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The Energy of the Hidden Vision

Christine Morgan

Welcome everyone to the festival of Sagittarius. After the severe testing in Scorpio, Sagittarius provides a welcome interlude in which to prepare for the challenges of climbing further up the mountain in Capricorn. No planet is exalted in Sagittarius and no planet falls. Therefore it's regarded as a sign of balance, a time for reflection on a new goal and direction. It's a time to pause and consider the consequences of our past desires, thoughts and actions. A period of rest in a universe that is constantly in motion is a relative one of course, but such periods are where we gather our forces before moving on. The opportunity before us is one of realignment. It's an opportunity to realign the magnetic pole of our being in harmony with the spiritual keynote of Sagittarius: *I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another.*

The full and new moon periods mark the higher and lower interludes of the month respectively, and it is these interludes "which keep the Plan progressing". The higher interlude is a time for the gathering of energy and ideas from higher sources, while in the new moon phase, the illumined mind further precipitates and concretizes them. The higher interlude is the time for silent contemplation in the light of the group soul. It's worth reminding ourselves that focused, inner silence is one of the most invocative states of human consciousness: "only he who can find a centre of peace within the head, where the paths of the bodily forces and the spiritual inflowing tides meet, can rightly practice true discrimination and that dispassion which bring the controlled astral and mental bodies under the guidance of the soul."

Let's pause now to strengthen the channel for our spiritual communication with the group soul and then sound together the final stanza of an ancient esoteric Catechism:

I play my part with stern resolve, with earnest aspiration; I look above; I help below: I dream not, nor I rest; I toil; I serve; I reap; I pray; I am the cross; I am the Way; I tread upon the work I do; I mount upon my slain self; I forego peace; I forfeit rest, and in the stress of pain, I lose myself and find my Self, and enter into peace.

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This dedication surely epitomizes aspiration in Sagittarius, with the aim of realizing another aspect of the Divine Plan for Earth's evolution. The Earth is the esoteric ruler of Sagittarius and its third ray of Creative intelligence helps to prepare the field of thought needed to reach the new goal in line with the working out of the Plan. The Word of Power for the 3rd ray is "Purpose itself am I". It indicates direction straight and true, and the energy to travel along it is boosted by the exoteric ray of Sagittarius, the 6th ray of idealism and devotion. It's an impulse that is characterized

by the simple, yet potent injunction to “march towards the light” as outlined in the following 6th ray mantram:

“The Crusade is on. The warriors march upon their way. They crush and kill all that impedes their way, and aught that rises on their onward path is trampled underfoot. March towards the light.

The work goes forward. The workers veil their eyes from pity as from fear. The work is all that counts. The form must disappear so that the loving spirit may enter into rest. Naught must arrest the progress of the workers with the plan. They enter upon the work assigned with paeon and with song...”

This purpose, when applied by man to himself, works for his release. But when misapplied by man to man, we have the sorry story of humanity’s long history of cruelty and corruption. However, this divine sixth ray energy works well with the third ray of creative intelligence, and together they can reveal an aspect of the vision that the Logos himself is working to manifest. We see the intelligent dreams and aspirations of high minded thinkers increasingly being anchored on earth through group planning – the third and sixth ray vision being manifested through the seventh ray of ceremony and order that is now in the ascendancy – particularly evident in the activities of the UN and NGO’s. Spiritual, aspirational thinking in all departments of human endeavor reflect fragments of the greater Logoic vision. They contain traces of “God’s Own pattern and the Plan to which he so willingly conditions His own Life, and for which the Eternal Sacrifice of the Cosmic Christ is essential.”

