



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

Opening Address, Scorpio Solar Festival*

Friday, 30 October 2020; Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Friends, Good Afternoon and thank you for being here. Welcome to this month's work in the testing, re-orienting and transformative sign of Scorpio. 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, October 31st at 10:49 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 of dedication and upward striving as we pledge our intention to become recipients/custodians of as much of the inflowing spiritual force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity.

Dear Friends, transformation comes not easily. As the sign of Scorpio helps us understand, it requires perseverance, commitment, dedication, love, wisdom and strength. Thus, at this most consequential and critical time on our planet, let us continue to work together with all those who serve the Plan of Light and Love and Power, throughout the world, focusing on the freedom of the human soul, resulting in the expression on our planet of brotherhood and right human relations.

Let us strive with all the tension of our forces to become custodians of as much of the inflowing force as we are capable of holding on behalf of humanity, identifying, 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.

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 image on your screen, is entitled Stars and Mars and it is provided by NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD). It is explained that in this photo, Mars stands in line with Castor and Pollux, the two bright stars of the constellation Gemini. In this time exposure of the celestial alignment, Mars

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

takes on a distinct yellowish hue, contrasting in color with the giant stars Pollux and Castor. Also included in this skyview are Procyon, the alpha star of Canis Minor and other stars.

As we know, the legend of Castor and Pollux is concerned with the mortal half of man, the personality, and the immortal part, the ego or spiritual individual. The immortal part is Pollux, while Castor represents the personal, mortal man. Scorpio also focuses on these two distinct aspects.

Mars is both the orthodox, exoteric and esoteric ruler of Scorpio, while Mercury is the hierarchical ruler, so this seemed a fitting backdrop to our work today.

Mars is the planet which rules and controls the physical vehicle. It first appears as the orthodox ruler in Aries, the sign in which the first move is made towards bringing about objective manifestation, or physical incarnation.

In Scorpio, the result of all the struggles carried forward during the seemingly endless pilgrimage around the zodiac or wheel of life is brought to a point of climax, through the activity of Mars, which has not appeared actively in the intervening signs between Aries and Scorpio as far as the reversed wheel is concerned.

Under its influence, the disciple has now to demonstrate the strength, character and quality which he and she has unfolded and developed during his and her long pilgrimage. We start in Aries with Mars ruling, and the great war between the dualities, which constitute the individual, begins.

The pairs of opposites are thus brought into relation with each other. In Scorpio, with the same planet ruling the interior life, the war is on and in this case, Mars rules not only the physical body but the entire form vehicle – the personality in the three worlds.

Because Mars is the esoteric ruler of Scorpio, all aspects of the lower nature are involved in this crisis and the tests applied involve the form nature—gross and subtle, integrated and potent. Mars, therefore, rules Aries from the exoteric angle and it rules Scorpio esoterically. It does not again appear in the life of the individual except as that individual responds to mass vibration in Sagittarius, where Mars rules the sixth Creative Hierarchy, the lunar lords of the form nature who must eventually be sacrificed to the higher spiritual aspect and brought under the control of the solar Angel.

The effect of Mars is therefore largely a mass effect and influencing group results, producing great struggles but leading finally to great revelation.

In Scorpio, the great revelation is the vision of liberation and service. It must consequently never be forgotten that Mars establishes relations between the opposites and is thus a beneficent and not a malefic factor, as is so often supposed.

Scorpio rules and governs the fourth Creative Hierarchy, the human, from the angle of the soul and not from the angle of the lower nature. The final struggle in Scorpio only takes place when the point of balance between soul and body has been reached in Libra and then in Scorpio the preponderance of the spiritual energy is imposed upon the lower personal forces.

Scorpio governs "the initiates," which is the true esoteric name of man, and through its hierarchical planetary ruler, the Sons of Mind, the Messengers of Deity are revealed, but it is through Mars and the Martian activity that the revelation comes about.

Mars vitalises not only the blood stream; but, it vitalises, purifies and stimulates all aspects and organisms in the body, via the blood stream. It will therefore be obvious how the tests in Scorpio and the activity of Mars powerfully arouse the entire lower nature and bring about its final rebellion and the last stand of the personality against the soul.

The whole man is then engaged and the "quarrel of the sexes" is resolved in its highest aspect through the battle between the highly developed personality or form nature and the soul which seeks to be the ultimate controlling factor. And, this, of course, is what we are now witnessing taking part on the great world stage; is it not?

Red is the color that is assigned to Mars and this is a correspondence to the color of the blood stream and hence also the association of Mars with passion, with anger and a sense of general opposition. The sense of duality and conflict are exceedingly powerful.

Thus, the necessity for the entire life of the individual (for the blood is the life in this sense) to be swung into the conflict, leaving no side of human nature uninvolved; hence, again, the need for the disciple to carry his and her physical nature, his and her emotional or desire nature and his and her mental processes up into heaven.

We therefore have the symbol in this sign of the disciple, lifting into the air, the plane of reason and understanding, the nine-headed hydra, the "serpent of evil" – the form nature with its promptings and demands, by the means of the "serpent of wisdom," which is the esoteric name often given to the soul.

It's here helpful to remember that on the Path of Initiation, the whole training process is turned towards the evolution of the will and this is possible because behind the development of love lies the revelation of the will. The individual's immediate goal is the unfoldment (into full expression) of the love nature, which begins to take place and reaches a relatively high stage of unfoldment upon the Path of Discipleship.

