

FESTIVAL OF SCORPIO – LONDON – NOVEMBER 2013

Facing the Dweller

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Welcome friends, to the festival of Scorpio, a sign that governs the path of discipleship and whose keynote clearly states the required attitude for the journey: *Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant*. Scorpio is associated with that great battle against “the Dweller on the Threshold” – a compelling term full of myth and intrigue. Who or what is the Dweller and where is the mysterious threshold wherein he dwells? The term itself is the creation of Edward Bulwer-Lytton, appearing in his 1842 novel *Zanoni* – a Rosicrucian tale of love and occult aspiration – but there are many imaginative stories and portrayals of the Dweller on the Threshold under various names and guises in ancient and popular culture – Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson being a notable one.

Many of the great works of literature that explore the dark recesses of human consciousness strike a chord of recognition – a deep, uneasy resonance within – as if the Dweller were actually lurking behind all these figments of our collective imagination as a living entity in its own right. And disconcertingly, this is indeed the case, for the products of all earthbound thoughts, desires and actions are imbued with the essence of the great elemental life of our planet that is making its own progress along the path of involution. The substance of the lower three worlds of mental, emotional and physical substance is suffused with this powerful life and individualised portions of it – tiny elementals – are unceasingly shaping and arranging themselves into representations of our regressive, unredeemed thoughts, feelings and actions.

The Dweller on the Threshold is therefore our own creative masterpiece. Sculpted from the darkness of the subconscious memory that stretches back through myriad incarnations, he is a composite of all unredeemed forces in our nature, rising as one integrated potency to challenge our spiritual foothold. This personification of psychological gravity that imprisons us in the lower world, is animated by our very attempts to free ourselves from its hold.

This “accumulation of all instinctual tendencies, of all inherited glammers and of all phases of wrong mental attitudes...which have remained unconquered and unsubdued” indicates a point of high development rather than something to be feared. The Solar Angel is adequate to the task of vanquishing the Dweller for good as the Labour of Hercules in Scorpio relates in the tale of the Hydra and its final defeat as all psychological impediments are lifted into the light of the soul.

Let us pause here and say the affirmation of the disciple together:

*I am a point of light within a greater Light.
I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of love divine.
I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focussed within the fiery Will of God.
And thus I stand.*

*I am a way by which men may achieve.
I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.
I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.
And thus I stand.*

*And standing thus revolve
And tread this way the ways of men,
And know the ways of God.
And thus I stand.*

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As human beings, we all respond to the planetary elemental life to some degree, wielding and projecting its force in our thoughts, feelings and deeds. And where similarity of resonance exists, the elementals that embody these forces coalesce, whereupon larger, more powerful elementals take command of them. We thereby unwittingly feed and empower a steadily integrating potency that forms our individual Dweller on the Threshold. Not only this, we also feed one another's Dwellers, which then form those great psychological shadows that haunt groups, nations and even humanity itself. And so the task ahead is to confront this Dweller in our own life and also in the group life, learning to recognise this illusive shape-shifter in all his guises. Then – from that vantage point of strength – we can together face the Dweller that stalks humanity and aid to vanquish this ancient evil.

Down the ages we are alerted to the growing shadow of our own Dweller through the voice of conscience, warning of wrong actions, feelings and thoughts. Meditation amplifies this voice, propelling us along the path of righteousness with fiery aspiration until we find ourselves in the middle of a burning ground – a strange void midway between the Dweller on the Threshold and the Angel of the Presence. To the left, the once amorphous shadow of the dweller is now an integrated power that we recognise as our self but devoid of spiritual light and burning with the dark frictional fires of matter. To the right, stands the Angel, aflame with solar fire but devoid of the Dweller's earthly power. To enable our spiritual self to function as commandingly on the lower planes as it does on the higher, the Angel must triumph and the realisation dawns that these two entities have to be brought together. The knowledge and experience of the dweller must be absorbed and transmuted into inherent faculty.

