

FULL MOON TALK SCORPIO October 2020 London

Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant

Mario Eugster

Good afternoon friends and welcome to the Festival in the sign of Scorpio.

We are all too aware that Humanity is currently living through intense and testing times. Hence, the Festival of Scorpio would appear to have particular significance in this year 2020 as it is a sign associated with tests, trials and crisis. And, of course, in the Northern Hemisphere, the sign of Scorpio is associated with autumn, transition into winter and the end of the harvest season. At this time of the year many religious and spiritual traditions are celebrating the mystery of death, rebirth and transition as the world enters into the darker season of winter.

As it happens, today's Full Moon Festival also coincides with Halloween. Whilst this festival has in recent times been celebrated largely as a spectacle of ghostly and spooky costumes, parties and sweets, the roots of Halloween are of deep spiritual significance and have ancient origins. Halloween is associated with the Christian Festival of All Hallows' Eve, the day before All Saints' Day. The more ancient roots, however, go back to the Celtic Festival of Samhain, the festival of the arrival of winter and celebration of the dead. According to Irish mythology, this was a time when the 'doorways' to the Otherworld opened, allowing supernatural beings and the souls of the dead to come into our world.

The entrance into the darker half of the year sets the conditions for deeper, inward reflection and heightens the sensitivity to the more hidden aspects of life as the pace of life naturally slows down. When the days grow shorter, the transition between day and night becomes more pronounced and nature unveils a particular radiance in revealing a dazzling display of light and colour. The heightened perception in this prolonged transition between day and night seems to mirror the inner perception of the "thinning of the veil" which the Old Celtic and Druidic traditions referred to. This time invites us to explore the relationships between darkness and light, between life and death in the outer world, in nature and within ourselves.

Before we continue, let us pause and link up as a group and together say the affirmation of the Disciple:

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, focussed 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 tread this way the ways of men,

And know the ways of God.

And thus I stand.

OM

The theme of death and transition associated with Halloween and the old Festival of Samhain is reflected in the astrological qualities of Scorpio. These inner qualities resonate with what the Tibetan has to say in the following esoteric statement in relation to Scorpio:

“Esoterically as well as exoterically, Scorpio is the sign of death and burial in the earth, of descent into the depths in order to be lifted again on to the heights (the mountain top in Capricorn). It is stated in some of the most ancient books that “the heat of the earth, the mother, and the sting of the scorpion are the beneficent gifts which the turning of the wheel gives to the man at the beginning and at the end “. (Esoteric Astrology, p. 96)

This ancient phrase is curious and perhaps rather abstruse. Death, burial in the earth and descent into the depth all conjure up impressions of the darkness of matter and the dissolution of the form life. However, returning again to the ancient festival of Samhain, which coincides with winter as the phase of death in the yearly cycle of nature, the burial in the earth also indicates the return to the source of life. During this time seeds are planted, which the sleep of winter embraces and guards until the time is ripe for new life to be brought forth, guided by the power of the Light of the Sun. This can be seen as an outer reflection in nature of processes occurring deep in our own being. Rudolf Steiner, in his book “How to know Higher Worlds”, advocates an exercise to observe and meditate on processes in nature such as blooming, blossoming and growing as well as on processes of decay and dissolution of form to gain insights into the hidden, inner forces which are at work in nature and in ourselves.

In order to refine our perceptive faculties, Steiner suggests:

“The first step is to direct the soul’s attention toward certain processes in the world around us. These processes are life, as it buds, grows, and flourishes; and, on the other hand, all phenomena connected with withering, fading, and dying away. Wherever we turn our eyes, these two processes are present together. By their nature, they always evoke feelings and thoughts in us. Normally, however, we do not give ourselves sufficiently to these feelings and thoughts. We rush from one sense impression to the next. Now, however, we must consciously and intensively focus our full attention on them. Whenever we perceive a quite definite form of blossoming and flourishing, we must banish all else from our souls and, for a short time, dwell on this one impression alone.” (How to Know Higher Worlds, R Steiner, p. 64-65)

He goes on to say that the ‘flourishing’ is akin to the feelings and impressions associated with sunrise and the ‘withering and dying’ similar to the feelings evoked by sunset.

