**EGOIC LOTUS WEBINAR COMMENTARY #22 – Michael Robbins**

## Abstract

Egoic Lotus Webinar Commentaries 22: Analysis of Petal 1.This webinar is about 2 hours long and covers *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* page 539. Analysis of Petal 1 according to the Tibetan’s Statement: “1. The *Petal of Knowledge* for the physical plane. Through the breaking of the Law and the ensuing suffering the price of ignorance is paid and knowledge is achieved. This unfoldment is brought about through physical plane experience.”

Content for EGLWC Program 22: close attention is paid to the astrological and rayological implications related to the organization and unfoldment of Petal 1. This is in preparation for wider correlations to be attempted in relation to all petals after what D.K. has said about them specifically is analyzed.

## Transcription of Egoic Lotus Commentary #22

Hello everybody. Today is Sunday, 18 May 2014 and we are continuing with our webinar book on the Egoic Lotus. What we entered into last time and it was a long program I admit was this discussion on the first three pages where the Egoic Lotus begins and it took us into the solar system and the discussion of the planes and spirillae. We looked at the monadic development from the angle of the human unit. But we still and hoping then to get a wider point of view from that and then we looked at the causal body as the monadic heart center and we entered the 12 petalled Egoic Lotus and began to analyze some of the numbers of the energies that are involved in this Lotus and overall we tried to understand the Lotus initially from the point of view of fire and not from as D.K. says in the beginning, not in materialistic terms from the ordinary angle as a vehicle of rarefied substance containing within itself the 7th principle of each of the two lower sheaths of the microcosm and the mental unit. We discussed the whole idea of the permanent atoms either as principals or as containers or representatives of principles. And overall the discussion was a little bit complex but now we are getting into the nitty-gritty. It’s the way that D.K. initially describes each petal. Starting from about 539 of *Cosmic Fire* and also we will be going into 822 and then we will gather together under each petal all the relevant ideas, at least the ones that I can think of at the moment.

**Treatise on Cosmic Fire, page 822**

It also should be said that from that area of 822 there are couple of things mainly three things that need to be spoken because they will help us in our discussion about the Knowledge petals. These three petals are organized and vitalized, notice the sequence of those words: 1st comes organization and then vitalization and while one is working on those one is of course having the experiences pertinent to those petals.

***“The Knowledge Petals. These three petals are organised and vitalised in the Hall of Ignorance, but remain unopened and only begin to unfold as the 2nd circle is organised.” TCF 822***

***These three petals are organised and vitalised in the Hall of Ignorance,. . .*** ignorance of the higher Self ***. . . but remain unopened and only begin to unfold as the 2nd circle is organised.*** So when you would see people who have petals unfolded, let us say the Lotuses of Passion and Desire, two petals are unfolded and you know that there is organizational work going on then within the Hall of Learning though not unfoldment of course.

4:07 ***“The Love Petals. These three petals preserve the fundamental orange but add the colour rose in every petal, so that four colours are now seen. These petals are organised and vitalised in the Hall of Learning, but remain unopened. The outer tier of petals simultaneously unfolds till it is open entirely, revealing the 2nd circle; the 3rd remains shielded.“ TCF 822***

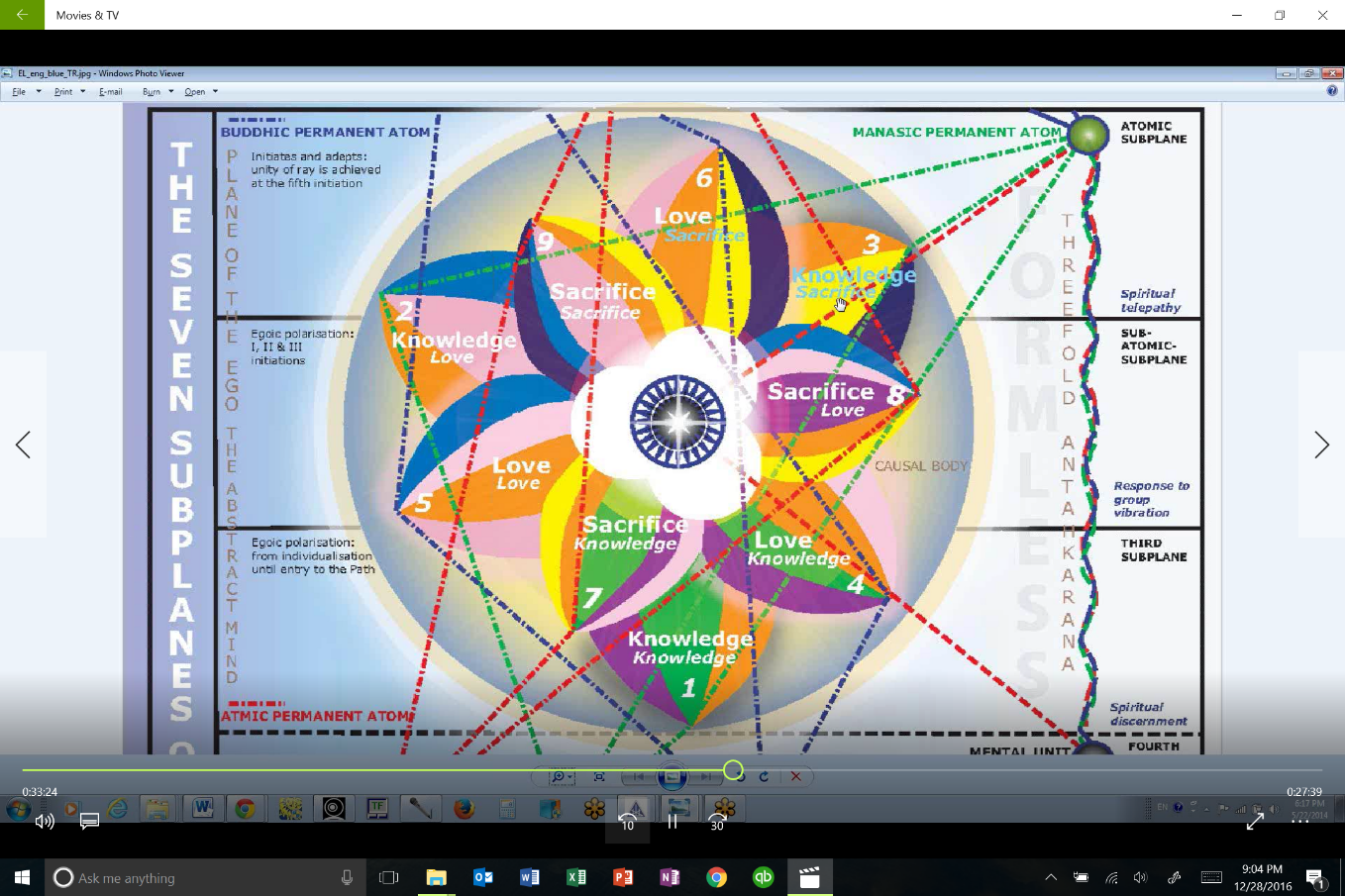
***The love petals.*** ***These three petals preserve the fundamental orange but add the colour rose in every petal, so that four colours are now seen.*** The number four relating more to the six and two of the astral plane. ***These petals are organised and vitalised in the Hall of Learning, but remain unopened.*** So you can be working in this Hall of Learning and the real opening does not occur until later. ***The outer tier of petals simultaneously unfolds. . .*** While this organization and vitalization in the Hall of Learning is going on ***. . .till it is open entirely, revealing the 2nd circle; the 3rd remains shielded.*** And I suppose this has something to do with the display of the vortices and their degree of radiation and movement.

***"The Sacrifice Petals. This inner circle of petals is organised and vitalised in the Hall of Wisdom, and simultaneously the middle circle unfolds, so that two rows of petals are duly opened, and only the 3rd remains to be unclosed. This final opening is effected during the period of treading the stages of the Path of Initiation, and in this round it is hastened by the rites of initiation and by the strenuous and abnormal efforts of the man himself, aided by the electrical work of the Initiator, wielding the Rod of Power.” TCF 822***

***The Sacrifice Petals. This inner circle of petals. . .*** Not innermost, but *inner* ***. . .is organised and vitalised in the Hall of Wisdom,. .* .** So, when we are working in the area of the 1st initiation and 2nd initiation, organization and vitalization is going on ***. . . and simultaneously the middle circle unfolds, so that two rows of petals are duly opened, and only the 3rd remains to be unclosed.*** And this is so important.  ***This final opening is effected during the period of treading the stages of the Path of Initiation,. . .***  This is not simply the probationary path or the path of probationary discipleship or even the path of discipleship, but the path of at least probationary initiation ***. . .and in this round. . .*** the fourth, ***. . .it is hastened by the rites of initiation and by the strenuous and abnormal efforts of the man himself, aided by the electrical work of the Initiator, wielding the Rod of Power.*** So, it can be presumed that when the 1st initiation comes the rod of power is supplied by the Bodhisattva to the 7th petal and that this will produce a degree of unfoldment of that petal, maybe not the final unfoldment until all three petals of Sacrifice unfold together when the rod of power is applied to the 9th petal by the Lord of the World, the One Initiator.

