EGOIC LOTUS WEBINAR COMMENTARY #6 – Michael Robbins

## Abstract

Egoic Lotus Webinar Commentaries 6. This webinar is about 2 hours long and covers *Esoteric Psychology* Vol I pages 322-324. Program 6 begins to offer a discussion in detail of the Eight Stages of Adaptation—the production of "conscious control" by the soul of its form. First the Stages of Adaptation are read through then they are studied carefully linking them to the Ten Groups of Souls and various of the petals of the egoic lotus. This program studies Stages of Adaptation 1 through 5—from completely unconscious, instinctual adaptation to adaptation which is beginning, with right motive, to be considerate the of the rights and condition of others.

## Contents

[Abstract 1](#_Toc458356483)

[Transcription of Egoic Lotus Commentary #6 1](#_Toc458356485)

[Stage of Adaptation #1 3](#_Toc458356486)

[Stage of Adaptation #2 4](#_Toc458356487)

[Stage of Adaptation #3 6](#_Toc458356488)

[Stage of Adaptation #4 9](#_Toc458356489)

[Stage of Adaptation #5 12](#_Toc458356490)

## Transcription of Egoic Lotus Commentary #6

We are working on the preparatory material for the correlative study of the Egoic Lotus. The in-depth study of the various petals of the lotus and we have spent maybe 3 programs, maybe a little more, on the study of the 10 groups of human souls, all the way from the most atavistic and primitive, the lowest forms of expression of humanity on our planet at present up to the Masters of the Wisdom. Now we are going to look at a parallel grouping of individuals, only this is coming under the process of stages of adaptation. There are 8 of these stages of adaptation to be compared with the 10 groups of souls. And sometimes they interleave in very interesting ways. So I thought what I would do is read these 8 stages – that will take maybe half an hour and then we will go into the careful study of each one of the stages and try to correlate the stages with the 10 groups of souls.

"Process: In the human family, owing to the presence within the human physical form of a thinking entity, called by us the Soul, the procedure followed in order to produce conscious control is that of adaptation." EP I, 322

24:00 We began with the ***Process: In the human family, owing to the presence of the human physical form of a thinking entity.*** It has been said of man, what is man? An animal plus a living God. The physical form of course is the animal particularly and the thinking entity is the living God, that unit of being consciousness. It is . . . ***called by us the Soul.*** Here he does capitalize it. There is no consistency in capitalizing the word soul. So one has to be very careful of the context. . . . , the procedure followed in order to produce conscious control is that of adaptation. Will is involved and Intelligence together. Will and intelligence produce adaptation. Of course, there has to be as well the desire factor. So the will factor working through the mind and intelligence, plus the desire to achieve a certain end, even if it's just the comfort of the moment, produces adaptation. There is soul control achieved through adaptation. So the 3rd ray is required. Adaptation is related to Mercury. Mercury is interesting. We say it's a 4th ray planet. It is in the sense of its soul but I have speculated at least that its personality and its ultimate Monadic nature is that of the 3rd ray with its, in my view, secondary Monad nature being on the 5th ray. So mind and the 3rd aspect of Divinity: Mind, Intelligence the 3rd aspect of Divinity, Will, desire: these produce adaptation. The production of conscious control eventually. At first it may simply be getting by in the environment to the advantage of the form that is being directed by a kind of instinctual intelligence but later it is definitely a controlled divinely inspired process to produce the alignment of the activities in the outer world with the archetypes of the inner world. You adapt the outer conditions to the inner archetypes and when they finally really resonate and are congruent, then you have achieved your purpose.

"All forms in the three lower subhuman kingdoms are also subjected to the process of adaptation, but that is a group adaptation to environment, whereas in humanity we have the adaptation of the individual to his environment." EPI, page 322

And of course it is unconscious. Maybe it is not unconscious from the point of view of the entity that informs the life of a particular Kingdom which includes the forms but from the point of view of the particular units of life they are endowed with instinct - a kind of unconscious tendency towards a life preserving activity, or at least a form preserving activity, we can call it that. We have to be careful how we use the word life. Sometimes the word life is used to mean the being which is at the heart of all things, and other times it represents the vitality and other times it is simply represents the livingness of the form, the animation or movement of the form, whether it is breathing or not. There is a group adaption to environment. It happens through the group soul but behind the group soul there are entities which embody these various groups of forms, whereas in humanity we do have the adaptation of the individual to his environment. Once a man begins to come to himself and a man is an individualized mind, how long does it take before he recognizes that is another matter. D.K. talks even about 3 million years from a time individualization occurred, but man eventually recognizes a self in the field of all the other things. It's kind of a reflexive consciousness, a backward turning consciousness. The seer sees itself as it were.

28:36 So he is an individualized mind. That came about of course through individualization.

“The person who works consciously and intelligently at adapting himself to that situation and those conditions in which he finds himself is relatively rare. Conscious adapting of oneself to circumstances is the result of evolutionary development. The stages by which man arrives at this capacity may be enumerated as follows:” EP I, 322

***The person who works consciously and intelligently at adapting himself to that situation and those conditions he finds himself is relatively rare.*** I mean often we sort of bumble along and we have so many different human beings who are not particularly involved in attempting to improve their nature. They simply want to fulfill their desires. So they do not think within themselves how the activity patterns through which they live can be improved according to some higher pattern which they are beginning to sense. But we, aspirants and disciples, this is something we had better do to make things better in our environment, not only to fulfill our desire nature but in line with those patterns, archetypes which we sense as the divine plan. These immanent patterns and archetypes. So we have these Saturnian conditions, things as they are, and these things can be changed for the better, consciously so. Things as they are can become as they are intended to be. That is really what purpose is - it is a pattern which is intended to be by the supervising Logos, whatever stature that Logos may have. Man himself is a supervising Logos but every Logos has his superior and even when we get to the Universal Logos, we cannot say that the absoluteness which is the cause of all things is infinitely superior to any possible Logos.

