

## THE FESTIVAL OF SAGITTARIUS

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Good evening everyone and welcome. We come together this evening to work with the energies which flow into our planetary life through the constellation of Sagittarius. Our work together in meditation at the time of the full moon is a monthly opportunity for us to collectively contact, hold and distribute spiritual energy in the service of our planet as a whole. It is a time of inspiration, a time of illumination—the illumination of the group mind. And this illumination can occur through a consecrated inner act of alignment with the spiritual Hierarchy, the inner band of knowers who inspire human consciousness.

At this time a door stands open and opportunities for deeper insights become available. We can take advantage of these opportunities by a steady adherence to the rhythmic impulse of the monthly full moon cycle. So can we now come together, to link up subjectively with all our co-workers throughout the world and take a moment of silence followed by the sounding of the ancient prayer, the Gayatri:

O Thou Who givest sustenance to the universe,  
From Whom all thing 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.

Two significant qualities that stand out with Sagittarius are aspiration and direction. It is the sign of the Archer whose arrows are shot toward a specific goal. He goes forward to retrieve his arrows which have hit their mark, and then he aims for the next goal, always following the straight flight of the arrow which provide him with a straight and narrow path in life. He is not distracted by false inducements calling from the left or the right side of the path. He knows that the true path lies straight ahead--to the next sign of Capricorn and the mountain of initiation. The path of the arrow is the path to liberation and freedom from all the painful experiences of the past. All previous experiences, since coming into this dense material world, have focused on developing certain human qualities and characteristics impressed on him by each of the signs. They have all had their divine purpose and intent, and he has developed and expressed them to their full potential. But now, with his service in the physical world nearly complete, it is time--while still in the womb of time--to begin the return to his place of divine origin.

The astrological symbolism provides the whole story. "The ancient symbol of the Centaur stood for the evolution and the development of the human soul, with its human objectives, its selfishness, its identification with form, its desire and its aspirations. The Archer on the white horse signifies the orientation of the man towards a definite goal. The man is then not part of the horse but is freed from identification with it and is the controlling factor. The definite goal of the Centaur, which is the satisfaction of desire and animal incentives, becomes in the later stages the goal of initiation, which meets with satisfaction in Capricorn, after the preliminary work has been done in Sagittarius. The keynote of the Centaur is ambition. The keynote of the Archer is aspiration and direction, and both are expressions of human goals but one is of the personality and the other of the soul. From ambition to aspiration, from selfishness to an intense desire for

selflessness, from individual one-pointed self-interest in Leo to the one-pointedness of the disciple in Sagittarius and thence to initiation in Capricorn.

What is needed today is for humanity--on a large scale--to see the vision offered by Sagittarius. It is a vision that offers human creativity a path of liberation from the current heavy material focus, a focus that needs to be more one-pointed toward freedom. But it is not more freedom for the physical life so much as it is freedom of the mind to soar unimpeded toward a higher, purely reflective level of thought--intuitive thought. One of the keynotes of Sagittarius makes this clear:

The "returning arrow of the intuition," as it is sometimes called. For it is the shaft of the arrow of aspiration which returns to the sender as the arrow of the intuition. Sagittarius is one of the intuitive signs, for only the intuition will suffice to carry a man to the foot of the mountain of initiation in Capricorn. "Intuition is the ability to arrive at knowledge through the activity of some innate sense, apart from the reasoning or logical process. It comes into activity when the resources of the lower mind have been used, explored and exhausted. It is the sense of synthesis, the ability to think in wholes, and to touch the world of causes."

Sagittarius also conveys the power of idealism which is the power to see the vision and to direct one's course towards it. This is a quality which humanity has gained and developed over the past 2000 years. It is a quality upon which we can build and refine in the future. Increasingly there come flashes of light upon problems; a distant yet possible vision of attainment is seen; the man begins to climb out of the depths to which he has descended in Scorpio and sees ahead of him the mountain in Capricorn which he knows he must eventually climb. He walks no longer in the dark, for he sees what he has to do and he therefore makes rapid progress and travels "fast upon the Way."