These are beautiful and helpful suggestions to approach nature with a deeply meditative and observant attitude, which is also reminiscent of Goethe’s scientific and artistic investigations. The realization of the deep interconnectedness with the forces of nature appears to be of utmost importance for humanity in order to address the ecological crisis and make the necessary changes in our relationship to the three kingdoms of nature. The rekindling of a sense of sacredness of nature, as it is celebrated in ancient Festivals such as Samhain, can play a vital role in reigniting a deep respect for the forces and rhythms in nature.

The Tibetan also uses a beautifully autumnal metaphor in relation to death when saying that *“through death, a great at-one-ing process is carried forward; in the “fall of a leaf” and its consequent identification with the soil on which it falls, we have a tiny illustration of this great and eternal process of at-one-ing, through becoming and dying as a result of becoming”.* (Esoteric Healing, p.445-446)

Now, pondering on the spiritual significance of Scorpio for our times it may be necessary to expand on our understanding of death, transition and rebirth. As Steiner suggests, death is a law governing all form manifestation, including physical, emotional and mental forms. It appears that what we are witnessing at the moment in world affairs is a dying of old, collective thoughtforms and emotional habits. The resistance to letting go of these habits appears to feed the current polarizations and emotionally charged discourses and conflicts in many fields of human activity, not least in politics and economics.

When crisis is not used for evolutionary growth, it can lead to stagnation, paralysis or regression with attempts to resurrect glorified fantasies of the past, the so-called 'good' old times. It would appear that this resistance resonates with the form aspect of the keynote of Scorpio: "Let Maya flourish and deception rule." (*A Treatise on White Magic*, p.442). This keynote sums up, perhaps, what we can observe today in the context of what is referred to as post-truth politics; this seems to be particularly enabled by social media. With all its wonderful potential, when used unconsciously or with manipulative motives, these communication media can reveal and amplify the collective glammers and illusions very effectively.

In order to face today's challenges, we need to deeply reflect on the Soul aspect of Scorpio, so let's return to the first statement of the Tibetan, where he weaves a direct line of relationship between Scorpio and Capricorn. Scorpio, pointing to the depths of matter and earth, leads to Capricorn on the path up to the mountaintop, the inner place of initiatory experience and progressive realizations of Light, Consciousness and Spirit. This path points directly to the role of humanity to eventually become the lighted bridge between matter and spirit. On this journey, Scorpio sends out a spiritual call to humanity to make use of crisis by engaging in the work of redemption of maya and deception - within us, in all our daily relationships and in service to the world.

Do the 'beneficent gifts' of the 'heat of the earth, the mother, and the sting of the scorpion' offer us a hint as to the nature of the qualities of Scorpio? And how are these qualities enabling the spiritual aspirant to undertake this intense work of 'lifting up to the heights of Capricorn'?

The 'heat of the earth' could be associated with the latent fire in matter and the life-giving heat of mother earth sustaining all life forms. The fire aspect is at its deepest level at-one with Spirit. The mother aspect may relate to the nurturing and embracing quality of nature as an expression of Divine Love and the aspect of the Divine Feminine. The sting of Scorpio on the other hand might point to the forces of crisis which challenge stagnation and crystallized forms. Hence, some of the energies related to Scorpio can cause significant disruption at the level of form but would appear to be ultimately beneficent if we learn to understand how to consciously work with them. The Tibetan further emphasises the importance of this sign as follows:

In order the better to understand the nature of discipleship and the processes of stabilisation and right direction, we must precede the Capricornian experience of initiation with a careful study of the spiritual implications of the sign of Scorpio and of its function in providing "points of crisis" and "moments of reorientation", as this will be of the utmost value to the earnest student.

The tests of Scorpio are necessarily three in nature as they concern intimately the readiness of the threefold personality: 1. To reorient itself to the life of the soul and later 2. to evidence readiness of initiation 3. To demonstrated sensitivity to the Plan thus becoming the one-pointed disciple in Sagittarius. (Esoteric Astrology p. 202/203)

He then elaborates on the tests and crisis in the personality life which are associated with *firstly*, the physical appetites in relation to sex, money and physical comfort, *secondly*, the test related to emotional desires concerning fear, hatred and ambition and *thirdly*, the mental trials in relation to pride, separateness and cruelty.

A study of these may prove highly instructive and illuminating when considering the current world situation, as it appears that humanity's challenges and manifold crisis are intimately connected with the tests and trials of these three shadow aspects of the personality and they could be considered in light of the current planetary and global crisis. The current battlefield therefore seems to be on the astral/emotional and mental levels, and it appears that humanity is asked to resolve these problems on these levels through 'reorientation to the Life of the Soul'.

