



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

Opening Address, Sagittarius Solar Festival

Wednesday, 11 December 2019; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this month's Solar Festival Webinar. Thank you for being here. I look forward to working with you, as we together create lighted thoughts of healing and uplift for humanity and all life on the planet, in alignment with the fiery, aspirational, intuitive and one-pointed sign of Sagittarius and *all* of its attendant energies.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs at 12:12 a.m. just as the new day begins, after midnight.

Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we're meeting on the second and last day of *Preparation* – a day of dedication and upward striving wherein with determination, we hold the intention to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

Let us begin our work then, by identifying, as best we can, with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” affirming our intention, as we do every month, to act as a living, vital bridge, lifting 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, the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom.

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.

The photo on your screen is our cherished, but sorrowful planet Earth, depicted here in the surrounding stellar field of the boundless universe – a reminder to us of the antahkarana bridge that *we* must build between the earth and the heavens.

“The time has come,” enjoins the Agni Yoga Wisdom, “to set the Earth on a new path.” (*New Era Community*, 36) If our vigil is to guard Earth, must we also not love it? For how is it possible to care for that which is not loved? (*Aum*, 138)

How can we neglect this Earth, which nourishes humanity and provides the right conditions for the attainment of evolutionary perfection? Each one of us must labor for this Earth, which desperately

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2019 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>

needs those extraordinary efforts that only human hands and human feet can provide. (*Supermundane*, 566)

Acknowledging the difficulties of the conditions on the planet, this wisdom teaches that, at each moment, the Masters of the Wisdom “are ready to forsake everything” that is of the Earth; yet, at the same time, They also love every blossom on it.

Our Earth, of course, is the esoteric ruler of Sagittarius.

Keeping these thoughts in mind, can we now move forward in our work as we together sound the noon-time recollection?

“We know oh Lord of Life and Love about the need. Touch our hearts anew with love that we too may love and give.” [PAUSE]

Dear Friends, as the *Labours of Hercules* remind us, there is an immense past behind humanity; aeons and aeons have come and gone; the wheel of existence turns continuously, and ever the scroll of life unrolls, as we are carried forward on the impetus of a returning force towards a newer aspect of the goal, wider vision and greater realizations.

Sagittarius is the sign whose underlying theme is one of Direction – this, as it proceeds both upon the ordinary wheel of life, as well as upon the reversed wheel of life. Upon the involutory wheel, the injunction for the individual is to “let food be sought.” Later, upon the evolutionary wheel of life, the disciple sings the note of the Soul: “I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another.”

We are told that, as part of the triangle with Leo and Aquarius, this sweeping and expansive sign of Sagittarius is a uniquely human sign, connected in a definite manner with the appearance of humanity upon our Earth, dating as far back as those Egos who were produced through the individualisation process in the ancient days of Lemuria, referenced in *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, as “the true Earth humanity.” (p. 853)

Together, these signs reveal the individual’s divine intention, mark the points of crisis in his and her progress and, when the three influences, which they express, have done their work, they will carry the individual “from door to door” through the gates of the zodiacal signs, for Leo is the next sign to Cancer, the gate that leads to incarnation and Sagittarius is the sign which precedes Capricorn, the gate of initiation.

As you know, Sagittarius is sometimes depicted as an archer on a white horse and a study of the meaning of this symbolism reveals a great deal of inner teaching. This is one of the later ways of portraying this constellation. Earlier, in Atlantean days, from which period we have inherited what we know about astrology, the sign was frequently depicted by the Centaur – the fabulous animal which was half man and half horse.

The horse symbolism dominated Atlantean myths and symbols, just as the ram and the lamb are prominent in our modern presentations. This earlier sign of the Centaur stood for the evolution and the development of the human soul, with its human objectives, selfishness, identification with form, and its desire and aspirations.

The Archer on the white horse, which is the more current symbol for this sign, signifies the orientation of the individual human being towards a definite goal. The individual is then not part of the horse

but is freed from identification with it and is the controlling factor. The keynote of the Centaur is ambition. The keynote of the Archer is aspiration and direction, and both are expressions of human goals but one is of the personality and the other of the soul.

