

## **450. The Path of Group Initiation**

### **From Separation to Unity by Group Initiation**

by

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Initiation is a process in which fire burns away false thoughts of separation. This fire is mind, holding a consciousness that is greater than it was before the initiation. Each initiation marks a milestone in transforming one's consciousness so that it can comprehend what it means, in Jesus Christ's words, to be "One with the Father." The rules for initiation, for individuals and groups, given to us by the Master Djwal Khul, lay out the methods used over the ages by those who have achieved this goal of Unity. They are not required and may not be the only way, but we can be assured they have been found useful.

The physical bodies of Humanity have evolved as far as they can. They are intended to provide a means by which the Not-self can interact with physical existence and it does this through the senses. This awareness is part of what we call consciousness. When consciousness became isolated within a form, it became the self as opposed to the Not-self. This little self was still Not-self but it was only aware of the self within the limits of the form. Once thought was enabled within it, it interpreted all the sensations it experienced in term of itself alone. As the senses evolve by becoming increasingly aware of finer and subtler stimuli, consciousness stretched to understand what was being contacted. When the small self can see that it is part of a larger self called soul it is called enlightened. The process of initiation was given to Humanity to help it expand consciousness more rapidly than it could on its own, in order to know Spirit.

The steady impact of Spirit on matter has taken Humanity to the lowest point on the involutory cycle and to individualization. Now the increasing influence of Soul is raising man's consciousness out of the depths of isolation in material existence. It is leading it into the heights of spiritual awareness. Having become almost entirely separated from consciousness of Spirit, man is now beginning to feel the stimulation of soul's focused attention as it rouses the spark of mind planted within his heart so long ago. Soul consciousness is group consciousness. Soul experiences through the form, but is not limited by it. It is aware of the universe of being outside of form, where there is no sense of you and me; there is only one experience of all things, although individual identity remains and individual progression remains possible within a serving group. The self learns to see itself as part of a group, first of family, then as clan and then as national and racial groups. The concept of self grows from that of a small cell, to an individual, then to a group.

Group consciousness is very much a part of the thinking of Humanity now. The idea that the group is to benefit the individual must now expand into the idea that the individual must serve the group in order for everyone to benefit. The group consciousness becomes one that the member can all share and experience through together. As the consciousness of the self expands through contact with others and then through the group experience with others it becomes larger than itself alone. This group awareness extends into the inner planes as consciousness expands to include soul, because soul knows that it is not possible to work alone. Any action will affect others and cooperation is essential to harmony in the whole. I expect that everyone who achieves soul consciousness will also know absolutely that they are part of a group. Shamballa is the ultimate group experience on Earth and the Hierarchy a part of it. Humanity is a rather dysfunctional part at times, with some exceptions as more disciples find their place within the whole.

Man has never had to tread the path to Unity alone. He has always had some members of Humanity to share this path and reflect his own self back to himself, for it is not others that we see and feel in our experiences with them, but a reflection of ourselves. In their response to us we will see everything we know about ourselves. So if one is looking for the best in himself, for his highest potentials, one must associate with those who are expressing their own highest ideals. If we want to remain a part of such a group then, we must strive to express always the best that is in us. This becomes the key to group success. We must find a group who shares our interests and ideals and we must strive to express those qualities in ourselves. As we are sure to find ourselves lacking in some way, we must also forgive others for their inadequacies and mistakes. If we want love from others, we must surely love them, because everything we feel about them will be reflected back to us as our own inadequacy. As we support them, they can support us. To be a success at anything implies acceptance from others. If we seek spiritual growth, the right group and the right teachers are essential. And it is essential that we be cooperative and learn the lessons taught. We can't do it alone.

There have always been, at all stages of Human evolution, those who were able to resist the deepest entrapment in materiality, who sought and gained enlightenment. They are the world Saviors who lived through the same tests we must undergo and showed us how to pass them successfully so that we might be released from the ignorance and errors of separative thinking. They have always been here for those who seek them. "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." This old saying is a statement of fact, for we create our own reality and Spirit, in some form or another, hears and answers all prayers. Groups may form and then fall apart when they no longer lead their members to the truth they seek, for our truths may change as we grow in understanding. But there is always the opportunity to form new ones. One must forget any feelings of betrayal, failure, harm or disappointment he experienced from his trusted group and rethink what he was looking for from the group. It is possible he has changed and needs a new direction.