The series of intensifying crisis over the last years are continuing to affect the global community and not least the institutions, relationships and political agreements created after the Second World War. The current disruptions in politics, world economics and world ecology are rippling through all aspects of human life and are further intensified by the current pandemic.

In midst of these global crisis, we have recently celebrated the 75th birthday of the United Nations, the beacon and guardian of the ideas and vision which light the way towards the Unity of World Nations - the awakening of the Soul in the One Humanity. The following anniversary statement was issued by the United Nations:

"The UN is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts. Will we emerge stronger and better equipped to work together? Or will distrust and isolation grow further? 2020 must be a year of dialogue, when we come together to discuss our priorities as a human family, and how we can build a better future for all.

Covid-19 is a stark reminder of the need for cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. Our response will determine how fast the world recovers, whether we achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and how well we handle pressing challenges: from the climate crisis to pandemics, inequalities, new forms of violence, and rapid changes in technology and in our population." (https://www.un.org/en/un75)

In light of this statement by the UN, might we consider the 'stark reminder' as a version of the sting of Scorpio? Another wake-up call for humanity to realize our intimate inter-connectedness and essential oneness with each other, and all life forms within the Great Planetary Life? A sting to prompt us into the realization that deeper cooperation and joint spiritual and practical efforts will tackle the current problems, rather than self-contraction and isolation? And, to discover that the essential unity of Life is the deeper reality rather than the illusion of a world of separate fragments?

The quantum physicist and philosopher David Bohm put it this way:

"Some might say: 'Fragmentation of cities, religions, political systems, conflict in the form of wars, general violence, fratricide, etc., are the reality. Wholeness is only an ideal, toward which we should perhaps strive.' But this is not what is being said here. Rather, what should be said is that wholeness is what is real, and that fragmentation is the response of this whole to man's action, guided by illusory perception, which is shaped by fragmentary thought." (David Bohm, Wholeness and the Implicate Order, p.40)

Esoterically speaking, spiritual work and service under these challenging conditions requires a deep understanding of the energies and qualities of Scorpio in order to face the trials and tests associated with this sign and seize the spiritual opportunities provided. This is achieved by cultivating an undeterred and fearless attitude in the face of adversity – hence, the keynote of Scorpio invokes the warrior archetype. As servers we are called to continuously strive to love and work with a lighted mind and loving heart. This enables spiritual aspirants and disciples to stand in the Light of the Soul, free from the clouds of the extreme emotional and mental turmoil. Thus, we enter the battlefield as a "point of Light within the Greater Light" – becoming a redeeming, lifegiving presence in the world. On this at times strenuous Path, the groups of world servers are sustained by continuously igniting and transmitting the flame of hope in the face of adversity - or as put by a female admiral in one of the recent Star Wars movies "The Last Jedi": "Hope is like the sun. If you only believe in it when you see it, you will never make it through the night." This inspiring phrase does evoke a warrior spirit, which is akin to the more spiritually infused archetype of the warrior in the Eastern martial arts traditions such as the Japanese discipline of Aikido, a martial arts practice based on spiritual principles of non-violence, harmlessness and constructive solution of conflicts.

The founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba, offered spiritual instructions to practitioners to this effect. They are called doka - meaning 'Songs of the Path' - and are rather beautiful as they embody the transmuted and elevated archetype of the warrior which resonates with the keynote of Scorpio: "Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant".

Before we go into meditation, I would like to share two dokas by Master Ueshiba:

*Foster and polish
The warriors spirit
While serving in the world;
Illuminate the Path in accordance
With the Divine Will*

*A warrior receives
The gift of life
And establishes life everywhere:
Love is life, the essence
Of the Divine Plan*

(Stevens, J. The Essence of Aikido, p. 61/62)

Let us now go into group meditation and consciously work with the energies of Scorpio.

References:

- Bailey, A. (1951) *Esoteric Astrology*.
Bailey, A. (1953) *Esoteric Healing*.
Bailey, A. (1934) *A Treatise on White Magic*.
Bohm, D. (1980/2005) *Wholeness and the Implicate Order*. Routledge Classics (e-book).
Steiner, R (1909/1994) *How to Know Higher Worlds*. Anthroposophic Press (e-book).
Stevens, J. (1993) *The Essence of Aikido, Spiritual Teachings of Morihei Ueshiba*. Kodansha International.
United Nations Website: www.un.org