



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

Opening Address, Scorpio Solar Festival

Wednesday, 24 October 2018; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good afternoon and Welcome! Thank you for being here. It's a Joy to welcome you back for this month's Solar Festival Webinar, and I look forward to working together.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the exact moment of the Scorpio Solar Festival is 12:45 p.m.—right in the midst of our work. Thus, once again, as last month, we're auspiciously meeting on the sacred day of *Safeguarding*—a day of inner peace and silent solemnity—a day of service carried forward entirely on esoteric levels and of complete self-forgetfulness, fully mindful of humanity and its need, recognizing this opportunity for contact between the inner and the outer groups.

As we open our hearts and minds to the sacred energies now available, we recognize ourselves to be part of the world-wide group through which these energies are being poured forth for the benefit of the whole of humanity.

Identifying with the Purpose that seeks to “guide the little wills of men”, we can become 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 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.

As was mentioned in this month's newsletter, today is United Nations Day. Thus, the image on your screen, which is that of the Foucault Pendulum—at the United Nations. It was a gift given to the UN by the Netherlands in 1955, two years prior to the transformation of the United Nations Meditation Room, under the leadership of the second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld.

The Foucault Pendulum, which provides visual proof of the rotation of the Earth, is prominently and beautifully displayed within the United Nations' Visitor Lobby, outside the UN Meditation Room, next to the stairs leading to the majestic General Assembly.

This gold-plated sphere also serves as a striking reminder of the relationship existing between the United Nations in which it is housed, and our planet Earth to Polaris, the “north star”, the directional star aligned with the Earth's axis of rotation.

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

From the point of view of the esoteric wisdom, this star of direction governs Shamballa, the Source of planetary purpose and thus, the most spiritually advanced center of consciousness on our planet. It is from within this Center that the course of Earth's destiny is overseen and aligned with the greater Universal Whole of which it is a part.

To me, this pendulum provides a physical reminder, as the *Song of the Seraph of San Francisco* poetically expresses it, that the United Nations was created "to implement a cosmic Plan on behalf of the Family of Man," indicating too that when the Nations of the world—stand united as "guardians of the common good," they *can* be responsive to Divine Purpose.

This photo also reminds me of the following 7th Ray stanza, which to my mind epitomizes the work that is being attempted and that we wish to see realized within the United Nations:

"The Angel of the Presence lifts one hand into the blue of heaven. He plunges deep the other into the sea of forms. Thus he connects the world of form and formless life. Heaven to earth he brings; earth into heaven. This the man, who stands before the Angel, knows.

"He grasps the meaning of the painted sign which the Angel holds aloft." It depicts a painted symbol, representing "complete unity between the outer and the inner, the objective and the subjective, between spirit and matter, and between the physical and the essential"—all in service to the Plan. (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. II*, pp. 47-48)

With these thoughts in mind and before proceeding, can we pause for a moment, recollect ourselves, 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]

Dear friends, the keynotes of this sign are significant and illuminating. We have either deception or triumph; control by Maya or control by the Soul; Conflict or peace—for such are the hidden secrets of this sign, summarized for all disciples of all times in its two distinctive keynotes.

Upon the ordinary wheel of life, whereon the soul is found blind and apparently helpless, the Word goes forth: "And the Word said, Let Maya flourish and let deception rule." Upon the reversed wheel, the soul chants or sings the words: "Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant."

Test. Trial. Triumph.

At this particular stage of human evolution, Scorpio governs the Path of Discipleship. In connection with this path we have the following five lines of "influential energy" that impinge upon all disciples who tread that Path.

1. Sirius, that brilliant star of sensitivity, which rules Scorpio and works in a sevenfold manner through the seven rays and their seven groups.
2. The energies of the Fixed Cross—a fusion of four major energies, pouring into our solar system, on to our planet and through humanity.
3. Scorpio—one of the arms of the Fixed Cross, of peculiar and specialized power upon the Path of Discipleship, preparing, with its tests and trials:

a. The process of re-orientation, whereby the individual leaves behind the Mutable Cross and mounts the Fixed Cross.

b. The disciple for the first, second and third initiations. (After the third initiation, its' peculiar testing potency is no longer felt.)

4. The Hierarchy—the distributing agency to all the kingdoms in nature.

5. Mars and Saturn—two planets that are exceedingly powerful in connection with initiation into the life of the Hierarchy—Mars, of course, in relation to Scorpio and Saturn in relation to Capricorn.

Scorpio ever provides the "points of crisis" that can lead to the "moments of reorientation."

As all the Wisdom Teachers affirm, the disciple is ever self-taught and self-directed and these crises and the act of reorientation is always self-initiated.

The Tibetan Master acknowledges that his underlying motive in providing humanity the intermediate teachings of the Ageless Wisdom is to “indicate the way of living process and to stimulate that divine curiosity and that sense of outgoing spiritual adventure and eager aspiration for progress which is latent in all disciples and which, when stimulated, will enable them to proceed more serenely and sanely upon the Path of Return.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 202-203)

“Otherwise,” he states, “the practical value of that which I seek to impart is of no real importance at all.” He continues, “I am exceedingly anxious that in these days wherein the influence of Scorpio and the planet Mars is so strongly felt in world affairs that true insight may be cultivated, optimism and understanding developed and the nature of the tests to which the world disciple, humanity, is today being subjected may be estimated at their true value and thus light [may] be shed upon the way of... [humanity, for] only through understanding will solution come and rectification of error be achieved.” (*Ibid.*, p. 203)

The tests of Scorpio are necessarily three in nature as they concern intimately the readiness of the threefold personality to:

1. Reorient itself to the life of the soul, and later;
2. Evidence readiness for initiation; and, finally,
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to the Plan, thus becoming the one-pointed disciple in Sagittarius.