But whatever the reason for joining a group, it is the best way to achieve one's goals, whether one wants to change society or to serve a higher purpose like the divine Plan. Once we realize this, we can accept that being a part of a group is the first step toward moving out of the state of separation from soul that is material existence. Soul is group consciousness. All of Humanity are created out of the same substance, shaped by the same pattern, and on the same path of evolution. Knowing this shows us that we will not be lost in the group, we can only grow in understanding our being and our potentials. Being part of a successful group experience takes us one step closer to merging with the one soul of all things. We must cooperate, share, and love as hard as we can, not just study and learn the lessons. The Age of Aquarius brings a new order where individual success is not enough. Human consciousness as a whole has evolved past the point where any individual can make a mark on the world of men or of spirit. It takes a group, group effort, the sharing of many talents, diversity of understanding to achieve any meaningful goal.

There are several ways of combining energies for an individual and in a group; synthesis, fusion and unity. Synthesis is joining seemingly basic elements to form a whole, "Synthesis, or spiritualization, the many again becoming the One." (*TCF 303*) Synthesis occurs by the process of abstraction. (*TCF 164*) Abstraction of a form occurs when its vital energy is withdrawn to a higher level. A man progresses spiritually as the energy of the lower chakras is withdrawn and concentrated in the higher ones, concentrating finally in the highest head center. (*RI 162-3*) The man's consciousness becomes joined to that of soul and through it to the monad. Ultimately, synthesis is resolving the duality of spirit and matter, of moving from the many to the One. Man is both, but initially became lost in matter, unaware of spirit. Once he realizes his soul's presence, he gradually uses it to change his life through control of

his physical, astral and mental bodies, abstracting each until only the soul form, the causal body remains.

Group synthesis is achieved by “deepened subjective relationships and increased sensitivity to the higher impression and the inner inspiration.” (RI 276) The group relations required “are not based upon personality or impersonality, or upon liking or disliking, or on criticism or non-criticism, but upon a real comprehension of ‘divine indifference,’ spiritual detachment and deep, persistent, unchanging love.” (RI 210) The important thing is achieving the group purpose. Soul is the source of group consciousness, so the evolution of group involvement is, for Humanity, an indicator of soul function within it. In the group context in which we are working, the members of the group work as one unit under the direction of soul.

Synthesis is not a conscious act of the man. It happens when the self consciousness can adapt to and work within a greater soul presence. The man, through meditation, study and service has grown in his understanding of what soul is and what its purpose is so that his thinking has risen to include more of this soul awareness. He has grown to realize that his body, his feelings, his ideas, even his personality are not his true Self. That is something within him that he must learn to understand and express. His consciousness, or awareness, of this inner Self grows by listening to it and following the hints given by it. The inner Self, his soul, is recognized as the source of his finer qualities as well as of his spiritual goals. Through dedicated work the consciousness is made ready for soul use and soul can move in and work through it. This creates a realization of soul presence. (LOS 39-40) Soul is accepted as the director of one’s life and becomes the sole actor in one’s life using the personality structure as a pure extension of itself. When a group has achieved the ability to act as one entity, the disciple or Master will then will synthesize and use it for his spiritual work in aiding Earth.

Fusion is the conscious merging of soul and substance. In successive steps a point of equilibrium is achieved.” Fusion is “the individual process of spiritual integration, relating—in full waking consciousness—the three divine aspects in man.” (RI 265) A point of tension is formed as the dedicated will of the personality is brought into touch with the will of the Spiritual Triad, first through the abstract mind, then as the love aspect of soul contacts that of the Triad, and finally as a direct unbroken relation between the Monad, via the Triad, and the form being used. (RI 49-50) At each stage there is a fusion of the lower aspect with a higher one. Each stage marks an initiation “enabling the initiate to see further, deeper and more inclusively.” (RI 540) Fusion transmutes the higher aspects of the personality ray into those of the soul. (RI 381) In it the lower energies are obliterated by the higher.

A group which can serve the Divine Plan is a fusion of individuals, not just a collection of those who want to help. All personal goals must be set aside so there will be no scattering of the forces applied to achieving the purpose. They are abstracted as the group together creates a group purpose from the shared impressions received from higher spiritual sources and the inner inspirations. Each member offers his personal talents and understanding, trusting that the others will do the same. In this way the strengths of each combine to form a unit able to apply much greater force as a unified whole in their work for the Plan.

Unity is the conscious adaptation of the initiated disciple to the greater whole. All his instinct to separation is gone and he sees no distinction from others, registers no differences and is aware of no separative reaction. He is at one with the world of energies in which he moves. He is integrated into Nature and his group, an integral, smoothly working part of his total environment and his group. He is at one with Divine Will. Unity is reached through synthesis and fusion, through the stimulation of his will and aspiration by soul and through his own work to understand soul purpose and cooperate with it.

