



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

Opening Address, Scorpio Solar Festival

Monday, 11 November 2019; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and welcome to this month's Solar Festival, in this testing, re-orienting and transformative sign of Scorpio. Thank you for being here. I look forward to our work together to create thoughtforms of healing for humanity and all life on the planet as we align with this potentially liberating sign of Scorpio and its attendant energies.

In the U.S. Eastern Time Zone, the actual time of this Festival occurs tomorrow morning Tuesday, November 12th at 8:34 a.m.

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, 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.

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, Stars and Mars and it comes to us courtesy of NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD). It depicts the planet Mars, the exoteric and esoteric ruler of Scorpio, flanked by Gemini's two bright stars, Pollux and Castor. In this time exposure of this celestial alignment, Mars takes on a distinct yellowish tinge, contrasting in color with what is referred to as the giant star of Pollux, right next to Mars and then the bluish Castor, to its right, which is itself a multiple star system.

If you remember, in the description of Gemini in *The Secret Doctrine*, Castor and Pollux represent the two aspects of the human being – Castor being concerned with the mortal half, the personality, and Pollux representing the immortal and spiritual part – the Soul. “Castor,” *The Secret Doctrine*

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

teaches “owes his immortality to Pollux and Pollux sacrifices himself to Castor” (*The Secret Doctrine*, quoted in *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 677) – an important understanding to keep in mind as we work with this exacting sign of Scorpio.

Another interesting feature of this photo is that, in the lower left corner of your screen you can also see the alpha star Procyon, a Greek name, which means “before the dog,” a reference to the fact that this star rises shortly before the brilliant star of Sirius, which, as we shall see, has a special relationship to Scorpio, and therefore eventually, to the individual disciple and to humanity as a whole.

Related to this cosmic photo, we should also note that today, as we are here meeting, we are in the midst of a rare astronomical event – the Transit of Mercury. Mercury's tiny form – jet black and perfectly round, is now, as I speak, gliding slowly across our sun. This rare event, occurring 13 times per century, began this morning at about 7:35 a.m. Eastern time and according to NASA, it will end at 1:04 p.m. The next such event won't be seen from Earth again until 2032. This seems especially significant because Mercury, as we know, is the hierarchical ruler of Scorpio.

“Picture to yourself all the boundlessness of the stellar universe” enjoins the Agni Yoga Wisdom and “imagine that out of a closed house, you are coming into the light.” (*Illumination*, 235) “Affirm the beauty of Infinity” and strive to “sense the pulsation of the grandeur of the Cosmos!” (*Infinity*, I, 12)

Dear Friends, there are no limitations where the spirit rules. Thought, which pervades all and manifests the beauty of the Cosmos is miraculous! Emanating from the Depths of the Cosmos, thought is the most fiery of the manifestations of space and even if it does not find its application upon Earth, nevertheless, thought fierily saturates space with creative records. (*Infinity I*, 14; *Fiery World III*, 150)

Taking in the beauty of this stellar landscape and taking to heart the wisdom and beauty herein represented, can we now move forward in our work 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, as the Tibetan Master tells us in *Esoteric Astrology*, the keywords of this sign of Scorpio are significant and illuminating. On the one hand, we have deception and on the other, triumph; there is control by Maya and control by the soul; conflict and peace – for such, are the hidden secrets of this sign, which are summed up for all disciples of all times in its two distinct keynotes.

Upon the involutory, ordinary wheel, whereon the soul is found blind and apparently helpless in bondage, the Word goes forth in the following keynote: “And the Word said, Let Maya flourish and let deception rule.”

Upon the reversed, evolutionary wheel, the soul chants or sings the keynote, “Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant.” (p. 226)

Scorpio governs the Path of Discipleship and it does so under the influence or inflowing energy of Sirius – that great “Star of Sensitivity,” which governs our Spiritual Hierarchy. Sirius, if we remember, is the great star of initiation because our spiritual Hierarchy, an expression of the second aspect of divinity, is under the supervision or spiritual magnetic control of the Hierarchy of Sirius.

Additionally, in association with an extraordinary field of relationships made up of the two Pointer stars within the Great Bear, Polaris within the Little Bear and Alcyone within the Pleiades, Sirius provides the major controlling influences whereby remarkably, the cosmic Christ works upon the Christ principle in this solar system, the planet, each human being and in the lower forms of life.

We thus have Polaris –The Star of Direction, governing Shamballa, Sirius – the Star of Sensitivity, governing the Hierarchy and Alcyone – The Star of the Individual, governing humanity.

Can we even begin to appreciate the reasoned, sublime and wondrous beauty of these cosmic relationships?!

Is it not understandable, then, that Scorpio is the great constellation which influences the turning point both in the life of humanity and in the life of the individual human being?

It's significant to note that our current time is actually the *first time* in the history of disciples and humanity that the energy of Sirius pours into the seven groups which make up our planetary Spiritual Hierarchy and therein, evokes a response.

Here, we are called upon to recollect that energies and forces coming from all kinds of sources, extraneous to our solar system and planetary schemes, are pouring upon all planetary lives ceaselessly, powerfully and cyclically; however, these are only regarded as existing when they are recognized and a response is evoked. Until one is able to register and respond to them, it's as if they didn't exist at all.

