



Transforming Planetary Consciousness
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity
Opening Address, Sagittarius Solar Festival Webinar 2017*
Saturday, 2 December 2017

Good afternoon, friends and welcome to this month's Solar Festival Meditation in the sign of joyful Sagittarius. Thank you for being here today.

In a recent newsletter I quoted the passage in the Agni Yoga wisdom that indicates that "Only when all torches are kindled, does the Light smite the darkness." (*Infinity II*, 285). Can we keep this thought in mind throughout today's meeting, as we strive to fulfill our responsibility and embrace our sacred opportunity in this shared work of transformation and liberation?

As is our monthly practice, after this opening address, intended to unify, stimulate and prepare our group mind, we will move to the focus of our meeting, which is Group Meditation. We will then practice holding the mind, "steady in the light," so that we can become part of the planetary alignment, responding to impressions and contacts emanating from the subjective and Supermundane spiritual planes.

Following the Group Meditation, you will have an opportunity to contribute your thoughts and ideas, if you like.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact time of the Sagittarius Solar Festival is tomorrow morning at 10:47 a.m. Thus, in the five-day cycle that makes up each of the 12 Solar Festivals, we are meeting on the second and last day of Preparation.

Our work today, then, is one of dedication and upward striving, as we seek to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of the whole of humanity, recognizing ourselves as part of the living, lighted bridge that is bringing humanity closer to the planetary and extra planetary energies of Light, Love and Power.

The photo on your screen is entitled *Sophia, the Wisdom of the Almighty*. Some of you may recognize it as a Nicholas Roerich painting. Sagittarius, as we know, is a mutable fire sign. It is the sign that inspires the fiery aspiration and focused direction that ultimately leads to the gates of initiation in Capricorn.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2017 Sagittarius Solar Festival Webinar Meditation Meeting, sponsored by the **Aquarian Age Community**. The books cited in parentheses are copyrighted, published and available from the Lucis Trust at www.lucistrust.org and from the Agni Yoga Society at <http://www.agniyoga.org/index.php>

We are familiar with the tome, called *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*—part of the ageless wisdom, given to humanity for uplift and advancement, in our current world period by the Tibetan Master, through his collaboration with Alice Bailey, on behalf of the Hierarchy of the Masters.

And, we may also be familiar with the three volumes dedicated to the fiery world as well as many other references regarding the nature of fire spread throughout the books of Agni Yoga—itsself named as the yoga of fire.

These Teachings, along with the current state of our world, moved me to present this image for our work here today, which I hope you will find helpful and inspiring.

I think we can all be bolstered by and benefit from increased fiery energy in our lives, can we not?

In the Vedas, Agni is the God of Fire, one of the most ancient and revered of all the Gods of India.

The first volume of the Agni Yoga book, *Fiery World* tells us that the element of Fire is the most all-pervading, the most creative and the most life-bearing—even though it is the least observed and the least esteemed. (par. 1)

The book *Hierarchy* indicates that the heart of an Arhat is like the fire of the sun and that “Maitreya is coming, radiant with all fires. His Heart is aflame with compassion for destitute humanity. His Heart is aflame with the affirmation of the new Covenants.” (par. 3)

Perhaps it is this passage that inspired Nicholas Roerich to create this painting. It is noteworthy to recognize that the fiery flames of the hero, carrying the banner of Sophia or wisdom, also embrace the world beneath him.

The most ancient Teachings forewarned about the inevitable Epoch of Fire, teaching that only Fire can extinguish the limitations of selfhood—the so-called *deadly sister of ignorance*:

“As long as they are not conscious of fiery baptism,” states the book, *Brotherhood*, “people will think about themselves only; and as long as the most powerful element is not understood, the very concept of Brotherhood will be [but] a barren skeleton.” (par. 203)

In the book, *Agni Yoga* the rhetorical question is asked, is not the wisdom of the ages the best adornment for the disciple? Truly, it is affirmed, “the vastness of the spatial Fire of Cosmos offers the best destiny to searching humanity.” (par. 649)

Keeping these thoughts and images in mind, can we now pause and together affirm the noon time recollection, before we delve deeper into our work?

“I know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch my heart anew with love that I too may love and give.”

[PAUSE.]

“I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another”—such is the esoteric keynote, the song of the Soul in the sign of joyful Sagittarius.

This sign provides a clear shaft of light which is the intuitive and focussed attitude of the pledged disciple and light, dear Friends, is the best bridge between the visible and the Invisible world.

What tempers the armor of steadfastness better than the wish to lead others to Light, asks the Agni Yoga wisdom? And what weaves a better smile than a desire to see the very last child laughing? (*Leaves of Morya's Garden, II, 301*)

As we know, the Plan of Love and Light for humanity is to *raise* the level of human consciousness, to “transform the planetary consciousness.” Is it not necessary then to bring the flames of fiery Light into the arena of world affairs?

Through this monthly service, what we are attempting to do is to awaken into fuller activity an aspect of human nature, which is always present but which has hitherto been subordinated to circumscribed and limiting selfish or ambitious ends—as portrayed within the Myth of Prometheus recounted in this month's newsletter.

This Myth, if you recall, tells the story of how the inner fire, the inner flame is held captive by all that would obliterate or diminish the indwelling spiritual divinity.

The sign of Sagittarius and its attendant energies are available this month to help us realize how everyone's inner Prometheus can be energized and inspired so that eventually it can be set free.