A spiritual group such as we are considering here consists of those who “have reached the point where they are pledged and unalterably committed to the work of the Ashram, under some particular Master.” To be effective in manifesting upon the outer plane, the group must consist of a diversity of qualities and potencies in its members. Some will be initiates in close contact with the Master. It will have senior disciples who can relate to the inner ashram. And it will need those not so advanced upon the Path of Discipleship who can be in close contact with Humanity in their everyday life. (*RI 213*) There can be no status envy, no ego, and no power struggle. Every other member values every member and the work succeeds based on inspiration, coordination and practical application. Each is responsible for his own work as he understands it and is able to carry it out.

These three ways of combining energies can be related to the three rays of aspect. Synthesis is the way of the 1<sup>st</sup>, the destroyer, ray. It simply steps in and takes what is offered, what is useful to it and destroys what is not. Fusion is a more gradual joining by growing understanding of the aspects of self through hard work fueled by intense desire. It is the process of integrating the new level gained after synthesis. The work is done using the love of soul and of enlightenment represented by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ray. The joining all things together into unity by whatever means possible because they are essentially the same thing relates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ray. It is intelligence that allows a man to learn from experience, to understand it, to respond to new situations with the knowledge gained, to use reason to resolve contradictions between appearance and reality and to find the One in all things eventually. We might also relate synthesis to the activity of Spirit, fusion to subconscious or subjective activity and Unity to self consciousness, a quality of soul, which is evolving in man.

The initiation process was instituted by the Hierarchy to hasten Man’s spiritual evolution. When a man has expanded his consciousness by using the techniques of meditation and discipline they taught him, he is ready for a ceremony of initiation. The energy of Spirit, which has been held back until he is ready, is applied to one of the centers and raises its vibrational rate to a new level. He experiences an expansion of consciousness into that of the Soul or, later, the Monad. He also sees for a moment the Path that lies ahead. (*IHS 14-15*) Soul or Monad has taken his consciousness, expanded by his study, meditation and service, and synthesized it into a greater portion of its own. Now the man must make the effort to fuse his awareness into the expanded self by his new responsibility to serve and share his new understanding of himself with the world. When he has unified his new consciousness into his life, his group, he is ready for the next initiation. The necessary work is laid out in rules for initiation of individuals and groups.

Rule 1 for disciples and applicants speaks of the fire sparked by Spirit in the heart of a man or a group that drives them forward into what is for them unknown territory. It is the fire formed in the heart by the activity of the Solar Angel as it calls the man or the group to begin the journey back from separation to unity. (*TWM 51, rule 1*) The consciousness is awakened to a goal set by the inner self, by that spark of mind planted by the Solar Angel. Through the use of mind, human intelligence will see the distant goal and establish a point of tension from which man or group can pull themselves to a new level of awareness. The new level of consciousness will answer many questions about who and what he is and will ask new ones. The 1<sup>st</sup> initiation, birth of soul awareness, marks this beginning of the Path and is the result of the synthesis of that glimmering of soul recognition with soul itself. For the group, it is the recognition of the Plan and the need of the Hierarchy for groups to anchor the help it offers for Earth now.

Rule 2, again for both disciples and applicants, is instruction on how to best use the fire that is driving

them. It is now time to perfect the body, emotions and mind, to purify them of selfish desires and personal will. They must begin to weld them, to fuse them into a personality vehicle, which can respond to soul impression and carry out its directions with no thought of oneself. The individual disciple must rid himself of glammers and illusions so his mind can function clearly on abstract levels of consciousness or higher. He strives to embody that point of light that guides him. The group, together, establishes a point of tension where the group will connects with that of the monad and strives to obey that will. The WORD that is the sound of soul-spirit rises from the heart of the group and echoes back to the monad from which it came, bringing to life the path between, the antahkarana. Having formed right habits of thought and reaction and having gained an instinctual understanding of the process, the group has no need for rules or teachings. Response to spiritual direction is automatic and results in useful service. This is a time of fusion as love draws together the individual's aspects and unifies the group as one life.

Under rule 3, the applicant is instructed to continue the work of perfecting his vehicle. He must learn to act as that integrated personality in his daily life, learn to act as if he were soul walking on Earth. When he is ready, the fire of his consciousness, focused on serving the plan, leads him to the door of initiation. The initiate, working as soul and personality united is accepted into the group. The group works to make itself able to carry out the purpose of Shamballa. It takes the diversity within the group, acting as one, to absorb, share, circulate, and then distribute this potent energy. *(RI 68)* The struggle against soul is done, its heat is gone leaving the clear cold light of soul consciousness that is the actor here beyond the imaginary door of separation. The group is united within one soul consciousness. It has no need of physical things or emotional life and functions only as mind, which is fire. *(RI 82)* The form nature is destroyed through selfless service and devotion to a cause. *(RI 87)* This unity brings a self-conscious ability to use the energy of Shamballa to destroy outmoded forms and organize Humanity into a new world order. The work of the Solar Angel with each disciple has created a thought form on the plane of mind, a point of light through which the Plan can work out. *(WM 93)* United as a group this is the vehicle for service. The work of synthesis and fusion has created a new level of understanding the Plan and of working in the consciousness of unity.

