

**FESTIVAL IN SCORPIO**  
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Dale McKechnie

Good evening friends, welcome. Today we meet to observe the Festival of Scorpio, and to spend some time thinking about the theme and nature of this great sign of discipleship, and then in our meditation to register and distribute into human consciousness the inpouring energies of light, love and power that are uniquely potent at this time of the full moon.

Scorpio governs the Path of Discipleship. It is an arduous path full of many tests and trials and tribulations. So it seems like a good theme to ponder on because many individuals and groups and even nations are now at the stage, or on the verge of stepping onto the Path of Discipleship. At least the opportunity to do so is at hand if we have the strength of will and the vision to take the next step. So in our meditation work let us think deeply on the qualities needed for the discipleship path, particularly as it relates to us as a people and a nation. Right now there seems to be a need for an expanded sense of vision, a new direction that will lead us in an upward direction towards the all-inclusive love of the group soul. So let's use this time to focus our minds in the group soul and visualise our relationship with the hundreds of other groups working in meditation around the world. And then let us sound together the mantram of the new group of world serves.

May the Power of the one Life pour through the group of all true servers.  
May the Love of the one Soul characterize the lives of all who seek to aid the Great Ones.  
May I fulfil my part in the one Work through self-forgetfulness, harmlessness, and right speech.

It is significant that the word Power appears in many of the invocative mantrams given to us by the Tibetan. "May the Power of the one Life..." In the Great Invocation: "Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on earth." And the first ray of Will or Power has been projected directly into human consciousness three or four times in the past one hundred years, an energy that is rarely used unless it is first conditioned by the quality of Love of the spiritual Hierarchy. This spiritual emphasis on the use of power is very necessary at this time if humanity is ever to make a successful transition into the Aquarian age. This first ray energy has, as we have seen, exercised its destructive aspect on many old political and ideological forms that were inhibiting human progress; and now it is providing a new spiritual incentive for human intentions to move towards a higher state of synthesis. It is a power that, when used selflessly, will empower humanity to seek a whole new direction in its creative life. So when we invoke the Power of the one Life in the mantram, we are calling for the great energy of synthesis to draw together and empower the men and women of goodwill all over the world. It is the power to build right relationships and transcend the old tendency to separateness.

Now of course the energies of Scorpio synchronize very well with the powerful quality of the first ray. As we are told, "Scorpio is the great constellation which influences the turning point both in the life of humanity and the life of the individual human being". This spiritual note of Scorpio is extremely necessary for the situation in the world today. If humanity can't make a change of direction, it runs the risk of falling back into the darkness which has characterized so much of human life over the past 500 years. All aspect of life--along the seven ray paths--need to respond positively to the powerful influence of Scorpio. But response must be to the higher, more powerful aspect of this sign. For too long, human response to this inpouring energy has been only to its lower aspect and sounding the lower keynote of Scorpio: "Let Maya flourish and let deception rule". The deception created by the maya forces of materialism has certainly dominated human life for centuries. And this has certainly been the path of pain and suffering.

But it doesn't have to always be this way; humanity is not forever locked into this sorrowful path. There are better alternatives. But it takes a desire to appeal to one's higher angels.

The human response to the influence of any particular constellation, like Scorpio, doesn't even begin to appear until the individual consciousness is sensitive to the qualities conveyed by its energies. So a response to the lower aspect naturally appears first, as human consciousness slowly unfolds. It is inevitable, then, that the forces of maya become the dominant influence in the early stages of evolution. Therefore the material forces have gained most of the power today. And power and holding onto power is the driving force. This is why power is given to money and all the things money can buy. It provides the power to acquire and possess, and thus to continuously satisfy the strong force of desire. Of course desire can never be satiated; it demands constant feeding. And that is why it has such a powerful control over human nature. This is really the crux of the problem: who is in control of these forces of the material world? Are we in control of our desire impulses, or does the power of the allure, the glitz and the glamour of material things control us?

This is the crucial question for any individual who is ready to seriously step onto the upward path of discipleship and face all the tests that are required. And the same is true for humanity, the world disciple, during this significant transition period into the new age. This is the time when the influence of Scorpio comes into play for those who are sensitive to it; a time when the individual disciple and the world disciple are facing the tests of the first and second initiations in particular. It is a time when all must face the process of reorientation, of moving in a new direction toward freedom from repeating the mistakes of the past. Scorpio provides the opportunity and the necessary testing process to help keep the focus on the new direction.