31:37 This is interesting, I am remembering here that Leo is positive to circumstances, especially when related to Uranus and tries to control them instead of just going along as circumstances indicate and that is why, from one perspective, Saturn has its detriment in Leo and Uranus is the ruler. See circumstances as they are, which is Saturn, do not do so well in the face of the Leo, deeply individual, positive intention ruled by Uranus. We know that the Hierarchical rules of Leo is Uranus making all things new according to the Will and hopefully not just the individual will but a Higher Will which has been affecting the individual.

You know what I am doing here. I am reading basically the Tibetan's statements, then elaborating on them by ideas that have been collected over time and putting in some new ideas occasionally - weaving it all together as much as may be possible. And giving through this elaboration food for thought, so that the mind can grow and become useful and become intuitive and an instrument for discovering and revealing reality.

***Conscious adapting oneself to circumstances is the result of evolutionary development.*** It wasn't always so. Early man had sort of an unconscious, instinctual change in the face of circumstances. And let's just say form enhancing or form preserving change. You know the whole idea of the survival of the fittest is an adaptation. Those forms who could reacted in a way to circumstances which allowed them to survive and other forms did not have sufficient power, strength, instinctual response to adapt in that way and they failed. And therefore the idea is the ones who succeeded in surviving passed on their tendencies, their hereditary material to their offspring and these offspring were somehow endowed with that capacity. But of course we have to remember about the group soul - the passing on of success, really in those animal days, goes to the group soul, and then when forms are born, albeit out of the most fit, the ones who did survive, they inherit that which the group soul knows. It's not that they inherit that which is coming directly from the form per se because the inner qualities of intelligence and instinctual response are stored in the group soul.

35:01 ***The stages by which man arrives at this capacity may be enumerated as follows:. . .*** the capacity to adjust and change his environment according to his intentions, and if those intentions reflect Higher intentions, then so much the better. Not my will but Thine be done. So we may enumerate this as follows. Now basically I think it has been well said that we are developing here the Brahmic factor particularly. There is Brahma, there is Vishnu, there is Shiva, the ancient Hindu trimurti and that trimurti is an expression of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd aspect and we are dealing here with the intelligence or the 3rd aspect primarily. That Will will be behind it and desire representing the 2nd aspect will be behind it, of course, but the actual mechanism is one of intelligent action, Active Intelligence, right? And that's Brahma, isn't it? Intelligent action is the main focus and thus Brahma.

## Stage of Adaptation #1

“1. That unconscious adaptation to his environment of the man who is primarily an unintelligent animal. Low grade savages are in this class, and many purely agricultural peasants who have not been subjected to modern education. The man at this stage is little better than an animal and is governed entirely by instinct.” EP I, 322

Alright, so now we deal with unconscious adaptation. I think we have all experienced it. I did something and things got better but I don't know what I did and so you know things have improved but I haven't really gained from what it was. It was just an instinctual response and I survived and things improved for me and that goes on for a long time. So, that unconscious adaptation, well is it also unintelligent or unintelligent consciously because if built into every adapted form is that inner God which is guided by the Being who is informing the Kingdom in which that particular form or that particular unit is found. And that great Being who is the Lord of a Kingdom has great intelligence so imbues its representatives, as unconscious as they may be in themselves with instinctual intelligent adaptivity.

38:36 So the unconscious adaption to his environment of the man who is primarily an unintelligent animal and yet some good things do happen from this and man rises still even with this apparently unconscious unintelligent reaction, adaption. ***Low grade savages,***. . . I guess D.K. is implying that 'savage' used to mean the wise one because there was a time in history when industrialization of society was producing many abuses and people were suffering and living diminished lives and there was the sense that if we only got back to nature and returned to the noble savage, the novel wise one, the savage, we would touch a type of knowing about living that we had lost long ago perhaps. But anyway, I think he is meaning here people who are in the very natural state; they have not had a lot of soul experience in general the so-called savages, a person of nature or close to the environment or close to the elemental life. So low-grade savages are in this type and many purely agricultural peasants. Well I wonder would he include the Bushmen of Africa and the Aboriginals of Australia and the Vedas of Ceylon and the hairy Ainus of Japan, you know this was not individualized by the Solar Angels. It did not have the living spark. These people did not have the living spark of soul-mind in their mind. They had a mental unit which had been sufficiently stimulated to begin to cause self-awareness. So is this who he means because we do recall that very first group, well the second group more likely, the first group I don't think so. The first group of souls was unique for being extremely disadvantaged in terms of any kind of awareness of self or awareness of the environment.

What I am saying here is that he probably not entirely meaning the souls that sleep. They are like a throwback and never appear on what is called the natural savages, or maybe the low grade savages or the peasantry and here he is actually talking about those who are agricultural peasants and so forth. So what do we learn from this? This does not fit so much with group 1 of the human souls. So the question is what would happen if these people, particularly were subjected to modern education. There are some people who just can't benefit from it at all although he did say something of the kind in relation to the 2nd group of souls. That they have no sense of time or purpose. They can seldom be trained along any mental line and they are rarely exhibit skill but maybe the amount of educational opportunity today and the ways in which it can be delivered are quite amazing so there is a chance for an acceleration of this kind of group. As I say, there is not a complete overlap between these stages of adaptation, the 8 of them, and the 10 groups of souls.