7:18 But it’s interesting how you have to work ahead and do work in the future petals, not really necessarily developing great abilities there, but at least doing the groundwork and as one does that, then the area of experience that has already been covered begins to emerge in greater power. This would be called unfoldment. So, I thought we should have this in the back of our mind because it will be relevant as we move along and discuss what D.K. says here in the first time he introduces the petals, petal by petal.

So, this is the place where we will begin and we are in the 1st group of petals, the Knowledge petals, just looking at them again, one two and three.



Seeming to me in a way that the 2nd petal should be a little closer diagrammatically to the 2nd subplane of the mental plane which is more attuned to the 2nd Ray. Whereas the 1st subplane is attuned to will and to sacrifice and indeed the 3rd petal seems to touch there. It is simply a diagram but there is some important symbolism here and the 1st petal touches on the 3rd subplane which has much to do with the 3rd aspect of knowledge.

**Treatise on Cosmic Fire, Page 539**

***"a. 1st Group of Petals—Knowledge Petals:***

***1. The Petal of Knowledge for the physical plane. Through the breaking of the Law and the ensuing suffering the price of ignorance is paid and knowledge is achieved. This unfoldment is brought about through physical plane experience.” TCF 539***

***1. The Petal of Knowledge for the physical plane.*** And this can be viewed the 1st petal of the Knowledge tier. It has three colors of the ever present orange, the green of the 3rd Ray and the violet of the 7th Ray. Since there are 12 petals it’s pretty obvious that the 12 signs of the zodiac are naturally related to them and as I have been suggesting we can associate this petal with the astrological sign of Aries. That is one way to begin it. And it can be begun with Aries going counterclockwise which is the normal mode of progression or clockwise we can also begin with Pisces and it does seem that D.K. sometimes does that, that he works with Pisces as the point of beginning when he is considering the relationship of the various signs. He does work clockwise from Pisces so one much can be learned here by choosing Piscesyou know it’s ordinary mantram, I call it sometimes the evolutionary mantram, not the spiritual mantram, is ‘go forth into matter. ‘

10:35 So if we choose Pisces at the 1st petal we can learn a lot because that is exactly what the nascent human being does in the first group incarnation, taken in Cancer in the first individual incarnation we are told taken in Pisces. How interesting. ‘Go forth into matter’ as the little fish in the sea of matter. But I think it’s preferable to choose Aries, finally, although exploring the others because of the clockwise method. It wouldn’t be entirely correct. It would not correlate optimally with those petals involved in the initiation process. So, it is better to work with Aries I think. Sometimes after the wheel has been reversed to a degree in the initiation process is beginning, beginning with Pisces, well it has interesting correlations but maybe not the most important.

So, the anticlockwise method of progression is truly progressive and does lead to the initiation process and this would mean that, well I will just go through them you know. Aries one, Taurus two, Gemini three - Knowledge petals. Cancer four, Leo five, Virgo six – Love petals. Libra seven, Scorpio eight, Sagittarius nine – Sacrifice petals. Capricorn 10, the first Synthesis petal, Aquarius 11 the second Synthesis petal and finally Pisces 12, the third and final Synthesis petal in that sign of great synthesis which is said to take from all the signs. Pisces takes from all the signs we have been told on page 333 of *Esoteric Astrology*.

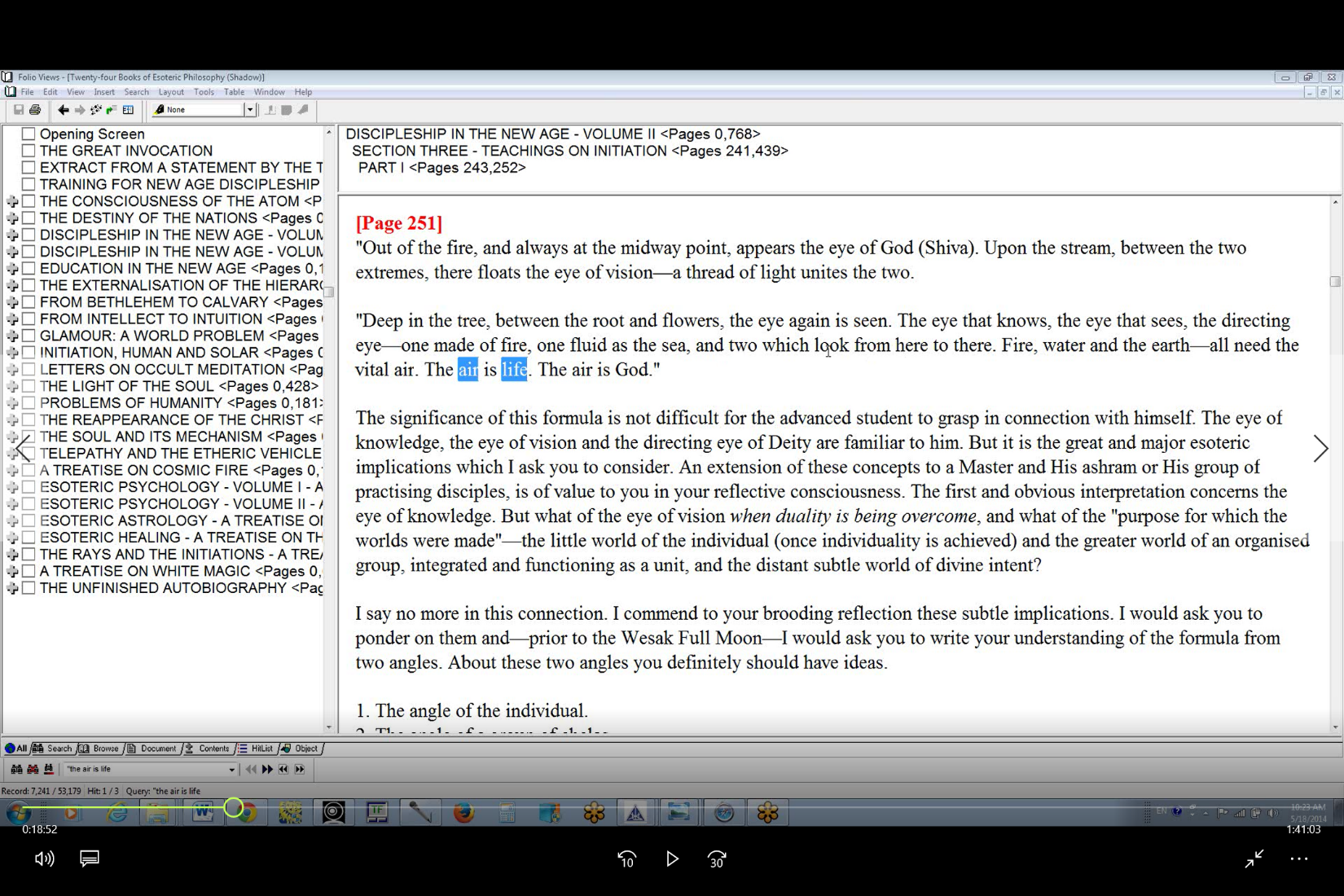
So, yes, we can have Aries moving counterclockwise and when the different signs are assigned to the different petals much is learned about the potential of the petals. As I have said before, I think later when I look at everything related to the single petal I’ll try to bring in as many signs as possible showing how each could function in the type of experience and necessary action associated with each petal because after all millions of years can pass in a petal, thousands in some others and one is certainly bound to be born with probably all the signs of the zodiac featured in one way or another in the horoscope.

13:38 So this 1st petal here of knowledge for the tier of petals which represents the 3rd subdivision or aspect of the 3rd aspect, sort of three sub three, and it is the most deeply material petal. It represents man as a very physical being in the Lemurian stage. Maybe there were some kinds of inner contacts that were still possible and a certain sensing of the Solar Angel which faded away in Atlantean period and maybe some of the early Aryan period, but generally the man was engaged in handling matter.