Having turned to face the Dweller, we set about disarming and absorbing him into the light of the Solar Angel. But the way to do this is not by challenging him directly and suppressing the lower nature for a damming of this force will only manifest itself more explosively and destructively at some future point. Instead, energy must be directed towards matters of the higher nature, of group work and the Plan. "The dynamic expulsive factor of a new affection" is a phrase worth pondering in this connection. As we know, energy follows thought, and when we are sufficiently interested and dedicated to the spiritual life, individualistic desire is supplanted and our sense of identity expands into a state of group awareness. We are no longer a tiny militant but isolated spark of light against prevailing darkness, but a living flame in the fiery pool of group consciousness completely engaged with the potencies and expression of the higher nature.

This immersion in the group light can be somewhat disconcerting at first but, as the Tibetan points out, "in group work you need to remember that increasingly there will be no individual life. This is as it should be." As we become progressively more involved in group work and the Plan, the confines of the personality diminish correspondingly and personal desires and goals are no longer so important in themselves. It is therefore only when the desire to serve is strong enough that the dweller can be defeated; there is no other way; only decentralisation through group love can bring release from the power-grip of the planetary elemental. The reservoir of energy that is available to the worldwide esoteric group is alive with the needed potencies. Every meditation furthers the absorption in the group life until the group dynamic is constantly accessible and conditions every moment. This then becomes the "new affection" and an "expulsive factor" that day by day weakens the hold of the Dweller.

Of course this is no quick fix. Initially, contact with the vibration of the group soul will stir the dweller and bring him into closer proximity, but as the power of the group light engages the inner senses, this shadow side of our nature steadily diminishes. The steady growth of self-reliance and a discriminating power that recognises any uprisings of the Dweller in the personal, group and racial life is fostered in all true esoteric schools. The group Dweller, which is a feature of all integrated groups and which has the potential to cause much disruption is largely offset by the energy of loving impersonality. When the focus of the work is held above all that is personal, the power of the group's service grows and potential group glammers and illusions fade away through attrition.

The clarity and power of the group aura is consequently great and will precipitate a series of crises into an individual disciple's life: all on the spiritual path must be prepared for this. Crisis in the esoteric sense is literally an impact of light that generates tension in consciousness causing it to polarise into a choice between a higher and a lower way of expressing it. Eventually this tension reaches a crescendo – a choice is made and either we rise into clearer light and become more spiritually radiant or we temporarily sink into more glamour where the "starry radiance" of the astral plane strengthens its hold. Instead of being dreaded as shocks that cause anxiety and stress in the personal life, these points of crisis can be accepted and worked with at a high energy level. Recognising their presence at an early stage, they can be prepared for in advance and we can work with them on the abstract mental plane, creating and empowering thoughtforms of service to humanity. In this way, we utilise their energy in a constructive manner and they don't necessarily precipitate into outer events in the personality life. In fact, from an outsider's point of view, we may seem to be leading very serene lives while inwardly we are working through the most dynamic processes. We are separating out the dross and enhancing our power to direct pure spiritual energy into the world. And through discrimination, we are learning to see the subtleties of the world dweller and to throw all our support onto the work of the new group of world servers which is positive and full of light. Our new affection is immersion in group love and our meditations combine relatively small individual effects into powerful redemptive group service.

This service involves building the planetary bridge of lighted substance towards the spiritual Hierarchy and drawing energy down it to dissolve the negative forces of illusion, glamour and maya. Our work at the time of the full moon is germane here for through our united meditations continued over many years, a powerful geometric form will have naturally assumed shape in the ethers – an orb of solar fire that is dissipating the fogs and mists of world glamour through its radiance. This is literally the sphere of group service and we can all participate. Whatever our meditation abilities, pondering and meditating on the keynote of each full moon will keep precipitating the energy down the planes to fuel the inner fire of this thoughtform helping to dispel "that deep and constantly changing density of currents which hide and distort, and which swirl around the sons of men and prevent their seeing the LIGHT as it is."

To understand the precipitation of energy and thoughtforms a little more clearly, a precipitation is described as "*an aggregation of energies arranged in a certain form, in order to express the idea of some creative thinker, and qualified or characterized by the nature of his thought and held in that peculiar form as long as his thought remains dynamic.*" This creative service is expressed in a beautiful symbol that constitutes one of the working tools of the Thinkers Who guide our racial and planetary evolution and which we, at our own level are seeking to emulate:

"A blazing sun forms the background and at the very centre of that sun appears an eye; projecting downwards toward the right from this eye pours forth a stream of energy in the form of a beam of light. It rays outward, widening towards the end, into a second circle and in that circle is a cross resembling what is called a Maltese cross. At the centre of the cross is another eye and within the eye the Sacred Word. Between the arms of the cross forming, therefore, another cross, is the Swastika, the arms emerging from behind the Maltese cross".

