

March 28–31 1960

READING 10

ALL GROUPS

PART 1

In order to develop his latent possibilities, a man must first find the *Way*, and the chief difficulty in understanding the idea of the *Way* 'consists in the fact that people think that the *Way* starts on the level of ordinary life. The *Way* really begins on another, much higher, level. This is exactly what people usually do not understand.'

If a man in receiving 'A and B Influences' begins to discriminate between them and to absorb more and more 'Influences B', they begin to collect together within his Personality to form what is called a 'Magnetic Centre'; which will cause him to turn more and more in a particular direction, just as the North-seeking end of a compass needle refers the traveller towards the true North, the Earth's magnetic pole. Then a man begins to understand the idea of the *Way* and begins to look for the *Way*. The search for the *Way* may take many years and may lead to nothing. This depends on conditions at the time, and place; and upon those personal interests not concerned with the search, which may divert a man at the very moment when the possibility of finding the *Way* appears.

But if the Magnetic Centre is well formed he may meet with another man who knows the *Way*, and then he will recognise that he is connected with something entirely different. That 'something' is a centre from which a third kind of influence, called '*Influence C*', is emanating.

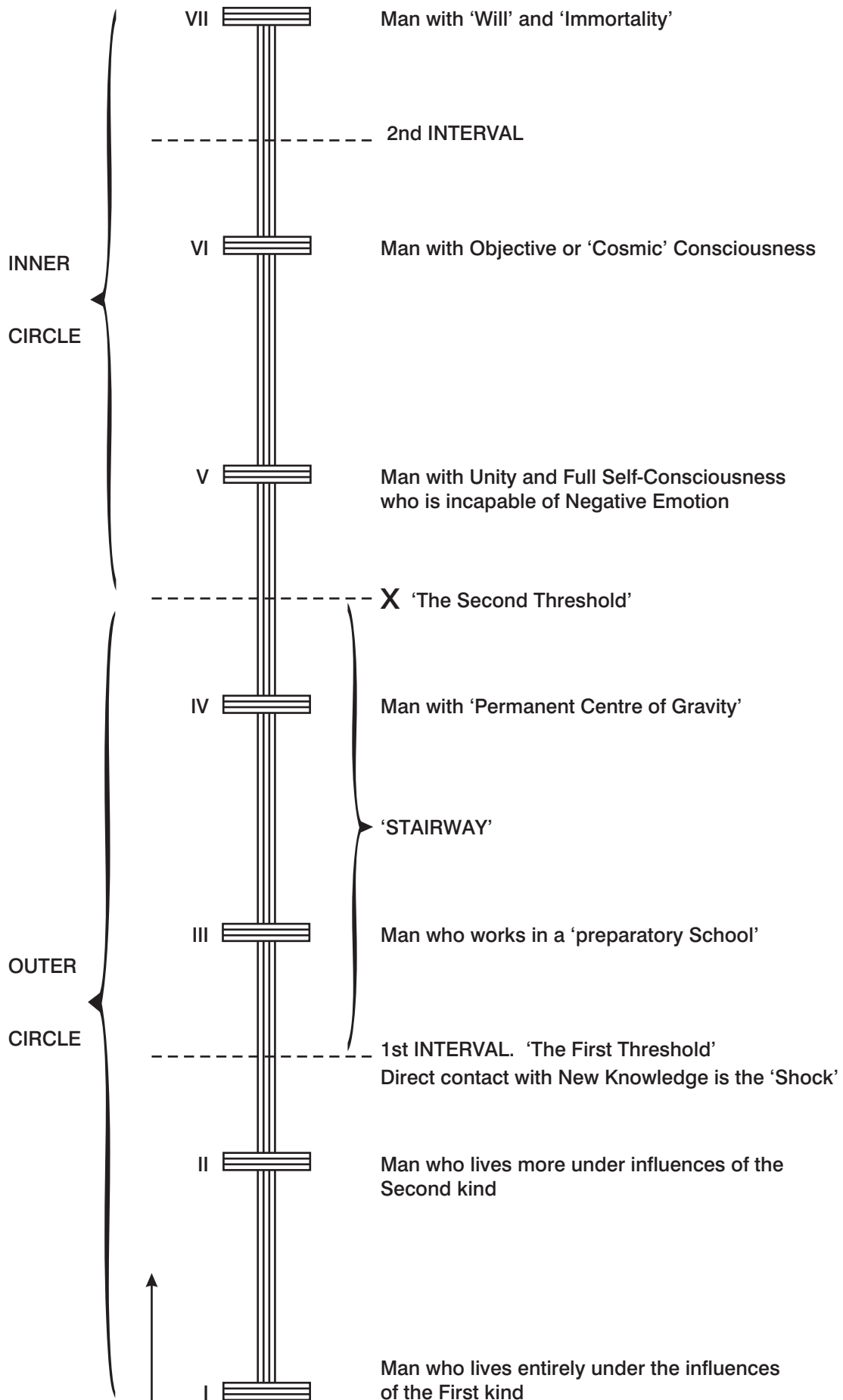
The moment when the man who is looking for the *Way* meets a man who knows the *Way*, accepts him and is accepted, is called the *First Threshold*. From this First Threshold the *Stairway* begins. Between ordinary life and the 'Way' lies the 'Stairway'. Only by passing along this 'Stairway' can a man enter the 'Way'. In addition, one must ascend this Stairway with the help of the man who is one's guide; one cannot go up the Stairway by oneself. In going up the Stairway a man is bound to have many doubts, doubts about his guide, doubts about his Teaching, doubts about his own capacities. But when he has reached the point where he has no longer any doubts but only absolute certainty, he is at the top of the Stairway. He has found the *Way*.

(The diagram – overleaf – will connect what has just been said with what you heard last week.)

PART 2

Looking at the diagram, we see at a certain point the words '*Second Threshold*' at the top of the Stairway. It is said in our System: 'A man can be *born*; but in order to be born he must *die*; but before he dies he must first *awake*.' This aphorism must be taken both literally and psychologically, but since it contains the idea of liberation from the wheel of the Repetition of lives, we cannot understand it yet. What does death mean psychologically? It means the death of *identification*, the death of the subjective or personal point of view.

This lies far ahead. The only reason why it is mentioned now, is that this is your last meeting before Easter. At Easter Time the Christian world celebrates the Mystery of the Crucifixion and



the Resurrection from the Dead, which is the Eternal promise and hope for individual Man that we have tried to describe in part tonight.

Christ is risen from the dead: and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death: by man came also the resurrection from the dead.

But the Gospels never say that the resurrection is *inevitable for everyone*; the possibility has been created for man, but it can come only from individual endeavour with help. Intelligence, honesty and endurance are also necessary in order to go up the Stairway. But fix your eye on the goal. Aim high, for there is everything to gain and since we have nothing, there is nothing to lose. '*To him that overcometh* will I give to eat of the Tree of Life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.'

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