Sagittarius represents soul consciousness in its early stages and this sign is instrumental in the first two initiations where a sense of vision directs the seeker to the higher levels of the mental plane, wherein ideas are sensed and seen and the intuition governs aspiration. *Esoteric Astrology* teaches that,

“In Sagittarius, the intellect which has been developed, used and finally illumined, becomes sensitive to a still higher type of mental experience and to this we give the name of *intuitive perception*. There come flashes of light upon problems; a distant yet possible vision of attainment is seen; the man begins to climb out of the depths to which he has descended in Scorpio and sees ahead of him the mountain in Capricorn, which he knows he must eventually climb. He walks no longer in the dark, for he sees what he has to do and he therefore makes rapid progress and travels ‘fast upon the Way.’ He ‘flies from point to point, searching for the arrows which he has discharged’...and finds where the arrows of intuitional aspiration will take him.” (pp. 180-181)

The individual has, figuratively speaking, to dismount constantly from his and her white horse (a symbol of the developed and purified personality) and find where the arrows of intuitional aspiration will lead. The seeker travels upon the "wings of the soul" until there is established a balanced relationship between the personality *and* the soul and the individual can then function as either at any desired moment and with equal facility. (p. 181)

As it is said, the occultist is always esoterically self-taught and each one must find the key to the Teaching in his and her own heart.

Sagittarius is one of the intuitive signs, for only the intuition will suffice to carry the individual to the foot of the mountain of initiation in Capricorn.

The power of the mind, having been developed, tested and found true in the sign Scorpio, under the influence of Sagittarius begins to wane in its activity and the intuition begins to take its place.

This is essential before the sign Capricorn is entered by the disciple at which time preparation for initiation begins. Having learned the ways of the world, the initiate must then grasp a greater and more comprehensive Truth.

Every time the individual comes under the influence of Sagittarius it is with the objective of orienting him and herself to some new and higher objective, with the task of refocusing the life towards a higher goal and with the unfoldment of some basic and directing purpose.

These developing purposes may range in quality, all the way from purely animal desire, through selfish human ambition, to the struggle of the aspiring disciple or initiate in order to achieve the needed liberation towards which the entire evolutionary process has impelled him and her.

Thus, is human consciousness slowly, but surely unfolded—through the six stages of instinct, intellect, intuition, illumination, inspiration, and finally, identification.

All of this is the result of the influences of the energies emanating from the zodiacal signs, available to those who have prepared themselves to work with them.

As we know, these energies are ever present, but sensitivity and responsiveness are always dependent on the nature of the responding unit.

In the first volume of *Discipleship in the New Age* (p. 166), we find the Tibetan Master offering the following encouragement to a disciple who he addresses as a “Brother of Old”.

“The walls of difficulty must go down and success must follow effort—[this, as a result of] the united pressure of determined souls pushing through to victory in spite of real odds. This united and definite effort must be carried forward without discouragement or questioning—with due attention to the time factor and with a sense of urgency.”

He continues,

“Brace yourself.... Stand steady and do not be so seriously troubled as to the progress of the work which seems not yet to move as rapidly as desired. When the movement does come, it will be rapid.” (p. 167)

“I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another.”

Dear friends, there are so many situations in our world today that evoke a sense of anguish and indignation of the spirit! We don't have to name or enumerate these because we encounter them daily.

All these tragic episodes could be resolved if the goals of the United Nations could be realized! I would like to sound these and have us take them to heart. They are so clearly and reasonably set forth within the UN Charter—and how different our world would be if these were realized!

The goals:

- (1) To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war,
- (2) To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,
- (3) To establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- (4) To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom—for all people everywhere.

What is it that keeps humanity from realizing these very reasonable, lighted goals that are so self-evidently constructive and beneficent? The sign of Sagittarius offers solution.

As I said earlier, one of the major underlying themes of this sign is that of Direction. The Archer guides her horse towards some one specific objective; she sends or directs her arrow towards a desired point; she aims at some specific goal. This sense of direction or guidance is characteristic of the enlightened individual, of the aspirant and disciple, and this is a growing recognition. When this faculty of sensitive direction is rightly developed, it becomes, in the early stages, an effort to identify all soul and personality activity with God's Plan, and this is, ultimately, the ordered direction of God's thought.

“There is no true direction apart from thought,” states the Tibetan Master; he adds, “I would have you remember that thought is power. This is a statement upon which all disciples should ponder, for they can achieve no real comprehension of the direction of God's Plan unless they work with a phase in their own lives which is subject to their own mental direction. Then and only then, can they understand.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 190)

Upon the ordinary wheel of life, the influence of this sign is referred to as kama-manas or desire-mind. This dual force controls and influences the life. The focus is upon the control of desire by the mind; the major objective is the intelligent use of all powers to bring about the satisfaction of desire. Upon the reversed wheel, the goal is the expression of love-wisdom and this is ever selflessly developed and always consecrated to the good of the whole and not to the satisfaction of the individual.

First, desire which leads to aspiration, which then leads to direction and fiery will.

The main objective today is to stimulate the fire of aspiration in the hearts of men and women so that human receptivity to the good, the beautiful and the true may be greatly increased.

This good must come from the very depths of human thinking and feeling and it must emerge as a free and non-coerced endeavour: “When by the power of Light the property of darkness is surpassed,” states the Agni Yoga wisdom, “the affirmation of the ray of Truth then enters life.” (*Infinity*, 508)

The weaker radiations can be transformed by a fiery encirclement. For this to occur, not only is a pure consciousness needed, but one must also attract the Fire of Space.

“Verily, the bonfire of your thoughts would receive Our welcome”, states the Agni Yoga wisdom.

(Leaves of Morya's Garden II, 301)

In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, in the seventh Stanza of Dzyan—that most ancient Teaching and the basic source of *The Secret Doctrine*, it is said, “The Lords of Flame look on; they chant aloud: "The time is come, that time for which We wait. Let the Flame become the FIRE and let the light shine forth."

With these thoughts in mind, can we now take up our meditation?