***Through the breaking of the Law and the ensuing suffering. . .*** which is always ***. . . the price of breaking the law, the price of ignorance is paid and knowledge is achieved.*** We are dealing here with a Knowledge/knowledge petal so knowledge of the world of the senses has somewhat to be gained and generally it is through the school of hard knocks and by transgressing the lawful boundaries by putting the unwary hand on the hot stove that knowledge is gained through suffering. So, the breaking of the law would zodiacally come under Aries in which the planet of law, that is Saturn, it falls. There is always the idea of going beyond the proper boundaries in Aries, of breaking through, hence its connection with Uranus. So, in the beginning the man has a rampant instinctual nature. The ensuing suffering of course can be related to the sign Pisces which from a certain perspective can begin. Pisces is perhaps the most long-suffering of all the signs. We can begin either way and of course the impacts of the environment are so terrific when you break the law - you know you are destroyed, you are killed. You are breaking the law of your own energy system or you are breaking the law of the travel groups in which you find yourself. You know if you try to walk on the air will fall, if you try to breathe water you will drown, there is all kinds of ways that man has to be exposed to the elements in the hard, hard way. Put your hand in fire will burn. And you can’t breathe when you are buried. You know the four elements can kill you, if you don’t know how to handle them and that is pretty much what happens in this early material petal, associated in that way with materiality as the number four.

So, some of the earliest human experiences I lived on this petal and the Pisces mantram – ‘go forth into matter’ and the Aries mantram – ‘let form again be sought’ are both quite apt because one keeps on reincarnating under the influence of instinct and desire, not a very consciously way at all.

So, we can go from Aries to Pisces in the 12 petals, but it’s also possible to assign different elements to the three tiers of petals and it seems quite appropriate that the earth signs should be assigned to the Knowledge tier, water signs to the Love tier, fire signs to the Sacrifice tier, the mental petals, the fire of mind, and air signs to the Synthesis tier. We have to remember that this inner tier was produced by the buddhic energy along monastic lines and that the element of air is associated with the buddhic plane. At one point we are told the air is life, the air is God, something like that. It’s from the old Commentary and it has to do with the 1st formula, the 1st formula relating to the manual of initiation in DINA II, Page 251.



***“Deep in the tree, between the roots and flowers, the eye again is seen. The eye that knows,. . .*** they are the summary of the eyes, ***. . . the eye that sees, the directing eye - one made of fire, one fluid as the sea, and two which look from here to there. Fire, water and the earth - all need the vital air. The air is life. The air is God.”*** We are speaking of what we encounter on the buddhic plane and on the cosmic ethers where true life is reached.

19:33 So it is appropriate then to assign these Synthesis petals to air and there is a sense in which air is that which gathers altogether, pervades all things and gives the synthetic approach. If we go with this perspective we would be dealing with three earth signs of the Knowledge tier. In addition to the Aries, Taurus, Gemini or are going backwards we will do that later, Aries, Pisces, Aquarius or going backwards, meaning clockwise, Pisces, Aquarius, Capricorn is another way to do it and it would be Capricorn, Taurus, Virgo, in that order beginning with the cardinal sign. It’s the natural order: cardinal, fixed, mutable. And the order in which occurs progress through the signs beginning with Aries. So we can assign Capricorn, a sign of the earth earthiness or of the man who is out of the earth earthy, we can assign Capricorn, a strong karmic sign to the 1st petal and ruled by the that in a way most material planet which is Saturn.

You know we have to know a little bit about esoteric astrology to do this and a little bit about the rays, maybe more than a little bit, quite a bit about astrology and the rays, to see what is appropriate to assign when we think of the kinds of experiences through which this type of early man passes. Now with regard to Capricorn, we have been told that it represents the best and the worst in human nature. I don't think we can expect the worst here because the worst requires some degree of false lower ego which has been built up to a point of dominance. We're not going to find that in the 1st petal, but it can represent the sublime heights and supernal light as well as the depths of matter. It is sort of the inverted mountain, the upward pointing mountain, sublime heights and here we have the depths of materiality. So we can see how the idea of the depths of matter would correlate indeed with this 1st petal. Man is of the earth earthy. He is the earthbound soul.

22:17 So, Capricorn represents the law under Saturn, natural law in this case, probably first, which is broken by the ignorant man during this 1st petal process until he learns the hard way not to do certain things, not to transgress certain boundaries. It is interestingly two planets most associated with the 1st petal, Mars and Saturn, are respectively exalted in Capricorn; that would be Mars, and the exoteric ruler of Capricorn. When we assign the 1st petal to Aries, you know, Mars, the orthodox ruler, comes in very strongly, the planet of instinct, of fight, of sex, of confrontation. This planet of self-assertion or at least the assertion of the physical body for the sake of its survival.

So, Mars fits with Capricorn too, even though Saturn doesn't fit so well with Aries, at least at 1st, and that is all about breaking of the law, transgressing, trespassing, going beyond the natural boundaries. Capricorn is the hardest and most materialistic of the signs. You know it represents a higher turn of the spiral the diamond which is the hardest of the gemstones. So, this fits with the 1st petal process and let's just say the hardness, the density of ignorance must be broken. D.K. has referred to us aspirants as dense, as if we **are** really quite dense. We may be learned, but we are dense meaning that reality doesn't really get through, so how much more so in these early days except as I say for Blavatsky's assertion that some communion with the presence of that inner God for those who were individualized in the manner of intervention did exist; for those for whom the spark of mind was merely fanned, well maybe no such presence was detected.

25:08 So, that depths of lightless gloom must be penetrated by some degree of knowledge. Just imagine what it's like to wander about in those early days to be born as an animal-man, preserving some instincts perhaps from the animal state in which you lived before but something is different and there is this inner pressure within you that comes from the presence of the spark of mind. We will deal with those types, maybe the later types, other types were either individualized in the Atlantean period or they were the less advanced that the solar Angels, for whom the solar Angels felt there was no profit in implantation of the spark of mind.

But it must have been quite different from the earlier type of animal life. Think of it. In one incarnation you are an animal type, a huge apelike figure and in the next incarnation, whenever it did occur - probably the implantation of the spark of mind could cause death. I think D.K. talks about the firestorms and the dying off of many of those early forms true that implantation. But then when you are born again there it is; it's implantation and you're having an incarnation not as a member of the 3rd kingdom but as a nascent, incipient, member of the 4th kingdom and yet everything around you, well it doesn't really make sense and yet there is something within you that is driving you to have it make sense and it's going to take a long, long time before the correlations in any self-conscious mental way will occur, other than simply the instinctual knowing where dangerous is, where food is, that kind of thing.

So Capricorn does represent the earth bound soul. I wrote a song about that in my Capricorn solar fire ritual and haha I guess it would be just too much, wouldn't it, to run into these phrases and then say now, just pause for a moment and we are going to play this song, sung by a very good baritone, but that’s another strand.

28:05 It’s a perfect description of the individual who is still limited by 1st petal possibilities especially in the earlier times of the 1st petal. Probably, you know, you can subdivide, I suppose, any of these petal experiences, maybe the entire zodiac comes into one petal in a sequential manner, maybe there are cycles of return, ray cycles and so forth within the long, long Lemurian period in which the 1st petal is unfolding and remember if it is to unfold the man must always be working on ahead in other areas.

One more sign here should be considered, really more than one but we will just go with this: Libra, the sign of karma and the side opposite of the Aries. Oftentimes, as I said, you know take a sign which is very related to the petal and look at the side opposite and see also its necessary relation because Capricorn – Cancer or Aries - Libra, so Libra the sign of karma, the sign opposite Aries and some knowledge of karma is gained: if you do this, this happens. These are the consequences, that’s Libra. Some knowledge of karma is gained during the development of the 1st petal and to a small degree consequences of actions are understood. So Libra is the feedback that your environment gives you when you do certain things. Your environment may be other people; it can be nature; it can be the elements; it can be the animal kingdom. When you do certain things, there are consequences. We call that karma and Libra is the paramount sign of karma along with Capricorn. Libra allows for an increasingly mental understanding of the law of cause and effect. But it's all quite instinctual in these early days.

30:17 Capricorn is more about enforcing the law. So, Saturn is very strong in Libra too and Saturn seems very prominent related to natural law in the work in and opening of this 1st petal. We are told that every human being now has the 1st petal open, maybe not completely opened but more or less open, certainly not in the bud state. It certainly is, to a degree unfolded; after all there has been some millions of years of work going on. Even the newest made human being that isn't coming in from some other source of some other planet is probably millions of years old. I don't know when it stopped, the door was closed in the middle of the Atlantean period, so maybe there is minimally 6 or 7 million years of experience for even the newly, newest made human being.

So, dealing with these signs opposite, the sign opposite Capricorn is Cancer and it rules the very first incarnation of the human being as a group, not necessarily the individual. The reference here that is so important is from *Esoteric Astrology* page 131.