The symbols of Sagittarius - the bow of the mind and the arrows of thought – remind us of the need to pause and take aim towards the new goal. In this connection, it’s a joy to see the creative intelligence of humanity burgeoning with goodwill and ideas for improving society. But alongside this stream of positive consciousness as we know only too well, we are also witnessing a chaotic yielding to the forces of desire and materialism. Pure thought, untampered by emotion and desire, is still fairly rare and, as noted in *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, the thought forms of the majority of human beings are energised from no high source, but find their active impulse emanating from either the solar plexus, or the lower organs of generation. The Tibetan points out that “it is this constant stream of emotional or sexual energy which is responsible for the chaotic conditions of the present; the balance is not preserved, the interaction between the two, and the myriads of thought forms consequently produced of a low order and vibration are producing a condition which is going to require all the efforts of mental workers eventually to negate, offset and transmute”. He goes on to say that “These forms, which scarce merit the prefix “thought,” being largely kamic with an admixture of the lowest grade of mental matter, are responsible for the heavy, slow vibrating or pulsating fog or cloak which envelops the human family, and which produces much of the present evil, crime and mental lethargy. People are mainly polarised in the astral body, as we know, and the lower centres are the most active; when an atmosphere or environment of thought-forms of a low key and vitalised by all the baser forms of astral energy is coupled to this, it will become apparent how stupendous is the task of lifting humanity to a

clearer, purer and better atmosphere, and how easy it is for the lower aspects and appetites to flourish and to grow.”

If this was the view of the Spiritual Hierarchy at the time of the Tibetan’s writing, how much more of a problem is it now? Perhaps to some degree though it just seems far worse nowadays because of the development of electronic media. Before the middle of the 19th century, communication was so limited compared to the present wherein everyone has a potentially global outreach on this “twittering” planet. Today, one person’s words can potentially reach millions of people in a moment. Social media is such a powerful medium for the transmission of thoughts. On the one hand it conveys instant messages of support and of goodwill; but on the other it is a medium for vitriol and spite – a medium for trolls and those with manipulative agendas to anonymously wound others with hurtful attacks. Cyber-attacks spread divisive messages, evoking doubt and suspicion through the mistruths they spread. In fact, it’s been said that we are now in a ‘post truth’ or ‘post fact’ age where anything goes and research, facts and truth are disregarded. A spiritual group, Pathways to Peace, has recently launched a slogan “Prevent Truth Decay”. A worldwide group of clear thinkers and meditators who work by focusing on the “good, the true and the beautiful” to raise thinking can also work to expose this trend - a strength of mind and directed will to counter the propagation of organized untruths.

The same spiritual rule of right speech obviously applies to the words that are typed on millions of electronic communication devices every second of every day the world over. Words, written or spoken, all transmit the energy of thought. Although speech adds the power of creative sound to the mix making it a magical force for good or evil – the written word also has a silent power – a row of symbols that release their quality of force as the eye of the reader falls upon them. We will recall that the Buddha taught that right speech is one of the steps on the noble eightfold path of spiritual attainment. A careful study of the words we utter in the many different and often testing circumstances of daily living can reveal not only how much our minds and emotions are still under the sway of harmful, separative tendencies in the personality, but also, and more importantly, the extent to which we have been able to bring into our lives the uplifting and healing influence of the soul. Right speech is not an ineffective negative kindness, although refraining from criticism and words that wound is an aspect of right speech. Rather, it is a powerful tool that we can use to help in building the new era of right human and planetary relationships. When practiced with care and precision, the lower self is silenced opening the gates that allow the redemptive voice of the soul to sound and influence all situations.

Another aspect of right speech is a much more specific one – it entails the magical use of words in prayer and invocation. In this case the consecrated server unites the soul, the mind and the physical form and uses a formula of words to invoke and direct spiritual energies. Anyone who has worked at all regularly in this way knows that the intentional use of prayer and invocation carries enormous power for good.

How appropriate this observation is for all of us who daily use the energy formula of the Great Invocation. This assuredly is one of the best uses of speech that we know.

Harmlessness of thought, speech and writing is needed more than ever as we greet a New Year which is likely to present more points of crisis around the world as the unrest and populist movements we are seeing on a massive scale continue to grow. The Tibetan foresaw this writing that the major causes behind world unrest are “the point reached by humanity itself – the emergence of the new racial type – the ending of the Piscean Age and the coming in of the Aquarian Age. He called this period in human history “the time of the end. The judgment of people. This period of judgment is, he said, a group interlude to the full emergence of the New Age influences. And surely we are going through this period of judgement by the people, as voices rise up against conventional forms of politics, economic structures and conventional wisdom.

