

*Inner Sight in Rough Waters*  
Sagittarius Full Moon -- December 13, 2016

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Good evening everyone and welcome to this Festival of Sagittarius, to those of you here in person and also on the internet. Tonight, we have a very special opportunity because the exact time of the full moon will be in about 35 minutes, and we'll be meditating together during that time, into the silence of the soul, the silence that holds profound meaning and promise. Probably, most of us have arrived here this evening having inwardly prepared for this moment of contact with the energies of the Hierarchy and the extra planetary energies available, and now that we are together, we can imagine ourselves within the periphery of the Ashram, one meditating group with one purpose; to stand together in the light and become a living channel, receiving and circulating the energies of the Christ, the Ashram and the divine Plan.

The full moon approach is so much more than the exact time as we know. The Tibetan has emphasized that we should consider the period of the full moon to be a 5 day event; 2 days in preparation and contemplation of the significance of the opportunity, the day of the exact time, a day of silence and focus, also known as the day of safe guarding, and the 2 days following to consolidate the experience and distribute the energies contacted in service to humanity and the Earth. Of course, within our busy and noisy lives, this is quite challenging, but nevertheless, bringing to mind during the day the significance of this period can help focalize our energies to be in line with the great hierarchical meditation which is constantly going on.

The energies of Sagittarius help us to see, not the outer world and the appearances that are deceptive and full of glamour, but the inner world of spiritual realities that can only be seen and known through the intuition. True spiritual intuition arises from aspiration, the higher aspect of earthly desire characterized by a focused attention towards that which is of the soul. It is the focused energy of the buddhic plane. Fiery aspiration determines the quality of one's relationship with the Earth, which is the esoteric ruler of Sagittarius, itself a fire sign. The only other zodiacal sign with direct Earth influence is Gemini, the opposite of Sagittarius. We can better understand how this dual line of energy has more significance in relationship to humanity and the Earth when we read from Esoteric Astrology the following passage: "The Earth itself is, on a small scale, also an intermediary or a relating planet, because it is found ruling both Gemini and Sagittarius and is potent, therefore, only within the line of this dual relationship, existing between this particular pair of opposites. In the Earth a great balancing process is going forward between two great streams of cosmic energy, emanating the one from Sagittarius and the other from Gemini." EA 362

Sagittarius is not always associated with being a sign related to balance, but it lies between two signs representing important milestones in the soul's journey around the zodiac; the drastic testing of Scorpio and the triumphant rise out of the swamp of desire and materialism, and the arduous effort of climbing the mountain of initiation in Capricorn,

leading to illumination and transfiguration. Sagittarius exists on the plains of Earth, the relatively flat surface leading to the mountain, with neither depths nor heights. The disciple gathers his forces and rides on the white horse of the purified personality rushing from one goal to the next, one sign post after another; he can see far into the distance and because of the soul's clear inner sight, knows in what the direction he is going.

Being in physical incarnation and living on the Earth, humanity is directly affected by its energies; through the etheric body of the planet as well as all the other cosmic influences bombarding our little planet all the time. We don't always consider the effect of the radiations from Earth or that we are "an intermediary or a relating planet". But this makes sense in light of the fact that humanity is the planetary mediator between the 5th and the sub human kingdoms, the bridge between the higher and the lower. The world esoteric group at the heart center of the New Group of World Servers consciously stands as the mediator between Hierarchy and Humanity and sensitizes itself to the energies pouring in from the Hierarchy, striving to channel these energies into intelligent humanity, thereby serving the Great Ones on the inner side.

Let us pause for a moment and quiet the mind as we begin to inwardly prepare for the moment of contact shortly upon us. We'll 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, focused 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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Sagittarius is characterized by the quality of aspiration, defined as "a steadfast longing for a higher goal, an earnest desire for something higher than one". This higher desire inspires the aspirant toward the soul and stimulates a fixed determination to express the inner realities of the spiritual life. The way ahead is clear because the now illumined intellect has opened the way to the intuition, bringing a sense of oneness with all lives and a certainty of the divinity of humanity. Aspiration of the soul orients the disciple to seek a new and higher direction, it calls for a re-orientation and re-dedication to the spiritual Path and focuses a single minded attention toward the affairs of the soul. One is still on the Earth,

engaged in the world and conditioned by its energies, but inwardly free from the lower desires and attractions of the physical life.

The keynote of the soul in Sagittarius is: "I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another." The soul sees through the intuition; clearly and free from distortion, glamour and illusion. It guides with a sure vision, on a "A beam of directed, focused light" (EA 330), to illumine the path ahead, light each step, one after another, and to burn away the mists of illusion. In Discipleship in the New Age we read: "When the intuition functions in any human being, he is enabled to take direct and correct action for he is in touch with the Plan, with pure and unadulterated fact and undistorted ideas - free from illusion and coming direct from the divine or universal Mind." (DINA I, 25) As we continue to move deeper into the Aquarian Age, the age of group work and group initiation, and the energies of synthesis strengthen, we can expect more and more of humanity to develop the intuition, a tool for group use on the initiatory path.

The indigenous people of Polynesia are all related, yet their islands are separated by thousands of miles of open ocean. The people of Hawai'i, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Tahiti and other small islands all come from common ancestry. How did they communicate and how are they related? It's now proven that for thousands of years, they travelled the open ocean in sailing canoes long before the invention of modern navigation instruments. The only methods of navigation available to them on journeys of thousands of miles were the stars, the sun and moon, ocean currents, the wind and most importantly, their instinct and intuition.

