

*Direction and Purpose on the Path Towards Right Relations*  
Festival of Sagittarius, New York December 2022

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Good evening and welcome to this Lucis Trust Full Moon Meditation Meeting. If you are new to these meetings, you are especially welcome. We will be working with the Sagittarius energy pouring through the sun, using the meditation outline, 'Letting in the Light' to assist in the anchoring of these incoming spiritual energies in the minds and hearts of the human family.

This is a full moon meditation, so you might well wonder why our alignment is with the energies flowing through the sun sign, Sagittarius, rather than the energies flowing through the moon. Our work is dedicated to the evolution of consciousness in the world of the human. The energy that sustains and fuels life and consciousness on the earth, and within the human kingdom as well as the other kingdoms of nature, flows from the sun. This is the energy driving evolution – so it is the astrological qualities flowing through the sun sign that we work with.

At the time of the full moon the energy or light flowing from the sun onto the earth is at its peak. This is because it is sunlight that is reflected off the face of the moon. At other times of the month the moon stands between the sun and earth, shading the earth from the full impact of the sun. But at the full moon the moon is out of the way, allowing a complete and full alignment between sun and earth. And so it is, that we work with the esoteric energies carried through the sun as they pour into consciousness during the five day period when the moon appears full in the night sky.

One important feature of the meditative alignment is that we begin with an affirmation of group fusion – affirming that we are working as a global group in consciousness – what we might think of as a clearly defined field of lighted group thought in the mind and heart of the human. This stage of group fusion is fundamental and essential – everything that follows in the meditation proceeds as the work of a unified group identity standing with, not separate or apart from, the entire human family.

We enter into this work as a group of human beings, and, as a group, we figuratively stand with the human kingdom. This is after all our kingdom, and so we able to be consciously present with all our brothers and sisters in the incarnated world of time and space; just as we are able to be present to the more subtle and higher elements of our shared nature. For the human kingdom, the full humanity of the kingdom, embraces elements of spirit, soul and incarnated personality. So, to say that we figuratively stand as a group with humanity during these monthly meditations is to say that we stand in alignment with all the wonders, potentials and challenges (the light and the shadow, the grace and the grit) that are part of the world of the human, at this stage in our evolution as a species. We stand, as fully incarnated human beings, present to the forces of divinity within us that are driving the evolution of consciousness and pushing us toward an initiation for the human kingdom as a whole; and present too in the world of time and space with our feet on the earth, rooted in the communities, cities, and nations where we live and work and serve.

Humanity is said to be the planetary throat centre - the centre of creativity and Active intelligence in the etheric body of the Earth – mediating between the sacred and profane aspects of our nature.

When we stand with humanity, it is in identification with this centre of creative and active intelligence that we stand. Working from this identification, we can use the meditation outline to establish an alignment with the higher, apparently hidden kingdoms of the planetary life: with the heart centre of the planetary life, the heart of God, the kingdom of soul, the Spiritual Hierarchy; and with the head centre of the planet; the world of spirit, sometimes called 'the Fathers House' or the centre of peaceful silent will, referred to in several occult teachings as Shamballa. We stand in this full moon work within this planetary alignment.

And so, let us figuratively stand now, in a moment of focused silence, present to the grand ecologies that make up the interpenetrating worlds of the human and the divine.

### 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.

These interpenetrating ecologies (humanity, the Spiritual Hierarchy, and Shamballa) are, right now, and for the next two days, being stimulated by incoming extra-planetary energies qualified by Sagittarius.

The esoteric tradition at the heart of this full moon work leads us to recognize a wide variety of ecologies of thought present in humanity at any time. All of these co-exist in our families, our communities, our workplaces, our nations and in the world – indeed within our own psyche different ecologies of thought and emotion are constantly interacting. In human communities, the thought environment of those on an involutory incarnation path who are building up the personality is in constant interaction with the thought environment of those on an evolutionary path who are engaged in some way or other with the relationship between soul and personality. And these interactions play out in a multitude of different ways in community and national life. It's also not as if the evolutionary and involutory thought environments are well defined or easily classified. There are multiple ecologies within each broad group: think, for example, of the sub-ecologies formed by different dominant ray energies, astrological sun signs and rising signs. Think too of the role that different cultures and national environments play. The different thought ecologies are constantly rubbing up against each other – creating indistinct and moving boundaries.

All of this is just to set the stage for our consideration of what it might mean for the world of the human, at this point in our evolutionary journey, to be under the stimulating influences of Sagittarian energies. In a living system of interdependencies, this stimulation brings with it a variety of opportunities, challenges and difficulties for individuals, groups, nations and for the human kingdom as a whole.

