



Scorpio Full Moon Festival

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Pure Reason

Good evening everybody and welcome to the Festival of Scorpio.

Working from the universal to the particular, we see that the energies impacting upon our group mind this evening had their origin in the subjective nature of a Great Cosmic Entity - referred to by the Tibetan as the One About Whom Naught May Be Said. Our solar system is one of seven solar systems that make up His body of manifestation. En-route to our solar system the seven rays pass through the Great Bear, the Pleiades and Sirius, and then, via the twelve constellations of our Zodiac, this energy is stepped-down such that the resultant influence is suited to the needs of our Solar Logos. Our little planet is the recipient of these energies once qualified and stepped down by the Solar Logos Himself; and in the case of the Scorpio force, which is so potently active now, we find that this is predominantly of a 6th ray quality, with some admixture of the 4th ray. Mars (6th Ray) and Mercury (Fourth Ray) are then particularly influential at this time, and it is perhaps more useful to think of these planetary Lives as omnipresent within the solar system ring-pass-not, rather than reducing them to the material condensations of their representative and visible planets. Their subjective lives and influence are sweeping and circulating constantly through the etheric vehicle of the solar system, and as all planets, visible and invisible, are strung upon a single thread, these energies circulate throughout the solar atom and ring-pass-not, seeking willing agencies through which they can perforce manifest and find expression. This thread in its turn is a continuation of the thread which animates the One About Whom Naught May Be Said - and within Whom our Solar System is the Heart centre. True astrology is a study of these available energies, and the use made of them. It is also the unfolding science concerned with understanding the 'psychology' of our Solar Logos and the natural laws that are inherent in, and derived from, His subjective nature. The planetary centres, the group, and finally the individual complete the line of approach - each relay point stepping down the energy, making it safe for onward absorption, and adding its own quality. Concentric circles, like Russian dolls, yet a single thread, and a ceaseless circulation of energies seeking response.

We come then to our part in the process, as a group, and ultimately as responsible individual agents. We know that the rays have a higher and a lower aspect. The quality of the receiving station determines if, and in what way, the available energies are made manifest. All too often groups and individuals who are responsive or reactive to certain ray impacts will utilise that energy in its lowest aspect. As aspirants to the Path we have a two-fold responsibility - firstly the task of attracting and directing the available energies - through the creative imagination - and secondly the responsibility to manifest in our own lives the higher spiritual aspects of that inflowing quality; again, made possible through application of the creative imagination. This second responsibility is often overlooked, and it is easy to fall into the trap, when leaving a group gathering such as ours this evening, of thinking that our part in the work is done; and yet in many respects it has barely begun, as it is rather the point at which we have to take responsibility for manifesting those energies aright in our own spheres of influence. This is where our training in right thinking, right feeling and right action becomes of paramount importance - for we are the redeeming agents for those lesser lives which live and move and have their being within our own environments.

Higher Interlude

Before we continue, let us pause for a few moments and align with the wider group of 'souls and servers.' Then let us sound together the *Gayatri*:

*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.*

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Let us turn now more specifically to the quality of the Scorpio energy and consider what that might mean in the life of humanity - the world disciple - and in the life of the individual aspirant as he seeks to live within the light of the group. A culminating point of trial and testing is symbolically depicted in the Eighth Labour which involved for Hercules the slaying of the Lernean Hydra. This monster had nine heads, which correspond to the nine tests undertaken in this labour. It is a fight to the death between the integrated personality and the soul. In Libra the aspirant is ever weighed in the scales, and in some one momentous life the soul will finally be found, at last, dominant. And yet

this must be fully tested on the battlefield of Scorpio. In Scorpio we see the nine tests, divided into three groups of three. This is symbolic of the triple testing of the three personality vehicles or aspects. And yet, we are told that cutting off any one head of the Hydra is futile, as it simply grows back. Symbolically then we must take the personality as a unity, with all that the past has made of that mechanism up to the present point - the Dweller on the Threshold. Hercules is given a clue by his Teacher before embarking upon this tricky labour, and as always, we are presented with an occult paradox: 'we rise by kneeling; we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up.' Hercules realises intuitively in the heat of battle that he must raise the Hydra into the air - a symbol of the rarified atmosphere of the plane of Buddhi. This plane, as we know, resolves all forms into their basic unity, and it is a rarified atmosphere where separateness and selfish interests cannot exist. In this act, Hercules was able to completely disable the Hydra and deliver the final killer blow - ending, once and for all, the dominance of the personality aspect. He did this by following the timeless rule which governs all progress upon the Path - the subjugation of the lesser by the higher, through lifting, observing and finally solving the problem from that higher perspective. Just as the physical is dominated by the emotional, so too the emotional self is subjugated by the mind, and eventually the integrated personality, led by the mind, is brought under the rulership of the soul through the illuminating effect of the energies of the plane of intuition.

