

*Emerging Triumph*

Scorpio Full Moon November 2019

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Good evening and welcome to the full moon festival of Scorpio—a sign that captures comprehensively the challenges that confront human effort on the path of discipleship. In Scorpio also is detailed the tests to be undergone, the trials to be faced and the important triumphs to be achieved, individually, as a group and collectively as the whole human race -- the world disciple.

It is said that the consideration of Scorpio is of paramount importance in the life of evolving man and that “Scorpio at this particular stage of human evolution, governs the Path of Discipleship.”<sup>1</sup> [EA 195] The full moon of Scorpio occurs tomorrow at 8:34 AM EDT, we are therefore approaching the full tide of the available conditioning influences of Scorpio and working with its peculiar discipleship energies.

Let us pause for some few moments to recognize the identity of the disciple and what constitutes the disciple’s true nature, by solemnly sounding the Affirmation of the Disciple:

I am a point of light within a greater light  
I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of love divine  
I am a point of sacrificial fire focused within the fiery will of God  
And thus I stand

I am a way by which men may achieve  
I am a source of strength enabling them to stand  
I am a beam of light shining upon their way  
And thus I stand

And standing thus revolve  
And thread this way, the ways of men  
And know the ways of God  
And thus I stand.

The affirmation of the Disciple comprises three stanzas, with each stanza having three statements, and making nine statements in all, not counting the ending refrain. It is interesting that this triplicity of three, making nine, the number of initiation, significantly appears in the consideration of the discipleship challenges or opportunities in Scorpio. Thus through the experience of this time the “nine headed hydra” is vanquished triumphantly by the great son of man, Hercules, who is also a son of God.

This victory, this triumph over the nine vices, or difficulties, or challenges, awaits each disciple in Scorpio. For each vice but masks a virtue and we are told that “The tests of Scorpio are

necessarily three in nature as they concern intimately the readiness of the threefold personality: The three major tests are again divided into three stages, and upon the Path of Discipleship the man/woman may find himself passing into this sign for testing and experience nine times.”<sup>2</sup> It is as if the struggling disciple, while working in general at the whole spectrum of challenges, in equal measure dedicates his/her efforts specifically to a single test, trial and triumph during each of the decisive incarnations that occur under this sign.

What are these tests and trials encountered and overcome in Scorpio, which the Tibetan, illuminatingly characterizes as “the category of that which must be tested and proved to be non-existent ...”?

They are first of all the test of appetites: A (1). Sex—the relations of the pairs of opposites. These can be selfishly utilized or divinely blended. (2). Physical comfort—life conditions, selfishly appropriated. (3). Money—selfishly cornered. Secondly the test connected with desires: B (1). Fear—which conditions activity today. 2. Hate—which is a factor in conditioning relationship. (3). Ambition, as desire for power. And thirdly the test of the lower critical mind when unilluminated: C (1). Pride—which is intellectual satisfaction, making the mind the barrier to soul control. (2). Separativeness—which is the isolated attitude and which makes the mind the barrier to right group relations. (3). Cruelty—which is satisfaction with personality methods and which makes the lower mind the instrument of the sense of power. The energies of Scorpio lead to passing these tests and facing the trials, these energies of Scorpio are flooding the planet this very moment.

The identified nine faults and vices, as the Tibetan sometimes call these tests and trials, constitute a large part of our experience and difficulties.

These challenges are as old as humanity itself. They are the difficulties encountered by all individuals at some stage in varying intensities; they demonstrate among the poor and marginalized, the very rich and well connected and those in between, and are found in all walks of life; they are the elements that produce scandals and find expression in our literature, theatres, and often dramatized in our plays; they influence art and culture, and politics is not free from them.

Our newspapers chronicle humanity’s interactions with them; other forms of the media push them 24/7; for example, our televisions flash their effects in our sitting and bedrooms, the many electronic platforms inundate us with their frequency, and ordinary conversations focus on them incessantly and thereby swell their impact on us.