In the 1970's, a young Hawaiian man named Nainoa Thompson pioneered the rediscovery of the lost art of "wayfinding", or non-instrument navigation, which had been lost after the 14th century as the islands were colonized and modern navigation methods were invented. He developed a synthesis of the traditional principles of ancient Pacific navigation and modern scientific knowledge, and now this system is being taught in schools throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific islands helping the indigenous people there to re-connect with their ancient knowledge.

The long voyage navigator has the responsibility of choosing the way and must know where he is going before the journey begins. He must see the goal and depend on his inner vision at times when the stars are not visible or the winds are calm. He is responsible for the whole crew and can only sleep in catnaps for the period of the weeks of the journey, lest he miss an important clue of direction given by the ocean signs. He cannot appear confused or frightened, as these emotions will be felt by all. Nainoa describes an incident that changed his life and how he approached the art of navigation going forward:

"When we arrived in the doldrums, the sky was black. It was solid rain. The wind was switching around, blowing at about twenty-five knots and we were moving fast. That's the worst thing that can happen – you are going fast and you don't know where you're going. The guys steering the canoe were looking for direction and that increased the pressure, especially because it was my first voyage as navigator. I couldn't tell the steersmen where

to steer. I was very, very tense. To prevent fatigue, you cannot allow yourself to get physically tense, but I couldn't stop feeling tense.

I was so exhausted that I backed up against the rail to rest. Then something happened that allowed me to understand where the moon was, without seeing it. When I gave up fighting to find the moon with my eyes, I settled down. I suddenly felt this warmth come over me and I knew where the moon was. The sky was so black, I couldn't see the moon, but I could *feel* where it was.

From the feeling of warmth and the image of the moon came a strong sense of confidence. I knew where to go. I directed the canoe on a new course and then, just for a moment, there was a hole in the clouds and the light of the moon shone through – just where I expected it to be. I can't explain it, but that was one of the most precious moments in all my sailing experience. I realized there was some deep connection I was making, something very deep inside my abilities and my senses that goes beyond the analytical, beyond seeing with my eyes. I cannot explain what this is from a scientific point of view. But it happened. And now I seek out these experiences. I have to be in the right frame of mind and beyond that, internally, I have to be able to enter into a kind of spiritual realm. I don't want to analyze these experiences too much. I just want to make them happen more often. There are certain levels of navigation that are realms of the spirit.

Before this experience, I tended to rely on math and science because it was so much easier to explain things that way. I didn't know how to trust my intuition. It was not trained enough to be trusted. Hawaiians call it na'au – your instincts, your intuitional feelings, rather than your mind, your intellect."

Nainoa's description of how his spiritual intuition revealed true direction reminds us that always in moments of difficulty and danger, if one's motives are pure and dedicated to group purpose, the correct answer will be found. He retreated into silence in the midst of much outer noise and motion to find the inner sight within. The intuitional knowing of the dedicated disciple charts a true course, even when outer signs are absent and intellectual tools are unavailable. The way to the mountain, to the goal is seen with clarity and the one pointed "beam of directed, focused light" reveals the way, even on rough seas and in turbulent times, such as we are witnessing these days.

People are now asking, "Where are we going? What is our direction? What is the next goal?" Perhaps the only way to know the answer is to retreat into the deep silence of the soul, to keep still at the balance point and continue in the faith that the Sagittarian energies pouring into the planet are doing their work to stimulate soul consciousness and illumine the minds of men and women, inspiring the New Group into effective outer service which will ultimately reveal a universal sense of brotherhood and the reality of the one Humanity.

The Stymphalian Birds, depicted in the Sagittarian Labor of the world Disciple, Hercules, were said to be raucous, menacing and dissonant, eerily reflecting today's toxic atmosphere of divisive and separatist political rhetoric. Everyone is screaming their opinion, clamoring to be heard, so that calm and silence seem to be out of reach. Our role as disciples is to

strive to find the silence within amidst the outer chaos, to find "the flame that gleams beyond the mind (that) reveals direction sure", Hercules' Teacher said. This was the flame Nainoa Thompson found in rough water and this is the flame that will show the way into the silence of the soul, the true source of light and the way to spiritual power.

Alice Bailey states that in some ancient books, Sagittarius is known as "the sign of silence." It's promise is full control of thought and speech, a condition necessary to begin the solitary climb up the mountain of initiation. Clearing the marsh of the dangerous birds was the triumph of Hercules' labor in Sagittarius and the reward was a deep calm and silence over the marsh as the setting sun revealed its natural beauty.

Silence exposes beauty, it unites diverse perspectives and reveals the soul. Within the silence of the Ashram, the group can carry on its work to build the new world based on soul values of inclusiveness, tolerance, common purpose and love.

As we enter into intense silence together to serve the Plan by making ourselves available to the Great Ones on the inner side, we quiet our thoughts, leaving behind the events of the day and lifting ourselves out of our mind chatter into the realm of the spirit, the field in which the Sagittarian aspirant works. The Tibetan reminds us that meditation governs "the entire process of evolutionary unfoldment", so by providing a group channel and an ascending stream of energy with which the Hierarchy can work, we are able to help strengthen the planetary alignment which will eventually enable our planetary Logos to embody a sacred planet. We are guided by the "flame that gleams beyond the mind", through the open gate of the Ashram, into silent group companionship in service to Humanity and the little ones.

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