In the last analysis then, though the problem is one relating to the whole personality, the mind and its vices clearly play a pivotal role; and perhaps this is why the final head of the Hydra is so emphasised in the Labours. It is eventually severed from the Hydra whilst the whole is lifted into the air, and then it is hid under a rock - a symbol, we are told, of the will. It has been said that the only real sin is the sin of separateness - and this is the defining attribute of the unilluminated mind. It is fitting then that the Hydra's final head, the one that really matters, is dealt with through the illuminating influence of Pure Reason. Pure Reason, Pure Love, the light of Buddhi is in fact the polar opposite of, and therefore the antidote to, the sin of separateness.

It is all very well of course advising the aspirant to lift the Dweller into the light of the Soul, there to starve it of the oxygen it requires to exist; but what tools do we have at our disposal to practically effect this? Remembering at this point that the mind governs the lower self, and can be used as a proxy for the personality as a whole, one might conclude: control the mind and you control the entire mechanism. Then we must consider why it is that the quality of Buddhi has the power to overcome the Hydra - and it is simply this: the plane of Buddhi is the sphere of unity, and forms are here resolved into their basic essence. It offers nothing which the separative personality would desire - and yet its light is so compelling to the indwelling soul that the loss of all things personal matter not in the least. We might consider two specific occult methods of working with and strengthening this Light in our lives. The first is the Technique of Substitution - recommended by the Tibetan

as the basis for a new approach to psychology, and, producing in time the liberating effect of a 'new affection.' That is to say, that by using the creative imagination, we can busy ourselves in the higher pursuits and points of interest, and in the process allow our base aspect to wither on the vine for lack of sustenance. This is a direct analogy to the effect on the Hydra of it being lifted into the air. This is not escapism or fantasy when approached and implemented with purpose and based on the guiding principles of the Heart Doctrine. This method negates the mistake of attempting to fight the Hydra on its own level, with all that entails of an endless mental analysis of one's faults and deficiencies. It is perhaps also the way in which the antahkarana itself is built, and whereby a man becomes that which he is in archetype. As a man thinketh in his Heart, so is he.

Then we have the method suggested by Patanjali in his Yoga Sutras - that of the cultivation of 'opposite thinking.' Many observers have suggested this to mean replacing negative thoughts with positive ones, and to an extent one could easily agree that this will in many instances prove to be a beneficent endeavour; but just as Helena Blavatsky points out in the *Secret Doctrine*, one must be careful to penetrate beyond the dead-letter of Patanjali's words to seek the deeper significances. Rather than just thinking positive thoughts in place of negative ones, perhaps we should look at this from the basic occult position that all is One, and that there is no true division in life despite appearances. Immediately we are lifted into the realm of Buddhi, and perhaps this is the true standard by which Patanjali wanted us to measure our thoughts when asking us to cultivate this so-called 'opposite thinking.' In other words, when any thought passes through us, or wells up within us as a new conception or from ancient habit, we should immediately test it in the Light of the intuition, in the Light of Pure Reason. Thus, if we are being honest with ourselves, we would have to root out any and all suggestion in that thought which upholds the false idea, the false idol, of separateness and of selfish interest. On discovering the unworthy imposter, we must at once devise, again through the power of the creative imagination, its direct opposite - that counter thought which dwells harmoniously on the higher plane of Buddhi. In this way a man can definitely cleanse his aura and his environment and become in time his Buddhistic archetype - building by this method the antahkarana, and bridging that void in consciousness which exists between mind and the Spiritual Triad, between the separated self and the Source.

