



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

Opening Address, Sagittarius Solar Festival*

Sunday, 29 November 2020; Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the fiery, aspirational and intuitive sign of Sagittarius, the Archer, and all its attendant energies.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs tomorrow morning, November 30th at 4:30 a.m. Thus, in the five day cycle that makes up our observance of these monthly Festivals, we are meeting on the second and last day of Preparation – a day, as we know, of dedication and upward striving, as we pledge our intention to become recipients and custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

Dear Friends, the pandemic, which has upended the world and forced us to more directly face up to the other interrelated and urgent crises of our times, continues to provide new opportunities and new portals of awareness and action.

In the words of many of the leaders at the United Nations, it gives us an opportunity to build back better. This, to my mind, is a reflection of the wisdom expressed by the Tibetan Master who, on behalf of the Hierarchy, calls on humanity to rebuild the shrine of humanity's living; to reconstruct the form of humanity's life; to reconstitute the new civilization upon the foundations of the old; to reorganize the structures of world thought and world politics, while redistributing the world resources in a more just and equitable manner and thus, in conformity to divine purpose. (*The Destiny of the Nations*, p. 106)

From many different sectors of society, the call for compassion, empathy and service to our neighbor, whether near or far, continues to amplify.

Finding inspiration in this crisis of opportunity, let us continue to work together with all the tension of our forces and with all those throughout the world who serve the Plan of Light and Love and Power as we strive to serve and uplift the whole of humanity.

Let us identify, as best we can, with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men,” affirming and intensifying our intention to act as a living, 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, the Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom.

*Opening Address presented by Ida Urso, Ph. D., for the 2020 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>

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 entitled *Earth's Magnetosphere*. It comes to us from NASA's Heliophysics Division, which studies the nature of the Sun. NASA explains in this scientific term, what the esoteric wisdom has long taught, and that is that the Earth is part of a dynamic, interconnected system that responds to solar, planetary, and interstellar conditions.

NASA describes a magnetosphere as the region around a planet, which is dominated by the planet's magnetic field. It is pointed out that other planets in our solar system also have magnetospheres; however, Earth's is the strongest.

As many of you know, Mother Earth, as our planet is sometimes called, is the esoteric ruler for the sign of Sagittarius.

The esoteric wisdom teaches that planet Earth is the cosmic turning point, destined to become a sacred planet – not only at the higher, abstract levels of consciousness such as is the case today – but on all levels of expression, including the objective physical plane.

“It must be known that the earthly matter is very dense” – explains the Agni Yoga wisdom. “On the planets of lower level than Earth the matter is very coarse; upon those higher than Earth, matter harmonizes with the spirit. Hence, the Earth appears as a turning point.” (*Leaves of Morya's Garden II*, 161)

The significance of experience on our planet earth is simply, yet profoundly affirmed: “Spirituality on Earth can open towering Gates.” (*Leaves of Morya's Garden II*, 163)

The problem of all disciples, the Tibetan Master tells us, is that we need to live simultaneously the acutely sensitive inner life of the Pilgrim upon the path of life, that of a human being in the world of human events; the group life of the pledged disciple and the mass life of humanity; we need to fulfil our own individual spiritual destiny, through the medium of a controlled personality, while at the same time, participating fully in the life of humanity upon Earth. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 498)

Dear Friends, does this resonate as a good descriptive summary of the thorny adversities and challenges intrinsic to treading the Spiritual Path?

Sagittarius, along with its exoteric and esoteric rulers, Jupiter and Earth, respectively, form a cosmic Triangle expressing the fourth ray of Harmony through Conflict. I'll say more about this in a minute.

But, for now, can we pause for a moment, as we normally do, and 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, the meaning and significance of the keywords of Sagittarius are most obvious. The injunction for the individual upon the ordinary wheel of outgoing is simple and clear: “Let food be sought.”

For the disciple upon the reversed wheel of life, the word goes out: "I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another."

In Sagittarius, human ambition eventually leads to spiritual aspiration, the intuitive and focused attitude of the pledged disciple becomes a clear shaft of light, the "returning arrow of the intuition," originally the arrow of aspiration, *returns* to the sender as the arrow of the intuition, and, idealism gives the power to see the vision and to direct one's course towards it.

Sagittarius is said to be "a peculiarly human sign and is connected in a definite manner with the appearance of humanity upon our Earth." Along with Leo and Aquarius, these three signs are more closely connected with humanity than any of the others signs.

These are the signs, which reveal the individual's divine intention, mark the points of crisis in his and her progress and will, when the three influences which they express have done their work, carry the individual forward "from door to door."

Esoteric Astrology explains that Sagittarius is sometimes depicted as an archer on a white horse. Earlier, in Atlantean days, the period from which we have inherited what we know about astrology, the sign was frequently depicted by the Centaur — the animal that was half man and half horse.

It's pointed out that the horse symbolism dominated Atlantean myths and symbols, indicating the evolution and the development of the human soul, with its human objectives, its selfishness, its identification with form as well as its desire and its aspirations.

The Archer on the white horse, which followed that of the Centaur, signifies the orientation of the individual towards a definite goal — who is then not part of the horse but is freed from identification with it and is now the controlling factor.

The goal of the Centaur, which is the satisfaction of desire and animal incentives, eventually evolves into the goal of initiation. Whereas 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 is of the soul.