43:20 So anyway the man at this stage is little better than an animal and is governed entirely by instinct. This fits pretty well with group #2. Well does it go as far as middle Lemurian period? Yeah, well when we talk about the middle Lemurian we have to be careful because man was individualized in middle Lemurian times so if we go back to early Lemurian times then we really are speaking of a stage in which where was no self-consciousness in animal-man. But sometimes we like to start from middle Lemuria there were early examples of the middle Lemurian. Then came the middle examples of the middle Lemurian and the later examples of the Lemurian. So I haven't always kept those entirely clear but what I mean by middle Lemurian is what happens when individualization takes place but it is really the early man. And it's actually later in the period than the actual early Lemurian period.

So, experience teaches adaptation. The mind does not teach. Experience teaches. So that is interesting because we don't really have a mind to work with as a conscious instrument within the human being and so one learns by trial and error. Maybe not much emotion here and he does say something similar. Emotionally however they are asleep and mentally they are totally unawakened. So, I begin to think that there is quite a close connection between soul group #2 and stage of adaptation #1, leaving soul group #1 as sort of a preamble to the whole story and representing very few human beings indeed. If soul group #2 has only a few thousand, well then what does soul group #1 have? So this fits pretty well, the dig and carry under direction category of #2. We recall this right?

## Stage of Adaptation #2

"2. An unconscious adaptation to environment carried on by the man who is beginning to evidence some faint flickers of mental perception. This is partly instinctual and is based on a growing self-love. There is more of the "I" consciousness in him, and rather less of group instinctual awareness. You find this growing self-realisation in the low grade slum dwellers, for instance, and in the petty criminal who is instinctual enough and bright enough to live by his wits and to show quickness in reactions and deftness manually. It is the stage of animal cunning.” EP I, 323

46:30 Now we move to the next stage of adaptation and what we have noticed here he seems to have skipped the emotional level. So we are talking about the Thinker really. We are talking about Mercury in the man, the mind in the man, and we are not speaking so much of emotional response because we do recall here that group #3 of the souls had a shallow wish life and desire was becoming rampant. D.K. is focusing more on a number of different factors when he is dealing with the human souls. He seems mostly to be focusing on intelligence when he is dealing with the stages of adaptation. So a shallow wish life or desire nature for those who are the human soul groups but oriented towards physical life. Here as he goes into the stage of adaptation #2, he has skipped over that phase and entered what I call the realm of lower Mercury. So D.K. calls it . . . ***an unconscious adaptation to environment carried on by the man who is beginning to evidence some faint flickers of mental perception.*** Perhaps this could be said somewhat of group #2 - they can seldom be trained along any mental line but you know maybe some of them can and here in group #3 there is not much about the mental nature. Mental equipment is there but seldom trained to use it. But here in stage of adaptation #2 we are talking about those faint flickers of mental perception and maybe there is some parallelism there. And so an unconscious adaptation still instinctive, it is an intelligence which is nonpurposeful. It does not have a design behind it. It pretty much functions under how the desire nature directs it.

49:07 So it's applied intelligence but it's not consciously applied with an intelligent goal in mind. So the . . . ***unconscious adaptation to environment is carried on by the man who is beginning to evidence some faint flickers of mental perception.*** And what seems pretty clear is that man even from the very beginning is born with a mind. So it's quite possible that this type of human being can display mentality before there is really a lot of work in the 3rd petal, or at least well let's say, very early in the 3rd petal process. Remember those early petal processes, they do last a long time. I mean really if we look at the Hall of Ignorance and its unfolding we are almost to the point of - well you know take it all together and you've got just about 21 million years and even more for the unfolding of the 3rd circle or tier of petals because so many people who started this journey 21 million years ago in Lemuria have not yet unfolded the 3rd tier of petals. So, fortunately the other unfoldments go rapidly. So mental perception can occur before the 3rd petal, even in the 2nd petal and perhaps the 1st there will be the awakening mentality, but certainly the mind is going to serve the instincts and the mind is going to serve the desires. And they will not be of a high nature. It is possible, you do remember, from the child's souls, group #3 of the souls, that some mental training is possible.

So the 3rd soul group has desire for satisfaction and thus much self-love. That is the 3rd soul group, not the 3rd stage of adaptation. So here we are at 3rd soul group - much desire for satisfaction, shallow wish life motivated by the desire for satisfaction of some kind. And satisfaction is of the desire body and of the physical body. There are the satisfactions of the mind but this is not what we are talking about. This is the fulfillment of certain tendencies, originating basically in the instinctive physical body or in the desire nature.

51:49 ***This is partly instinctual. . .*** says the Tibetan, so there is some emergence of consciousness ***and . . . is based on a growing self-love.*** So that puts it in a parallel with the 3rd group of souls. It is based on a growing self-love. Where is self-love really beginning to emerge? Well in the 2nd petal perhaps but we can ask is it also engendered in that very long experience later on in the 1st petal? ***There is more of the "I" consciousness in him***. . . and certainly in the 1st group of souls there is not much at all and even in the 2nd group of souls maybe not a whole lot of I consciousness. They are bewildered by their environment. No sense of time and purpose. I would say that the sense of I-ness, even in the 2nd soul group is relatively dim and here there is more of the I consciousness coming in. There is very little of that in stage 1 of adaptation. And of course I have taught this class in Australia and there is a lot of respect for what the Aboriginals have done and can do and their resourcefulness is here pointed to. They have been around actually a long time and are quite a unique group and they are going to be going out of incarnation even according to their own lore because they have been in their own idea of the custodians of the earth and they will not now be needed. So there is more of the I . . . ***and less of the group instinctual awareness.*** Now there is a lot of the group instinctual awareness in the Aboriginals, how the tribe works together. So this is an important idea concerning the 1st petal.

