

A Beam of Directed Focused Light

SAGITTARIUS FESTIVAL – NEW YORK – DECEMBER 2017

Steve Nation

Year after year full moon meditation groups center their Sagittarius reflections on the themes of orientation and purpose, and the role the intuition plays in the shaping of the discipleship path. It is a perfect time to reflect on the goal or the goals that guide our life (both as individuals and as groups); and the way in which soul light can be drawn upon to affect and change those goals

In addition to this, the pondering that goes on during the Sagittarian full moon amongst groups affiliated with the Arcane School, Triangles and World Goodwill, is also conditioned by the theme held in mind during the lower interlude focus of the World Goodwill Seminars.

So, this year we approach Sagittarius from a rich field of reflection on the role of truth and discernment during these testing times in the world. What role does truth play as we seek to craft lives of service? how do we refine our skills of discerning truth in these noisy and intense times? and how can we best contribute to the work of Cutting through the Glamour of the Times? As Christine Morgan reminded those of us at the seminar in New York our understanding of truth is relative – it changes over time.

... the discovery of truth at one level only serves to open up a greater mystery at another. Truth lies ever on ahead but as the search for it intensifies, the enquiring consciousness evokes the light of revelation and the essence of that which lies just beyond our present state of consciousness is touched and known.

The same might also be said about our purpose – our life purpose. It changes in response to the enquiring consciousness, and in response to the work we do to build the bridge between the different levels of mind. In Sagittarius there is an opportunity to develop qualities of mental concentration and focus. The mind can more easily be directed towards an objective in this sign than in any other, figuratively becoming a clear beam of light; a searchlight that can be directed towards a higher light that can be sensed just beyond the field of vision; or a higher Truth.

During the five days of the Sagittarius full moon we can act ‘as if’ the planetary meditating group has a heightened facility to shine a light into the soul of humanity – the Greater Ashram where everything is seen in terms of the Plan; of future and more long-term possibilities. As we do this we can expect to develop some clear understanding of the next steps we can take, individually and as groups, to be of use to evolution. This does not need to be some grand action that is going to change the world. It’s more a question of small acts that are performed as a humble contribution to the birthing of the new humanity. The very act of thinking about our lives and our groups in this way creates a spirit of expectation; it helps us to take small steps ‘as if’ these steps are guided by soul purpose. And so our lives become invocative.

This is a good time to pause and to imagine the light of the group mind becoming focused into a clear beam, shining upon an object of reflection. This is not unlike an archer pulling back the draw string of the bow, holding a moment of total concentration on the target, and then releasing the taut string, shooting the arrow directly towards the target.

*O Thou Who givest sustenance to the universe,
From Whom all things proceed,
To Whom all things return,
Unveil to us the face of the true Spiritual Sun
Hidden by a disc of golden Light
That we may know the Truth
And do our whole duty
As we journey to Thy sacred feet.*

In esoteric work cutting through the glammers of the time involves using the illumined mind as a searchlight. How is it done? In our modern consumer oriented world, we are led to expect instant gratification and instant reward for work done. So it's worth emphasizing that bringing light into the mind takes time and effort; the rainbow bridge needs to be carefully constructed between the different levels of mind. We are talking about decades of persistent, purposeful work. Look at all the history of meditation training that has taken place through the centuries in monasteries, ashrams and schools – it has always been the work of a life-time ... never something for the faint hearted who are looking for instant results. The need today to cut through the glammers of the time calls upon this most fundamental quality of the will: persistence.

Meditation training requires individuals to work privately, taking responsibility to build the bridge in consciousness for themselves, one mind at a time, through a persistent, regular daily practice. It takes time and it takes private, individual work. As the mental environment becomes more influenced by Aquarius, this private work increasingly opens into a sense of group identity. Nowadays it is relatively common for an individual meditator to become conscious of being part of a group. This was not the case in earlier generations. Meditators following different teachings are more likely now to consider themselves part of a group that has a specific role to play in humanity's response to the challenges and possibilities presented by the Plan. But still, in an age of group, it can sometimes be forgotten that the fundamental unit involved in the training of mind remains the individual.

There is much that is written about the use of the mind as a searchlight in the book *Glamour a World Problem*. It is central to the work of dissipating the all-encompassing glammers of the astral plane. Fogs and mists of accumulated desires, reactions, opinions, all centered around the wants and mis-identified needs of the personal self, are a fundamental part of human experience. They are built up through lifetimes until they become instinctual and automatic. They condition the prevailing culture of the times – apparently defining what it is to be human.

These fogs embody the unreal; they make us prisoners of the unreal; and prevent us from seeing and experiencing the Real. Glamour is not some problem facing people out there – it is part of the substance of consciousness involving all human beings. We can choose to consciously work at parting the veils; to bring clarity into the emotional life so that there can be some radiation of a quality of love imbued with the wisdom of the soul and an understanding of the Plan.