The three major tests are again divided into three stages, and upon the Path of Discipleship, the individual may find him and herself passing into this sign for testing and experience nine times, over many life-times.

Thus, the reference to the nine-headed Hydra or Serpent which is ever associated with Scorpio and thus also, the nature of the stupendous victory achieved by Hercules, that perfect and triumphant prototype for all disciples working in this sign.

Scorpio carries the tests right down into the physical plane life, and then, when they are there faced and handled, the life of the individual is carried up into “heaven,” meaning that the problem which the test involved is solved by the use of the higher reasoning mind.

These tests concern the three aspects of the human being, as they fuse and blend upon the physical plane. They are, first of all, the test of appetite, which is the natural predilections and tendencies

which are inherent in the animal nature. These being sex, physical comfort, and money, as concretized energy.

Secondly, the tests are connected with desire and the astral plane. They are not inherent in the animal nature but are imposed by the desire nature and are again three in number. These are fear, hatred and ambition or desire for power.

Thirdly, there are the tests of the lower critical mind which are pride, separativeness and cruelty. We are here reminded that the worst kind of cruelty is not of a physical nature but is more mental in character.

Therefore, to reiterate, we have—in the classification of that which must be tested and proved to be non-existent, the following categories, which are designated as being of great and basic importance:

I. On the physical plane:

1. Sex, which is the relation of the pairs of opposites that can be selfishly used or divinely blended.
2. Physical comfort, which is described as life conditions, selfishly appropriated.
3. Money that is selfishly procured.

II. On the emotional plane:

1. Fear, which conditions activity today.
2. Hate, which is a factor in conditioning relationships.
3. Ambition, that is conditioning objectives.

III. On the mental plane:

1. Pride, or intellectual satisfaction, making the mind the barrier to soul control.
2. Separativeness—the isolated attitude that makes the mind the barrier to right group relations.
3. Cruelty, or satisfaction with personality methods and which makes the mind the instrument of the sense of power.

When these faults are realised and then, eventually overcome, the result is twofold: the establishing of right relations with the soul and also with the environment.

In this simple statement is expressed the monumental goal of all nine tests in Scorpio—the establishing of right relations with the soul and also with one's environment.

Dear friends, this goal sounds so seemingly simple, yet, as we know, achieving such a triumphant victory can take lifetimes to accomplish.

There is another important facet to the labor in Scorpio, which was referenced in this month's newsletter. Under the sign of Scorpio two most occult factors emerge from the past and begin to engross the attention of the disciple. These are encapsulated in the words: re-capitulation and re-orientation.

From the ancient recesses of the memory, from a deeply rooted past which is definitely recalled, and from the racial and the individual subconscious, or the founded and established thought reservoirs and desires, inherited and inherent, there emerges from individual past lives and experience that which is the sum total of all instinctual tendencies, of all inherited glammers and all phases of wrong mental attitudes.

These, as they constitute a blended whole, are referred to as the Dweller on the Threshold—the sum total of all the personality characteristics which have remained unconquered and unsubdued and which finally must be overcome before initiation can be taken.

Each life sees some progress made; some personality defects straightened out and some real advance effected. But the unconquered residue and the ancient liabilities are numerous and excessively powerful and—when soul contact is adequately established—there eventuates a life wherein the Angel of the Presence and the Dweller stand face to face and something must then be done.

Eventually, the greater glory obliterates the lesser: the light of the personal self fades out and wanes in the blaze of glory which emanates from the Angel.

However, this is only possible when the personality eagerly enters into this relation with the Angel, recognises itself as the Dweller and—as a disciple—begins the battle between this greatest of the pairs of opposites and enters into the tests of Scorpio, wherein the trials and the discipline required are unavoidable and inevitable.

When the mind has reached a relatively high stage of development, every latent pre-disposition, every racial and national instinct, every unconquered situation and every controlling fault rises to the surface of consciousness and—the fight is on. The light ever exposes the darkness.

Life, quality and appearance are all tested until the disciple understands that the entire experience has to be fought out subjectively and finally lifted "up into the air," into the world of spiritual values where all problems must be solved in the light of the intuition and by the soul.

Extremes ever meet in the disciple who stands at the centre of the Fixed Cross in Scorpio.

The self-indulgence which was initiated in Taurus gives way in Scorpio to the selfless attitude of the disciple; ambition gives place to the executive activity of the soul, whilst attachment to personality desires, likes and dislikes is transmuted into the tenacity of soul purpose.

The hidden powers of the soul nature—secret and misused because misunderstood and misapplied and, therefore, misdirected—are superseded by the mysteries of initiation, and the practical understanding of the energies thereby conferred upon the recipient.

Such are some of the great transformations which take place in the life of the disciple who submits intelligently to the tests and difficulties in Scorpio. Earth and water (Taurus and Scorpio) must be blended and related. Baptism by water (a name for the second initiation) needs a preparatory period of testing and purification, and this the experience in Scorpio is intended to give.

Likewise, fire and air (Aquarius and Leo) must also be blended and thus the four elements as well as six out of the seven rays must all play their part in conditioning the individual in Scorpio for the final stages of the Path. Indeed, "Warrior I am and from the battle, I emerge triumphant."

Dear friends, it is understandable, is it not, that it is in this sign that the prodigal son comes to himself, and having eaten of the husks of life and having exhausted the resources of worldly desire and ambition—proclaims: "I will arise and go to my Father."

With this thought in mind, can we now take up our meditation?