Since the purpose of the new Ashram of Synthesis is complex; its responsibilities are extensive and in need of some explanation. While the approach to the Ashram includes ascension to synthesis, the Ashram and its purpose and functions are realized via the precipitation of synthesis. The precipitation of synthesis includes: meeting, diverting, and transmuting the opposition to Synthesis, preparing humanity to take initiation as a kingdom, formulating a new path of initiation, shifting human organization from Third to Seventh Ray, shifting civilization from Sixth to Seventh Ray, and externalizing the Hierarchy,

The Externalization

"The Ashram out of which this particular Thought-Form of the Wisdom is being presented is a synthesis. It is a new Ashram, a synthesis of First, Second, and Seventh Ray energies and expressions. In other words, the Master M., the Master D.K., and myself, the Master R., have come together to form an Ashramic Center.

"With us we have brought into relationship those of our Ashram, those of our Ashramic membership, who are karmically (and I refer here to Service Karma) related with this particular Ashramic effort with that particular expression of the Divine Plan which we are focusing. So, this Ashram is made up of disciples functioning on the First, Second, and Seventh Rays. The Ashramic Plan itself (which, remember, is a particular expression of the Divine Plan for Humanity as held in focus by the Christ) has to do with the externalization of the Hierarchy, with which every individual who is attracted to this teaching and into its esoteric activity is particularly and peculiarly related, so that you come to this from out of the past." [1]

The synthesis of First, Second, and Seventh Rays gives the Synthetic Ashram a peculiar ability to focus, related, and precipitate as a single magical activity. As a result, while all the Ashrams are responsible for preparing for the reappearance of the Christ, the Ashram of Synthesis has a peculiar role in the externalization of the Hierarchy.

This may appear to be a fine distinction, but it is quite important.

The reappearance is sometimes described as an event in which the fact of the Christ and the Masters again becomes apparent to humanity. In a sense, it involves both the descent of the Christ and the Masters into the three lower worlds and world of affairs, and the ascent of humanity into conscious awareness of the fact of their existence. The effort to bring about this event has included and continues to include all the ashrams and the disciples of those ashrams.

The externalization may be described as an ongoing process via which the Christ, the Masters, their ashrams, and the world discipleship, manifest on Earth. It is one thing for the Christ and the Masters to reappear; it is quite another for the Hierarchy to be in full expression.

From this perspective, the reappearance is part of the beginning of the externalization. While the entire Hierarchy participates in the reappearance, the Ashram of the Synthesis has primary responsibility for the externalization. However, the externalization is only a pat of its function.

New Civilization, Organization, and Initiation

"This Ashram carries the responsibility of shifting the civilization from a Sixth to a Seventh Ray expression and of shifting the organized life of the form from a Third to a Seventh Ray expression. It carries the burden of Hierarchial responsibility for the shift of human identification from self to Soul. It is now moving into the responsibilities which it will assume fully at the turn of the century and carry over a 2500-year period. This Ashram is held in focus by the Master M., the Master D.K., and the Master R. with the aid of certain initiating disciples taken from the Ashram of each (that is, the First Ray Ashram, the Second Ray Ashram, and the Seventh Ray Ashram). At or around the turn of the century the new Synthetic Ashram will include all disciples within these three major ashrams." [2]

This is restated and expanded somewhat in the following:

"During the past age, the Sixth Ray Ashram carried the emphasis of responsibility for bringing into incarnation (focusing) the ideal toward which humanity, its energy, force, and substance, could be attracted into aspiration and therefore into an alignment. But the Sixth Ray Ashram, while it carried the responsibility, carried the responsibility of this one act. The rest of the ashrams carried a greater responsibility in their cooperation with the Sixth Ray effort.

"But now we find that the new Synthetic Ashram must carry almost the total responsibility for the manifestation of the Divine Plan for humanity for the next 2500-year period. This period ... within which much change must take place, within which the evolutionary development of humanity ... must come into a sharp focus and a real apparent change ... must, in this 2500-year period, be made obvious, be given an outer form.