***"Gemini and Sagittarius are connected through their ruling planets (because the Earth is more closely related to Venus than to any other planet) and thus again you have the six potencies which produce release from the bondage of form, entered into in Cancer as far as the mass of humanity is concerned (by this I mean the birth of the human kingdom) and in Pisces as far as the individual is considered." EA 131***

So, the period of mass entry into the human kingdom is under Cancer, but as far as the individual is concerned it seems that the first incarnation perhaps, maybe this is what it is saying, is taken in Pisces. That is certainly a possibility.

33:37 What are the technicalities here? The human family at a certain point probably when we have the right processional age begins to enter into incarnation, but the actual time of incarnation in terms of the yearly cycle perhaps occurs in Pisces. Now that would put some pretty strict limitations upon the mating practices of animal man. However, and then again, we also don't know about the method of birth. Did individualization and the separation of the sexes take place at the same time? Suffice it to say that that first incarnation in the 4th kingdom appears to be taken in Pisces even though the processional age may be governed by Cancer. So Pisces has a lot of appropriateness in relation to this 1st petal.

So, man lives in the darkened house, okay at first; certainly the consciousness is greatly darkened, which Cancer initially rules even as it rules later the lighted house which appears when man begins to awaken and as for Pisces the complete being at sea as far as knowledge and understanding goes. What we have seen is the instinctual nature of the animal is usually so much better than that of man. He begins to lose something when he enters the human kingdom, maybe not immediately. But his development of mind is undertaken at the expense of the guidance of instinct, and the senses are no longer as sharp as they were because the 6th sense of the mind is taking over. We sometimes wonder at how the eagle sees the way it does and how the shark is able to smell and catch the scent of blood from miles away, and the acute hearing of some of the other animals, far more acute these senses are than that which is possible for the man as he progresses in his development.

So, Cancer as the opposite of Capricorn, is distributing the 3rd and 7th rays which are described below as important to the 1st petal process. There is activity and there is rhythm and of course the instinctual life is the rhythmic life and he is released into this world that demands his constant movement to feed, to clothe, to protect himself. The 3rd and 7th rays are strong. So, Cancer as well is a deeply instinctual sign. The Moon is the initial ruler and represents everything built into us from the past and accumulated in our memory. This Moon represents the deepest immersion of the spirit.

37:35 And, we can say that the Moon is in detriment in Capricorn, so the demands of the environment certainly are not hospitable to the usual expression of the vehicles, but we are in real density here, probably a density so dense that we have forgotten what it's all about. And I wonder if we can reproduce in our lives anything like that kind of experience of density. We can say that Cancer in which the mass incarnation took place has a lot to do with the strictly physical elemental, as this elemental is so closely related to the Moon. See if you take the non-sacred planets and look at how they are related to the parts of the human being, we will save the dense physical vehicle is the Moon, Earth is the etheric vehicle, Mars is the astral vehicle, Pluto is the mind, lower mind and the entire integrated personality is the non-sacred Sun. The Sun and the Moon are extremes here in the personality mechanism, but the Moon fits well with this dense instinctual life.

There has been, when we look at Cancer, it's a water sign but the Moon part of it relates to land, the crab lives on the land and the Neptune part relates to the sea. Both on land and sea. Why is this Law broken? Because the primitive human being is blind, blind to the way his environment really works and blind to what he really is and where he came from; he is simply existentially experiencing his environment. Cancer produces a groping kind of behavior, impulse by instinct and not by conscious intelligence.

So, on page 332 of *Esoteric Astrology* we read of the primitive Cancerian, ‘the blind unit is lost’ and there was a time too when man, that early creature did not see, he had other senses but the eye had not emerged. I think emergence of the eye is taking place somewhere around the time of individualization.

So, the Leo influence will have to grow stronger and Leo is always associated with sight, with luminosity before intelligence begins to show itself noticeably and remember we are told from the moment of Sagittarian individualization we have 3 million years to wait perhaps before the man comes to himself and begins to really realize himself as a distinct unit of life. Things move so slowly in the early days. And there just aren't any human beings like that on the planet today, so even if we were to study the most aboriginal groups, even before the influence of modern civilization, we would not find what is being described here. Not anymore.

41:41  So, during the immense period of time during which this 1st petal is organized, stimulated, unfolded and fully opened and probably it should be in this order, I believe this is how D.K. uses it: organized, stimulated . . the organization seems to go first. The man will be born over and over again in all the signs of the zodiac and under them all, I mean in millions of years, it would seem to have to be the case unless there is such strict control of the mating seasons that people are only born in certain signs, but I think while that may be more or less true of the animal kingdom, I think because of man's intelligence and his use of it, it becomes decreasingly the case.

So, there is the sense here that each of the 12 signs will have something to contribute to the development of the human being in this 1st petal stage and the same could be true of the development undertaken as a number of petals are organized and unfold though let us see about the final two petals of the nine. We can say we are working in the final two petals for a fairly long time, but the unfolding can take place in the same life or the next. So, certainly in that period of unfolding it's not that all zodiacal signs would be experienced in relation to the personal horoscope. What we hope will happen, especially as we can begin the clairvoyant study of the history of the human being, is to develop an idea of how each sign of the zodiac contributes to the opening of each petal. Maybe we could say that in terms of working ahead, organizing before the unfoldment occurs, that maybe all signs will be found significant in the horoscope of the individual in relation to every petal. But I think it would require a close study of the actual facts to know whether this is the case. Certainly in the early signs, it is so because these early petals require many, many lives.

44:53 Now let's just say that some work is done in the 7th petal before the 5th petal completely unfolds and then a long period of maybe 30 lives if the years of life of the Master Jesus can be correlated with actual incarnations. He was baptized at the age of 30 so there were 30 years, i.e., 30 lives between the 1st and 2nd initiation of baptism. Is that time enough for all the signs of the zodiac to show with some significance or will only certain ones be of significance? But you know when you think about how ruling planets are involved and other important accents in the chart, we can pretty well say that all of the signs of the zodiac will be involved even in those later, more rapidly unfolding petals. And, when did work within the 7th petal really begin? Probably quite a bit before it became possible to completely unfold the 5th petal. So, the timing leaves a lot of questions and the individual factor, how fast the individual is really moving. Each individual is unique in this although there are trends and tendencies.

So, what we really need, you know, as it is necessary, is this accurate, clairvoyant investigation of what was accomplished in terms of the soul unfoldment or Egoic Lotus organization, stimulation, opening and unfoldment in each life, and maybe someday when it is necessary, that will be undertaken because after all the record does exist. Everything that has ever happened on our planet is recorded and in some way can be accessed in truth and not just in supposition.

So, if we study the earliest petals in this regard of how the zodiac contributes to their unfoldment, it could be interesting historically, while the study of petals of 4 to 9 may hold much interest to the student who is focused on understanding the manner in which he presently expresses. In the new schools we will be given something of our reincarnational history and also taught how to reclaim these past lives. There are techniques, you know, we don't need to necessarily blunder around. There are ways of seeing, but they are not obviously going to be given out in a random manner to the unprepared, because we have a difficult enough time handling what is immediately on our plate, what is before us in the environment. We have all seen people get so involved in the supposition of their former lives that they fail to live the present one, except in an illusory manner based on who they think they were. The dispensing of knowledge has to be very carefully meted out when it can do good.

With reference to Mars, it is so closely related to the Earth. Earth is a planet of rebellion and we see interestingly the attitude of the planetary Logos of Earth, we are told by the Tibetan, is one of a divine rebel. And Mars is so often involved - we just see it factually and astrologically in producing the rebel attitude - the one who resists, the one who will contend and fight where there is imposition. So, Mars is a law breaker and you know there are lots of reason to consider the Earth in the earthbound soul in this very first connection, with the very 1st petal. Mars particularly rules the physical body, we are told, but you know, also every aspect of the personality is ruled by Mars but Mars has a very close connection with the physical body and this is the vehicle most closely related to this material petal and maybe later the etheric body because some kind of Lemurian initiation occurs whereby the man of the period is taught how to better coordinate his etheric body with his dense physical body. So, Mars and the Moon are connected with the dense physical body; Mars not so much with the etheric body I think but Earth, definitely so and Earth seems to be that locale where so much of the unredeemed matter of the previous solar system has been directed for redemption, and hence the cross under which we labor - it's the cross of matter. We have redemptive tasks. It looks backwards; it seeks to bring matter energy, or matter/substance/energy conditioned by different patterns of the earlier solar system into the patterns which condition the present solar system.

50:56 With regard to the law, the law comes under Saturn, the planet of law and karma and paying the price of ignorance is definitely Saturn - you pay the price under Saturn, even when you pay your taxes, you pay under Saturn. For breaking the law, there is always a price. For any infringement upon the law, there is a return type of circumstance, which we consider to be difficult and we consider it to be then a price to pay for action like this. I had a friend who made a joke about painful and pay in full - painful. So, everything owed to restore the balance must be repaid and in that restoration process, since Saturn is a great Lord of balance, hierarchically ruling Libra, we have to pay the fullness and oftentimes encounter pain in restoring the balance. Interesting here, the idea of Libra with its unbalanced, fiery passion, so connected with the 1st petal.

