

## *Humility of Heart*

The Festival of Scorpio, New York 2018

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Welcome everyone. Thank you for coming out to celebrate with us this full moon festival. Through this monthly practice of working together meditatively, we provide a real planetary form of service. Together we can make an inner alignment with the subjective factors within consciousness which can serve to deepen and renew our application to the path of service.

We're working tonight with the energies of Scorpio--the sign of transformation that occurs in the depths and darkness. Sometimes this stage in the spiritual journey is compared to the chrysalis and the eventual emergence of the individual, after many lives, into the freedom and beauty of the butterfly.

Sometimes a visual image gives us a roadmap when we are on a journey and the spiritual path is clearly one such journey. This journey takes us into the depths and challenges that always arise on the path and so whatever tools we might garner are helpful.

We are given a visual image of the work that needs to be done by the spiritual groups of the world. We are asked to visualize a golden path -- the path created out of the substance of consciousness that takes us from the personality into the soul aspect. This path then leads to a clear pool, a pool that represents the inner ashrams, those reservoirs of living water, composed of the many dreams and wishes of the Master who stands at the center. Then the third image, leading out from the reservoir is that of the Temple of Retreat, the gated city, the bright center lying far beyond, Shamballa itself. So we move from the golden path to the clear pool to the Temple of Retreat. Really integrating all three of the planetary centers—the center Humanity, composed of disciples of all degrees, the middle center, the heart center of the Spiritual Hierarchy and finally, leading on to an inclusion of a touch from Shamballa if we work together in group formation.

We are living through a cycle of excessive activity, encompassing all three aspects of the personality -- the physical/etheric body, the emotional body, as well as the mental bodies of humanity. All three bodies are being unduly stimulated and so, too, is our great Lord, the Planetary Logos, as He passes through an initiatory period in which we, as the brain cells in his body, are likewise subject to this potent spiritual stimulation. During such times it is more necessary than ever to hold to our spiritual practices, to our path, because it is said that without steadiness of purpose on the part of the "Group of World Mystics," the Plan could be interrupted on our planet and we could pass into a phase of materialism and darkness. Symbolically speaking, this group of which we can become a part is said to constitute "the door." And the ability to hold open this inner door, through the attainment of a point of spiritual tension, is said to be the major task of the group. Otherwise spiritual powers and capacities can die out through lack of use and the selfish purposes of the form nature will assume undue control (*A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 520).

This is another type of bridging work that we can undertake and at first glance it could appear to be beyond our capacities. We are asked to contribute to the building of an extra-planetary alignment, a rainbow bridge within consciousness between Venus and the Earth. As many of you probably know, the wisdom teachings highlight the sacred nature of the relationship between these two planets wherein Venus stands as the soul aspect or higher self while earth stands as the personality.

This Friday a major aspect in the cycle of these two planets comes into exactitude -- with Venus's inferior conjunction with the sun. At this time therefore Venus finds itself closest to the earth—standing as it is between the sun and the earth. This is a time that strengthens the influx of soul energy into the planet and consequently into all of us, aiding us to contribute towards the building of this inter-planetary bridge between the two planets. It is a time when the energy from the heart or spiritual center of the sun can be focalized like a lens via Venus resulting in a potent influx of the energy of love to pour in. As Friday coincides with the second day of distribution of the energies of the Scorpio full moon, it makes this interlude period particularly auspicious.

Now, holding the opportunities of this cycle in mind, let us come together in a moment of silence and hold open the door and make the needed alignment:

Lead us O Lord  
From darkness to light  
From the unreal to the real  
From death to immortality.

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There is another line to this mantram that we don't normally use but which we might want to consider using as we enter into the next cycle of our planetary life. It states:

“Lead us from chaos to beauty.”

There is an interesting accompaniment to this line that we're asked to use. It's another type of visualization, depicted in the form of a symbol that we can work with and thereby aid in this process of moving our planet forward into greater beauty..