In summary, after the *Path of Evolution and Probation*, we attain the *Path of Discipleship*, which makes possible the unfoldment of the love nature, the achievement of illumination, response to the Hierarchical Center, with Buddhi or the intuition in control and the soul awakened and functioning. This stage of unfoldment leads next to the *Path of Initiation*, wherein the will is unfolded, synthesis is achieved and the initiate begins to respond to the sixth Center of Consciousness, the planetary head center – Shamballa. Dynamic Purpose is in control and the will-to-good is then expressed.

All initiates must, and eventually do express dynamic, creative will, a focussed purpose which expresses only the will-to-good and also that sustained effort which brings fulfilment.

With these thoughts in mind, can we pause here 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 keywords of this sign are significant and illuminating. Deception and triumph. Control by Maya and control by the soul. Conflict and harmony – such are the hidden secrets of this sign and these are summed up for all disciples in its two keynotes.

Upon the ordinary wheel, whereon the soul is found, blind and apparently helpless, the Word goes forth in the following terms: "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."

Is it here helpful to recollect that it is only the "esoteric doctrine" that destroys ignorance, and thus produces liberation of the spirit, through the knowledge of the supreme though *hidden* truth."

The Theosophical Glossary correlates this "hidden truth" with the Biblical statement that "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" (John 8:32)

However, as we know, the true esoteric knowledge is not to be gained by the study of figures by the lower mind. It comes as the result of the intuition and is stimulated at initiation. (*A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 796)

As some of you have heard me say before, the more we know, the more we know that we don't know. And, further, and perhaps most poignantly and importantly, we don't know, *that* we don't know, what we don't know!

Thus, when we consider the esoteric wisdom, it's important to do so with an attitude of reticence, caution and humility as well as open-mindedness and a joyous commitment to continual striving to better understand the many, as yet unknown dimensions of consciousness.

To be human is to be unfinished! Like Aladdin, who resolved his crises only with the aid of his genie, to be human is to be a diamond in the rough. To be human is to suffer the pain of conscious limitation. To be human is to look through the glass darkly. To be human is to experience the pain of being aware of both the vision and the limitations that keep us from attaining that vision.

As an esoteric text describes it, deep in the inmost depths of humanity's conscious being, there is a recollection of a lost estate of liberty, which eats like a canker. Every son of God revolts from the pain, sickness, poverty and loss that we see all around us. Indeed, it was this suffering that spurred the spiritual quest and eventual enlightenment of Gautama Siddhartha, in the sign of Taurus, the opposite sign of Scorpio.

In general, we can say, that the life of the human being is suspended between the poles of heaven and earth, which are but the symbols of the finite and the infinite, in which, as human beings, we share equally—although, as we know, "heaven" or the infinite is seldom acknowledged or considered.

This duality is addressed in many religious traditions; for example, St. Francis of Assisi often referred to his physical vehicle as "Brother Ass" and Jesus is depicted riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, a symbol of the lower nature; while the Buddha is often pictured astride a water buffalo, and Mother Mary is seen with her foot on top of a snake, representing the unenlightened material forces.

In spiritual terms, humanity is the meeting point of spirit and matter — and meditation, study and service is the process by which the two begin to know each other and eventually become integrated.

As we know, the human being is capable of many levels of consciousness—each one more inclusive and enlightened than the last. As a species, we are slowly becoming aware that the frontier of the future is that of the inner, spiritual dimension. It is this vast territory, as yet unexplored by humanity at large, that must become the source of studied, scientific exploration and attempted expression.

As the Buddha taught in the Sanatana Dharma, for humanity to solve its problems, always a higher, more inclusive dimension has to be engaged.

However, dear Friends, spirituality cannot be imposed. It can only be inspired and it has to flower forth from within each human being and cultivated in the life with due diligence and commitment.

It is the failure of the physical mechanism to measure up to the inner unfoldment which causes so much trouble. The *stage of theory* is a simple one, except in so far as it sets forces in motion which eventually lead to difficulty. The *stage of reaction* to response and adjustment to the theory also institutes a cycle of intense difficulty and complexity – because, it leads to a cycle of experiment and experience during which the disciple suffers much, but also learns much. Then, as experience is gained, the stage of spiritual expression supervenes and freedom and liberation take place. Simplicity is restored. (*Esoteric Healing*, p. 162)

“Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant.”

The sign of Scorpio is of paramount importance in the life of evolving humanity. It is one of the four zodiacal signs which are mysteriously concerned with what is referred to in *Esoteric Astrology* as “personality expression.” Scorpio is under the influence of Sirius, the Dog Star – that “brilliant star of sensitivity,” that great star of initiation. Our entire planetary Hierarchy is under the supervision or spiritual magnetic control of the Hierarchy of Sirius. It is these controlling influences whereby the cosmic Christ works upon the Christ principle in the solar system, the planet, in the individual and in the lower forms of life expression.

It’s here important to note that at this particular stage of human evolution, Scorpio governs the Path of Discipleship.

The function of Scorpio is to develop in humanity those processes of stabilization and right direction, before proceeding to the Capricornian experience of initiation. To do this, Scorpio provides those “points of crisis” and those “moments of reorientation,” that will eventually bring about the needed stabilization and direction.

Extremes ever meet in the disciple who stands at this midway point or at the centre of the Fixed Cross in Scorpio. Life, quality and appearance are all tested. Scorpio thus carries all its tests and trials right down into the physical plane life. When these are faced and handled there, the life of the individual and the life of humanity are carried up into heaven, and the problem which the test involved is solved by the use of the reasoning mind.

When all faults and limitations are realized and overcome, the result is twofold: the establishing of right relations with the soul and right relationship with the environment. These two results are the goal of all tests in Scorpio. Test and Trial eventually lead to Triumph.

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