He went on to say that we see “The levelling of all classes and distinctions so that the spiritual values may appear and the spiritual Hierarchy manifest on earth.” This levelling is being demanded not just in Labour movements, but by people themselves in political processes as we have seen this year. Again the value of the individual is paramount here, one which denies man made hierarchies in the sense of class or special rights for the few. Only then perhaps will understanding of the true nature of Hierarchy be possible – one which is naturally graded by degrees of illumination, understanding and demonstrated spiritual will but, and importantly, one which is latent and attainable by all. Two further causes behind world unrest were listed as the “fact of the Approach of the Hierarchy towards external contact with humanity” and “the power and significance, *politically considered*, of the Great Invocation.” How interesting it is to consider the effects of the Great Invocation on world politics at this time and the involvement of the general public in politics as never before.

In listing all these reasons for world unrest, it should also be borne in mind that all of these factors are being amplified by the direct impacts of first ray energy on human consciousness from Shamballa. These were forecast to occur in 1975 and 2000 so perhaps it's not surprising that there is so much turmoil in the world. As we reflect on the keynote of Sagittarius – *I see the goal I reach that goal and then I see another*, let us keep our minds open to the vision of the Logos that humanity is moving towards. In the last analysis, it is the resistance to this vision that is causing such huge disturbances around the world, but this is a transition period, and as humanity adapts to the new potencies that are anchoring themselves on earth, a more lighted, harmonious future may be anticipated for all.

There are, of course, positive signs of this occurring everywhere as World Goodwill reports and expands upon on a regular basis. This includes developments in all departments of life – politics, economics, art and culture, education, science and technology. Science and technology, we would probably all agree, are opening up a vision of unity to humanity through the interconnectedness of the planetary life that

they are bring to light. Much has been learnt about cellular life revealing an awareness of its place and purpose within the human being. The power of communications through technological advances is powerfully and beautifully demonstrated in the BBC's screening of David Attenborough's Planet Earth II. Just when we thought we'd seen everything as far as the natural world is concerned, we have been shown probably the most fascinating production so far, displaying much of the previously secret and difficult lives of creatures on this planet in all their glory, all their apparent cruelty, and even inherent humour. The power of documentary in the natural sciences is illuminating the relationship of the part to the whole and promoting the sense of human responsibility to the lower kingdoms of nature.

Another fascinating glimpse of the way nature works as one and communicates with itself was conveyed in the book *The Hidden Life of Trees* by a German forest ranger, Peter Wohlleben. His book on hitherto secret, arboreal communications, reveals them acting as parents and carers while other trees are bullies to rival species. As a forester he learnt the conventional wisdom that trees are competitors for light and space, but now he's come to realise that they try to keep every member of the community alive. Through their woodwide web, the trees message their distress when under attack via electrical signals through their roots and across fungi networks to others nearby. Through this same means they feed stricken trees, nurture saplings and restrict others for the well being of their community. Far from robotically following a genetic code, Wohlleben found that trees have a choice about what to do, they have memories and different characters. Beeches and oaks form ancient forests because they are tribal and act like families to protect their own. Beeches he notes harass new species to such an extent that they weaken. Willows are loners. Poplars aren't social either and city trees he describes as being like street kids, isolated and struggling against the odds without strong roots.

The lives of familiar things hide secrets which are being steadily revealed to us through technology, and the inspiration they bring, is firing human aspiration to fit in with the scheme of things and become a positive force to the natural world. This obviously includes one another as the highest developed species on the planet. What seems vital now is for people of goodwill to stand with the group of world servers to uphold a vision of the underlying unity of human consciousness and to remain open and flexible to emerging possibilities. The glory of the vision needs to be revealed. It is that to which all that is beautiful in the natural world testifies. The vision is ever "on ahead" making it hard to grasp. As we join others around the world to make our approach to the higher centres, we work together as souls to glimpse this vision of a shared destiny with other kingdoms of nature within the body of the Logos. His life is tied to a purpose and our goal is part of it.

As we meditate tonight we do so as a word of power in process of manifestation, unfolding our creativity to weave lighted forms to house the intuited vision.