Now we see that the significant thing about Sagittarius is that its impact on consciousness leads eventually to a tremendous revelation on the ultimate purpose of human existence on earth. When the intuitive illumination of the soul begins to condition a person's intellect and mind, it slowly dawns on him that he is not here for himself. His personal development is not the main objective. He is here simply to serve a larger purpose. From then on it is the Plan of God that becomes uppermost in his mind. He can look back and perhaps see that the hundreds of lifetimes of his past have been a long process of developing his consciousness. And all the trials and the pain of those past lifetimes have really been about the long refining process of human substance; of bringing light into the world, and helping to make the world into a translucent station of radiant light in the solar system. This is what the "direction" influence of Sagittarius contributes to the whole refining process. It is said that the Plan is the "ordered direction of God's thought. There is no true direction apart from thought...thought is power".

But bringing more light into the world can often produce more conflict, because of the inevitable resistance from the forces of darkness and ignorance. And this conflict is often exacerbated by the strong fourth ray influence of Sagittarius. However, it is helpful to remember that on the other side of conflict lies harmony. How soon we are able to resolve the many conflicts, harmoniously, depends largely on the sensitivity of members of the new group of world servers to respond to the higher qualities being conveyed by these inpouring energies--qualities that emphasize the building of relationships, rather than maintaining the old movements of separateness. It is building right, harmonious relationships that will allow the energies of light and love to flow freely throughout the world. Building more walls will not bring about the needed changes.

As we work for change, our group goals lie within the realm of consciousness. We act as a point of anchorage within the heart center of the new group of world servers. Our particular function within this greater whole is in the nature of a forerunner, a group forerunner in the preparatory work laying the groundwork for the coming externalisation of the spiritual Hierarchy and the world teacher. Our task is the plodding, painful work of breaking new ground in the consciousness of the group. The new ground is in the rarefied region of the higher mind and the intuition; it is learning to think in wholes, of invoking the intuitive ability. Contrary to popular belief, a true intuitive insight is not a personal directive; it is not the hunch or the educated guess. It is in fact a direct high level contact with the mind of God. The intuition is entirely concerned with group activity; it is never interested in or directed to the revelation of anything concerned with the personality life. A true intuitive insight may cause you to change the course of your life, but if you do, it will likely be because you want to participate in a larger group plan at work. And if and when such a decision is made, you will be undergoing a major shift into a more group oriented consciousness. Your life intention will be more and more concerned with the whole forest and less and less so with the individual trees. You will then respond more to the crying needs for the greater humanity with less attention directed towards your own personal concerns. A recognition of a great plan at work throughout this planet, should in time, elevate and deepen the sense of personal responsibility. But with every expansion of consciousness come a commensurate expansion of responsibility and the mental aspiration of the Sagittarian experience confers the requisite energy with which to meet whatever responsibilities may arise. And as we are taught in the teachings of the ageless wisdom, our soul never gives us more than we can handle.

The keynote for Sagittarius is "I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another." This alerts us to the fact that the goal is always seen prior to its realisation. The individual senses that which lies ahead, even if he is not yet capable of realising it in the present. This is true not only of the individual but also of humanity and of nations as a whole.

Sagittarius provides the unique quality that so many nations of the world need today in this rather chaotic transition period--that of a new direction, particularly a direction that is less controlled by the deadening influence of materialism. Balance is also needed, for the Sagittarian Archer has to acquire and hold a steady eye, hand and stance prior to firing the arrow. So in this cycle of the year both Libra and Sagittarius provide a time to pause and allow the higher inspiration of the intuition to provide the outline of a new direction, not based on the old ways of doing things, but a new direction of thought that is in line with the coming new age with its emphasis on selfless service, sharing and goodwill.

It is an ideal time for the more intuitive members of the new group of world servers to speak with a loud, unified voice and try to sound the note of a new direction in consciousness, a note that will inspire the human soul to express its values more clearly in the outer world. There are momentous changes taking place in the world and humanity is being tested to see if it can withstand the new powerful energies that are forcing this change--energies from Shamballa and the Hierarchy. The new group of world servers can act as a point of the arrow being sent forth toward the goal of freedom and liberation from the imprisoning forces of authoritarian materialism.

Our theme is basically that of direction--a new direction that will liberate us from the mistaken methods of the past. Ultimately, it is direction in line with the unfolding Plan of God. Let us bear this in mind as we work with focused thought on the intuitive goals that are needed today to bring harmony out of conflict. "I see the goal, I reach that goal and then I see another."