Scorpio carries the tests and crises of life right down onto the physical plane, where they can be solved by the reasoning mind. We don't need to fear the truth--the reality of a situation or circumstance; we need only fear denial, ignorance, the tendency to blame others, and the sense of our own unquestioning self-righteousness. Perhaps this is why the nine tests of Scorpio have to do with the physical plane. The disciple is confronted with tests and trials right in the depths of his outer life where they cannot be avoided or glossed over; where the pairs of opposites must be confronted and choices made. Let us take a look at these tests, keeping in mind that they apply both to the individual disciple and to humanity, the world disciple. They concern the three levels of the human being as they fuse and blend on the physical plane: the physical, emotional and mental levels of the outer man, the personality.

The tests of the physical plane are those of our appetites--of what we hunger for physically--and they include the tests of sex, of money, and of personal comfort. The tests of the emotional plane are again three: they are of fear, hatred, and ambition, all of which concern desire. And the tests of the mental plane (of the lower critical, analytical mind) are those of pride, separateness, and cruelty. Notice that that last test belongs to the mind, for mental cruelty is the most vicious of all, and it is a severe test of our true nature, for "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

When we look at humanity we can recognize quite clearly how crucial these tests are, and how much ground lies ahead of us still to be covered. We haven't even passed the tests of the physical plane yet. Sex and money are greater obsessions than ever, and so is physical comfort, for those who have it seem prepared to do almost anything to preserve it. The Western affluent nations are not called upon to make extreme sacrifices, but they are being asked to share the bounties of material existence, and so far the affirmation is very tentative. It's there and getting louder, but meanwhile millions if not billions of the world's people can only dream of being able to go through the test of physical comfort.

On the emotional plane humanity is being equally tested. Fear, hatred and ambition are still major conditioning glammers that sway humanity and leave it vulnerable to the forces of evil which seek to feed the sense of separateness and greed and misuse of power. Just where we stand as a species I couldn't say, but the resolution of the ninefold testing will come, the Tibetan says, "when the masses of people everywhere are convinced that right human relations are of far greater importance than greed, human pride, territorial grabbing, and material possessions."

Right human relations are the whole point of the Scorpio test, for when the conflict has finally, thoroughly exhausted itself, there comes the urge to goodwill. This comes as a result of conflict experienced and which has spent itself. The battle doesn't last forever, for as our keynote reminds us, "Warrior I am, and from the battle I emerge triumphant."

There is an interesting thing about the disciple in Scorpio who is facing the required tests and trials in preparation for initiation. These tests and trials are self-initiated. The disciple puts himself or herself into the positive or conditioning environment where the trials and the discipline are unavoidable and inevitable. He or she, as the soul, chooses certain life situations and circumstances with deliberate intent. And the disciple does this because he or she has reached a high degree of soul contact and is inwardly aware that the opportunity is at hand to move forward on the path of initiation.

You may wonder why would one want to deliberately subject oneself to all the struggle and pain when facing such tests as overcoming all fear, all tendency to hatred, all tendency to personal ambition for power and self importance, all tendency to pride and separateness and selfishness, just to name a few. These are strong feelings, desires and attitudes that eventually have to be overcome and brought under control so that they no longer rule or influence the outer life. For a long time—over hundreds of lifetimes—these attitudes and feelings have been the line of least resistance; but now a new pattern of acting and reacting must take over, and this is the opportunity in spite of the pain.

We are told that when the mind has reached a relatively high stage of development, the memory aspect is evoked in a new and conscious manner. It is the sum total of all the personality characteristics which have remained unconquered and unsubdued and which must finally be overcome before initiation can be taken. At this stage when the mind is finally open and receptive to the controlling, redeeming influence of the soul, all of this ancient memory rises to the surface of consciousness and then—the fight is on. It would be futile to fight these hidden forces before the time was right; right timing is everything in occult work. If the will of the soul wasn't present, then it would be a wasted effort. But when the soul undergoes these tests and trails in the sign of Scorpio, then the keynote of triumph assures success, and much progress can be made.

In our meditation work, let us recall that the energies of Scorpio influence "the turning point in the life of humanity and the life of the individual human being." We, as a people and as a nation, seem reluctant to make the turn, preferring instead to fall back on the ways of blindness, self-centeredness and material comfort. The only sure way to make the turn is to invoke and substitute the stronger power of Love-Wisdom, the energy of the national soul, the group conscious soul. The power of Love provides the strength of will to direct our feet onto the true Path of Discipleship. That Love will bring to light the divine Love that underlies the happenings of the time. And through that Love we, the Warrior, will emerge triumphant.

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