



Transforming Planetary Consciousness
The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity

Opening Address, Sagittarius Solar Festival

Thursday, 22 November 2018; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good afternoon, Welcome and Happy Thanksgiving to each of you!

It's a Joy to welcome you back for this month's Solar Festival Webinar—on this Day of thanksgiving as we together celebrate the blessings of the past year while offering thanks and gratitude for these blessings.

As I mentioned in this month's newsletter, it was the American President, Abraham Lincoln who officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863 for what he referred to "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."

The Agni Yoga wisdom teaches that "supreme above the flames of other offerings is the fire of gratitude" (Agni Yoga, 83).

And further, that "beautiful fires of the heart are ignited when the feeling of gratitude is born; these fires shine not only in the earthly life, but also in the Supermundane World." And, it is further said that the Thinker's request to *His* Teacher is to be taught "gratitude toward all, near and far, visible and invisible." (*Supermundane* 826)

I am most grateful for your presence here today and I hope you are also grateful to be here!

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact moment of the Sagittarius Solar Festival falls just as the new day begins at 12:39 a.m. early tomorrow morning. Thus, we're meeting on the last day of preparation during the five day cycle of the Solar Festival.

And so, in these last hours of preparation, let us use this opportunity to intensify our practice of dedication and upward striving, recognizing ourselves as part of the world-wide group that is the recipient and custodian of as much of the inflowing spiritual energies of this Solar Festival that we are capable of holding for the uplift and benefit of the whole of humanity.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2018 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>

Identifying with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men”, let us become as a responsive, vital bridge, bringing humanity ever-closer to the ideas and energies held in trust within the Council Chamber of Shamballa and radiated into our planet by the Great Brotherhood of Love-Wisdom.

As is our monthly practice, after this opening address, we’ll move to the focus of our meeting, which is group meditation. Following this, you’ll have the opportunity to voice any thoughts and ideas you might like to share.

Dear Friends, in dedicating ourselves to this work, we are dissipating glamour, ignorance and fear while forging courage, will and knowledge. In the introduction to the book, *New Era Community*, the Teachers of the Wisdom encourage and reassure us: “Every striving toward enlightenment is welcome. Every prejudice, caused by ignorance, is exposed. Thou who dost toil, are not alive in thy consciousness the roots of cooperation and community?[The New Era Community offers] Greeting[s] to workers and seekers!”

The photo on your screen is entitled “Milky Way and Aurora over Svalbard.” Svalbard is a Norwegian group of islands located in the Arctic Ocean north of Norway and it is about the only place in the world where you can see the impressive Aurora Borealis also during daytime. It comes to us courtesy of the Spaceweather website, which provides “news and information about the [physical] Sun-Earth environment.”

In *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, the Tibetan Master refers to the Milky Way as that mysterious band in the heavens, which is closely connected with cosmic prana, or that cosmic vitality or nourishment which vitalises the entire solar etheric system, which then impacts our planet and each one of the 7.53 billion people on the planet, who exchange energies through the same etheric prana.

It seemed an appropriately fiery and visionary photo to accompany our work in Sagittarius and I hope you agree.

With these thoughts in mind, can we now pause for a moment and together sound the Noon-time recollection?

“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 the goal and then I see another.” Such is the esoteric keynote of the disciple who is traveling on the reversed, evolutionary wheel of life.

This, in contrast to the individual who is traveling the involutory path and whose keynote is, “Let food be sought.” Two very distinct experiences with very different perspectives and worldviews; wouldn’t you agree?

The major themes of Sagittarius are actually five in number. These have to do with the following:

First, attached or fused duality depicted by either the Centaur, the Archer, and in our current age, the Bow and Arrow;

Second, human ambition leading eventually to spiritual aspiration;

Third, a clear shaft of light which is the intuitive and focussed attitude of the pledged disciple;

Fourth, the "returning arrow of the intuition," which is the arrow of aspiration directed in flight towards a particular goal, which most interestingly, then returns to the sender as the arrow of the intuition. And, here it's important to remember that only the intuition will suffice to carry the disciple to the foot of the mountain of initiation in Capricorn. As the Agni Yoga Wisdom assures us, "each striving arrow *is* recorded." (*Hierarchy*, 29)

Fifth, idealism, which is the power to see the vision and to direct one's course towards it. This is the work of Mars, the Hierarchical ruler of this sign and the expression of the sixth ray of Idealism or of Devotion. Esoteric Astrology reminds us that Mars is actually a beneficent factor and not malefic, as is so often supposed.

Along with Leo and Aquarius, Sagittarius is referred to as "a peculiarly human sign" connected in a most specific way with the appearance of humanity upon our Earth. These three signs have a progressive effect upon humanity, as it passes periodically and cyclically under their influence.

In an ancient book of signs, these three are frequently referred to as the signs which—when studied—will reveal humanity's divine intention; they will mark the points of crisis in humanity's progress and once the influences which they express have done their work, they will carry the individual or humanity as a whole "from door to door" throughout the rest of the zodiacal circle. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 174-175)

Within this triangle, Sagittarius represents, for example, a focussed consciousness, the aspiring individual, discipleship, the spiritual human soul and the final path.

From ambition to aspiration, from selfishness to an intense desire for selflessness, from individual one-pointed self-interest to the one-pointedness of the disciple and thence to initiation.

Sagittarius always provides the incentive for orienting humanity towards some new and higher objective, with the task of refocusing towards a higher goal and with the unfoldment of some basic and directing purposes. These developing purposes may range 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 impels humanity. The important thing is that Sagittarius, the Archer always has a goal towards which it aims its focus.