This symbol is said to be in constant movement. We see before us a square composed of kaleidoscopic, inchoate, colors and indescribable confusion. Then we asked to visualize as superimposed upon it a radiant sun; and, then, to see emanating from this sun the seven colors of the rainbow, moving rhythmically in translucent and radiant shades of livingness. Perhaps particularly at the full moon time this visualization might prove particularly effective.

When we come to a consideration of the sign of Scorpio we know that it is the sign of the warrior, and when we look around the planet today we can see how strong this influence is at this time--for the battles are raging on all sides. Battling is a key quality of the spiritual path of discipleship for we all must wrestle and fight our way into a greater measure of light. We don't enter into that light quickly or easily. The Tibetan therefore urges his disciples to see to it that they battle.

There are many factors within the Scorpio experience that contribute to this tendency to battle but the one that I would like to address briefly tonight is that of the fourth ray because that influence controls strongly in Scorpio and is growing as we move towards 2025, when it officially comes into manifestation.

The fourth ray is the ray of color and contrast,, the ray of beauty and harmony but it is also the ray of conflict and strife. Each ray has a particular color associated with it and the fourth ray's color is yellow. This demonstrates its relationship with the mental plane and the quality of illumination that defines it. It's interesting to note the changing colors of the leaves at this time--the brilliant gold, orange and the deep reds—which stand as a reflection or symbol of the wisdom that shines through the harvest period of life, when the outer strength and vitality of the sun begins to fade and the inner wisdom of the soul shines forth. For the fourth ray is related to illumination, to buddhi, and is ruled by the planet Mercury, the Messenger.

This cycling in and out of the ray influences comes about because the Master Musician, the Logos or god of the universe, is moving the keys and sounding another note and bringing about another turning of the great wheel. When we think of this event from the macrocosmic level a very simple and beautiful picture emerges..

When a ray cycles in it brings with it all that which is attuned to it. It highlights the zodiacal and planetary influences associated with it. It brings in the colors and the sounds to which it is attuned. It brings in the flora, the fauna the human beings who are coming forth along that ray line.

The fourth ray is of particular importance to humanity we're told because it governs our soul. Therefore as this ray influence comes in during the next cycle, it will surely have a profound effect upon human consciousness, opening doors and pathways resulting in an increased sensitivity and vibratory responsiveness to all that is around. The fourth ray influence will surely swell the ranks of the discipleship group in the world because Scorpio rules disciples and Taurus governs the Group of World Servers.

The fourth ray will surely return to us the beauty of the daily life, of the small things, the joy of the present moment, as opposed to the fragmentation, the noisiness and disharmony of so much of contemporary life. This fourth ray energy works out in an individual who is full of contrasts, of highs and lows, of rushing forward with daring and intensity of feeling--of rajas; but also it is the ray of cowardice and paralysis, when under the influence of the other polarity, the quality of tamas. Therefore, when this influence is strong it can be difficult to maintain

emotional balance and poise which are so necessary to traverse the spiritual path. It's said, however, that the conflict engendered by this sign can also result in rapid progress along the way.

The major goal of the fourth ray is to create, but steadily the emanating source of those creations shifts and eventually arrives at the release of the hidden splendour and then the fourth ray person cries out—"Let the outer glory pass away and the beauty of the inner light reveal the one. Let dissonance give place to harmony, and from the centre of the hidden light, let the soul speak: Let the word roll forth: Beauty and glory veil me not. I stand revealed. I am."

If we've ever studied the Labors of Hercules we will generally know something of the Scorpio labor as it is the most well-known of them all. This labor is related to the nine tests that confront the individual in this stage, three tests related to each of the three lower vehicles. The nine tests bedevil Hercules in the forms of seething hydras that he tries to furiously attack by chopping off their heads, only to have two spring back in response. It's a daunting test, which we've surely all experienced in one way or another in our own attempts to release ourselves from our own faults, only to have them return more fast and furious than ever. Hercules eventually realized the futility of his efforts and surrendered onto his knees. That kneeling became the key to his release as it enabled him to lift the serpents into the light where they withered and died. Kneeling, or humility, provided the key to combatting all faults. It might sound like an easy accomplishment but, being human, we know that it isn't, for more often than not human beings are centered in the personality and the many tests and challenges are intended to precisely move us forward into the soul's light which can only be accomplished through humility.

