



Scorpio Full Moon Festival

London, 28 October 2023

*“Warrior I am, and from the battle I
emerge triumphant”*

Simon Marlow

Friends, a warm welcome to all of you here in the Lucis Trust Library in London for this full moon meditation in the sign of Scorpio with its keynote *“Warrior I am, and from the battle I emerge triumphant”*. And also a very warm welcome to all of you who are joining together with us over Zoom and Facebook. It is especially lovely to sense our group cohesion and purpose this afternoon. And it is inspiring to realise that there are countless groups around the world meditating at this time, all as part of a conscious planetary serving group. We know that this work, this intense meditation, is motivated not just by a deep love of humanity, but a love of the whole world too; not only that, but also a love of that vortex of goodness rippling through our whole planetary life which we call the Plan. And finally, we know that we are all united by a real desire to serve in whatever way we can at this really difficult and momentous time in world history.

As I am sure you are all aware, these particular meetings and the talks that set their note have been going on for many decades, and the annual cycle we make through the varying energies of the twelve signs of the Zodiac is resulting in an ever finer group response to the possibilities that the different signs offer our planetary life. Here they can stimulate us all as a group to manifest the virtues of right love, right thought, right speech and right action, and to help precipitate these energies in a positive way into the minds and hearts of all humanity, so paving the way to building right human relationships.

It seems to me that we are actually faced in the world by increasingly polarised values. On the one hand there are those who seem to be focussing hate, selfishness and separateness. They are a small minority, yet they are clearly a very powerful one, as the world events show that are unfolding before our eyes right now. On the other hand, there are the vast majority of people in every part of the world who want the best for everyone, who know that practical goodwill and the sacrifice of selfishness is the best way forward to a better world. They are steadily and continuously giving of their time, their love, their creative imagination, and their personal resources to help make this happen.

It is interesting to note how the Tibetan predicted the present turn of events with great accuracy in his book *The Rays and the Initiations*. He talked about the fact that when the right time came the Christ would begin in a new and more intense way to over-shadow the minds of all disciples and initiates in the world. This would result in the stimulation of their natures and of their environment, and that this would inevitably produce conflict. He also asserted that the outpouring of the stimulating love of God into the hearts of all people who can respond to it positively must equally and inevitably also produce conflict. He wrote that "the line of cleavage between people of goodwill and the unresponsive natures of those uninfluenced by this quality will be made abundantly, usefully and constructively clear". And how true this is today! He continued that: "It will be obvious also that when Christ establishes the 'centre or focal point of the divine Purpose' in some definite place on Earth, its radiation and implementary potency will also produce the needed conflict which precedes the clarification and the renunciation of obstructions."

So let us now pause for a moment to contemplate the energies of the will-to-good, of love and of practical goodwill that are right now pouring into the planetary centre which we call humanity in this sign of Scorpio – ever the sign of tests and trials. Let us understand that they are helping humanity not only to recognise these obstructions, but to work to neutralise and redeem them. Then we will sound together the words of the mantram of unification. Properly used, this mantram is not simply a prayer; it is a powerful affirmation of our will to choose the way of love and right relationship and consciously renounce the way of hate and separateness.

The souls of all are one, and I am one with them.
I seek to love, not hate;
I seek to serve and not exact due service;
I seek to heal, not hurt.

Let pain bring due reward of light and love.
Let the soul control the outer form,
And life, and all events,
And bring to light the Love
That underlies the happenings of the time.

Let vision come and insight.
Let the future stand revealed.
Let inner union demonstrate and outer cleavages be gone.
Let love prevail.
Let all people love.

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Thank you. It is interesting to note how often the twelve labours of Hercules have been used as the basis for these full moon talks. They are such a very fascinating collection of myths that exquisitely address the timeless challenges that constitute the path of discipleship. This means that now they are all of particular relevance to humanity as a whole, for despite outer appearances, humanity is now becoming the aspiring world disciple, with all that this connotes of a slowly manifesting love, of a sense of spiritual purpose, of an emerging desire for the good of all, and for us this afternoon in Scorpio, of the recognition of the need on the Path for the precipitation of tests and trials and their eventual triumphant surmounting.

While the majority of these labours are not really well-known, there are two which have for centuries maintained their useful grip on humanity's psyche. One is the myth connected with the sign of Aquarius – Hercules' cleansing of the Augean Stables. In general terms this will have particular relevance during the world's and humanity's forthcoming 2,000-year passage through this sign. The other is the slaying by Hercules of the Lernaean Hydra, and this is connected with our present sign of Scorpio and the great opportunity for spiritual victory that comes with it.

