

The Light of Day
Scorpio Full Moon, New York
November 13, 2016

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Welcome everyone to this full moon meditation in preparation for the moment of safeguarding which occurs tomorrow morning at 8:53 am, on the day of safeguarding. We encourage all of you who are able to link up sometime prior to the exact moment of the full moon and thereby help to strengthen the planetary antahkarana that connects the inner and outer worlds.

We'll begin with a moment of silence followed by a sounding of the Affirmation of the Disciple, a mantram translated by the Tibetan from word forms so ancient that they are said to predate both Sanskrit and Sena. He asked us to use this mantram with our "whole heart" and "as a soul."

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.

This afternoon we're working with the energies of the great sign Scorpio and if you're familiar with the teachings of esoteric astrology you'll know that of all the twelve signs the Tibetan calls this sign the "greatest experience on the path." And Scorpio is as you know, a fighting sign, the sign of the warrior, a sign of struggles and challenges and sometimes triumphs. So we might wonder why a sign that is associated with such struggle and strife would be also considered the greatest experience upon the path?

I'm sure that all of us know the answer to this question as a result of our own life experiences. We know in retrospect that those life experiences that stood out as our deepest challenges were also our greatest teachers. Because they foster within us a deepened compassion for the struggles of others and they also open up within us a deepened capacity to serve because they enable us to contact our soul. And it is only as we contact our soul that we begin to learn to serve.

We're also told that in this sign the disciple sees for the first time, when he emerges from the depths, the mountain of initiation in the distance, a symbol of the Capricorn experience that he

has to face. So we're led to believe that the experience in Scorpio prepares the individual to begin to make that approach to the mountain top.

So the transformative qualities of this sign make it important for us all to make a careful study of it—of its nature, its strengths, its weaknesses and through this study we will come to a deepened understanding of what discipleship is, what it entails and what it asks of us.

An ancient teaching speaks of this process. It says, "The heat of the earth, the mother, and the sting of the Scorpion are the beneficent gifts which the turning of the wheel gives to the man at the beginning and the end." This reference to the turning of the wheel refers to a long slow process or reorientation in consciousness in which the sign of Scorpio has a key role to play, governing as it does the period of the first three initiations.

Through the sting of the scorpion, those painful experiences that occur subjectively as well as within the outer world of daily living, we are led eventually to the symbolic death of the personality and its burial in the ground, under the conditioning influence of Pluto, the God of the Underworld and the esoteric ruler in this sign. Under Pluto limitations are overcome and transformations occur. And, as a result of this turning, eventually the "Word is made flesh." Then the form resounds, sounding forth its essence, as the physical sheath becomes merely a shell, a translucent body through which the inner fires can be released. This allows the individual to be what he or she essentially is. Then "the true self can reflect itself in the mindstuff" as the eastern teachings state, because that mindstuff is now, an accurate reflector of the indwelling divinity. As this God consciousness is released upon the physical plane the individual is no longer a victim of the trappings of the world and, as the Bible says "He walks free, with shining face and the light of his countenance is shed abroad upon all he meets."

Through the gifts of the previous Libran experience the individual has now been prepared through dispassion and the balancing of the pairs of opposites for the tests--nine in number, that take place in this sign. Physically the disciple must demonstrate his mastery over the lure of matter and the lower nature. Emotionally he has likewise freed himself from the astral moods, feelings, and reactions and thus arrived at a point of peace. And upon the mental plane he is no longer subject to the misuse of power and to the illusion of separateness and his mental faculties are turned instead towards spiritual purposes and the service of the Plan. As a result of this triple purification and reorientation he enters fully into the flow of the soul's light and love.

In the wisdom teachings this stage of consciousness is depicted by the words "liberation from the thorny path"-- the thorns being the cares and troubles of worldly existence which up until this point had more often than not dominated and distracted the seeker on the way, choking the spiritual life and veiling the true man. Now, under the fires of liberation in Scorpio, the individual begins to free himself from these thorns and they no longer hold the power of pierce him in any fundamental way and this liberating experience enables the seeker on the way to emerge from the waters, in which he was drowning and finds a new direction and stands upon firm ground.

Of this process of redirection and reorientation we read: "Let the seeker after truth escape from drowning and climb the river's bank. Let him turn towards the northern star and on firm ground stand, his face directed towards the light. Then let the star lead" (*The Light of the Soul*, p. 331). Under the symbol of the Pole Star, the star of direction, the individual finds the north--or that alignment that comes from a connection with the inner light.

Scorpio is known as the preeminent sign of discipleship. So we might take a few minutes to consider the nature and quality of a disciple. In the east the word for a disciple is chela --which means "one who serves." In the western world we use generally use the word disciple, which is generally defined as "a learning boy," or as one who studies a particular teaching or follows a teacher. Perhaps the more complete definition of a disciple would come from a combination of these two qualities -- a vertical alignment as well as an alignment with service and our fellow human beings.

Alice Bailey wrote that to determine the defining nature of a disciple one must look beyond surface factors to the motive underlying the actions -- something that might not be readily apparent from outer appearances. So discipleship is more related to a state of living and being--to an attitude of mind, rather than to what one does or what one says.

Alice equated discipleship with truth. She wrote that the "chela has to face truth at all times -- truth about himself, truth about other people, truth about the processes of nature, and truth about the work of the Hierarchy." But we might also ask then what is truth really?