We are told you know that great excesses of sexual expression came about in Lemuria and it was rampant, the sexuality was rampant and reaction against that came in Atlantis and some of that reaction was suppressive and caused diseases of suppression like cancer. So oftentimes when we try to correct what has gone amiss, we go too far in the other direction, but that suppression is also Saturnian. The Mars part here is what takes us beyond the law. Mars is classically the law breaker and Earth has the psychology of the divine rebel.

Some degree of the knowledge of consequences, what follows when you do this or that, consequences of action is learned under the regime of this 1st petal of Knowledge. We are still learning, aren't we? We are still learning about consequences on much higher turns of the spiral. We seek to work with higher types of energies. We may not be especially adept at doing that. We may overdo or underdo. We find out something about the results. Knowledge of the consequences of energies and forces applied comes to us, I think it has a lot to do also with the 7th petal which is a Libran petal and hence connected in a sense with Saturn, and is a petal of higher knowledge.

So, Saturn is also a mental, manasic planet - associated very much with the 3rd ray and should be associated with the knowledge achieved as the result of paying the price. When a person has a strong Saturn they maybe know what to do in difficult circumstances because they have been through that experience and learned the "hard way", the way of Capricorn, the way of Saturn. The price of ignorance is paid and knowledge is achieved.

55:15 We come forth in ignorance and we have to use some sense of the knowledge of cause and effect to understand what is happening. That 5th ray, through orange, is found from the very beginning. It's in every single petal - how interesting. So, it really points to man as being a manasic being and acquiring knowledge through experience. But it is new at first, it is new to the individualized man even though the 5th ray was so important in the individualization process. So, it will be applied slowly and it will be applied to the overcoming of the densest ignorance.

I am remembering about the blessed one came forth, he wandered in the darkest depths of matter and saw no reason for this way of life but that coming forth of the 5th ray Monad in the lowest worlds is somewhat analogous here. There are 5th ray Monads, indeed there are, we cannot be limited to the idea that only the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Monad exist - in the highest sense perhaps, but the 5th ray Monad exists.

So, we have both Mars and Saturn as planets of concrete manas. Mars is associated with the 5th ray. It rules the five senses as well as the concrete mind in a sense and also concrete science and hence the crudest aspects of the concrete mind - that which prevents the concrete mind from seeing more deeply into the world of spirituality. It is the factor of concreteness which resists any kind of acceptance of the reality of the inner or higher planes. It contributes to skepticism. It's an orange planet too. It's as orange as it is red and so the 5th ray is there. You think about the relation of the orange to the red, 5th ray being absorbed into the 1st ray, red. I think both of these things are operating in Mars.

So, it is being applied in this school of hard knocks where you force yourself into situations with too much force or perhaps too little, and when there is too much, there is a rebound from the environment. Mars provokes the reaction from the environment - a too strenuous display of force, inappropriately for the circumstance, will give the rebound blow. So in a way Mars provokes Saturn which is the reckoning for the one who is pushed too far. So, Mars and Saturn are both planets of concrete manas and they fit well with the knowledge petal. They are called, interestingly in ordinary astrology at least, the two malefic planets, though really they are not. D.K. tells us they are not malefic at all. Each one of these great planetary Gods is beneficent but they are not all equally kind to the dense form with which man has identified himself.

59:10 So they rule this school of hard knocks and certainly the 1st petal is involved in hard experience. Notice how experience later on gets softer and softer and may have nothing to do with the impacts of the physical plane. And we recall also in this context, the hardness of Capricorn which we were hypothetically associating with this petal. There are many people today who don't work with the elementally hard aspects of life at all. I mean you know some people work in metal and stone and mining, a Vulcanian encounter with the mineral Kingdom while others are simply in the psychological area, or the literary area and they are working with emotions, they are working with thoughts and they don't have to be so practically astute with respect to elemental living. But in this 1st petal, it is very much elemental living.

So, interestingly we can associate of course Saturn with density and Mars with the dense physical plane, they both are connected with the dense physical plane, the five senses of Mars and Saturn the most concrete indicator - that which is truly compact and condensed into a very dense form is ruled by Saturn. So, what did D.K. talk about those not just aggregations but congestions. You know if you want to get across a bridge, let's just say that Saturn can cause a traffic jam. You want something that flows more easily, perhaps the free flow of Jupiter, but then if Jupiter might produce too many cars which leads directly to Saturn, so there are these relationships between the planets and none of them can be called totally beneficent and the others maleficent. It all depends on how they are used.

1:01:32 From the chakric perspective, the base of the spine center is involved. It is very much connected with the etheric plane which gives us survivability on the physical. The sacral center which is very strong in this petal is Martian, for Mars rules sex and the physical body and also ruling kundalini latent. I suppose the power of kundalini before it really begins to rise, which is the basic heat at the base of the spine center.

Mars is closely related to the fight or flight response of the adrenal glands. It is interesting the switch that goes on there with the glands associated with the base of the spine being in a higher position in the body, i.e. on top of the kidneys and the glands associated with the sex center. The sex center is higher but the glands associated are lower than those associated with the base of the spine. That is interesting because sometimes the sacral center is left out altogether as a kind of temporary evocation, as if it's not so important I suppose when the division of the sexes no longer is operative as one day it will not be operative; we are passing through a very long phase of the sexes being divided and a hermaphroditic return, but not yet, is expected, then the sacral center as we know it will probably fade out and demonstrate that in fact it was a temporary evocation.



As for Saturn in relation to this 1st petal, it is the planet of survival and the intelligence, wariness, caution needed for survival and it's one of the main issues concerning this processes of three world living which goes to the opening of the 1st petal. So, there is all these different ways in which the planets involved are somehow appropriate to the experiences. I mean we would have to, I suppose - I hadn't thought of this before but many subraces will be involved in the long history of the early petals. We sometimes just say okay it's Lemuria, but Lemuria had its different subraces and as the subraces emerge with their different cycles, I guess it would be really important to study these Lemurian subraces and the planets associated with them to see how those planets would affect this 1st petal process as it becomes more refined and maybe this is easier to do in relation to the 2nd petal as it seems that in theosophy at least, the nature of those rootraces is better defined.

1:05:34 I'm not remembering exactly what they are right now, but I've read about them and an early Semitic form, a Toltec form, certain giant forms but they would represent progression within that 2nd petal - the Atlantean petal. So, we have Saturn for survival and how to just stay in just physical form on this planet. How to survive? It is a very material planet from one perspective. It's involved in grounding the primitive man. After all he came in a way not just from the animal kingdom. His higher nature is within. So, there are some interesting associations with Saturn placed at the base of the spine and anchoring the man in material world. It's not usually considered the planetary ruler of the base of the spine, that usually goes to Pluto let us say, but Mars is there, Mercury is there, Uranus in the 7th ray can be considered to be there because in a way it's the 7th center and Saturn. So can we connect Saturn to the sacral center? Well in the production of concretion, perhaps. Concrete physical form, all of them relate to Saturn and the production of definite forms but there is where the Moon's relation to Saturn comes into focus. The Moon is definitely one of those planets which is connected with the sacral center and we can't forget Earth. In all the 1st 3 petals, especially petals 1 and 2, Earth will be a prominent influence. How to reckon with the Earth astrologically is not yet fully decided but it's on its way.

So, it definitely is an etheric connection. Kind of interesting how the base of the spine has the same symbol as the Earth and the base of the spine is actually related more to the etheric plane than the dense physical and when you see the astrological analysis that D.K. offers of the Earth and its role, it is connected with the ether. It is divided into 4 and there are 4 ethers. So, there are a number of associations there which really seem to hang together quite well.

So, Earth is found ruling at the base of the spine center because the analogy holds: our Earth is said to be or will be or will have that function of the base of the spine center of our Solar Logos and hence its generic connection with the base of the spine which has the same number of petals and the same symbol as the Earth symbol. The quadrated circle.

1:09:25 Earth represents physical weight and earthiness and captivation by the instinctual lives. So, that's all part of this 1st experience. The physical forms of man were huge at that time, and I think they've been called like great tabernacles of clay and ill-favored and not very beautiful yet. And all of this has to do with the type of creation that was possible in those early days. But they were gargantuan forms. So, some degree of etheric response will begin to come through here. We know how important coordinating the ether with the physical was in Lemuria and we're told that the 1st initiation for humanity involved the union of etheric and the physical body, and it was a conscious union. It is not the case that initiates as we understand initiates would be produced during 1st petal processes, but the struggle to unite etheric and physical nature would have its rudimentary beginnings and it was a form of initiation.