"I refer now to the evolutionary development of the consciousness of humanity, a subjective evolution which must be given an objective form. And this is the responsibility which your Ashram takes, the burden of responsibility.

"Now first, aside from the responsibility for creating its own instrument, it is concerned with the building of a new civilization, the shifting of the present civilization (without its utter destruction) from one major expression to another major expression, from the expression of the Sixth Ray of Devotion to the expression of Divine Law and Order, or the Divine Order of Man." [3]

Thus, the Ashram of Synthesis is also responsible for shifting civilization from Sixth Ray (aspiration to an overshadowing ideal) to Seventh Ray (precipitating idea into appearance), and for shifting the organized life of form from Third Ray (the intelligent activity of substance) to Seventh Ray (manifesting Divine Intelligence via Ceremonial Order. Third Ray expresses through sequential, mathematical unfoldment: observe purpose, build form, and then fit the purpose into the form. Seventh Ray expresses through non-sequential harmonic ratios: precipitate purpose into from without crystallizing the form via attachment to it. In the process of shifting, civilization will become a moving picture, and substance a reflecting surface, of Divine Will.

The shift of form from Third Ray organization into Seventh Ray Ceremonial Order includes the transformation of the center system. Throat centers will shift from Third Ray centers of organization into Seventh Ray centers of creativity. Then the Crown Ajna, and Throat will become First, Second, and

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Seventh Ray centers, while the point at the center of their triangle (the cave or "light in the head") will become the center and instrument of synthesis. [4]

The Ashram's responsibility for human evolution is expanded in the following:

"Now, as the Hierarchy, in its own united meditation effort endeavors to respond to the new impulse, various plans at the level, various agreements at that level, are made and entered into. The plan with which you are concerned, which has to do with the new Synthetic Ashram, is the major effort. It constitutes the major effort of the Hierarchy at this time. In response to the new realization of purpose achieved by the Planetary Logos Himself, the First, Second, and Seventh Ray Ashrams, in their entirety, have entered into an agreement to form (through an initiatory process carried out from Hierarchial and Ashramic levels), to synthesize their purpose, consciousness, and activity – their energy, force, and substance – in such a way as to formulate via this synthesis (and thus to create within consciousness and substance) the new path of initiation to be focused via humanity into the planetary life and affairs.

...

"Now, before I bring this instruction, or step it down to you, I would have you consider the new goal, the new initiatory goal being focused by your Synthetic Ashram into the body of humanity. The vision of mastery, which has always heretofore been focused into and through humanity by means of the etheric network, and the story of initiation created within that network, has been the vision of a single, perfect man overcoming death. This has been the symbol of mastery.

"The new goal, which is most difficult to convey to your understanding at this time in word (but which, nonetheless, we shall attempt to do), is that of a telepathic at-oned humanity having seen into, having in one moment of perception experienced and overcome the long drawn out process in the form world of evolution. Can you conceive of this new vision – humanity experiencing the synthesis of the evolutionary process in consciousness, thus mastering the form? Now, what are the stages of the new process which will culminate this final act of mastery? They are totally different and yet they are a synthesis of the old path of initiation as it has always been known. [5]

"To bring this down to specific form at this time is almost impossible. It cannot be defined as the First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth, the Fifth initiation, because it is one initiation. It is a synthesis of the old path. It is one initiation which is an experience in consciousness from its beginning to its completion, and which (at this stage of the initiatory effort being made by the new Synthetic Ashram) cannot be outpictured in symbolic form.

"Now consider the effort of the Ashram to focus the new initiatory process which alters evolution itself through a group endeavor into the body of humanity. Any disciple in the past seeking initiation could find the path within his own society, within his own etheric framework, and could then follow that path, whatever his particular doctrine or concept might be.