As the name implies, the Hydra is an embodiment of the element of water. It is a snake-like monster dwelling, according to the legend, in the swampy area of a place in the Peloponnese called Lerna. In folklore this place was believed to be one of the entrance portals to the underworld. The symbolism in this myth could not be more obvious. Water is ever the element that expresses the fluidity, the ebb and flow of the desire nature. We say that someone is swept by desire, swept off their feet. Of course, when water flows along a consciously chosen spiritual path, it is healthy and life-giving. We then call it the Water of Life which in Aquarius is poured forth for all who thirst, as the Aquarius seed thought expresses it. But when the flow is blocked, water becomes stagnant and diseased. This gives us a vivid image of the stagnant pools of unredeemed desire. This is where the Hydra dwells, drawing the unwary aspirant into its clutches. In psychological terms it is the embodiment of all the accumulated evils, the misplaced desires, the selfish thoughts, the instincts to sadistic cruelty, the messy mistakes and failures, that have been made during the long history of the many incarnations into the world that each of us has experienced.

It is actually interesting to explore the many modern incarnations of this myth. A quick google reveals that Hydra is actually a popular video game. But more seriously, many commentators on contemporary events use it as an illustration of the various human dilemmas. For example, here is a perceptive quote from Dr. Christina Schori Liang: "Terrorism is like a hydra which sprouts multiple heads. We can attempt to destroy the threat with kinetic power and drone attacks, but ... 'the real battle lies in the battle of ideas'".

Then there is this insightful paragraph from "The Hydra-Headed Crisis" by David Held, Mary Kaldor and Danny Quah.

"We are living at a time of successive crises ... No sooner does one crisis disappear from the headlines, than another pops up in a different part of the world. ... We argue that all these crises are interconnected. They are all, in different ways, the expression of something more fundamental – a transformation of our social, economic and political relations, of which growing communications are just one element – and the failure of our governing institutions to adapt to this transformation. In the twentieth century, the nation state and the bloc were the mechanisms for managing social, economic and political relations; trust in our institutions was in large part based on the fact that we believed that they had the will and the capacity to cope with crises and to manage risk. Now that crises ... transcend borders, we have lost confidence in those traditional mechanisms. Yet the kind of global arrangements that are required have still not been constructed. This is the central paradox of our time: the collective issues we must grapple with are increasingly of global scope and reach and yet the means for addressing them are national, weak and incomplete."

These can be seen to point to the central discovery that comes from Hercules' labour in Scorpio. That focussing on the symptoms – cutting off the Hydra's many heads – only makes matters worse. For every appearance of a problem that you destroy – suppress in other words – more will appear somewhere else. We have to deal with the cause, not so much the symptom. The cause is to be found in the body of the Hydra whose hidden forces are nourished in the polluted environment of the murky and diseased astral darkness of the Lernaean swamp.

In the esoteric tradition there are nine of these heads in total. These represent the nine principle distortions of the unredeemed personality – three for each of the three material planes. On the level of the mind it is suggested that these distortions are pride, separateness and cruelty. On the emotional level they are fear, hatred and ambition or the desire for power. On the physical plane they are an unbalanced preoccupation with sex, an obsessive love of comfort, and the selfish accumulation of money.

This portrayal of bad characteristics presents a pretty grim prospect to us, for we see them displayed in the world all around us. Yet the Tibetan joyfully affirms that Scorpio is above all the sign of triumph — 'Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant'. So, how did Hercules finally deal with these problems, and how did he triumph? His initial failure prompted him to remember the counsel given by his teacher at the outset of this labour — "We rise by kneeling; we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up". He put down his sword, the instrument of the separative mind and of suppression, he knelt on the ground in a sign of true humility, and with his hands, the instruments of healing and creativity, lifted the monster in its entirety high into the light of the soul, the source of all

goodness and the embodiment of reality. Then the power of the Hydra evaporated, and it died.

So how should we, as a part of a world group of disciples, approach the challenges of Scorpio which lodge in the dark corners of the mind of humanity and which express themselves today in the multitude of problems in the world. The Hercules myth tells us that, as long as we go on seeing them only as a multitude of separate problems, we will fall into the same trap that Hercules fell into. We will continue to deal with them piecemeal and find that no sooner have we apparently dealt with one than a score more will appear in its place. We need to get to the underlying cause behind all the problems on all three of the material planes. This will be the main body of the Hydra. This is what we as disciples, both individually and together, have to learn to recognise and then lift up into the light of the soul.

If we recollect for a moment the nine distortions represented by the nine heads of the Hydra they are all effects of the sense of separateness, the separative personality.

Alice Bailey once remarked that if one must talk in terms of sin there is really only one sin, and that is the sense of separateness. This has to be countered, or forgiven, by visioning, creating and building right relationships – in other words, by lifting up the body of the Hydra, or the sense of separateness, into the full light of the soul. Then it will automatically become de-energised and fade away just as the darkness disappears when we turn on the light. We then discover that the monster was in fact a distortion of reality; that evil is really the misapplication of what is intrinsically good, when properly perceived and manifested.