Then then we should also look at the planet Vulcan which even though an undiscovered and sacred planet will have its effect as we have seen in its various mythological representations. So, it has its place there. It's oftentimes associated with the Moon especially. The Moon is said to veil Vulcan in the very early days and it represents a kind of, I think we can call it the stubborn obduracy of matter. It's instinctual insistence or we might even say instinctual resistance to being changed.

So, it's sort of the will of matter to be exactly what it is and to do what it is instinctually inclined to do, and we could call that in a way, instinctual inertia. So, Vulcan, with Capricorn, and it is actually an important ruler and one of the decanates of Capricorn which would be entered we realize from the opposite side. We're entering from 30 degrees in these early days toward 20. So, in that 3rd decanate it's really in a sense a 1st decanate. It fits with Capricorn. It's a signal of the hardness of this lengthy period and the strictly earthbound physical processes which characterize it. We know Vulcan is closely related to the mineral kingdom, and man has a lot to do with the mineral kingdom in these days. Somewhat with the plant kingdom and certainly with the animal kingdom; I think mostly there is a tendency to hunt and to seek food from the animal kingdom.

1:13:18 But maybe the gathering also is part of the story. One doesn't know what kinds of plants there were in those days and what kinds of fruits there were. But the hardness of life is coordinated with Vulcan and we know that Vulcan works with the hammer to bring the hardest matter into the shape intended by the will and by the design of the mind who wields the hammer. It's man himself that is being shaped up by the hammer of the soul, by its rhythmic impacts we might say.

So, the Moon which rules the physical body and which corresponds to the influence of Cancer must also be mentioned and the Moon and Vulcan are so closely related. We have to bring this in - relationship of the Moon to Vulcan with Moon veiling Vulcan in the primitive man or how does he said it, in undeveloped man.

So, the Moon had great power in early days. I think it had even greater power before individualization than it did in those days. But still more in those days than it does now. It is a receding figure and we're told by the 7th round, and we don't know whether that means a scheme round or a chain round, it will be entirely dissipated and will no longer act as a drag upon the earth scheme. So, the Moon which relates so much the physicality of the dense kind had an important place in it and it really was I think a much bigger figure in the sky and it has lost a lot of its mass. Let's see if we can find this. It might be interesting. Let's see what it says here.

***“Every moon is occultly a "point of corruption," or that which is passing off in noxious gases. The transmutation of the form has been proceeded with in their case to a point where all that represents vital energy has left, all solar life has passed off, no remnants of pranic energy remain, and that which is to be seen is simply the decay of the physical body,—a decay which is proceeding on etheric levels as well as on physical.” TCF Pages 794-795***

***Every moon is occultly a "point of corruption," or that which is passing off in noxious gases. The transmutation of the form has been proceeded with in their case to a point where all that represents vital energy has left, all solar life has passed off, no remnants of pranic energy remain,. . .*** Just that which pertains utterly to the 3rd aspect without the vitalization of the 2nd aspect or the vital aspect of the 3rd aspect ***. . .and that which is to be seen is simply the decay of the physical body,—a decay which is proceeding on etheric levels as well as on physical.*** And you can have etheric levels without prana.

***“The decay of a moon has as great an evil effect upon all that contacts it as a decaying body on earth has upon its surroundings. It is occultly "offensive." This will be more truly apprehended when the etheric double of our moon is studied. As the moon becomes small through the process of disintegration, its effect upon the Earth will be correspondingly lessened, and this stage will be paralleled by a consequent greater freedom from evil impulse of the sons of men.” TCF Page 795***

1:17:04 ***The decay of a moon has as great an evil effect upon all that contacts it as a decaying body on earth has upon its surroundings.*** We might say the source of disease right.  ***It is occultly "offensive." This will be more truly apprehended when the etheric double of our moon is studied. As the moon becomes small through the process of disintegration, its effect upon the Earth will be correspondingly lessened, and this stage will be paralleled by a consequent greater freedom from evil impulse of the sons of men.***

***“Better conditions among the animals will be another result above all else, and the dying out of that which is noxious in the animal kingdom. By the time the 7th round is reached, the evil effect of the then moon (which will have to all intents and purposes practically disappeared) will be finished. During the 5th round, men will discover how to neutralise any remaining effects through scientific achievement and knowledge of the necessary sounds and mantrams, and thus much evil will be offset. The etheric moon is included in these remarks. The greatest effect of moon conditions is to be seen working out predominantly in the terror, and present distress in the animal kingdom.” TCF Page 795***

***Better conditions among the animals will be another result above all else, and the dying out of that which is noxious in the animal kingdom.*** Maybe the poisons perhaps. ***By the time the 7th round is reached, the evil effect of the then moon (which will have to all intents and purposes practically disappeared) will be finished. During the 5th round, men will discover how to neutralise any remaining effects through scientific achievement and knowledge of the necessary sounds and mantrams, and thus much evil will be offset.*** Sounds like the Black Lodge is going to have a hard time. ***The etheric moon is included in these remarks. The greatest effect of moon conditions is to be seen working out predominantly in the terror, and present distress in the animal kingdom.***

I think that is pretty well the one we want to look at. There's also ‘Moon much larger’.

***“The MOON once was the body of expression for one of the Logoi; the Earth now is, and the cycles change continuously.” TCF Page 86***

Well that's another one.Well there is a reference and the reference, let's just see ‘Moon ancient times’. Yes, maybe here in *Esoteric Astrology*:

***“Another point which should here be noted is that the influence of the moon is purely symbolic in nature and in effect and is simply the result of ancient thought and teaching (descended to us from Lemurian times) and is not based upon any true radiation or influence. In those far off times, antedating even Lemuria and constituting in Lemurian days simply an ancient tradition, the moon appeared to be a living vital entity.” EA Page 13***

So even in Lemurian times it was simply a tradition.

***“But I would have you bear definitely in mind that today the moon is nothing more than a dead form. It has no emanation and no radiation of any kind and, therefore, has no effect of any kind. The moon, from the angle of the esoteric knower, is simply an obstruction in space—an undesirable form which must some day disappear. In esoteric astrology, the effect of the moon is noted as a thought effect and as the result of a powerful and most ancient thoughtform; nevertheless, the moon has no quality of her own and can transmit nothing to the Earth. Let me reiteray: The moon is a dead form; it has no emanation at all.” EA Page 13***

***But I would have you bear definitely in mind that today the moon is nothing more than a dead form. It has no emanation and no radiation of any kind and, therefore, has no effect of any kind.*** Except I suppose a noxious effect. ***The moon, from the angle of the esoteric knower, is simply an obstruction in space—. . .*** And thus perhaps we have to look at it in our charts **. . .*an undesirable form which must some day disappear. In esoteric astrology,. . .*** it is veiling these planets. So you can look here for further information.

1:21:37 But as I was saying before,

***“That is why the moon is spoken of in the ancient teaching as "veiling either Vulcan or Uranus." This hint or inference has always been here and astrologers would do well to experiment with this suggestion I have made anent the moon and (instead of working with the moon) let them work with Vulcan when dealing with the undeveloped or average man and with Uranus when considering the highly developed man. They would find some interesting and convincing results eventuate.” EA Page 13***

***. . . let them work with Vulcan when dealing with the undeveloped or average man and with Uranus when considering the highly developed man. They would find some interesting and convincing results eventuate.*** Okay, so the Moon was larger and more vital. In Lemuria it was simply a tradition, but I suppose men were closer to the meaning of what the Moon is in those times. And one thinks about the times when men were simply unconscious beings in the first two rootraces, perhaps then the Moon had even greater power as the form ruled. But nevertheless it is the Moon that rules in a sense the outer rind, the physical body, which corresponds to the influence of Cancer. So it must be prominent and its rhythms even though traditional were of greater power. And the rhythms of the Moon correspond with a number of aspects of the instinctual nature. That instinctual nature is so prominent at the time including the birth cycle.

1:23:04 So, even though the apparently living vibrant Moon referred to a time that antedated Lemuria it was stronger in Lemuria that it is now. It's fading and we know that in the 5th round, as I say what kind of round will it be? The 5th round of our chain which is a chain round or will it be much, much later in the process and be a scheme round. We are in, I think, on our planet both the 4th scheme round and that 4th scheme round is focused on our 4th chain in which there is a 4th chain round.

In Venus the 5th scheme round I think has occurred or is concluding and that will be it for Venus because the necessary advancement through form has been accomplished due to its unusually rapid progression.