54:13 ***You find this growing self-realization***. . . So that is what we are dealing with. You assume the 1st stage of adaptation, this is now the 2nd, did not have much ***growing self-realization in the low grade slum dwellers, for instance. . .***  Remember he did use the word slum in terms of the atavistic 1st soul group. But a slum is a very disadvantaged type of environment but perhaps gives sufficient opportunity for people of this grade of unfoldment. It is a huge limitation upon those of greater mentality who may be born there and use it as a springboard to leave. ***You find this growing self-realization in the low grade slum dwellers, for instance, and in the petty criminal who is instinctual enough and bright enough***. . . - see there is mentality here. This is Mercury ***. . . . to live by his wits and to show quickness in reactions and deftness manually.*** This is absolutely Mercury when you read it and suggests survival and living off the land - insipient intelligence based on observation. You might say observe your environment and profit from it.

So this is still very selfish. They are out for themselves and D.K. gives us a very good word by which we can characterize this stage. And we are calling it . . . ***the stage of animal cunning.*** So it is intelligent. It's bright but it certainly does serve, particularly the instinctual vehicle and the desire nature. Those things which are particularly developed in the animal. So it is primitively selfish intelligent. It is good lower Gemini and lower Mercury. Is there any 3rd petal activity? Well if so, only in the very beginning and there is no really integrity even though the I is beginning to be sensed. It is survival stage; it is not a social stage. The fox is sometimes attributed to have this kind of cunning, to look out for itself. It's foxy, selfish intelligent and the social content is low with the emerging I. Always looking for its own advantage.

57:00 So what do we have so far? In the 1st and 2nd stages of adaptation we have the man who is primarily an animal. So it's man primarily an animal. And actually as he says unintelligent animal he is not lifting that up too high. I don't think we will find so many people this way and fewer and fewer are those who are simply the agricultural peasants but you know there are places he tells us particularly in India, in China, I think, in South America where we will find this kind of group. So, man is primarily the unintelligent animal and there after #2, man has animal cunning. I think we look for ways to remember these things - man with animal cunning. But notice that he really is talking about the intelligent response. He is no so much talking about the sentient idea here. We are not talking about the growth of sentiency feeling response.

This man is smart enough to survive by his wits, could be in the jungle - slums are like the jungle - could be in the desert, could be anywhere. It is early Mercury. It is mentality used for the sake of satisfaction of selfish desire and animal instinct and reasonable intelligence growing but very selfish. So when we speak of Mercury we are speaking of adaptation. This the adaptive planet. Petty, the word petty, petty criminal suggests instinctive understanding of where one's best interest lie. Exploiting the environment. Playing on a small scale. Preying on others. Using intelligence to take advantage. This is Mercury without any higher Venus. Petty, the word petty, suggests a very small scale of operations. You couldn't do organized crime with this kind of intelligence and world view. So instinctive selfish intelligence. Manual dexterity and animal cunning. That is what the stage means to us now.

## Stage of Adaptation #3

"3. A conscious and purely selfish adapting of oneself to the environment. In these cases, the man is definitely aware of his motives; they are consciously thought out and recognised, and the man makes "the best of his circumstances". He forces himself to live as far as possible harmoniously in his surroundings. In this there is really good motive, but principally the man is governed by a desire for comfort—physical, emotional and mental—to such a degree that he will discipline himself into such a condition that he fits wherever he may be and can get on with anyone.” EP I, 323

1:00:50 Now we move into another stage and here we find that he is really working in terms of Mercury. He has left out - we do not have in the following the purely emotional Atlantean stage of the human soul. We are not talking about emotional man and I wonder if we are talking about the average really good man. Are we talking about group #5 of souls with the average good sheep like man? Maybe. Let's see. So this is still selfish and wherever you have the idea of selfishness, you are in the Hall of Ignorance. It is only the higher of the pairs of opposites which makes it possible for a man to begin sensing there is another way, there is a Higher power, there is a different way of acting. Instinctively, some of the groups self-preservative tendencies are the seed of selflessness because they hang together in order to survive, so they have to consider each other. But when D.K. is here talking about purely selfish and Mercury is a planet that has an amoral adaptation; it doesn't have that kind of cohesiveness that we might look for. We are in the Hall of Ignorance. ***A conscious purely selfish adapting of oneself to the environment,. . .***  you do need mind and in this case the 3rd petal must enter.

This group will have the social sense more highly developed even if for selfish purposes. It is not altruistic. I am spending quite a bit of time on these soul groups but think of it, you really do want to be able to identify the stages through which human beings are passing - especially if you are any kind of educator or any kind of political leader or economist. It is just useful to identify. Now, you know, birds of a feather tend to flock together. It may that among your friends and among those with whom you spend the most time, it may be a fairly homogenous group although obviously with many types of individuals in it. So you may not rub shoulders with all these different kinds of groups but there are ways of noticing them through the media, through the study of world events, through the things that may be happening in your own country, where different groups are fighting for different causes and for the permission to express themselves in various ways.

So it is important to have these solidly in our minds so we can know how to deal constructively with the people whom we encounter. So this is again purely selfish. You know the planetary tendencies are in the air. It depends on what type of form is receiving them because they will be refracted according to the type of form through which the planetary ray passes. The unselfish person will have a use of the tendency in an unselfish way. The selfish person will take the tendencies of the planet and skew them in a selfish way. But conscious, and here we have to really note that, because every word is important not unconscious, because pretty well things were just happening in the first 2 groups. In other words, people were doing things but not knowing why they were doing things - not even why or how. They just did them and if they succeeded they did. They may have had some technique to do them. But they didn't have a sense of why it is they are performing in this way.