"The new path has not been created within the consciousness and the etheric network of humanity. This is your task. This is the effort of the new Synthetic Ashram on its own level, the creation of the new initiatory effort and (through this incarnate group) the outpicturing, the implanting, of that path for and within both the consciousness and instrumentality of the whole human family." [6]

Thus, the Synthetic Ashram is responsible for synthesizing the old path of initiation into a new, much more rapid, initiatory process. This new process is part of an effort, for which the Ashram is also responsible, to prepare humanity to take initiation, as a kingdom, at the end of this age. That is, all human beings will, no matter where they are in their individual growth and development, become aware, from that point, that they are Soul. Humanity as a whole, throughout its spectrum of awareness, will be Soul Conscious. [7]

The method of preparation for that mass initiation of human consciousness is Group Initiation, and the necessary teaching for Group Initiation is contained in The New Thought-form Presentation of The Wisdom. [8]

Energy of Synthesis

"The Synthesis of the First, Second, and Seventh Ray energies brings the planet and humanity a new energy, a new force, and a new substance with which to shape and mold a new civilization.

"The Synthesis reaches us from the Avatar of Synthesis, Who, acting under the direction of a greater Cosmic Life, synthesizes the energies into a lower correspondence of a Cosmic energy as yet of too high and subtle a frequency for us to reach.

"The Avatar releases the new Synthesis to the Planetary Logos and the Christ, Who, in turn, release it to the new Ashram of Synthesis via its focal point, the Masters M., R., and D.K." [9]

During Wesak there is or has been an overshadowing triangle consisting of the Avatar of Synthesis, the Buddha, and the Christ. [10] However, the Higher Triangle immediately overshadowing the Ashram of Synthesis is formulated of the Planetary Logos, the Christ, and the Avatar of Synthesis. This Higher Triangle invokes the Energy of Synthesis, steps it down in frequency, and radiates it to the Ashram of Synthesis. [11] The Ashram of Synthesis is then responsible, via its Group Units or Disciples, for radiating the Energy of Synthesis throughout the planetary life.

Meeting the Opposition

Since the first response to that Energy is to clarify existing polarities (in preparation for raising them into the higher union or at-one-ment of synthesis), the Ashram is also responsible for the opposition to synthesis. The Group Units of the Ashram meet that opposition by embodying it within their life and affairs and then manifesting the solutions to those difficulties:

"Now, how does the Soul deal with the problems of human relation? How does the Soul deal with the problems of finance in this particular world? How does the Soul deal with any of the conflict between the ideal and the actuality? This is your service. You are serving humanity, moment by moment, as you meet the problems of humanity within your own life and affairs and resolve those problems. This is your service. Therefore, how can you expect the way to be made easy? How can you expect to be given what you say you need? It is your job, your service, to manifest your own fulfillment and in so doing to create a path within the three planes of human endeavor which can be followed by every human being seeking

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his own fulfillment. The way is never made easy for the disciple who has taken upon himself the responsibility of initiating a new effort. The way was not made easy for Jesus and his disciples. The way has not been made easy for any group or any disciple who takes his share of the responsibility for the Divine Plan for humanity and brings it into incarnation.

"This includes all of your problems. It includes the problem of the opposition. Certainly you will meet with the opposition. Why would you, the disciple who carries the responsibility of the Divine Plan, be protected from the opposition, leaving the opposition to work out its wrath within the body of humanity (who has not the knowledge you have with which to work)? Certainly you will meet with the opposition. It is hoped that you will be able to divert the attention of the opposition from its focus upon humanity as a whole.

"Now consider this. Is humanity in its present evolutionary development, as equipped as it is, capable of handling the opposition? This is a part of the work of the new Synthetic Ashram, a part of that First Ray effort which every disciple will have to carry since it is a synthetic ashram. Every disciple carries the responsibility for the expression in the synthesis of all three of the rays." [12]

Thus, the purpose and responsibility of the Ashram of Synthesis include: externalizing the Hierarchy, shifting civilization from Sixth to Seventh Ray, shifting human organization from Third to Seventh Ray, formulating a new path of initiation, and preparing humanity to take initiation as a kingdom. It also includes meeting, diverting, and transmuting the opposition to Synthesis.