This brings us again to the idea of Scorpio being above all the sign of discipleship. The Tibetan describes Scorpio as “the great constellation which influences the turning point both in the life of humanity and the life of the individual human being”. It is the sign where the prodigal son, realising the depths to which he has sunk, determines “to arise and go to his father” as the New Testament parable expresses it, or, as we might put it, determines to express the higher values of the soul, to become sensitive to the Plan and thus begin to express the will of God through loving activity in form.

As soon as we have brought this spiritual intention through into our physical consciousness and are starting to express it in some way in our lives, then something momentous happens. We start to resonate to the seven great and unavoidable life rhythms which the soul imposes on the personality. These rhythms, or soul laws, include the law of sacrifice, the law of group progress and the law of service.

The law of sacrifice is focused at the very core of our being. We are told that, as souls, we chose to die or incarnate in form in order to help in the great process of redeeming planetary substance, of transforming the material form, of redeeming the Hydra so that it can truly become a vehicle for the life of the soul. It is

interesting to note in this respect that the ray energy governing the law of sacrifice is the 4th ray of harmony through conflict. This same ray is the major conditioning ray of humanity as a whole, the fourth kingdom in nature, and it is also the major energy that governs Scorpio. Does this not tell us something about the spiritual purpose and goal of humanity, the world disciple and also about the opportunity we are presented with as a group at the time of this particular full moon.

This brings us to the need to think for a moment about the law of group progress. This law is one that we are only beginning to sense and experience, and this for two reasons. Firstly humanity is only just beginning to recognise that beyond the demonstration of the power and inherent divinity of the individual there is another higher goal, and that is the contribution of the many individuals to the integrity and life expression of the various serving groups. We still exist as individuals with our own friends, families, responsibilities and lines of service, but added to this and as a major focus of our lives, we also participate in a united group service. Group service has its roots in meditation work. Its vital function is in the ability not just of the individuals comprising the group, but of the whole group as an entity itself to stand in spiritual being. Groups can thus form immensely strong anchor points within the consciousness of humanity providing that rock-steadiness of spiritual principle as well as a constant wellspring for those spiritual ideas and energies that are always so necessary but especially so at our particular time in history. As a group we serve, as a group we step forward on the way, and as a group we help humanity as a whole to step onto the path of return. The second reason for the relative newness of this law of group progress is that it is governed by the 7th ray, which, as we all are aware, is a new energy, at least in terms of human experience.

The third law or rhythm of the soul that I mentioned is the law of service. Now, service, "the spontaneous effect of soul contact", is, above all other qualities, the hallmark of the disciple. So what are the characteristics of the true server and true disciple? As might be expected, and in the great tradition of Mahatma Gandhi, the first quality is one of harmlessness with its great power of the example of dedicated, loving, and effective work. The second great characteristic is a willingness to let other people serve as seems best to them. From this point of view our efforts will be focused on two things: firstly in helping others to "stand in spiritual being" as the phrase has it, just as we are learning to stand ourselves: and secondly in helping a person to serve in their chosen field in the way that they know is right and not as we as onlookers think it should be done.

The third great characteristic is joyfulness. Joy is not the same as happiness. In the direst circumstances – perhaps especially in these circumstances – joy can transform our consciousness sometimes like a lightning strike. It gives us the strength and confidence we all need to enable us all to keep on keeping on as, together in our discipleship search for light and truth, we discover the

unredeemed facets of the human psyche and transform them into assets for the soul.

It is interesting to learn that in her 1937 lecture about Scorpio, Alice Bailey wrote: "The true Scorpio test never takes place until one is co-ordinated, until one's mind, emotional nature and physical nature are functioning as a unit. Then the man passes into Scorpio where his equilibrium is upset and desire seems rampant when he had thought he had got rid of it. He is fluidic, and he had thought he was balanced. The mind which he was quite sure was beginning to control his personality does not seem to function." What an image of modern humanity! What a picture of the task ahead of us all! Yet we remember with gratitude that the outstanding characteristic of the aspirant to discipleship is endurance and the sign that calls for the utmost endurance is Scorpio.

So as we go into our meditation. Let us hold in the forefront of our minds three things; firstly the energies powering the tensions and suffering in the world which can and must be transformed and turned to creative use; secondly the vision of a better future that is constantly being developed by world servers everywhere including ourselves; and finally and perhaps most importantly the constant overshadowing loving presence of the Christ and the Planetary Hierarchy who are willing humanity to succeed. With God all things are possible.

ⁱ <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/hydra-the-evolving-anatomy-of-extremism/>