***A conscious and purely selfish adapting of oneself to the environment.*** Yes, mind is needed and in this case the man is definitely aware of his motives. So a thinking, consciously motivated person they know why they are adapting or responding as they are, why they are changing things, why they are changing conditions as they change them. It's not just I want what I want but it's I want what I and I know what I want and I think over how I am going to get what I want. The factor of desire is still pretty prominent, and it's not like one has the mental motivation to know. Knowing is still serving the desire nature and the instinctual nature. It is not knowing for its own sake which is the life of the mind. So in the first stages, I want what I want and I will get it anyway I can and then in the 2nd stage of adaptation and I am getting better at it because I am willing to exploit and I have some instinctual wits to do these things. I mean even if you think about it, when you look at an animal, they sometimes do extremely intelligent things and certainly a human being who is fulfilling animal instincts can do very bright or intelligent things. But here, in this stage #3, there is forethought and an understanding of a larger context in which the individual operates. The objectives of the petty thief might be very narrow - I just want that - but when it comes to someone in stage 3 they are looking at the social milieu in which they find themselves and what kind of response they want from that milieu.

1:09:15 ***In these cases, the man is definitely aware of his motives; they are consciously thought out. . .*** In the earlier stage 2, there is rapid, more instinctive and sometimes intelligent action, but not a lot of prepondering. So they are actually ***. . . thought out and recognised and the man makes the “best of his circumstance”.*** He studies his circumstances mentally and seeks to gain advantage. So this is petal 3, maybe the selfish part of it. It lasts a long time, petal 3 and remember it is intelligence there. Later, of course, it is interesting that sacrifice is associated with petal 3 because one is often forced to do certain things which do make for growth later, such as the business man/the worker who sacrifices his life to feed the family so to speak or the soldier who goes to war to save the country. It is all a bit bigger than he understands, but he's in it and the sacrifice is made and he uses his intelligence accordingly. So it's more than animal cunning. The man is more polite, more social, but still selfish. I like the word opportunism - you know looking for one's best advantage in every circumstance, and in this way, getting ahead.

So it's opportunism. As things arise you just use them. The word is use: using people, using circumstances. It's hard to see this person as the average really good, nice person who is the sheep in group 5 of the souls. There is not this one to one correspondence but following group 5 and before we become solidly in the creative thinker category of group 6, it may be possible to use one's intelligence simply for selfish purposes. So harmony for personal purposes. Not real love necessarily. There is still lower ray 3 factor going on here. Manipulativeness, still using others. And this is very important, and I think in this group, I would say that other people become a means to an end. So D.K. says, he forces himself, and right there an example of the will, guided by intelligence to live as far as possible harmoniously with his surroundings. He is kind of average, semi-selfish man. Let's just say it's not altruism. That's the important thing to realize. This type of adaptation is not altruism. ***. . . to live as far as possible harmoniously in his surroundings,***. . . he does have the social sense. He can discipline himself. He has mixed motives, you might say. He may be very, very selfish, or with mixed motives but not pure motives. So all of this is operating mostly in the 2nd petal and some of the 3rd petal.

1:14:01 ***In this there is really good motive, but principally the man is governed by the desire for comfort - physical, emotional and mental, to such a degree that he will discipline himself. . . ,*** and you need the mind to do it, . . . ***into such a condition that he fits wherever he may be and can get on with anyone.*** And this is more of a 2nd petal activity and it is somewhat connected with group 5 of souls. The different things he says connects with different groups of human souls. This is group 5 - the Atlanteans - he has so much intelligence to be the modern Atlantean. They can be classed as intelligent human beings. So right there, there is a connection between stage of adaption 3 and soul group 5. Predominantly emotional. Well the mind is certainly serving the emotions and they are the bulk of humanity at this time, and good, well intended. He emphasizes the feeling nature here. He doesn't emphasize the selfish adaptation. Nice, good people who are largely controlled by mass consciousness. Relatively unthinking. And they are sheep. Let's just say that this group, stage of adaption #3, seems to fit into a category between soul group 5 and soul group 6. The only thing that is left out of it is well, are they really nice and so forth. D.K. says there can be really good motive, but obviously there are mixed motives here, and what the man aspires to is not really the creative mental life at all. It's some advantage in the personal sense. So***, . . . he will discipline himself into such a condition that he fits in wherever he may be and can get on with anyone.*** All for the sake of social advantage. Discipline for the sake of getting. There is not still any type of internal integrity. It's more as you desire me. The 3rd and some of the 4th petal maybe coming in. There is not much individuality but a growing sense of I-ness surely must be there and in petal 4 we are already moving toward individuality.

And petal 5 for sure has that individuality. So comfort, materialism, getting along, fitting in, safety is a strong motive. I think these can be fairly successful people. Maybe not in the sense of being so individually successful as soul group #6 where they become really the creative thinkers and so forth but successful because he can manipulate his environment and be supported by it. We can call this conscious selfish adaptation, with some good motive and good motive begins in petal 2 - why? Where Venus is stronger. But we will get into all of that. I know there are many pieces here and we will have to put them all together. Here we find enlightened or semi-enlightened self-interest. Why do I do that? Well it's good for me to good things for people because it's better for me, see. Conscious adaptation is often selfish and I have asked the question here, "Do comfort and integrity sometimes oppose each other?" I think very definitely. Where does integrity really begin? With petal 4 and petal 5 and working in the Hall of Learning where we really begin to understand the higher of the pairs of opposites and the need to apply that higher of that pairs of opposites in social situations. So if we discipline ourselves to get along, we are still talking about mass consciousness and getting what you want is still mass consciousness and not yet individual consciousness.

1:20:19 So there is compromise, making the best of your circumstances, opportunistic, using things in people, the word use, make it work for me. The concrete intelligence is involved here and one sacrifices in order to achieve some degree of social standing and so forth. Some of the petal 4 may be at work here. So it's manipulation to get what you want. It's more advanced than animal cunning because more social and more sociable, and let's just say more conscious and more intelligent. Stage of adaptation #3.

