

The Twilight Period

The Festival of Scorpio, November 3, 2017

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Good evening everyone and welcome to the Festival of Scorpio.

We stand now within the full tide of the inflowing energy of the Scorpio full moon. Therefore, we have the opportunity to join with others throughout the world to form a collective channel or bridge within consciousness. As more people begin to take advantage of this opportunity, people of all traditions, an alignment is set up which is transformative in effect.

For it's said that when the cosmic heart, the heart systemic and the little hearts of men begin to beat as one it becomes possible for a lifting of the energy of the planetary solar plexus center to the planetary heart. And through this lifting there will occur a lessening of the harshness and note of fear that is presently so widespread in our world and the cause of so much suffering for so many lifeforms.

And at this particular full moon we have an enhanced opportunity to contribute towards this alignment of hearts because of Scorpio's relationship with the great second ray star Sirius, the star that has such a close connection with our planetary hierarchy and with our World Teacher, the Christ.

So let us now take a moment of silence followed by a sounding of The Ancient Mantram.

Lead us, O Lord,
From darkness to Light;
From the unreal to the Real;
From death to immortality.

As its name states, this mantram is one of the oldest in the world. It is intended to help raise human consciousness to the mental plane and thereby aid us in our ability to see more deeply beneath the glamour of the times.

On the reversed wheel wherein disciples find themselves, each sign builds upon the preceding one. Therefore, the poise, equilibrium, and balance engendered in the previous full moon of Libra, provides a strong foundation upon which to work and an intuitive understanding that will stand us in good stead as we move through the challenges in the present Scorpio experience.

Symbols help us to understand the nature of the signs. And through one set of symbols, the Libra and Scorpio periods are linked and this makes sense because they govern together the most important period in the wheel, the period of transition and reversal.

Libra is symbolized by the setting sun and Scorpio by the subsequent twilight period. At these times, beauty is released into the world and this beauty is said to be an energetic expression, an efflorescence of the Planetary Logos, the great Life that ensouls our planet.

As we reach this Scorpio stage in the journey as a soul, this transition period, the sun or personality self begins to disappear--Scorpio being one of the signs of death itself. But just as in nature, before death and descent into darkness, there is that paralleling display of color that begins to flash forth in the life of the individual. This color is the touch of the soul that comes in at this stage on the path, evoking a response from the personality, conferring an inner sense of knowing that there is more to life than what we can see on the surface.

Prior to this transition period of the setting sun, for aeons of time the personality self is all we see. This self is like the sun in the sky--it rules and dominates and blots all else from view. Then, as the darkness descends, slowly and incrementally over time, a whole new world, symbolized by the night sky, begins to open up and we learn a new language, the language of the stars, the language of the subtle worlds. We become as spiritual readers. This new world demands new skills, new ways of seeing and being--ways less dependent upon outer sight and increasingly attuned to an inner knowing.

Another symbol for Scorpio, as we all know, is the mysterious scorpion from which the sign takes its name. Scorpions are nocturnal, solitary creatures, comfortable in the shadow times, the in-between times. They are amazingly resilient --able to live up to a year without any food or water. And some scorpions are said to live up to 25 years of age.

Although scorpions have between 6-12 eyes they still do not see very well. Instead they navigate their territory by sensing vibrations through the use of fine hair-like strands that are found on their underbellies. They are said to possess a natural type of radioactivity which scientists have discovered when placing them under ultraviolet light. Scorpions are famous for their sometimes deadly sting which they use as a protective measure to keep away predators. But scorpions do not sting randomly or recklessly or obviously. They are highly calculating, creative and selective in their use of their power. When a scorpion does decide to attack, they are said to do a type of little dance to get close to their victim, trying to throw him off course, distracting him from what is really happening. They also calculate and control how much poison is released from their stinger and how many stings may be needed for any particular situation.

These qualities of the scorpion define many of the qualities of a disciple, qualities such as strength, self-reliance, caution and that discriminative power to read beneath the surface of life and events and to know, as a consequence, how best to move through it. It is also true, however, that at the Scorpio stage upon the path, before the death, the disciple can be destructive when not sufficiently in control of his powers. It is this destructive or harmful quality that needs to be managed before victory in this sign is accomplished. Hence the constant reminder to practice humility and harmlessness and to turn the tendency to control towards oneself instead of others.