Relationship to the Ashramic Purpose

"The relationship with this Plan is not a new one. The inter-relationships within the group are not new ones. Your relationship with the Master M., the Master D.K., and myself, the Master R., is not a new one.

"For a long, long period of time, most of you, insofar as the incarnate consciousness is concerned, have been, how shall I say it, not exactly cut off, but by means of karmic necessity, separate and apart, away from your Ashram. This Synthetic Ashram is actually being recreated, for at another time, that which I can only refer to as not exactly an analogy, not exactly an analogy, not exactly a correspondence of this Ashram, was in existence. Certainly those who are now making up this Ashram were related together within a group effort, which was spiritually impulsed by means of the Overshadowing Christ. The group was disintegrated, again by karmic necessity, and on the most part, most of its membership apparently regressed.

"Remember, there is no such thing as a true regression, but most of the group membership was forced to reenter the evolutionary process almost at the animal man stage, and to recapitulate the growth and development achieved up through the evolutionary process, until you (the group) have arrived at this point in awareness: when and where the Ashramic note is sounded forth, which gathers you back again into the former group relationship in order to recapitulate the path of initiation which we have tread in times past, all of this being a part of the externalization of the Hierarchy.

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"Now consider, the Ashram (whose responsibility to the Plan and whose relationship to the Plan had to do specifically with the first effort of the externalization) sent the greater part of its consciousness into incarnation within the body of humanity at the lowest level possible. That consciousness then incarnate within the body of humanity, having no knowledge of its own particular growth and development or Ashramic affiliation, yet different, changed by, even in the depths of its incarnation, being innately spiritual in nature, being then the work of bridging (from the depths of the human condition and circumstance within the world of affairs) the consciousness of humanity with that of the Ashram, and traveling back up through the totality of the evolutionary process, thereby unconsciously anchoring the Light of the Ashram within each of these states of consciousness, within each of these conditions, within which it incarnated – so that now, as you come together, it is each one carrying that thread of Light which you anchored within that humanity, into which you had been focused in the ascending process.

"Now these threads are being brought together to create one vast focus of Light (remember, they have come this way) which now will be directed upward toward the Ashramic Center. As you come into a realization and an awareness of your Ashramic affiliation, as you expand your consciousness into that fruit of growth and development which you had achieved in times past, it is as and with the very depths of that humanity into which you had incarnated, and with the relationship, so that you are bridging the very lowest within which you have lived with the very highest with which you will attain. Then, via that bridge, the Ashramic Group Life can move down and out into objective manifestation, to radiate the Light, the Love, and the Power of the Divine Plan for Humanity within the body of humanity." [13]

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- [1] Ashramic Projections, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions, pp. 35-36
- [2] Ashramic Projections, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions, p. 41
- [3] Ashramic Projections, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions, pp. 47-49
- [4] See also: Applied Wisdom Centers Etheric Center System, by Lucille Cedercrans
- [5] See also: The Nature of the Soul, Lesson 40, by Lucille Cedercrans
- [6] Ashramic Projections, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions, pp. 117-120
- [7] See also: Applied Wisdom Teacher and Student, by Lucille Cedercrans
- [8] The New Thought-form Presentation of The Wisdom (a.k.a. N.T.F.P.W. or "The Wisdom") is an idea on the Buddhic Plane (and a thought-form on the mental plane) which contains within it all the "Truth" which humanity needs in order to take initiation as a Kingdom.
- [9] Applied Wisdom, Introductory, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions
- [10] See: Applied Wisdom Wesak Service, by Lucille Cedercrans
- [11] See: Applied Wisdom Wesak, for this alignment, by Lucille Cedercrans
- [12] Ashramic Projections, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions, pp. 52-53
- [13] Ashramic Projections, by Lucille Cedercrans, Wisdom Impressions, pp. 36-38