The current astrological symbol for this sign is simply the arrow with a fragment of the bow depicted. The Archer as well as the Centaur have dropped out of the picture and this is largely because the emphasis or focus of human living today is not based upon the objective outer life upon the physical plane, but upon some form of inner focus or emphasis, which varies from the many stages of astral and 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 focus upon the soul.

A study of the charts of the human family at all the different stages, from the time of the Mutable Cross experience wherein the personality is built up, constructed, developed and integrated, to the final crucifixion of the personality upon the Fixed Cross of the Heavens, reveals that every time the individual finds him or herself under the influence of Sagittarius, it is with the objective of becoming oriented towards a new and higher objective or goal based on the unfoldment of some basic and directing purpose.

Sagittarius influences humanity to unfold the intuition. The intellect, which has been developed, used and finally illumined, then governs aspiration and vision; it represents soul consciousness in

its early stages and thus, the esoteric keynote: "I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another."

Under the influence of Sagittarius, the individual begins to climb out of the depths to which he and she has descended in Scorpio and the mountain in Capricorn is glimpsed, bringing the recognition that eventually, that mountain must be scaled and the summit must be reached. This stage of awareness is pictorially depicted in *Esoteric Astrology* in the following paraphrased passage:

The aspirant walks no longer in the dark. What has to be done is seen and the individual 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 — a symbol of the developed and purified personality, to find where the arrows of intuitional aspiration will take her; s/he travels upon the "wings of the soul" and becomes as the winged God — Mercury, which governs Gemini, the polar opposite of Sagittarius. This s/he does until s/he has established a balanced relationship between the personality and the soul, able then to function as either, at any desired moment with equal facility. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 180/1)

This experience takes place upon the Path of Discipleship and is called the experience of the disciple upon the plains of Earth.

Sagittarius and all the other energies of the Mutable Cross are today exerting their influence—all of which have the potential to bring humanity's personality — referred to as the Dweller on the Threshold of divinity, into relationship with the soul — humanity's Solar Angel. Whereas, the Dweller constitutes all the ancient habits of thought, selfishness and greed; the Soul nature is Love and Light and inclusive understanding.

The complexity of the forces and energies that are part of Sagittarius and the other signs of the mutable cross cannot be underestimated. The "forces of conflict" are most powerful in this sign, and especially so in the life of the disciple. Harmony through conflict, the keynote of humanity, is ceaselessly active and appears in both the exoteric and the esoteric experience. Here, it's helpful to remember that conflict is the distinctive characteristic of the material substance that provides the vehicles for the three planes of humanity's personal expression — the physical, emotional and lower concrete mental planes—and the fire of matter is that of fire by friction.

The destructive power of the first ray, focused in Pluto (ruling Pisces), brings change, darkness and death. To this intensity and potency of Pluto must be added the forceful and dynamic energy of the planet Mars, the hierarchical ruler of Sagittarius. 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.

In Sagittarius, the sense of direction or guidance that is one of this sign's major underlying themes, is characteristic of the enlightened individual, the aspirant and disciple, and this becomes 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, in the last analysis, the ordered direction of God's thought. And as we know, there is no true direction apart from thought. (*Esoteric Astrology*, p. 190)

Dear friends, is this not an apt description of the opportunity that is available to humanity today?

Does this not bring to mind, the seventeen sustainable development goals that are today the focused work of the United Nations and of the many men and women of goodwill and Members of the New Group of World Servers throughout the planet who are striving on behalf of the whole of humanity to see them realized? And, does this not direct us to the solution for the ongoing planetary crises?

This very same focused thinking is also reflected in the recent UN preparation for “The Climate Ambition Summit”, which will take place on December 12. The UN Website entitled, [Climate Action; Recovering Better](#) provides information for this summit as it demonstrates clearly the need for humanity to follow a new direction. Therein, it is indicated:

“As the world confronts the pandemic and embarks on recovery, there is growing recognition that the recovery must be a pathway to a green and sustainable economy that produces jobs and prosperity, reduces emissions, and builds resilience. From the science to the solutions, this website showcases how the United Nations is bringing together all nations and peoples, so we leave no-one behind as we tackle the global climate emergency.”

Dear friends, in Sagittarius, the disciple has two things to discover within him and herself; these are the power to make progress upon the Path, and secondly, to be able to create in the higher and spiritual sense. Upon the reversed wheel, the goal is ever the expression of love-wisdom and this is ever selflessly developed and always consecrated to the good of the whole and not the satisfaction of the individual.

Let us not tire of recollecting the fact that there is always a necessary period of pain and suffering that precedes the absorption of the higher energy into the daily life. Old ideas, rhythms and habits must be released so that the channels may be widened and purified in order to contain the new energy.

Is it not this purifying, cleansing process in all areas of life that is taking place in our current planetary crises? Is it not the light, the love, and the will-to-good evoked by the New Group of World Servers and the men and women of goodwill that is continually throwing light on the darkest recesses of the center humanity so that once and for all, the door where evil dwells may be sealed and humanity may proceed upon its upward and inward Path?

The Agni Yoga Wisdom asks rhetorically, “How can one intensify energy if not by an extreme situation?” And adds, “Such situations should be regarded not as end points but as beginnings. (Heart, 30)

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