In this regard, it is interesting to trace the unfolding of the human consciousness through the influence of the energies let loose through the various zodiacal signs and to note that in Sagittarius, intuition governs aspiration, having as its keynote, "I vision."

So, indeed, dear Friends, let us embrace this opportunity to use our imaginations and freely envision the best that is yet to be!

Sagittarius arrives at the stage of intuitive perception because the intellect which has been developed, used and finally illumined, becomes sensitive to a still higher type of mental experience, which is that of intuitive perception, and also referred to as pure reason and “straight knowledge,” described by the ancient sage, Patanjali as that state of awareness that is “uncomplicated and, at the same time, profoundly inclusive”.

As a result, the individual so influenced by the Sagittarian energy, walks no longer in the dark, for he and she sees what must be done and therefore makes rapid progress and travels “fast upon the Way,” flying from point to point, searching for the arrows of aspiration which were earlier discharged.

It will be no surprise that the orthodox or exoteric ruler of this sign is Jupiter—the second ray ruler and conveyer of expansion; while from the standpoint of the path of discipleship, the esoteric ruler is the Earth itself.

Here, it might be helpful to recollect that *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* (p. 102) points out that the aim in this current cycle is one of blending the two fires of matter, latent and active and merging them with the fires of mind and spirit until they are lost from sight in the One Flame.

As we know, it is the fires of the mind and spirit that burn up matter and thus bring about liberation from the confining vehicles. “The altar of earth”, teaches this Ageless Wisdom, “is [not only] the birthplace of spirit, [but also] its liberator from...(matter), and its entrance into higher realms.”

The hierarchical ruler of Sagittarius is Mars, which as I earlier mentioned, gives incentive towards idealism while providing the energy needed to accomplish realization on the physical plane.

As we know, the lunar lords of the form nature must eventually be sacrificed to the higher spiritual aspect and brought under the control of the solar Angel.

Mars facilitates this process by producing great struggles, which eventually lead to great revelations. In Sagittarius the revelation experienced provides an understanding of the purpose of soul control over the lower kingdoms in nature, via the human centre of energy.

Along with Virgo, Pisces and Gemini, Sagittarius is one of the four arms of the Mutable Cross—the Cross of the mutable, fluidic, restless mind. Via experience on this Cross, the mind nature is finally developed and begins its integrating control of the personality, leading eventually to the Fixed Cross of Discipleship and then on to the Cardinal Cross of Initiation.

When we consider the experience of the disciple on the Mutable Cross, the central thing to keep in mind is that “the forces of conflict” are powerful in this sign, and especially so, in the life of the disciple. Harmony through Conflict is ceaselessly active and it appears in both the exoteric and in the esoteric or inner assignments.

Esoteric Astrology clearly and powerfully describes this process (pp. 187-188):

“The destructive power of the first ray, focussed in Pluto, brings change, darkness and death. To this intensity and potency of Pluto must be added the forceful and dynamic energy of the planet Mars. This brings the entire human family, as well as the individual, under the law of

strife, based this time upon sixth ray devotion to an ideal, high or low. All these play upon the individual born in the sign of Sagittarius, as well as upon [humanity] the fourth Creative Hierarchy as a whole. This, you can see for yourself, brings in a terrific situation, and the forces playing upon the disciple are of a momentous nature—*provided* that the mechanism of awareness is adequate to respond.

Esoteric Astrology continues (p. 188):

“These planetary influences are distinctive of the Sons of Mind [who are], of Venusian origin; they are characteristic of the Lords of Sacrifice and Will functioning in time and space as the fourth Creative Hierarchy.....these Sons of Mind live on the Earth and thus within the body of the planetary Logos, and are of a definitely intelligent nature, making them Lords of Knowledge, achieving their goal through the light of the mind and through the method of conflict, for they are also Lords of Ceaseless and Persevering Devotion. All the above names which are related to the planets governing Sagittarius will be remembered by students of *The Secret Doctrine*. They are the ‘quality names’ of the Divine Manasaputras [the seven Lords of the Rays], the Agnishvattas [the Solar Angels] who are ourselves.”

Dear Friends, within these few paragraphs, the Tibetan Master describes humanity—as it is and also its divine potential and its destiny. It is a most formidable description; is it not?

These passages then underscore the importance of the sign of Sagittarius, which provides a field of energy wherein the one-pointed disciple can finally become the initiate. And, this, in the end, is the set goal of the Sagittarian experience—whether the goal of initiation into some form of sensuous experience or whether it is a spiritual undertaking. Always the new horizon leads to an expanded state of consciousness.

As you will read in the December quote of the month, to be posted on the first of the month, “it is essential” that the servers of the race—the intelligent men and women of goodwill everywhere throughout the world, “get a grasp, fresh and clear, of the work to be done and that they [that is, we] become ‘*relaying* channels and not *delaying* points of selfish interest’ in the divine flow.” (*Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, p. 195)

The good news is that Humanity has reached a point in its “development where there is a definite grasp of the Plan of the Hierarchy—call it brotherhood, sharing, internationalism, unity or what you will.”

There is also a growing recognition and appreciation of emerging spiritual values.

In spite of the fear, the horrors of continuing wars and the despair and anguish we see throughout the world, the new Age of Aquarius with its latent possibilities can be seen upon the horizon; signs of new growth and new thinking and a new awakening is also palpable.

Can we now take up our work in meditation and add our energies to this emerging New Age?