A truism of the esoteric wisdom that some of you may well recognize is that "all that *Is* is ever present." Our challenge then is to continually strive to awaken to that which eternally *IS*, and to discern what is ever present in the environment but of which we are unaware, because of our own short-sighted focus. (*Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, p. 53)

In connection with the path of discipleship, we have the following five lines of "influential energy" about which we need to be aware:

1. I've mentioned, Sirius – working in a sevenfold manner through the seven rays and their seven groups as these constitute our Spiritual Hierarchy of Love-Wisdom.
2. Secondly, there is the Fixed Cross – a fusion of its four major energies, pouring into our solar system, on to our planet and through humanity.
3. Thirdly, we have Scorpio itself, one of the four arms of the Fixed Cross, of peculiar and specialized potency upon the Path of Discipleship, which prepares, with its tests and trials both:
 - a. The process of re-orientation, whereby the individual mounts the Fixed Cross and leaves behind the Mutable Cross of Rebirth and "Changing Lives."

And,

- b. The disciple for the first, second and third initiations. Understandably, after the third initiation of the Transfiguration, the peculiar testing power of Scorpio is no longer felt.
4. The fourth influential energy on the path of discipleship is that of the Spiritual Hierarchy – the distributing agency to the various kingdoms in nature.

5. And, finally, for our purposes here, we have Mars and Saturn – the two planets, which are exceedingly powerful in connection with initiation into the life of the Hierarchy. Mars, of course, is powerful in relation to Scorpio and Saturn in relation to Capricorn. When the intensified activity of the 6th and 3rd Ray energies of these planets are rightly applied, there finally comes liberation from form control and the *release* of the conscious individual from the bondage of matter.

Dear Friends, in its usual succinct and concise manner, the Agni Yoga Wisdom affirms, “Our Task is to help humanity.” (*Leaves of Morya’s Garden I*, 176)

As the Tibetan Master further explains, even though he is endeavoring to lay the foundation for the new astrology and to provide some measure of technical information from the point of view of the Hierarchy, his underlying motive in giving forth the Intermediate Stage 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)

Given that today, the influence of Scorpio and the planet Mars is so strongly felt in world affairs, he further adds that he is exceedingly anxious that true insight may be cultivated, that optimism and understanding are developed; And, also, that the nature of the tests to which each individual disciple as well as the world disciple, humanity, is today being subjected, may be recognized for their true value so that humanity *can* move forward in light and understanding.

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 into an expanded and more inclusive consciousness, and,
3. Demonstrate sensitivity to the Plan thus becoming the one-pointed disciple in Sagittarius.

Each deeply rooted and comprehensive test covers the triplicity of nature which encompasses life, quality and appearance and each test is itself divided into three stages. And it is for this reason that the nine-headed Hydra or Serpent is ever associated with the sign of Scorpio. The entire experience has to be fought out subjectively and finally lifted "up into the air" and raised into the world of spiritual values where all problems must be solved in the light of the intuition and by the soul.

Just as Hercules, the Hero Sun-God and prototype Disciple of all times, triumphantly passed all of his nine tests, so too must each disciple, and eventually, the whole of humanity, also prove victorious.

What is it that awaits the individual and humanity when all the faults are realized and overcome? Very simply: right relations – vertically and horizontally; right relations with the Soul and right relations with the environment. The trials and tests, the struggle and striving all will have accomplished their goal of achieving harmony out of conflict, allowing the disciple to emerge triumphantly, finally liberated from the burdens and the bondage of the past.

What is possible for the individual disciple, is also possible for the world disciple, humanity. Because these tests and trials are ever self-initiated, the disciple puts him and herself into the positive or conditioning environment wherein the trials and the discipline are unavoidable and inevitable.

Because of humanity's free will, the question then needs to be asked, will the world Hercules lift its problems up into heaven and "elevate the Hydra" of passion and hate, of greed and aggression, of selfishness and ambition up into the region of the soul? Or will it continue to carry the whole matter down on to the physical plane with the inevitable corollary of world disaster, war and death?

The immense challenge and the grand opportunity provided by this sign of Scorpio cannot be underestimated. Upon the Fixed Cross, the correctly poised individual stands right at the centre where the four arms of that Cross meet and, therefore, at the point where the energy of all four signs and their ruling planets and Rays can pour through the individual and evoke the needed reactions, produce the conditions wherein test is possible and so bring about the necessary reversal of the life currents in the individual's nature, leading then to the reversal of the wheel.

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. (*Esoteric Astrology*, pp. 225-6)

“One must understand the Call,” states the Agni Yoga Wisdom. “It is not enough to say, ‘I have come and I wish to serve,’ for readiness to serve obliges the disciple to acquire discipline of spirit [by which] one must free oneself from many burdens”. (*Fiery World III*, 127)

Dear Friends Integration, Unity and Synthesis are defining characteristics of this evolving Age of Aquarius. Thus, eventually all cleavages must be bridged. However, before this can take place, all which prevents integration and all which hinders the needed unification and synthesis must be purified or removed and destroyed. The old prejudices, animosities and fixed ideas that have created past cleavages and hindered right understanding and right relationship - all must go.

The soul is eternal; its nature is inclusive love; and the whole aim of the present crisis is to shift the focus of human awareness out of the form and the material aspect of living, into the consciousness of the soul, and to do this at any cost to the hindering forms. (Externalization of the Hierarchy, p. 22)

“Each person is a living particle of humanity, which is the most powerful force on the planet....For him [and her] the only way is to turn, as a friend to the Supermundane World.” (Supermundane, 641)

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