The struggles of the Scorpio experience are captured in the following passage from the Bhagavad Gita wherein Sri Krishna counsels Arjuna:

"Having regard to thy duty, deign not to shrink back. For nothing is better for a warrior than a righteous battle. And such a battle has come to thee of its own accord, a very door of heaven will be opened; happy the warriors ... who find such a fight as this....therefore, arise, determined to do battle--making equal good and ill fortune, gain and loss, victory and defeat, gird thyself for the fight." (Gita II. 31. 32. 38. 37.)

This ability to make equal of good and ill fortune, gain and loss, victory and defeat is to stand steady no matter what may be transpiring in the outer life. This attitude is the key to success in Scorpio. As we learn to maneuver the crisis points, we come to realize that they are really the greatest experiences in our lives. Through crisis we develop our strength and confidence and ultimately they define our freedom. The struggle after freedom is, after all, at first the struggle of freedom from oneself -- from the physical appetites, from the emotional controls, from the lower, concrete mind and its snares, leading eventually to freedom from the dominance of the entire personality itself and to its death.

But of course our first reaction upon being presented with such challenges is to feel their weight and the confusion they cause to arise within us. We often want to run away. This reaction is normal. But as we read, the Gita counsels us not to "shrink back" from a crisis and instead to enter into the eye of the storm, so-to-speak, in the recognition that we will there find a point of peace that can sustain us no matter what happens.

The eventual liberation that Scorpio makes possible cannot be accomplished without the application of heat or fire. The needed fires at this stage are concerned both with the fire of matter and with the fire of spirit. As the two fires combine in the individual there is eventually a transformation that occurs and the body becomes simply a vehicle for the indwelling light and the individual becomes "the Word made flesh," the AUM.

And the tools offered to aid us in this transformation come in powerfully through the Scorpio-Taurus axis and its planetary rulers-- the two first ray planets of Pluto and Vulcan. This axis conveys the destructive as well as the building and synthetic influences necessary to apply and withstand the fire. The work of the Group of World Servers is governed by this axis, Taurus being the sign governing that group and Scorpio being the pre-eminent sign of discipleship. And when we look at the work being undertaken by this group there is no doubt they are undergoing the fire. This horizontal axis of the fixed cross is related to service, group relationships and soul purpose and through the lessons learned and the challenges undergone in these areas, the fires are released.

The promise of this time lies in the fact that so many people, in all parts of the planet, are beginning to respond to this fire with the resultant flashing forth of light. One of the events contributing to the present stimulation is the fact that the eye of the Solar Logos is directing his

gaze towards the disciples on our planet. This energy is impacting sensitive men and women everywhere, and challenging them to stand steady.

The Tibetan poses a difficult question to this group. He asks, "Will they break under the impact of self-discovery and the opportunity to eliminate personality? Or will they rise triumphant from the ashes of their dead selves into living power and beauty?" (*Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. 2, p. 63*) That question encapsulates the Scorpio challenge.

One of the primary challenges today is the clashing that is occurring between those who cleave to the passing sixth ray influence and those who are looking ahead to the seventh ray. It's said to be a rare occurrence when one ray follows in consecutive order upon the other. The Tibetan describes these situations as exceedingly powerful and says they "...come only at rare and long intervals, each time they come a very significant period of divine activity is ushered in, old things pass entirely away, yet the ancient landmarks are restored."

This situation is elaborated in the following passage which describes the present period as: 'a time of rending, when the mountains, which have sheltered, fall from their high places, and the voices of men are lost in the crash and thunder of the fall' (*Esoteric Psychology, Vol. 1, p. 358*). "The seventh ray will bring into expression that which was visioned and constituted the ideals of the preceding cycle of sixth ray activity. When one ray follows upon the other "there eventuates a rapid following of effect upon cause, and this today can provide the basis for an assured hope." (*Ibid.*)

It's said that the word or phrase to be uttered forth at the point of attainment in Scorpio is: "Illusion cannot hold me. I am the bird that flies with utter freedom" (*A Treatise on White Magic, p. 548*). This phrase brings to mind the Law of Sacrifice, the fourth ray law of the soul—whose symbol is the golden bird superimposed upon the rosy cross. The Scorpio-Taurus axis is governed by the 4th ray and as this ray energy begins its cycle into our world at this time, surely this longed for freedom from the rosy cross, from the control by the sixth ray, will be accomplished.

Scorpio and Taurus will then grow in strength of expression in our world, and this will do much to free humanity from that which has held it bound for so long. This 4th ray influence will usher in the art of living. Freedom is the reward for the struggles and challenges that confront the seeker on the way. To be free is to be master of oneself, which in the parlance of the Ageless Wisdom teachings is to be in alignment with the soul, for the soul ever stands free.