To give this some context in time and history we might take note that today, the day of the full moon here in the Americas, is the first day in the important UN Biodiversity Conference taking place in Montreal, Canada over the next 12 days. Conferences like this one are part of what can be thought of as a great global meditation. The human kingdom is struggling to move into a new relationship with the principles of human rights and freedoms, with its recently discovered sense of oneness, and with the recognition that humanity's current relationship with the natural world is unsustainable and requires significant changes. Things are unsettled and shifting as millions of people around the world respond and react in a multitude of ways to the challenges our interdependence now presents us with. The energies flowing into humanity during every full moon inevitably impact these unsettled yet significant times. Our task, as a global group of meditators, is to consider how the qualities of the incoming energies might have a positive impact – not so much on the substantive political choices being made at conferences like the Biodiversity Summit, but more on the depth of thinking at the heart of the global meditation on right relations that is a keynote of the group of world servers.

The separation-wholeness dynamic understandably works itself out in mass social movements with high emotional drama and strong sixth ray elements. This is as true of those who are inspired to move rapidly into a world of greater human and environmental equity and justice; as it is for those who resist and react against the new wholeness vision; and for those who simply want a better life and some stability for themselves and their loved ones. Yet behind these mass movements there is a deeper and more significant core of thought, planning and group coherence as creative thinkers (from different social and philosophical backgrounds) consider pathways forwards in response to the ethical crises of the time.

As the Cycle of Conferences visualisation initiative from World Goodwill puts it, major international conferences are reflections of a thoughtform under construction around any particular issue, and trained meditators can aspire to penetrate into the heart of that emerging thoughtform – to 'see' it in a sense as we might imagine Hierarchy sees it, which, from one perspective at least, is to see it as an essential result of a growing aspiration in humanity to 'control' or manage instincts of separation in ways that will lead us, at least towards, if not into, a new era of wholeness and freedom.

And it is in this spirit that we can usefully seek to shine a light on the role that Sagittarian energies might play in this grand process of creative thoughtform building with which humanity is currently engaged.

Three themes in the astrological signature of Sagittarius seem especially appropriate to an understanding of the thoughtforms currently under construction in human affairs. First, Sagittarius is one of the four arms of the Mutable Cross and its worth considering the role played by this cross as we live through these challenging years. Secondly, Sagittarian energies are all about purpose, direction and balance, and it is important to bear in mind that these qualities impact different ecologies of thought in different ways. And finally, it is worth considering Mars, the Hierarchical ruler of Sagittarius, and the role this plays in the emergence of thoughtforms of solution to world problems – such as the problem of human relations with the natural world which is a central theme in the Biodiversity Conference.

Drawing on insights presented in the Alice Bailey book, *Esoteric Astrology*, the Mutable Cross (Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces) is the cross of the mass of human beings. These four energies are responsible for a narrative of ‘repeated incarnations’, ‘varied experiments’ and ‘many experiences’ – all designed to build strong and integrated personality vehicles over time; and all producing “that constant flux and periodic change in time and space which will provide a field of adequate experience for the unfoldment of the Christ life and consciousness.” (EA, 345) This story of the vast bulk of the now 8 billion souls in incarnation reminds us of the incredible learning that is always underway in human consciousness, and that seems particularly intense during these early decades of this century. Sagittarius is said to bring the “energetic activity of the life force” [EA 345] into this dynamic of constant change and experimenting as the body of mind and emotions is built up. It’s not difficult to see this aspect of the sign potently influencing the Mutable Cross in today’s world.

Orthodox astrology points to two planets ruling all 4 signs of the cross: Second Ray Jupiter and Fourth Ray Mercury. And this ray combination is said to “fuse and blend into one cooperative whole the great dualities expressing themselves through” the human kingdom. [EA 184] This is something to hold in mind through this full moon period – at a time when the great dualities are playing out on the world stage through intensely polarized public opinions, conversations, and debates. Sagittarian energies have the potential to strengthen and foster a fusing of the mass consciousness into cooperative thoughtforms accentuating goodwill in the varying response to the crises and challenges of the age. This is something to consider in thinking about the Biodiversity Conference in Montreal – rays 2 and 4 stimulating harmony, balance and right relations between the human kingdom and the animal, plant, and mineral kingdoms.

But we also need to note that the power of the forces of conflict in Sagittarius bring their own intensity to the times - especially for those on the discipleship path as the 4th ray combines with the destructive power of the first ray through Pluto. This is said in *Esoteric Astrology* to bring “the entire human family, as well as the individual, under the law of strife, based this time on sixth ray devotion to an ideal, high or low.” [EA 187].

It is not difficult to see this picture of conflict playing out in the world right now – and finding expression in fora like the Biodiversity Conference. It can sound like a desolate vision – that Sagittarius means that we are destined to conflict and sixth ray devotion to opposing ideals. Yet the reality is surely different. For while the sign does stimulate native forces of conflict it also stimulates the will to overcome that conflict and to direct the path towards a new balance and order. Conflict brings about a will to resolve conflict, even if the distaste for conflict leads some to want to turn their backs, wishing that everyone would come to their senses and think the same way that they do.