The work of dispersing emotional fogs, manifesting in oneself, and in the communities and nations where we live, requires application of what DK has referred to as a *Technique of Light*. When a glamour is identified the initial response tends to be to try to use the mind to rationalize oneself out of it. While this may lead to some temporary success, the glamour will inevitably return ... and often be empowered because of the focus. Only as the light of the soul begins to shine into the mind can the server begin to deal adequately with the dissipation of glammers. The technique of light requires conscious use of the light of the soul; fusing it with the light of the mind and with the light of matter itself. When we can think in the light, with some common sense, we are able to disperse glamour.

It is interesting that the teachings advise that those who are best suited to work with the technique of light are those for whom astral living (living on the emotional plane) is the line of least resistance – a natural and basic way of being – and who, as a result, are learning to move their identity into the mind so that they can achieve some detachment from the emotions and begin to use the mind to shine a higher light onto the emotional world. These are primarily sixth ray people; but also, students who are conditioned by the second and fourth rays.

In esoteric work what we often think of positively as “heart energies”, require the intuitive recognitions of the higher mind before they can be useful and transformative; enabling others to gain some access to what is eternally Real, and Good and True. To become free from control by emotions and desires requires an ability to work with the heart in the head – with intelligent, radiant love.

Work with the technique of Light requires some movement from the way of the mystic to the way of the esotericist. For the mystic the higher light is real, yet it is distant; described in terms of altitude and of longing. The esoteric server develops, over time, an understanding of light immanent – of the light that is to be found within every atom of the self, and of the light that is to be found in the mind. The esotericist learns to fuse these lights with the higher light of the soul – in such a way that the individual mind *becomes* infused with the light of the soul. That higher light becomes fixed within the mind. But this takes time – life-times.

The book *Glamour: A World Problem* explains and discusses the technique of light in detail. We read that groups of aspirants and disciples who are actively working to dissipate glamour in their own lives (as a service to the whole rather than a part of their own quest for liberation) can use the power of their *individual illumined minds* to work together as a group. *Unitedly they will turn "the searchlight of the mind, reflecting the light of the sun but at the same time radiating its own inner light upon the mists and fogs of Earth, for in these mists and fogs all men*

stumble. Within the lighted sphere of the focussed radiant light, reality will issue forth triumphant." [Glamour, 197 – 8]

The quality of soul light that Sagittarius brings to disciples and aspirants is *A beam of directed, focused Light*. The *point* of light which characterized Scorpio, becomes, in this sign a beam: *revealing a greater light ahead and illumining the way to the centre of the light*. [Esoteric Astrology, p. 330]. Hence, we can assume that there is a special opportunity during the period of the Sagittarius full moon to develop the mind's ability to function as a searchlight.

We are also advised that the Sagittarius full moon is a good time for anyone on a spiritual path to take steps to control aspects of the personality. The word "control" does have a very non-Aquarian ring to it. It is a difficult word to use in spiritual circles in these times. We are in an age where we focus almost exclusively on co-operation between the different aspects of body, mind and spirit; with the emphasis usually placed on accepting the personality with all its foibles. In this perspective 'control' of the personality sounds like repression and it suggests a mystical identification with the light, accompanied by a rejection of the incarnated self. Yet this masks the fact that the problem is that the personality controls the consciousness; and that the personality has to give up this control because it blocks out the light of the soul. The dominance of the self of the personality in modern consciousness has to change before the personality can even begin to be integrated with the soul.

It is a misunderstanding of the esoteric affirmation 'Let the soul control the outer form, and life, and all events' to suggest that the personality and the outer, incarnated self is somehow unworthy. We are soul's in incarnation; imprisoned by the elemental forces of illusion, glamour and maya. And as such our ultimate purpose is to transform, redeem and enlighten the substance of our humanity. The personality is the place where this purpose is worked out. The shift from personality control to soul control requires an understanding of the nature of the substance of the personality – and a respect for this nature – understanding the means whereby the elemental lives of substance can become willing cooperators with the soul. The soul needs to become master of the life if we are to become conscious of the "love that underlies the happenings of the time". If the personality is wrongly considered to be somehow evil or 'wrong', the soul will either consciously or subconsciously be perceived as the enemy and the potential tyrant. The spiritual path changes when the aspirant can identify with the soul and can begin to see through the eyes of the soul. Then, from this perspective, the one who is on the path, who has experienced the healing and transforming powers of the soul, can willingly agree to lead and guide the personality into an alignment with the soul.

The ancient wisdom affirms that *even the smallest atom of substance has in it the germ of that which can respond to spiritual energy*. Life force is anchored in every atom by what are referred to in the occult literature as 'elemental lives' or 'lunar lords'. Sagittarius is said to condition the activity of these lunar lords, and because of this, the pilgrim who becomes one-pointed in approaching the path in Sagittarius is able to *rule [the] personality and to govern it so that eventually it becomes the vehicle of the soul*. [Esoteric Astrology, 277 - 8].