So, from the ray perspective here, the 1st, 3rd, and 5th and 7th rays would all be prominent. The 1st and 3rd rays can only be involved astrologically because at this stage of development none of the rays of aspect can play a part of the ray chart. Well maybe in the mind chart, but the mind chart is so poorly represented. There is not much mind going out at all. Certainly you cannot have a personality of the 1st and 3rd ray that comes only later when intelligent man is developing and when the process of initiation is approaching. The 1st and 2nd ray cannot be the personality ray except for those who are aspiring or should we say on the path.

1:25:11 We can say astrologically these rays can be involved through these signs ruled by planets which distribute these rays and maybe in ways not easily understood through the signs themselves. I mean 1st, 3rd and 7th ray come through Capricorn let us say, but in what manner do they come with Capricorn, different than they come through the planets? It's the planets that seem to rule first. In the ray chart of primitive man you will not really have a personality and if you did have a personality it would have to be rays four, five, six or seven until further advancement is achieved and some ray transference begins.

So, ray one has to do with survival and it rules the base of the spine, you know, just keep anchored, keep there, stay in incarnation. That is built into animal forms and it was certainly built into the animal form of man. So, it's the instinct to prevail over adversities and I suppose it will be highly developed even if unconscious and there will be an inherent instinctual selfishness which can only be associated with ray one. I mean what a man conceives himself to be is pretty much in the body which he perceives, nothing else, although you know probably some experiences of being out of the body did occur in those early days.

I think they occur very much for the Aboriginals in Australia and they refer to it, I'm no expert here, but as the Dream Time, and so they have an identity outside the physical body as well; some kind of astral connection. The real thickening of the consciousness of early man and its densification occurred only later, says HPB. The man could no longer realize that he was other than the body and the reign of the fear of death began. He had lost his ability to be sensitive on the inner planes but I think in the very earliest type of man that type of sensitivity still remained and he could remove himself from his density. He could sense his Solar Angel and then as the Lemurian period progressed the thickening set in, the densification set in, and by the time certain phases in Atlantis had occurred man was pretty much identifying himself as the skin encapsulated Ego in our modern language.

1:28:25 The 3rd ray will show itself has animal cunning and the ability to begin to learn about the environment, circumstances and consequence. So, this ray is also associated with Capricorn and with Libra, both of which have a role to play in 1st petal processes: the karmic payback and the law as we have discussed. And we must also remember the numerology - this 1st petal of Knowledge tier represents the 3rd aspect of a tier representing the 3rd aspect. So the number three though at this point you know hardly related to abstract thought is inescapably present. We're moving around the environment. We are learning. We are escaping. We are using our rapidity to hunt and to gain food and so forth. We are learning. But it's still within the Hall of Ignorance, it is hardly the Hall of Learning which is more learning about the higher of the pairs of opposites or its presence.

The 5th ray is that of a concrete mind and we have during the 1st petal processes the gradual unfoldment of course of intelligence, as instinct slowly gives way to dim mental realization, very dim. The orange is there showing the presence of the 5th ray without the 5th ray and that 5th kingdom, we would not have individualization. Even those whose mental unit was fanned to a greater degree of intensity so individualization could occur, depended upon the 5th kingdom for that fanning.

1:30:21 So, the 5th ray is, starting from the 1st, it is man: man is manas, the 5th ray and it will develop all the way through until it reaches a very high stage, the height of it has not even yet been reached by people like ourselves. So this is the period of early Lemurian man and the 3rd rootrace is obviously connected with the 3rd ray, but also with the 5th because individualization has occurred under Leo, and under Venus a 5th ray planet and the 5th ray there in general is found in the making of man; even though it's the 4th kingdom, the 5th ray makes man and man will be for the most part in this 4th round and in our particular solar system under the supervision of the Solar Angels or the 5th Creative Hierarchy.

So the number five is everywhere to be found and it's the number five in a way that is discriminating what the human kingdom is from what the animal kingdom is because there's is the slow and steady growth of conscious knowledge. So many fives necessarily make 1st petal processes very dependent upon the nascent development of the 5th ray which reveals among other things the true nature of cause and effect. Now he deals a bit more with that at the 4th petal, but this idea of being able to relate cause and effect in a conscious manner belongs to the human kingdom and not so much to the animal kingdom although there is this kind of instinctual recognition there of this follows that.

1:32:20 So hence we learn consciously in this 1st petal the consequences of action. Libra, a karmic sign, teaches consequences as I've said and has for its exoteric ruler and we can only talk at this stage really about exoteric ruler of the signs involved in man, exoteric ruler of Venus which transmits again the 5th ray and sheds light upon the results of actions, which are often initiated blindly in Aries and in relation to Mars. So you just do something because you feel like doing it. You have the impulse, the Martian impulse, Ariesan impulse to do something and then you see the results. After a few times you begin to see the results, the consequences under Libra and the 5th ray and then from that time on you know that if this action is done that consequence will follow. So, cause and effect thinking, however primitive It may be, begins at this point.

As with the 7th ray, well the primitive rituals of the bodily cycles control man. So natural rhythms, so 7th ray rules all kinds of rhythms are expressed, and life is lived to fulfill the cravings of rhythmic appetites - appetite for food, procreativity, sex being paramount and the seasons also man is very subject to the seasons. Now modern man has much removed from that because we have built fortifications against the rhythms of nature. We may be about to be overcome at this point by the disruption we've caused in the elemental kingdoms but that's a different matter. It also happened in middle Atlantis and later as well. HPB tells us about a number of floods not just one, and they were all pretty big. Perhaps the first Great Flood; well it was about 870,000 years, 800 something thousand years ago. Read Philip Lindsay's *Hidden History of Humanity* and he has the details there.

1:34:53 The idea though is that the 7th ray is active and we see that in the Aboriginal cultures; the 7th ray is very pronounced and there are certain taboos involving the 7th ray, you do this at this time and you don't do that ever or you don't do that at a certain time, otherwise the consequences will be grave. So, we keep our life ritualized and it is therefore safe. It is a type of magical thinking that occurs if certain patterns are observed, certain results will eventuate. It's not really yet 5th ray scientific thinking which actually studies cause and effect; it may simply be based upon having observed that a certain pattern was contiguous with a certain result. That pattern may not really have been related to the result, but it is often adopted as if it were related to the result.

Well, ritualistic living is strong in the primitive groups and we've broken down a lot of that in our modern society, but I think it's going to be coming back as we understand, for instance, the spiritual value of Full Moon approaches. You know the effective study of the heavens will bring back a certain timing into our life and there are many, many rituals built into society that we hardly pay notice. I think weddings are very ritualistic, funerals, senior proms and dances you know in high school. We have our psychic rituals even today, but in those days they were done as much to protect and to survive as for any other reason - to please the gods later so to speak.

1:37:12 So, again these petals of the 1st tier are called petals of the 1st circle. They open up over such a long period of time that all the rays again, just like all the signs, either working out in the ray chart of the individual or at this stage almost exclusively through the astrological influences would have their part to play. At this point we're never going to have that 1st, 2nd or 3rd ray personality, but we will have a 1st, 2nd or 3rd ray coming in physically, maybe through the mind, the 1st ray mind, although I don't know how early that would appear. The general types are the 5th, 4th and 1st ray and are they progressive in such a sense that 1st there must be primitive 5th, then 4th, and then 1st? I'm not sure. But you will not get, probably 2nd ray, unless you get it through an astrological sign or the position of a particular planet which is prominent. But it's such a long period of development you know. I think I was reading in the *Hidden History of Humanity* about the vulcanic destruction of Lemuria about four million years ago in which case we could have a developmental period going on here of some 17 million years, tied in with some people on this 1st petal. I know there are overlaps with the Atlantean period which began maybe six to eight million years before the destruction of the greater part of Lemuria and of the Lemurian racial types. Some of them still remain, of course, because in the Aboriginals of Australia we do find remnants of the latter Lemurian type.

The rays two, four and six are related to the subject of life and particularly to the development of the astral plane. Now as I say there can be some going out of the body and so forth, that’s where these rays would have some connection to six and four. But it's certainly not the Atlantean stage of development of the astral plane where six and four would be very, very strong. The 4th rootrace ruled by the 6th ray and some growth of the 2nd as initiation is pursued. So probably not much astral development for the unfoldment of the 1st petal, but then you have to be working ahead naturally in the next petal which is very much connected with the astral plane.

But in this 1st petal man is very much a physical being and such emotions as there might be would be more tied to the physical instinctual processes: pain or happiness over satisfying hunger, over satisfying sex, over satisfying protection from animals, protection from the environment, from storms and so forth. The emotional nature would be expressed in relation to those things and not have a life of their own as was developed in Atlantean times when desires were disconnected from natural processes even to a terribly abnormal extent in the case of some of the more powerful and evil types that probably came in from the 1st solar system altogether. And the color references will be discussed a bit further on in the book. Okay.