## Stage of Adaptation #4

“4. From this stage on the differentiations become so numerous that they are difficult to follow, being mixtures of pure selfishness (developed often to the nth degree), of a growing recognition of the group, of an awakening realisation of the right of other people to a similar degree of comfort and harmony, and of a steady effort to adapt conditions of character and personality life, so that the purely selfish interests do no real damage to others, until we arrive at...” EP I, 323

This is stage of adaptation #4. Selfishness and its transformation. From great selfishness until doing no harm to others, still for somewhat selfish motives. So fitting in is different than having some of that empathy you see. Stage of adaptation 3 begins with purely selfish adapting and by the time we reach stage 4 we are not talking so much about pure selfishness. He does say at some time in stage 3 that there can be good motive. So if there is really good motive to live harmoniously with his surroundings, in this there is really good motive, but it's principally governed by the desire for comfort: physical, emotional and mental to such a degree that he will discipline himself into such a condition. So he is definitely come first in stage of adaption #3.

Now what is going on in stage of adaptation #4. ***From this stage on,. . .*** this is problematic of course, ***. . . the differentiations become so numerous that they are difficult to follow. Being mixtures of pure selfishness developed to the nth degree of a growing recognition of the group and of an awakening realization of the rights of other people to a similar degree of comfort and harmony, and of a stead effort to adapt conditions of character and personality life so that the purely selfish interests do no real damage.*** You know he is buffering and neutralizing the purely selfish interests. Definitely we have to be moving into petal #4 where the family becomes very important and where sacrifices are made for those that are close to one and where we are beginning to integrate our capacities and elevate our nature towards the real creativity of petal #5. So D.K. has just moved through a number of differentiations. So we basically we are moving from selfishness to caring - caring for the other person, even if not for the purest motives but at least caring. It is interesting I think that the most selfish types can be found in the early 5th petal process. They are really insulated from others in their egotism.

1:24:27 It is not primitive. It is very calculated - selfishness based upon a belief in one's own superiority. That's a Leo factor as well. So we are moving through . . .***mixtures of pure selfishness, developed to the nth degree. . .*** and that pure selfishness I think of the 5th or Leo petal ***. . . of a growing recognition of the group,. . .*** and you're going to find this in petal #4 which is related to Cancer in which we really are in the Hall of Learning that we are part of a real social fabric and the people in it have the right. So the love petals are coming in here. Of course there is love petal influence coming from petal #2, but petal #5 will help us grow in these recognitions of the group. Even petal #4, because we know when you think about the group, the sign Cancer also enters the picture, . . .***of an awakening realization of the right of other people to a similar degree of comfort and harmony. . .***  and these are Cancerian words and the empathy factor begins to increase with this group. You can expect that from the empathic sign Cancer which I am correlating among other signs with the 4th petal. It is really pretty much impossible to talk about these groups without sort of referencing the petals. Now it will make a lot more sense when it is all under our eye at the same time but as you see I am creating strands of connections with other systems that have to be correlated with these groups of human beings.

So now we are moving together through different stages. All of them subsumed under stage of adaptation #4. So we start with selfishness to the nth degree and then the group is coming in under the influence of love, Venus will be found working here and not just intelligent adaptivity, awakening to the rights of other people through empathy. You know when one really cares about parenting and doing the right thing for one's children and one's group and raising them. You talk about raising a child. This is a very Cancerian thing - giving them advantages. So you begin to realize for those who are close to you, others, those who are close to you have every right degree of comfort and advantage that you have wanted and then you begin to extend that on from your family so your family becomes larger as it were. All of that coming under the Cancerian influence. . . .***And of a steady effort to adapt conditions of character and personality life. . .*** so there are things you don't do, things you do do ***. . . so that purely selfish interests do no real damage to others.*** Now that is such a Cancerian thing because Cancer, let us look at the protectiveness and yet selfishness of the sign Cancer associated with the 4th petal.

1:28:37 So this business of tempering your selfishness, it can be working in the 4th petal when we become an aspirant. In the 5th petal it definitely is at work when we try to correct ourselves and be somewhat altruistic in the 6th petal it is at work. Doing no real damage to others. You know it is kind of interesting - what does it say about ray 4? It talks about a hatred of causing pain. So when we talk about the 4th petal and well then he says amounting to moral cowardice, but the hatred of causing pain is in-built it is not just a question of realizing that altruistically that you want the other person to advance. It is also that you don't want to cause them harm, even as you are pursuing your own advantage. So this is not quite the same as being unselfish. It says here there will be selfishness but I try and keep it in check and we are still selfish; we are trying to fulfill our desires without harming others. So, I find here the theme of intelligent self-interest at work. And you know what that is. I did talk about it. Intelligent self-interest. We do good things for others because they bring good things to you. So why did you do this apparently altruistic thing? Well it was because long-run so that that which I desire will come back to me. It's like people who, well you know they do good things because they think they will have good karma by doing good things. But where is the true motive for love for doing the good things So this is a mixture. This petal #4, of course ray 4 is called the ray of the mix, the ray of the mixer, this stage of adaptation represents a mixture of motive and action, and spanning selfishness to reasonable selflessness. When I put the word reasonable in there, it's not selflessness at all costs, it's within reason.

1:31:36 Selflessness within reason and for a purpose which is usually to gain something. And there it shows that the intelligence aspect, which is interested in the preservation of the form, is still stronger than the love aspect in this stage of adaptation #4. And I think we could say that of Cancer though relating to petal 4, because it has such a strong intelligence component, ray 3, ray 7 and so forth, but it has a mixture also of ray 4 and ray 6 so it's emotionally one wants to do something for people that makes one feel better and also it brings gain to one.