In all challenges and difficulties, some combinations of these tests are present with one or two or more predominating. Let everyone briefly reflect on a difficulty and see if one of these vices is not the culprit insinuating or instigating an inner riot, and leading to some problem, stress and difficulty

Recently, sex scandals have rocked the powerful in corporations and governments and embarrassed whole nations; greed, in the form of a selfish cornering of money and wealth, has reached new shocking levels and ugliness; the selfish use of power is all too common today. These unfolding scandals are occurring at an alarming rate and becoming ever more ubiquitous with each incident more shocking than that which preceded it.

Humanity is going through these tests on a universal scale; they are so widespread that surely there is no sensitive, intelligent person who is not affected by some form of this testing and, for the disciple, it is most severe, for she faces and experiences the tests simultaneously in all her vehicles.

The effect of the sum total of all these difficulties today may appear in the form of unease and unhappiness about the general state of affairs. And the tests and trials in Scorpio may cast an overwhelmingly dismal and gloomy countenance on the prospect of the discipleship labor in this sign. TRIUMPH is, however, one of the keynotes and the positive significance at the heart of the Scorpio experience. This point cannot be overstated, and underlies the achievement in Scorpio and is one of the deepest reasons why human effort will eventually triumph over evil.

Therefore old and ancient as these tests and trials are, demands to face these challenges and solve them on a global scale have taken on a new immediacy and clamor, as witnessed in the turmoil in many parts of the world, and in all aspects of life on earth.

Numerous groups have sprung up all over the world, these groups were almost none existent a few decades ago and which, today, are dedicating their energies to helping solve the many problems facing humanity –the world disciple. These individuals and groups, whose name is legion, the NGWS, are tackling every possible problem connected and associated with the establishing of Right Human Relationships.

A quote makes the significance of their efforts very clear: “When these faults – the nine tests—are realized and are overcome, the result is two-fold : the establishment of right relations with the soul and also with the environment. These two results are the goal of all tests in Scorpio.”<sup>3</sup> This right relationship with the soul demonstrates in the world as the establishment of right human relations in the larger environment. The salutary recognition is that, this is increasingly taking place in the world now and it is evidence of the progress of humanity as the world disciple. Humanity is making a stride.

We may see the tests and trials in terms of challenges attendant to the birth of the Christ in the heart, others consider them in terms of the Baptism by Fire, both individually, as a group and globally. These great experiences, we are told, are the two Initiations of importance for humanity and are under the jurisdiction of the Christ, whose reappearance, motivates all our efforts. At the same time we are told that “Scorpio is an aspect of the Fixed Cross, which is of peculiar and specialized potency upon the path of Discipleship, and preparing, with its tests and trials : b) The disciple for the first, second and third initiations. After the third Initiation, its

peculiar testing potency is no longer felt.”<sup>4</sup> We seek the center of this cross, so that “from that center we, the souls will outward move”.

Only four years ago, a miracle happened on Earth! The world quietly witnessed the advent of that astonishing triumphant seed of an accomplishment of humanity, as it reverberated through the UN—the adoption of the SDGs by all nations. The UN found her voice and the voice of the people and, on that day, became the voice of God—Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

The fact that all nations, without exception, resonated with the ideas in the SDGs provided a great alignment, an instance of the “as above, so below” relationship. Indeed may we say that this happening is one of the contributing evidences that a lighted path from the below to the above, and from the above to the below has indeed flashed forth and humanity has started a triumphant march on that Lighted Path. It is a path which is at present is quite tenuous but which during the coming decades will increasingly and progressively grow, contributing radiantly to the forging of strands upon strands of Light, Love and Power.

Our responsibility to the environment of the threefold world has been dramatized before the whole of humanity through the focusing of attention on Climate Change. This concern has also been echoed in the SDGs 12,13,14 and 15. In goals 14 and 15 the symbolic depiction is arresting: Life Below Water and Life on Land. These words are sensitively and acutely awakening us to the realization that it is the safe guarding of life that is at issue and calling humanity’s attention to the recognition and affirmation of the one life, in its many expression, that pulsates through all organisms.