From ambition to aspiration; from selfishness to an intense desire for selflessness; from individual one-pointed self-interest in Leo to the one-pointedness of the disciple in Sagittarius and thence to initiation in Capricorn, so the Sagittarian energy moves us forward from one goal to the next.

It is interesting to note that the present day astrological symbol for this sign is simply the arrow with a fragment of the bow depicted. The Archer as well as the Centaur have both dropped out of the picture. This is largely because the emphasis or focus of human living today is not based upon the objective outer facts of life upon the physical plane, but rather, upon some form of inner focus or emphasis, which varies from the many stages of emotional ambition to spiritual aspiration, and from the activities of the lower mind bent upon selfish interest to the illumination of the same mind through its focus upon the soul.

Through his and her many and varied experiences and the consequent wisdom gained upon the Path of Life, human ambition leads eventually to spiritual aspiration; the arrow of aspiration then returns to the sender as the arrow of the intuition and through the influence of Mars, the hierarchical ruler of this sign, the power of idealism flourishes and the disciple can then see the vision and direct his and her course towards it.

Understandably then, every time the individual finds him and herself under the influence of Sagittarius, it is with the objective of orienting oneself to some new and higher objective, with the task of refocusing oneself towards a higher goal and with the unfoldment of some basic and directing purpose, be it material or spiritual.

Together with the signs of Cancer, Leo, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces, Sagittarius constitutes the six pointed star of the human or fourth Creative Hierarchy. In this grouping, Sagittarius stands for Soul consciousness in the early stages. With its intuitive and aspirational vision, it prepares the disciple for the first and second initiations.

Gradually, as the aeons have slipped away, through their influence and the aspirants' struggle with the pairs of opposites, humanity's instinctual nature has receded steadily into the background or below the threshold of consciousness, while the intellect has become more and more dominant and an increasingly powerful factor. First, it controls the emotional nature and then, eventually it becomes itself illuminated by the light of the soul.

In the first instance, the emphasis is on the struggle of the personality to release itself from the grip of lower desire, and, in the second, to release itself from surrounding world glamour which is revealed when soul light is thrown into it, via the reflecting and illumined mind.

Finally, 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 -- that deeply subjective unification, providing a comprehensive understanding of the principle of universality, which is fully realized at the third initiation.

There come flashes of light upon problems; a distant yet possible vision of attainment is seen; the individual begins to climb out of the depths to which he and she has descended in Scorpio and the vision of the mountain in Capricorn appears and beckons. The disciple then *knows* his/her next goal.

The enlightened one walks no longer in the dark, he and she sees what must be done, makes rapid progress and travels "fast upon the Way." S/he "flies from point to point, searching for the arrows which [s/]he has discharged."

S/he has, figuratively speaking, to dismount constantly from the white horse; that is, from the developed and purified personality, and find where the arrows of intuitional aspiration will lead; s/he travels upon the "wings of the soul" until s/he has established a balanced relationship between the personality and the soul and can function as either, at any desired moment with equal facility.

The ruler of Sagittarius from the orthodox angle is Jupiter, and from the standpoint of the path of discipleship, it is the Earth itself, while Mars is the hierarchical ruler.

The most interesting fact which emerges as we study the Mutable Cross as a whole is connected with the rulers of all the four signs.

From the point of view of orthodox astrology, only two planets rule or govern all the four signs; these are Jupiter and Mercury. Mercury governs Gemini and Virgo, while Jupiter governs Sagittarius and Pisces.

The reason for this is due to the nature of the rays which express themselves through these signs. Mercury is the agent or the messenger of the fourth Ray of Harmony through Conflict, and Jupiter is the medium for the expression of the second Ray of Love-wisdom. These two rays govern those who are upon the Mutable Cross and they are closely concerned with the mass incarnation of humanity.