If we search out some of the references to humility we will recognize the primary one being the equating of humility with "an adjusted sense of right proportion." This is a lot of misunderstanding of what humility is and that is why it is helpful to attempt to assume the responsibilities of our particular stage in consciousness, if we know what they are and where we stand. It isn't wise to assume someone else's responsibilities, someone who is ahead of us on the path, for that would only lead to frustration. Neither would it be helpful to assume the responsibilities of someone walking behind, for then we would not be living up to our capabilities. The Tibetan tells us there is a lot of false humility on the path and perhaps it is related to the devotional quality of the sixth ray influence which leads at times to not recognizing our own worth.

It's helpful, therefore, since humility is such a key quality, to search out some of the other advice the Tibetan has given out in this regard—because it is the key to the various stages at which most of us find ourselves. We are all dealing with some serpents or hydras that are lurking in some cavernous portion of ourselves and the really difficult ones are those that are as yet unrecognized.

In the Tibetan's remarks to one of his disciples he urged him towards the cultivation of this quality of humility and the best means to do so, at least for this particular disciple, was through that tried and tested quality of detachment. He taught and urged his student that the route to humility could be attained by detaching himself from the attachments to his chosen life task, and also from all past achievements, thereby setting himself free. Only then would he be able to determine his next step on the path of liberation. He told him he would have to pass through a phase of spiritual dissatisfaction that would lead him to a true "humility of heart" (*Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II, pp. 657*).

There are said to be two different types of humility--humility of head, which is largely theoretical and imposed and humility of heart which is practical and inherently spontaneous. With those descriptive words -- practical and spontaneous, we can see how humility is akin to goodwill, to something that is brought down into practical expression in the daily life and not worked up to by the personality.

In order to achieve this goal a certain emphasis upon the development of the heart qualities is needed.. Alice Bailey, a person who is seemed possessed a quite developed heart center, included within her Arcane School training an entire course dedicated to heart development, basing the course primarily upon the Agni Yoga book *Heart*. And many spiritual seekers need this cultivation as it was said that the failure of the Tibetan's group of disciples was on account of the underactivity of their heart centers.

Humility of heart enables us to let go of fixity of opinion and the consequent wish to impose those opinions on others. Through the cultivation of the heart one is enabled to recognize the many paths, the many ways, all leading to the same goal. The Tibetan wrote, "their attitude [when they have learnt this lesson of humility of heart] is ever the fostering, the interpreting and the strengthening of the ways and the methods which suit those with whom they are associated and...[it is the quality of] endeavoring to help" (*Discipleship in the New Age, Vol. II, p. 658*).

So as we enter into the depths of Scorpio its qualities of detachment and surrender and eventual triumph, lead us at the end of the day to a growing freedom of expression, The warrior nature of this sign is perhaps a lower reflection of what has come to be known in the east as the bodhisattva warrior, the compassion warrior.

Such warriors, realized beings, move consciously into the pain of the world in order to help alleviate it. As we follow we, too, can vow to take care and meet the needs as they arise in our daily lives, even if it sometimes means not liking how that feels. Through our own awakening we can help others to do the same. Then we move beyond the limits of conventional happiness, beyond enslavement to success and failure, praise and blame.

Great Buddhist Masters have prophesied that many aeons into the future a great battle will take place upon the earth, a battle which is sometimes called the final judgement day. It is then that the forces of aggression will amass on earth and no reason will be able to turn them back.

Perhaps all lesser wars are simply reflections of this eventual global conflagration. Then it's said, the kingdom of Shambhala will open its gates and its enlightened warriors will come forth into battle and the earth will eventually be liberated.

The tiny reflection of this global liberation is that which the individual achieves as he or she passes through the Scorpio experience, not once, but many times. In the end he emerges simply into the light of day. This is the place where three lights meet—the light of form, the light of soul, and the light of life itself--and so the light becomes very bright. The Word is made flesh. As the lights meet and blend nothing can deter the pilgrim and the way ahead stands clear.

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