In the dramatic experience of Hercules, the ancient and great son of man who is also a great son of God, depicted for us in the labor to be carried out in the sign of Scorpio, the Test, Trial and Triumph faced the eternal disciple in the form of having to confront and overcome the nine-headed Hydra. The detailed narrative of the encounter is quite instructive:

“The hydra, its nine angry heads breathing flame, emerged. Its scaly tail lashed furiously the water and the mud, bespattering Hercules. Three fathoms high the monster stood, a thing of ugliness that looked like it has been made of all the foulest thoughts conceived since time began.

The hydra sprang at Hercules and sought to coil about his feet. He stepped aside and dealt it such a crushing blow that one of its heads was immediately dismembered. No sooner had this horrid head fallen into the swamp(bog) than two new heads grew in its place. Again and again, Hercules attacked the raging monster, but it grew stronger, not weaker with each assault. Then Hercules remembered that his Teacher has said, ‘we rise by kneeling’. Casting aside his club, Hercules knelt, grasped the hydra with his bare hands, and raised it aloft. Suspended in mid-air its strength diminished. On his knees, then, he held the hydra high above him, that purifying air and light might have their due effect. The monster, strong in darkness and in sloughy mud, soon lost its power when the rays of the sun and the touch of the wind fell on it.

... Fainter and fainter grew its struggles till the victory was won. The nine heads drooped, then ... fell limply forward. But only when they lifeless lay, did Hercules perceive the mystic head that was immortal. Then Hercules cut off the hydra's one immortal head and buried it, still fiercely hissing, beneath a rock.

In this struggle Hercules applied and used the old, usual methods which did not work. These are the personality methods of the un-regenerated human being. The solution laid buried in his mind, lodged there by the soul, the Teacher and has to be recognized. This recognition was symbolized in this case as the remembrance of 'what the Teacher has said'. There is a great lesson inherent in the word recognition. Discipleship significantly involves Recognition. This for a very long time, is not realized. And so long as this condition persists the labor is not accomplished.

And how illuminating is it that whenever Hercules applied personality forces, matters grew worse. In fact whenever he severed one of the heads of the hydra, two more heads grew in place of the head just severed. <sup>45</sup>

In all these dramatizations of the zodiacal signs found in the Labors of Hercules, the disciple receives a counsel from the Teacher—his soul, his higher self, and very often he recalls this counsel after his early attempts had failed. Failure and struggle accompany his efforts and then lead to an awakening.

A wise humility, indicated by Hercules kneeling in order to succeed, is called for in the Tests, Trials, and the Triumphs in Scorpio. That humility is described as "the sense of right proportion," without which we cannot truly face and know ourselves. Kneeling here symbolizes humility, it appeals, beseeches, implores and reflects and recognizes. But how do these attitudes apply here?

Hercules was neither beseeching nor imploring the hydra. The kneeling is an indication of the recognition of a new environment where standing, usually confidently and proudly is not proper and does not work. Kneeling is the recognition of a sacred environment evocative of "the listening ear" and "the eye of vision"; the humble gesture of kneeling ushered Hercules into the solemn environment that is invocative of the intuition—the voice of the Teacher—and the illuminating light of the intuition-- that light in which all things can be known, revealing the triumphant way.

Hercules lifts the hydra into the air, kneeling and thereby providing the strength and stability needed to hold the struggling hydra securely in the air. His actions hold a major instruction for all disciples when facing the Tests and Trials and indicate "the state and the place where the magic of the soul is wrought"-- the realm from which Triumph comes. The air here symbolized the mental plane and beyond; reason, reflection, thoughtfulness—mentality as a reflection of the action of the will in providing direction-- and intuition indicating the sure triumphant way.

Let us end with the following quote: “And Scorpio carries the test right down into the physical plane life, and then, when it is faced and handled there, the life of the man is carried into heaven, and the problem which the test involved is solved by the reasoning mind.”<sup>6</sup> (EA p. 204) On this note of triumph, let us meditate by “Letting in the Light.”

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<sup>1</sup> *Esoteric Astrology*, Alice A. Bailey, p. 195.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 203

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 206

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 199

<sup>5</sup> *The Labours of Hercules*, Alice A. Bailey (Scorpio labour).

<sup>6</sup> *Esoteric Astrology*, p. 204