Higher mind enters as conscience to make a person respective of others' rights in the groups. And if higher mind enters as conscience - the reason I use the term higher mind I think it's connected with petal 4. *Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, page 537 and we talk about the second tier of petals, “The Petal of Knowledge, for the astral plane; unfoldment is brought about by the conscious balancing of the pairs of opposites, and the gradual utilisation of the Law of Attraction and Repulsion. The man passes out of the Hall of Ignorance where, from the egoic point of view, he works blindly and begins to appreciate the effects of his physical plane life; by a realisation of his essential duality he begins to comprehend causes.” So that's not exactly the one I was looking for.

The one I was looking for is around page 822. “Higher knowledge applied through love on the physical and astral planes.” That is petal #1 in the middle tier. So I'm saying that the higher mind enters or something of the pairs of opposites enters to make a person feel at least guilty of hurting others, respectful of others rights and the group, some factor of guilt as a method of restraint is operating. It's hard to stage adaptation #4 because it carries so many stages but what one has to look at is the progress all the way from the selfish adaptation all the way to really respecting others rights and their rights to have what you have. Now it can be intelligent self-interest here or it can be as a result of your conscience speaking.

1:35:45 So this stage of adaptation #4 is spanning things that happen in petal 4 and 5. As I say selfishness to the nth degree, you know. It's really found in petal 5 in the early part. A little of 6. Some of the ideas here are you can have your selfishness also. I will not interfere. It's just called intelligent self-interest. That’s the one I was looking for. I will not interfere. A little respect or consideration for you is coming out and this is enlightened, intelligent self-interest guided progressively by conscience so that true respect for the rights of others eventuates.

From petal 3 where you think, through petal 5 where you try to do no harm to others while still remaining selfish. This is also true of petal 4 and even the altruism of petal 6 is not entirely selfless. Now what I am doing, clearly, I am mixing, good 4th ray thing to do right, I'm mixing stages of adaptation with soul groups with petals and trying to look at their connection. I mean enough of you know sufficient of occultism and D.K.'s teachings so that what I am trying to draw together here in the relations will not be totally bewildering because you will have studied this. For those of you who have not really studied the Egoic Lotus yet, I will just say clearer times are coming.

In stage of adaptation #4, we don't get the truly good person, not the truly good person motivated entirely by altruism, because that is what a really good person is, he is thinking of the other. It is sometimes said of Christ, what is he? He is the man for others, it is said. Pythagoras has said, What a friend? A friend is another self. And there is so much wisdom buried in that statement.

1:38:55 So far we have this:

* Stage of adaptation #1 which is unconscious unintelligent adaptation
* Stage of adaptation #2 is animal cunning
* Stage of adaptation #3 is a conscious intelligent selfish adaptation - doing the best you can, getting by, but you are still out for yourself.
* Stage of adaptation #4 you begin to realize you have to be out for others as well if you really want to be successfully out for yourself.

Now D.K. sometimes talks about people who give a lot to charities and are seen serving in various ways and that such servers may have very mixed motive and may be gaining more from the service they do than benefit comes to those who serve. So this is stage adaptation #4. Oh I have so much money and the government is going to take it away from me but so if I give it to charity, not only will the government not take it away from me but I will gain reputation and advantage. So we are still not entirely the good person though we do have effects which are good in society.

So now this goes on, since D.K. is speaking in general it is not possible for us to pinpoint and make cut and dried and perfectly sequential every one of these stages. There are so many overlaps and a unique combination of energies from unique circumstances so we are just trying to get the general categories here.

I say that this goes with the 5th group of souls, this stage #5 to an extent it does. Selfishness and its transformation. But even we can see that stage of adaptation #4 may have gone beyond the 5th group of souls. So maybe it's not entirely correct that stage #5 of adaptation goes only with the 5th group of souls who are the nice good people and the sheep of the human family. There is some going backward and forward here. So maybe not only. So some of this is with the 5th group and a little more advanced than the 5th because conscious goodwill is entering which is like the soul group #6. And what does D.K. say about this? The average really good man who is struggling to adapt himself to his surroundings - so the minute there is struggle, the kind of struggle that is suggested here, the higher of the pairs of opposites may be operative because that is what causes the struggle - the selflessness part of us is working against the selfishness part of us.

## Stage of Adaptation #5

“5. The average really good man who is struggling to adapt himself to his surroundings, to his group relations and responsibilities in such a way that some measure of love can be seen. I refer not here to that instinctual love for family and children and herd which men share in common with the animals and which often breaks down when the loved individuals assert themselves. The tie is not strong enough to hold, and the motive is too selfish to resist the pull. I refer to that motivated love which recognises the rights of others and consciously strives to adapt itself to those recognised rights whilst tenaciously holding on to the rights of the personality.” EP I, 323-324

1:43:05 ***The average really good man who is struggling to adapt himself to his surroundings, to his group relations, and responsibilities in such a way that some measure of love can be seen****.* And so petal #5 and petal #6 are really involved here and it's going to tell us something about petal #6 where the person tries to be altruistic but is not really succeeding. It's sort of a probationary petal. The Petal of Probation as it were. So we are going to look at this in the 5th and 6th group of souls and also in the 5th and 6th petals and even some of the 4th petal. The average really good man. So he is nice, nice, good person. And what did D.K. say average citizen, good, well-intentioned. So the word good is definitely mentioned here in the soul group #6. He did say they there were more easily regimented. Let's see what stage of adaptation #5 is.

