These energies were directed to impress what DK describes as a Great Being “Whose purpose is working out into manifestation” through the Laws of the Soul. They emanate from an unnamed constellation outside of our zodiac in deep space. These energies embody the spiritual principles that govern the soul, including: The Law of Sacrifice, The Law of Service, and The Law of Magnetic Impulse, among others. The Law of Group Progress is one of the higher soul laws whose full force is felt only by initiates after the 3rd initiation. The “Progressive Energy” that it transmits is the energy of buddhi (spiritual love-wisdom or inclusive reason of the True Self—the Spiritual Triad). It comes to humanity via the love petals of the egoic lotus and its subsidiary Law of Magnetic Impulse, which carries the second ray energy of love-wisdom.

The ray in which “the highest and the lowest meet”¹⁴ (Ray 7 blending spirit and matter) works through The Law of Magnetic Impulse (Law of Attraction—Ray 2), which governs soul-to-soul relations between groups. It is the combination of the 7th ray energy with the 2nd ray that will bring the cosmic influences released by the Hierarchy into full effect.

The results envisioned are reflected in the words of the scriptures: “I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto to me.”

Djwhal Khul alludes to this passage in a summary description of The Law of Group Progress near the end of *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*. His words invite deep reflection:

The Law of Group Progress...is sometimes called "the Law of Elevation" for it concerns the mysteries of group realisation, and expansions of consciousness and the part each

unit plays in the general progress of a group...no human atom arrives at "fullness of life" without adding much to...his own group. The elevation of a unit results in the raising of the group; the realisation of the unit...the attainment of the goal by the human atom...brings about steadily and ceaselessly group achievement. No man liveth to himself...

Sacrifice, Service, *Magnetism* ("I, if I be lifted up, draw"), *Group Progress*...these are but the inadequate terms whereby we seek to express the divine truth that the...[expression of the whole life and purpose of God will] only be revealed, when He has brought each atomic unit to the stage of self-realisation.¹⁵

At this momentous turning point in history, as we approach the 12/21 end date of the Mayan Calendar, may these words of the Tibetan Master inspire us to envision together our possible future. One great cycle is ending and another is beginning. Let us imagine the Group of World Servers across the globe linked together in loving relation, impressed "as a unit" by the Guides of the Race, lifted in consciousness, and moved into loving service to create the new world.

¹ The Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul, source of most of the Alice Bailey books.

² *Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II*, p. 339.

³ *Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*, p. 358.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 261.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 194.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 261.

⁸ Another name for this Law of the Soul is The Law of Rhythmic Living. The cyclic flow or "tide of Capricornian influences" into the radius of human consciousness "every seven years" demonstrates the rhythmic nature of this law. In this respect, the Law of Rhythmic Living (the Law of Group Progress, the Law of Elevation) can be associated with the practice of pranayama, or the control of prana through proper inspiration and expiration of the breath. It is thus connected to the control of the vital forces of the etheric mechanism, which serves as a field of expression for the soul. On a planetary level, the vision that DK holds before humanity is the future attainment of the rhythmic response of a united group of World Servers...consciously responding to hierarchical impression..."as a unit." In such a scenario, "the united breath" of the World Servers Group mobilized as a whole will augment the individual will and the creative initiatives of the members of the group at work in the world.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 195.

¹⁰ *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 368.

¹¹ *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*, p. 416.

¹² *Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*, pp. 659-660.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 660.

¹⁴ *The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 518.

¹⁵ *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, pp. 1217-1218.