Above all else the energies of this full moon shine a light on the role of purpose in the spiritual life. *I see the goal; I reach that goal and then I see another.* One way of looking at the crises of polarization and extremes in the world today is to see that these crises are preparing the ground for a re-shaping of purpose. This is a time when we are being forced to respond to our increasing interdependence. We have become aware of this interdependence in so many ways during recent decades. A new global era, reflecting our sense of interdependence, is clearly in process of emerging. But, perhaps not surprisingly, the consciousness of separation, built up through centuries of experience, is still the dominant driving force. The result is a global system in which interdependence is empowering and highlighting divisions and separations as much, if not more, than it is empowering new initiatives to promote a right relation between unity and diversity. We see the divisive results of interdependence in the way in which globalization has contributed to divides between haves and have nots, and has been largely driven by the goals and purposes of large transnational corporations. Within countries the divide between wealth and poverty has grown and this has often been reflected in cultural divides and geographical regional divides, exacerbating social tensions and stimulating ideological and religious conflict.

In Sagittarius we can shine a light on the vitalization of a higher sense of purpose that is already emerging within the group of world servers. Imagine nations and peoples and leaders from all sections of humanity (ethnic groups, religious groups, employed and unemployed, wealthy and not so wealthy) experimenting with an interdependence that reflects the natural good will in people and communities. In a book titled *Presence* published in 2004, authors Peter Senge, Otto Scharmer, Joseph Jaworski and Betty Sue Flowers record a series of discussions and reflections they held over a number of years, on their work to explore the nature of Profound Change in People, Organizations and Society.

The book is largely about the recognition that we are living in a time when, as a species, we are becoming conscious of the symbiotic relation between parts and wholes. There is a growing awareness that we are in the early stages of realizing that the whole is a living system with dynamism and consciousness, and that parts are manifestations and embodiments of the whole. The physicist, Henry Bortoft is quoted as saying *Everything is in everything and the part is a place for the presencing of the whole.* Institutions, nations and corporate bodies are themselves living wholes that are in turn part of a greater whole. The work of the time is: to be present to the evolutionary forces of change that are flowing through all these different levels of whole systems; it is to be present to the interdependence of humanity and the entire planetary system; to be present to the *larger field of change* flowing through the system.

The book concludes with an epilogue on purpose. It is an intriguing take on the evolving sense of purpose in humanity; intriguing, partly because it is titled "With man gone, will there be hope for guerilla?" Without explaining this enigmatic question, you have to read the book to fully understand, the final discussion between the authors centered around a novel, *Ishmael*, by Daniel Quinn. In the novel a guerilla leads a man in a telepathic conversation about humanity's role in saving the world. The question of purpose is raised by one of the Presence books authors, Betty Sue Flowers, who asks: *I wonder if what we've been exploring is really all about*

purpose in some sense. If more and more 'ex-prisoners' are being drawn to deeper levels of awareness of a larger purpose, do you think a collective sense of purpose might be developing. She goes on to add that this new collective sense of purpose might apply at all levels *from the purpose of a group working together to the purpose of humans as a whole.* This book, and the *presencing* movement, suggests that deep cultural and social change proceeds in a 'U' shape. Paradoxes and challenges to an existing system lead more and more thinkers and groups to analyze and explore the underlying assumptions that have led to the crisis – in other words explore the causes of the problem – causes that ultimately lie in the field of consciousness and identity. This period of analysis is likened to the descent down the 'U' to the bottom. While the bottom of the 'U' may be experienced as profound disease, conflict and polarization, it also marks the turning point and the place where something begins to shift in terms of purpose and vision of future possibilities.

It makes sound esoteric sense to think that we are as a species approaching the bottom of the U. The crisis of this time is leading more and more individuals and groups to question the fundamental assumptions of separation ... and at the same time this is generating a new sense of heightened purpose amongst the wide network of servers who are sensing something of the Plan for right relationships between parts and wholes.

In this dynamic scenario everything depends on thought. As we prepare to enter into meditation we might shine the searchlight of the group mind on the emerging sense of purpose: and the numerous creative experiment (from all sides of the political scene) with systems and relationships that express and manifest something of the growing sense of interdependence and wholeness. This means experiments at every level in relationships: family relationships that model a sense of the whole and of the fundamental goodness at the core of the human; communities – towns, cities and rural communities – that begin to plan developments and infrastructures in which no-one is left behind as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals suggest; and nations that begin to unite around goals that reflect their higher values and aim to secure the well-being of all citizens and indeed all life.

And so let us work with the meditation outline *Letting in the Light*.

Peter Senge, C. mOtto Scharmer, Joseph Jaworski, Betty Sue Flowers, *Presence : Exploring Profound Change in People, Organizations, and Society*. New York, Currency / Doubleday, 2004