So it seems a little higher, a little more advanced than the 5th and that I have kind of said. Because the 5th soul group doesn't seem to have quite so much altruism in it and they are more easily led but they are the nice, good people, nevertheless. This seems a little bit more than just the nice, good people. So ***. . . struggling to adapt himself to his surrounding to his group relations and responsibilities,. . .*** I mean this looks like a socially positive person, considerate and not only for reasons of self-gain, so it seems. Stage of adaptation #5. So there is work in the love petals, definitely. It is right to be loving. It is just simply right regardless of what it means to me I mean to be loving, regardless of the gain I get. It is simply right. Your religion tells you so and so does your upbringing and so this is a type of positivity which is emerging in the Love petals definitely and it seems a little, maybe a little before soul group #6 but related to it because you get some pretty brilliant people in soul group #6, the creative artists and all that kind of thing, but here there is this emerging social sense, that is schooled in the circle of petals #2, 4, 5, 6, and it is not manipulative for self-gain. A socially positive person.

So trying to live according to conscience. So why is that? Let's take a look at this. Trying to live according to conscience but what is conscience? It is the higher of the pairs of opposites with which he comes in contact in tier 2. So the 2nd group of petals is where he comes in contact with the higher of the pairs of opposites. In the Hall of Ignorance he did not come into that kind of contact. So the conscience is seizing hold here and notice that D.K. says the average really good man and that is, let's just say, not the apparently good man. So I refer here some measure of love should be shown as is schooled in the love petals.***I refer not here to that instinctual love for family and children****,. . .*  so there is a lot of that in 2nd petal and there is instinctual something in the first petal, but instinctual love is coming in at the 2nd petal for sure and the herd. ***I refer not here to that instinctual love for family and children and herd which men share in common with the animals. . .***and which comes in in the 1st circle of petals in the Hall of Ignorance, *. . .* ***and which often breaks down when the loved individuals assert themselves.*** You know it is in the 2nd circle of petals that you assert yourself (that is definitely Leo - it all goes towards Leo in that middle petal as it were) and in soul group #6. We see so many people that still have that tribal loving conscience, but when a person tries to be an individual, they kill them or they throw them out or they do something terrible. So, the instincts are pre-Leo in this sense and this instinctual love breaks down when the Leo phase is really asserted because who are you? You are not one of us. I raised you to be thus and so, and look who you are now, you are forgetting everything I taught you - you are trying to be yourself. ***The tie is not strong enough to hold and the motive is too selfish to resist the pull,***. . . when it comes to this instinctual type of love. So it's not the true love of the person in himself or herself to express what he or she wants to express. It's love of the person in a certain context - what that person is supposed to be: a dutiful daughter, a dutiful son, in other words, role expectation exceeds the expectation that the child or relative will express himself or herself.

1:51:10 So, I don't really care about you in and of yourself, I care about you to the extent that you will fulfill a role. Well, we are going beyond that now in this 5th stage of adaptation. So D.K. is now interestingly not just talking about mind, he is getting more of the 2nd aspect into it. ***I refer to that motivated love which recognises the rights of others and consciously strives to adapt itself to those recognised rights whilst tenaciously holding on to the rights of the personality.*** We have not yet transcended the personality. So we are in the later part of soul group #5 and some soul group #6. We have not yet reached the 1st initiation, the 1st degree, nor is the 6th petal even where we are actually trying to express some love but we can't quite be selfless. That is not even the 1st degree either and when it is completed unfolded, it is the 2nd degree, but you are working on it well before the 1st degree.

Anyway, in this stage of adaptation #5, I am actually caring about you and your rights and it's not just a selfish convenience for me, but I still want my personality rights. And you can understand how later, when you become the true disciple and then the initiate and then the high initiate, you are giving up your personality rights per se. The personality is simply an instrument of the soul, and the soul is looking out for others all the time. So it's a different motivation altogether. So we have this stage of adaptation #5 correlating with the work within the 2nd tier of petals, the Love petals, where you are learning real social interaction based not just upon your own advantage, but eventually based upon love. And you are struggling here to reconcile your own desires with the desires of others which have been revealed as worthy of fulfillment. In other words, we have gone beyond manipulation here, in stage of adaptation #5.

We saw how much manipulation there was as you desire me in stage of adaptation #3 - in other words I will do the things for you because I know it means I will get good things, so my motive is really still selfish. The social sense is very 4 was the attempt to cross many different stages. In stage of adaption #2 we are basically living by our wits and stealing from others and taking from others. The social sense is very poorly emergent there. But now stage of adaption #5 a real social sense is there and it's not just a convenience. It's a question of love, a growing sense of love through response to the higher of the pairs of opposites.

1:55:22 Okay so what do we have? We are talking about some of the petals loosely. We know there is a Knowledge tier, Hall of Ignorance. There is a Love tier, Hall of Learning. There is a Sacrifice tier, Hall of Wisdom - no wisdom without sacrifice. We have 10 soul groups and we have 8 stages of adaptation and we are trying to see the links that are going on between them. The intelligence aspect is strongly represented in these stages of adaptation and in the soul groups, the 10 of them, there is more of the general description of how the people are and we are trying to correlate in such a way that we see how they all fit together.

We have 3 more to discuss. Let us just say we have reached the end of Egoic Lotus Webinar Commentary, program 6.

So just allow the sense of evolving man to enter your consciousness. See how complex it all is. How many variable there are. But how you can kind of stand back and more or less identify stages of human unfoldment and along with this, goes the unfoldment of that form upon the higher mental plane which we call the Egoic Lotus. Each circle or tier of which has a certain purpose and boundaries. And each petal of which has certain purposes and boundaries. And we are going to go into detail about how all the different colors and the astrological connections with these petals describe the purposes and boundaries of each petal and how those purposes and boundaries fit in very well with the 10 soul groups, they are souls who are human beings and the 8 stages of adaptation.

I guess that’s it. We will just close with a final Aum. Aligning with the soul which has the vision of all this historical progress of man and the historical progress of ourselves as a soul-infused personality. We want to clearly get the picture of where we have been, what we are passing through and where we have to go. That is what we definitely want.