1:41:36 Then D.K. has a chance to speak again here. He says ***“This unfoldment is brought about through physical plane experience.”*** Well we've covered some of this and I would just say:

***“1. The Petal of Knowledge for the physical plane. Through the breaking of the Law and the ensuing suffering the price of ignorance is paid and knowledge is achieved. This unfoldment is brought about through physical plane experience.” TCF Page 539***

So, the two sentences are of course very related and so this sentence of text supports what we've just been discussing. So there's no petal more associated with the physical plane experience and with instinctive living than this 1st petal. For the processes of this petal the desires of Mars are tied to physical plane instincts and appetites. Of course, you know while the 1st petal is unfolding there is work being done in the next petal and how far ahead I don't know how far we can go.

The unfoldment of the entire 1st tier is not possible we have read until quite a bit of organization and stimulation work has been done in the 2nd tier of petals. But the life of desire does not have a life independent of the promptings of the physical body. There are no what we would say unnatural desires and modern man is plagued by so many unnatural desires. Some of them quite perverted and going against the what the mechanism was designed to do. But that doesn't come at this point. So, we will have to wait until the Atlantean period when evil really flourished for that type of independence of desire from physicality to arise. It's not necessarily a bad thing of course. We have all kinds of higher desires which are quite independent of whether we can fulfill our physical instincts. Once those instincts are covered and satisfied our desire life really moves on to achieve other types of objectives.

Those Egoic Lotus's with one petal unfolded are said to be Brahmic lotuses and those in whom the 2nd petal is showing signs of opening, which must mean they've done quite a bit of work, their organizational work and stimulating work, are called Lotuses of Brahman. So there is a lot that could be said about each petal. A book and this is that book, it's not a written book, okay. A book is planned to include what can be said given the scope of our present knowledge and of course I don't claim to include all that can be said. I'm simply collecting what Master D.K. has said in my own responses to what he has said and sometimes including the responses of students and fellow group members who have offered thoughts when these things were being discussed. So, I said what is here said will go to the content of the book and will give indications of how the subject can be developed.

1:45:22 That’s about an hour and 45 minutes of work there on what D.K. has said anent this 1st petal and you know a lot of these are my own thoughts in response to the rather brief sentence that he has given. But I try to bring in various associations and when we study following this section in the 820’s and so forth there will be more to be said about each petal but at that point somewhat in terms of color. Then we will go directly to much that has been collected and we will study petal by petal in terms of all that I have collected at least and we'll see if we can organize our thought around that collection of references and observations which are all related to the 1st petal.

I think I'm not necessarily going to do it in such a way that each petal gets its own program, but perhaps under the circumstances, this would be a good thing to do because I know it's somewhat easier for you to deal with a shorter program than a longer one.

You know is it legitimate to use the Egoic Lotus, this esoteric structure unfolding within our energy system, as a hub for the gathering of many things related to the unfoldment of the human being? You know there are these laws of the soul; they are so very important, and they will be applied at a certain stage of human development. But they range across soul developments, so the very 1st law, the Law of Sacrifice is even operative for the soul's direction of a human being that doesn't know where that direction is coming from. There are 7 laws and the very highest laws are related to high beings and maybe finally to those who have dispensed with the causal body or are about to do so.

We have the techniques of integration. When is integration really occurring? Well one kind of integration is occurring in the 4th petal and is demonstrated expressively in the 5th petal. But that concerns only the integration of the personality as an entity in itself – it’s energy system not related to the soul's energy system in a conscious way and then later we begin this process of soul infusion, and work in the 7th, 8th and 9th petal are required with reflex effect in the 5th, and 6th petals, and finally in the entire Sacrifice tier.

1:50:16 So, when we look at the techniques of integration, we can easily see that we can go through the different parts of the petal representing the history of humanity and say this is where this process called Integration strikes the petal in these different areas - involves different areas of the petal at different phases of the integration process. Some of that process involves housecleaning, you know 6th petal. Then it involves revelation of the Divine Plan and real work within 7, 8, and 9. Some of it is even earlier: it involves crisis. The kind of crisis where the two forces are really contending with each other in the 5th petal. So, when we study the techniques of integration we could span from petal 4 to petal 9 and see how the different phases of integration operate with respect to petal organization and unfoldment.

Then we would have something called the Law of Repulse, and this is a law of the soul. It's a very important law. And it has to do with repelling all that is of the personality and tends to inhibit the growth of soul life. Well even in the 5th petal there is the realization under its partial Scorpio rulership that you have to get rid of certain things if you're going to live a life more in keeping with the higher of the pairs of opposites, and in the 8th petal there is much work being done. It's a Scorpio petal. I'm assuming that the Law of Repulse has a lot to do with the 1st ray and Scorpio. It's all about getting rid of what is not needed. And in a sense it's related to the Law of Sacrifice.

1:52:55 So, the study of the 5th petal and of the 8th petal would be very important in the Law of Sacrifice. Then we also have something called the technique of fusion. Well this is a kind of a 7th, 8th, 9th petal process which is quite completed by the time the 9th petal unfolds, along with the 8th and 7th altogether and you have the 3rd degree initiate. This has produced the soul-infused personality. And you're going to be meditating on a high themes like presented attributes that probably has a lot to do with the unfolding of the 7th petal, because all knowledge there is used for the betterment of the Plan.

And then we have what's called inclusive reason. In some ways we can relate it to the 8th petal and to Mercury and to Scorpio because inclusive reason is actually found upon the buddhic plane which is related both to Mercury and to Scorpio. And it's a new form of holistic perception which should not be banished from consideration when we enter the 9th petal because the pure reason will come into sharper focus at the 9th petal and even beyond as the Synthesis petals unfold.

Let me say then of course we have the final stage what it's called isolated unity. Only a Master really knows what that's about that but when we're working at the unfoldment of the 3rd petal and when the rod of initiation is ready to touch the 3rd petal of the Sacrificed tier, really the 9th petal, then the sense of the unity, the ability to say I dwell within a world of unity; I know all souls are one is definitely growing.

So, it's almost as if we're using the Egoic Lotus as the central symbol and yet it's more than a symbol - it's an actuality responding in living time to the development of the individual. We're using it as kind of a central symbol however to gather the many, many things said about man. And because it is so intimate to our unfoldment, all of these different activities and stages can be described in relationship to it. And you know other people might choose to do it a different way but I always found when I was teaching the esoteric psychology courses in the University of the Seven Rays and also in the Ph.D. courses that were taught in person, I found that this great gathering of information into a kind of synthesis of knowledge, kind of a 7th petal thing, worked very well if we could relate it to the stages of the Egoic Lotus unfolding and then to the stages at which synthesis could be appreciated.

1:56:25 We can say that the 1st Synthesis petal has most to do with the synthesis of knowledge and I suppose that's what we're dealing with here, more than the synthesis of love or the synthesis of will. There's you know a lot of 3rd ray involved here, the 3rd ray Monadic impulse to synthesize all knowledge and I think D.K. has this very strongly. I've always suspected that like the Buddha his Monadic ray is the 3rd. Of course, I can't be sure about that. I'm simply reasoning using the 3rd ray to determine this and I know he will set me straight if I've been in error, perhaps tell me why I've been an error and perhaps forgive me for having misled so many. But in the same way that I conceive of the Christ as having the 2nd ray Monad and Master Morya, the 1st ray Monad, the Buddha definitely has the 3rd ray Monad and those people who are trained in esoteric Buddhism as the Tibetan has been and given the demonstration of his correlation of knowledge it seems to me the 3rd ray Monad.

So, we will move on with the beginning of Egoic Lotus Webinar Commentary Program 23, and we will be exactly on the same page, and I hope that enough groundwork will have been done by the time we get to examining the petal exactly that there will be understanding. I mean you know you can sometimes say well oh my goodness the amount of correlation that here is involved is staggering, but it's not staggering when you have spent some time with the factors that are to be correlated and you may say well what do I need all of this for in order to live my life and not everybody does, of course not everybody does, but those who want to see how everything relates to everything else and then wisely deal with things for the sake of their improvement and in general for the improvement of people's lives first are benefited by understanding all of these relations even though it's fairly arduous at first to study sufficiently the parts and then relate them into one whole, so that increasingly under the sign Cancer we might say the whole is seen as one.

Okay friends I managed to take us to two hours. Don't know how that happened, but I feel a little bit more rounded off, bringing us to two hours so, good we will go on with program number 23. And we have 11 petals to go but really D.K. he talked somewhat about the Synthesis petals – we’ll get into it but he didn’t talk about them one-to-one. We will get into that and we will talk to you soon. On we go.