Rule 4 for applicants instructs them to love and serve their inner Christ and keep the fire of spiritual will strong. They must nourish their bodies and lives with love, knowing that every part, every happening occurs by divine will. As he perfects himself, he serves as an example to others. This leads eventually to complete alignment with soul. Having already accomplished the necessary purification the disciple within the group must now detach from the physical, emotional and lower mental bodies so that thought is no longer focused on them and the lunar lords are driven out, die and return to their "reservoir of life." "This is brought about by the automatic, ceaseless and unquestioning fulfillment of duty, from the angel of recognized service." *(RI 100-1)* The cause is the will of the Monad and it lifts the consciousness out of the limitation of time and space by synthesis. All connections, including karma, to the physical vehicle are broken and the disciple knows that he is the One Life. He identifies with the group purpose, which is that of the Whole. The 4<sup>th</sup> White Magic rule states that the disciple, focused inward, discovers that the source of the sound that has been guiding him comes from the soul-monad, he surrenders to it and is removed from the limitations of the physical. Consciousness exists separated from form.

Rule 5 for the applicant says that the Solar Angel must now be in control of the personality. All distractions from its will must be eliminated. The group, responding to the contact from the monad must begin to build the antahkarana. It will fuse their consciousness into this new relationship and strengthen it. A realization that "the Whole is all there is" means they no longer use the thought, "My soul and thine." *(RI 115)* When the disciple first began to build the bridge to the Triad he discovered that

he is part of a group. Then, with the group, the bridge to monadic consciousness is built. (RI 119) The 5<sup>th</sup> rule of W.M. supports this activity as the disciple and the group build a thought form that embodies the goal of the monad and will manifest it. The three bodies and the heart, throat and third eye centers of the disciple are fused into one vehicle for divine will, just as the group works as one united mind.

Rule 6 for applicants is about discipline and physical purification. He learns to focus on his mental habits and leave the physical and emotional ones behind. The disciple having now contacted Unity and worked to build the connection to it, is free to use all forms wisely, as needed for the Work. He has a sense of the true value of things. He has no self-interest, only working for the purpose of the group. Nature supplies all that is needed for the work in a way that benefits all through its magical processes. The group is sustained by the intuition and will from the Spiritual Triad. (RI 129) Old, outmoded forms are destroyed and on those foundations the new ones are built. The 6<sup>th</sup> rule of W.M. says that all this is done through the eye of Shiva, the third eye, which brings the vision of the monad through the soul. This is a group working Unity that can help create the Plan.

Rule 7 for applicants says that if they wish to enter the hall of the Master they must learn to think only thoughts that will harmonize with its thoughts. There is only awareness of Unity there, only one Will and no personality expressions. That is all that can enter. The group is seeking acceptance from Shamballa itself and must make its thoughts and plans, its sound, harmonious with the Great Council, the Chohans of the race of men. “When the disciple has striven to expand his consciousness, when he has learned to stabilize his consciousness in the Spiritual Triad, then he becomes part of a great and constant Hierarchical effort which strives upwards towards the ‘Place of Clear Electric Light,’ to which the clear cold light of the reason is the first key to the first door.” The group at this point is seeking a new level of synthesis within the ashram. It understands perfectly the difference between good and evil and can clearly follow the path laid out by the Solar Angel. (WM 217, rule VII)

The Path of Group Initiation is still one of individual striving for perfection and unity, but it is done for the benefit of the whole, for Humanity, not for oneself. This approach to monadic consciousness is a group effort, as no person can use that consciousness as an individual. Once the 3<sup>rd</sup> initiation is passed it is not really possible to have any consciousness except that of group consciousness since that is recognition of unity with all, though individual identity, thought and striving remains. Progress through initiation is for the purpose of becoming a more effective worker within the Divine Plan. Initiation is meant to create men who have developed their minds, their vehicle, and their ability to cooperate with the work of the Hierarchy to serve the One Will as transmitted from Shamballa. It must be a group effort. Sanat Kumara is the one and only Lord of the World, but he does not act alone. He is the outer manifestation of the vast support group we call Shamballa. They have the ability to think as he does, including all the kingdoms and Earth itself in his plans. This is the group consciousness to which man can aspire, one that understands and can cooperate with the Divine Plan for Earth at all levels. Initiation takes a man and his group there, one step at a time, from self awareness, to group awareness to monadic awareness.

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## **Bibliography**

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