Their function is to fuse and blend into one cooperative whole the great dualities expressing themselves through humanity, the fourth kingdom in nature and it is through the influences of these two planets that material desire can be transmuted into divine love, and the conflict which is the distinguishing characteristic of the human family can be instrumental in resolving dissonance into harmony.

The definite pattern and direction of this process has to take form upon the Mutable Cross before the energies of the Fixed Cross can change the ambitious selfish individual into the selfless disciple. It is only as a result of all the experiences initiated upon the Mutable Cross, which is essentially and significantly the Cross of the mutable, fluidic, restless mind – that the mind nature is finally developed and begins its integrating control of the personality. Once the objectives of the Mutable Cross experience have been realized, the Cross of Discipleship then begins to play its part.

The case is quite different in connection with the esoteric rulers and the subjective side of unfoldment. Here, the disciple comes under the directed energy of four planets (Venus, Moon, Earth and Pluto). These supersede or begin to dominate the influence of Mercury and Jupiter, giving greater facility of expression and exerting that influence which will bring the personality into right relation to the soul.

It is in connection with the planets governing Sagittarius, exoterically and esoterically, that we can begin to understand the complexity of the forces with which every disciple has to contend and the significance of the ray forces which pour into and through him and her.

Harmony through conflict is ceaselessly active and appears in both the orthodox and the esoteric experience of Sagittarius. 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 Mars, the hierarchical ruler. 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 forces and energies play upon the individual born in the sign of Sagittarius, as well as upon humanity as a whole, creating thus, a terrific situation.

Dear Friends, does this provide us with a deeper appreciation of the causes behind the intense and passionate protest movements that we see everywhere in the world today?

Esoteric Astrology (p. 188) teaches that 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. The form life is ruled by the Moon, veiling a hidden planet; 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.” In the *Secret Doctrine*, these great beings are also known as the Lords of Ceaseless and Persevering Devotion – the “quality names” of the Divine Manasaputras, the Agnishvattas who are none other than ourselves.

All of this points to the pivotal importance of this fiery sign of Sagittarius in the life of the incarnating Sons of God. The one-pointed disciple finds him and herself within a field of energies that can facilitate an expansion in consciousness, which can then lead to initiation.

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

Dear Friends, On the upcoming day of the Winter Solstice, from 21-28 December we will be observing and celebrating the 13th week of the New Group of World Servers. As we know, the primary objective of the New Group of World Servers is to facilitate the entrance of soul energy into the life of daily living.

In the second volume of *Discipleship in the New Age* (p. 204), we learn that this New Group of World Servers is an aspect of the world antahkarana and composed of those who have penetrated in consciousness upward to such an extent and height that their ascension has become invocative and has produced a descent from the Hierarchy which meets and merges with the energies of the ascending group reflection. Forget not, states the Tibetan Master that the New Group of World Servers is composed of the following four groups:

1. Initiates and disciples who are consciously a part of the Great White Lodge.
2. Aspirants and lesser disciples who are affiliated with the Hierarchy, but who do not usually possess that continuity of consciousness which will come later.
3. Those upon the Probationary Path who are not yet affiliated with the Hierarchy; but who are subject to hierarchical impression and are determined to serve their fellowmen.
4. An increasing number of people who respond to the idealism and the purpose of the New Group of World Servers and who will rapidly join the group.

We stand today on the verge of great things. Humanity *is* beginning to transform planetary consciousness. Through the concentrated effort of these groups in the world today (who constitute subjectively One group) light and inspiration and spiritual revelation can be released in such a flood

of power that it will work definite changes in the human consciousness and ameliorate conditions in our needy world. It will open humanity's eyes to the basic realities, which are as yet only dimly sensed by the thinking public. Then humanity itself will apply the necessary correctives, believing it can do so in the strength of its own sensed wisdom and strength; yet all the time, behind the scenes, stand the grouped world aspirants, working silently, in unison with each other and the Hierarchy, and thus keeping the channel open through which the needed wisdom, strength and love can flow. *Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*, p. 698.

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