Let us now turn to consider the impacts and opportunities that Scorpio presents in a global context, and in relation to humanity as a whole. Just over a year ago on October 7th 2023 we were provided a stark example of the power and influence and wide-ranging effects and ramifications of the Scorpio energy. If we accept the premise that the rays cycle in and out gradually, we might reasonably assume that the Scorpio energy was at that time commencing its approach. As is well known, Hamas on that date committed horrific acts of violence on the citizens of Israel, and this was quickly followed by arguably an even more horrific and sustained act of violence against the population of Gaza by Israeli

forces. Trying as best we may to put aside for a moment the grief and anger we may carry in relation to these two events, it is interesting for a moment to consider them in the context of the prevailing astrological influences and the tests which accompany the Scorpio qualities. In doing so we may see a path for resolution. We all appreciate that there are causes that far antedate the current ignition of hostilities in Israel and Palestine, but triggers for specific events can usually be found in the movements of the celestial Lives. It would not be too much of a stretch to see in Hamas, an Islamic political and militant organisation, a group particularly sensitive to the impact of Scorpio energy due to its sixth ray influence. Islam is a sixth ray religion and history teaches us unequivocally that it is as prone to acts of violence as is its twin the Christian religion. We also note in this context that Mars is often referred to as the god of war, and will find a willing ally in the influence and impact of Mercury, which ever strives for the ultimate beneficent goal of harmony but through the temporal and practical means of conflict. Perhaps one might even be forgiven for supposing that the planetary solar plexus itself hovers not too far distant from that unhappy region, with all that this implies of sensitivity and response to the sixth ray Life Force. This might shed some light on why the Christ chose to walk these lands two-thousand years ago when offering up to humanity the dispensation of the Piscean era, which itself is closely linked to, and indeed governed by, the Ray of Devotion. We have then a veritable burning ground, a crucible of fire for testing and for trial as far as humanity is concerned, as it attempts to lift the activity of the solar plexus into the heart centre.

With regards Israel, we have of course the manifestation of a Jewish State, and the Jews are, owing to their specific history and immense longevity, symbolically the Eternal Pilgrim, the microcosmic disciple within the macrocosmic World Disciple - humanity. And so the tests of Hercules in Scorpio at this time are particularly relevant to the people of Israel. Through the 4th ray, wielded by Scorpio, comes the testing of humanity - and, by inference, of Israel itself. Tests in Scorpio are often brutal ones, and as we have seen, it is a fight to the death between the personality forces and the soul, and the outcome determines whether initiation can take place on the far side of Sagittarius in Capricorn. The stakes therefore are high. Despite the magnitude of the provocation, one might reasonably ask in the light of this analysis: could Israel have handled the forces at play differently and perhaps have set in motion an entirely different and more beneficent direction of travel? Did they manage to do as Hercules did, and lift the nine-headed Hydra into the air, there to see the problem through the eyes of the soul, which sees no separation, no them and us, no thine and mine? Or is Israel occupied instead with the chopping off of the heads of the Hydra on its own level - a futile policy, we know, given that the heads are ever destined to reappear thus to continue their onslaught.

The truth of this may be seen in the fact that a year later on 13th October 2024, something again was seen to test and provoke the psyche of Israel. On this occasion, whilst still

engaged in hostilities in Gaza, we witnessed a direct attack on, and incursion into, Lebanon and, a little later in the month, a calculated retaliatory attack on Iran. Might this again have been a recapitulation of the testing in Scorpio, and an attempt to further decapitate the many heads of the Hydra? Blame is seldom helpful, but a dispassionate attempt to reveal opportunity is not only helpful but exactly what the New Group of World Servers was formed to promote. Framed in the context of opportunity, and in the spirit of an ultimate Harmony wrought through conflict, is it not reasonable to suggest, from the esoteric perspective, and from the angle of the celestial influences, that the solution to this problem lies perhaps in the hands of Israel and the Jewish race more than any other group. As a Disciple upon the Path, that group one day will climb the mountain of Capricorn there to take initiation, having first worked out in Scorpio how to defeat the Hydra by *rising through kneeling, conquering by surrendering and gaining by giving up*. Only time will tell if the major players in the conflict in the Middle-East - and there are of course many - will learn to make the best use of the available influences; but one thing is for certain, the tests in Scorpio, and likely the extreme violence associated with them, will continue to present themselves until a satisfactory resolution is found - and that will require a different approach and a monumental effort to lift the hydra into the rarified air of Pure Reason.

Let us now turn our attention to today's meditation - invoking the available energies of Scorpio and aided in our efforts by the directing potency of the seed-thought for disciples in this sign: *'Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant.'*