This symbol is replete with suggestive imagery, but what is particularly interesting is the appearance of the swastika. The potential and legitimate use of this whirling cross is conveyed by its ancient Sanskrit name, "svastika" meaning "good to be". It is said that at the formation of a solar system, Brahma's agent, Fohat, crosses the Circle like two lines of flame (horizontally and vertically); and moving as a whirling cross of fire, digs holes in the waters of space, creating the structure of the solar planes and precipitating the Logoic thoughtform. In the symbol of the swastika, fire is the heat generated at the central point; the vertical arm representing the male element or spirit; and the horizontal one the female element, or matter. Spirit vivifies and fructifies the matter, and everything proceeds from the central point, the focus of Life, and Light,

and Heat. The ancient Hindus were well aware of this process and by a peculiar whirling and friction of two pieces of wood taken from a sacred tree and arranged as a cross, they obtained fire for their worship of Lord Agni.

Of course, we are most familiar with the swastika as a symbol adopted by the Nazis, who, with the other axis powers brought humanity's Dweller on the Threshold into clear view, initiating a world confrontation between the forces of evil and the forces of light. Different aspects of the Dweller are still being faced by humanity today as we are well aware, although the major aspect of human evil represented by Hitler has been overcome to a large extent. The Nazis were expressing the false and evil use of matter, of which separativeness, cruelty and selfishness is the keynote. According to the Ageless Wisdom, "the swastika 'drives into danger dire and into evil ways, those whose greed is great and who see no beauty in the dawning light and who know no love of human lives.' But to those who respond not to the lower aspects and effects of the whirling Cross 'the swastika flings them from itself and far afield until they come to rest upon the Cross of chosen crucifixion,' the Fixed Cross of the pledged disciple."

The group of world servers is demonstrating this process to humanity – indifferent to the frictional fires of matter generated by the whirling cross, they are being drawn towards the centre of the cross of discipleship from where, as the symbol we considered indicates, the creative power of the swastika awakens to build the House of God on earth. For it is at this midway point that the fire of spirit can be safely evoked down the vertical arm of the cross and blended with the fire of matter before being radiated into the world as a dual fire to burn away all that hinders humanity's vision. Interpreting the symbol from a group perspective, the eye of group vision centred in the blazing sun of divinity directs the energy of the presence down the group antahkarana to the centre of the cross where each group member stands in a state of isolated unity. From here it can be transmitted through the spiritual eye and use of the sacred word. The whirling cross is thus galvanised into activity, and like a giant cutting tool in space and time, sculpts lighted patterns of redemption in the four planetary ethers for the "good to be".

This activity is forming a planetary matrix through which the World Angel is pouring Solar Fire; and the group of world servers is using it to set the world aflame with the spirit of relationship. The etheric centres of every responsive person is being stimulated by this, causing a further rending of the planetary veils. The swastika appears again here as a symbol of these unfolding centres; "the inner rotating cross begins to turn upon its axis, and to drive the flaming periphery to all sides so that the centre is better described as a sphere of fire than as a wheel. The centres are as globes of radiant fire...merging and blending into a "fire that burneth up the whole."

Down the ages, that which is rotary has built layer upon material layer of force upon itself becoming magnetically strong and downwardly impelled, and out of this terrestrial fire the world Dweller has been formed. But the solar fire of the world Angel is rapidly elevating this circle of friction into a spiralling flame. Humanity is thus being steadily drawn towards and through the portal of initiation where the Dweller on the Threshold is resolved, with all its experience and knowledge fused into the World Soul as added depth of fiery beauty, sound and colour. This is the great redemptive process at the end of which the Dweller will be with humanity no more – but nor will the Solar Angels. They will have completed their task of facilitating the evolution of human consciousness and moved on, leaving behind the light they have helped us acquire. Humanity will then stand empowered to pursue the pure electric fire of spirit that beckons from afar, inviting further exploration of the mystery of becoming who we really are.