Alice stated that lofty concepts are merely words after all. They are theoretical and in reality the capacity to see, to hear, to speak and to think truth are very rare indeed to find in any individual. And because we live in times that are so thick with glamour and distortion it's difficult to recognize a genuinely truthful person because we are not accustomed to such an energetic field. Such a person might be so utterly harmless and simple in their manner of expression or perhaps so powerful and directed--depending upon the quality of their rays--so as to confound our recognition.

Alice also said that truth, when present, had the tendency to produce much difficulty in the life of an individual so qualified. Truth can, therefore, be painful. Another quality of truth, which is helpful to remember is its relative nature. For truth is like the path itself, ever unfolding and building upon itself. So perhaps the best we can do as seekers on the way is to listen to the voice of our own conscience which is, after all, all we need to guide our steps and to remember that we are acting with only partial knowledge and as we come to know more, we will change course accordingly. Our conscience is like the Pole Star of our lives, guiding us and providing direction. Dostoyevsky has a beautiful quote related to truth in his novel *The Brothers Karamazov*,

“Above all, don't lie to yourself. The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others. And having no respect he ceases to love.”

Issues of truth and falsity have been highlighted for us in this country in the long election cycle we have just passed. It's been a difficult process, difficult for us to see clearly just what is going on here. As at this ending of the age we walk in a sea of glamour and illusion, seeing all things misshapen and distorted as through a thick and impenetrable fog. It's no wonder then that we might be left with many questions. And we are still reeling from the results over the course of this Scorpio full moon period.

These results, of course, have been shocking to all sides and have sent reverberations around the world, and the divisions have widened as a result of the election must now go through a process of healing upon both sides of the divide. And, hopefully, out of this situation some new ideas, new energies, and new energies and new directions will emerge. The American people are energized to forge some new paths--not merely those people who are aligned with the new administration but also those who are working more at the grassroots level. All difficult experiences hold within them the potential to serve as catalysts for change and certainly the present situation is no exception. And perhaps these changes will contribute to a house-cleaning in the field of politics that is so necessary at this time, and particularly so in this country.

Some have said that the struggle that is going on in this country is a microcosm of the global struggle that is underway at this time—a struggle that is particularly fierce because the personality ray of this nation is the sixth ray. Some have suggested that the United States stands as a symbol of the planetary Dweller on the Threshold and that the challenges that are working out of a planetary progress. We are governed by the ray of idealism and devotion at the level of the personality and this is the ray energy that is transiting out on a global scale and when this happens there is a tendency towards crystallization, dogmatism, fundamentalism and also towards violence. And so it's up to us, to those of us who are aspiring to serve as disciples within this great land to do what we can to invoke and evoke the soul of the nation for that is our responsibility. And we do know that at the level of the soul this nation is governed by the energy that is coming into manifestation, Aquarian energy. So at a personality level we are aligned with the past, with that which is going out and with a very virulent strain of aggressive energy at its worst. But at a soul level we are aligned with that which is new, with that which is incoming and that which is on the horizon. And so it is our responsibility to shift the energies from a personality perspective into the perspective of the soul.

Ultimately the struggle for truth is the struggle that is unfolding upon our planet and it is the reward of the Scorpio experience. That is what Hercules was fighting for in this labour and in each labour, the progressive unveiling of ever deeper and finer gradations of truth. That's all each of us can ask of ourselves and of our national life, to provide the essential freedom and dignity to do the will of our soul and to hold forth the vision before the eyes of humanity. This is one of the fundamental tasks of the group of world servers and one to which we can all

contribute. The Scorpio experience while being carried forward in the depths and apparent darkness leads eventually to the bringing forth of light--that is its triumph. And in fact one of its keynotes is simply, "The Light of Day."

These transformations into light are carried forward as the result of the growth in intuitive perception. This growth began in Libra with occasional flashes of light but which in Scorpio became a steady stream. At this stage the disciple no longer walks in the false light, the astral reflection that beguiles and distorts but rather in the clear light of day. As we read In Book III, Sutra 33 of the Yoga Sutras, "All things can be known in the vivid light of the intuition." The individual learns to trust the impressions that precipitate into the consciousness and utilize them by turning their light upon all matters "subtle, obscure and remote," as Patanjali taught. Through this means the horizon extends, problems are resolved and efficiency is increased.

The struggles of the man or woman in this sign--which are the struggles between spirit and matter, between darkness and light, between the Real and the unreal are only part of the picture and find their greater parallel in all the many gradations of evolutionary development -- human, planetary, systemic and cosmic. At each stage of unfoldment there will be found those lives, great and small, who are passing through the Scorpio experience-- struggling to free themselves from imprisonment and entering into greater life. These struggles that are so incendiary at this time upon our planet will have their just reward, some day.

The Tibetan enunciates this truth in a potent passage from *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, p. 242, "Just as the planet called the earth is regarded as the turning point or the battle-ground between Spirit and matter, and is therefore, from that very consideration, of great importance, so our solar system holds an analogous place in the cosmic scheme. The cosmic man, the solar Arjuna, is wrestling for His individualised perfected self-consciousness, and for freedom and liberation from the form, and from the not-self. So man on this planet battles for similar ideals on his tiny scale; so battle in heaven Michael and His Angels, or the divine Heavenly Men, Whose problem is the same on the higher scale."