Through the generations since the great battle of the Second World War what is called “the mechanism of awareness .. responsiveness and sensitivity to” a new and higher direction has been greatly developed. This, I think, has the potential to give hope to those who despair about the intensity of the conflict in our societies. [EA 187-8] The problem of polarization is clear for all to see, but it is equally clear, to my mind, that the capacity of mind that leads to a new direction and, above all, freely chosen control of undisciplined personal desires has been greatly stimulated in recent decades. While the conflict of opposites in all manner of issues dominates our social and public media, we just need to dig a little deeper to see the depth of ethical, creative thought that is rising out of this conflict; and that suggests that the evolutionary work of the discipleship

community is strong. Following some of the more thoughtful conversations around a conference like the Biodiversity event in Montreal makes this, I think, very clear.

Another thought is that passage through the Mutable Cross is necessary before the Fixed Cross of Discipleship can take over and the selfish, ambitious personality can be freed to move onto the path of becoming the selfless disciple. It is during the phase of the Mutable Cross that the mind nature is developed as a prelude to the emergence of the wise intuitive perception of the disciple. All of this can, I think, be seen to be happening during this apparently chaotic cycle of world affairs.

Leadership of humanity's response to the impulse of the Plan clearly comes through the aspirants, disciples and the Group of World Servers who are in process of mastering desires and in whom the creative, free and independent mind is at least beginning to function. It is not that the discipleship group shares the same opinions on issues of the day but that the discipleship group is able to think about human development as it relates to the Plan, or as it relates to any of the statements of planetary principles such as the Four Freedoms (all four freedoms – individual and collective) or the Universal Declaration of human Rights. And it is here that we can hold in the light the great potency for reorientation that Sagittarius stimulates amongst disciples and people of goodwill: "I see the goal, I reach that goal, and then I see another". As the disciple reaches the final stages of the Mutable Cross, energies pouring through Sagittarius bring a determination to step forward "into another way of life and with ardor firm to mount another Cross." [EA 187]

So, we are reflecting upon the thoughtform under construction in humanity about right relations with the lower kingdoms; and noticing how that thoughtform is driving the process that has led to the Biodiversity Conference in Montreal (including those who favor different approaches than those dominating negotiations at that conference). And as we do this we can be thinking about the vital, shaft of light which shines from disciples within the New Group of World Servers. It can be seen less in terms of policies being negotiated or debated than in terms of a clear, uncomplicated sense of direction and orientation to build new living and sustainable, regenerative relationships with the earth. Extra planetary energies are vitalizing the sense of a basic and directing sense of purpose in humanity right now – this is where we need to be focusing our care and attention.

The Archer descends from the horse; to stand firmly and with solidity on the ground. Only then can the Archer stand in freedom and sovereignty. Only then can the balance needed be achieved. From this position of balance, the taught bow is raised to the head. The eyes are steady as they focus all the life energy, along the shaft of the arrow, through space and time towards the goal. In our meditation we can imagine that goal is one of right relations in all its multiple dimensions. Right relations to Oneness and wholeness; right relations between the part and the whole; right relations between those on the Fixed Cross and those on the Mutable Cross; right relations between the human, the animal and the mineral; and between humanity, the spiritual hierarchy and Shamballa.

One thought about Mars, the hierarchical ruler of Sagittarius and ruler of the Sixth Creative Hierarchy – the world of the lunar lords and elementals of the personality. We can be inclined to see Mars solely in terms of conflict, yet combined with the sixth ray in Sagittarius, Mars also brings an ability to see a vision of future possibilities and to direct a course towards that vision – to organize aspiration and lift it into planned and directed purpose, sending off an arrow towards the essential quality aspired to. And the relation to the lunar lords suggests that the opportunity which we can

give all our energy to during this full moon is that the managing, compassionate disciplining and guidance of the Lunar Lords via the mind is stimulated in Sagittarius. So, we can imagine that humanity's ability to control its desires might be strengthened in some way as a result of the energies pouring in at this time.

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Added to this is the thought that, following the stimulation and testing of the intellect in Scorpio, Sagittarius plays on the intuition, sending flashes of light to enable the seeker and the disciple to begin to see that there is a possibility of initiation ahead of them, and a new way of being in the world as a soul which lies ahead of them. The archer who releases an arrow of aspiration, and then waits patiently and expectantly, begins to find a new and higher light of knowledge and understanding shining down from the Buddhistic plane of mind and heart. What starts out as an aspiration for something new eventually, after time and experience and much thought, returns as a whole new way of seeing what lies ahead.

May the vast numbers of human beings currently in process of transiting from the mutable to the fixed cross of discipleship make good use of the opportunities that Sagittarius brings! And may the collective humanity in process of becoming the world disciple make similar use of these opportunities, deepening its reflections on the next steps to be taken in the path towards right relations with all the kingdoms of nature.