

Festival of Scorpio, Full Moon Meditation Meeting NY

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Hello everyone and welcome to this Full Moon Mediation Meeting in the sign of Scorpio.

Scorpio is a sign of trial and testing, of the transmutation of emotion-desire, and also the sign which governs that most difficult stage upon the path of return, Discipleship. Its keynote is triumph—a spiritual triumph which comes only once the lower self has been surmounted, the master within the cave of the heart is known, and the disciple in the stress of pain “loses himself to find himself” and through service and sacrifice produces at-onement and finds peace. This is the peace of perpetual service, of great Joy and everlasting love.

Today we meet not so much to talk about or contemplate the nature of this sign—but rather for an act of applied discipleship—group meditation at the time of the full moon. The purpose of this work is threefold: 1) To facilitate an open flow of communication between Hierarchy and Humanity through which Ideas originating in the Mind of God can be mediated into human consciousness. 2) To establish a scientific rhythm of invocation and evocation which will be the foundation of all approach to the divine in the coming age. 3) To prepare human consciousness for the approach of the Hierarchy and its externalization within and among the world of Men.

These are the sacred reasons for which we humbly gather here today—to play our part with stern resolve and with faith, not only in our own limited capacity, but in the perfect divinity of our own souls and in the unerring wisdom of that great, august body with which we seek to cooperate. May the soul triumph over every obstacle, and may the Great Ones guide our thoughts, our hands, and all of our work here tonight.

As we begin, it is important to keep in mind that meditation is the preeminent service technique for the disciple. For through its means, a channel of communication remains open between Hierarchy and Humanity. It establishes a rhythm of approach to the Hierarchy and enables the disciple to take his stand at the very center of the cross of discipleship, balancing the horizontal and the vertical, as sensitive to higher impression as he is capable of expressing it in living service to his fellow man.

The Hierarchy can only reach the hearts and minds of humanity via the world discipleship group; it has no other mechanism of contact. The success of Their work is therefore largely in our hands.

With this in mind, let us take a moment to put aside our insecurities, our hatreds, our regrets, our irritations, and all our worldly aspirations. Let us join together in a moment of focused silence and then sound together the final lines of the esoteric catechism which is displayed on your screen.

What part, O Pilgrim on the Way, play you within this scheme? How will you enter into peace? How stand before your Lord?

“I play my part with stern resolve, with earnest aspiration; I look above; I help below: I dream not, nor I rest; I toil; I serve; I reap; I pray; I mount the cross; I tread the Way; I tread upon the work I do; I mount upon my slain self; I forego peace; I forfeit rest, and in the stress of pain, I lose myself and find my Self, and enter into peace.” [IHS, pp. 212-13]

It is important to know something about how the Hierarchy seeks to use the opportunity of any particular full moon period. The intuition is ultimately the faculty that discerns the nature of these energies and how Hierarchy plans to use them. But employing the concrete mind in some study and reflection on the major conditioning constellation is prudent, for the lower mind is the foundation upon which the work of the higher is performed.

Scorpio is the sign of trial and testing, especially for the disciple, but also for humanity as it approaches the first initiation. This can only be achieved after a reorientation and reorganization of the entire psychological life of humanity with all of the changes in culture and civilization that this entails. The first initiation marks the birth of the Christ within the heart, it means that the consciousness of the soul has reached down to the very depths of the personality life, to the physical plane, and there created an awakening and realignment to spiritual values. Scorpio brings these tests and trials to the physical plane and enables humanity to take the next great leap forward in its spiritual evolution.

There are many signs today that Humanity is approaching the First Initiation, and evidence can be seen in humanity's response to the many crises it currently faces. It is humanity's response to these crises which indicates readiness—that the measure of goodwill and spiritual values at last outweighs selfishness, greed, and materialism. The rapid precipitation of crisis does not indicate failure. Mixed motive, the perpetuation of selfishness, and a continued "withering of the Law" is to be expected as Humanity approaches what will be a monumental turning point in its psychic and emotional life.

One of the first signs that humanity has taken the First Initiation will be the appearance of an entirely new creative art. Devotion to materialism will be replaced by the creation of that which more adequately reflects the Real, the Beautiful, and the True. All of this will coincide with the Reappearance of the World Teacher, the Christ, who necessarily presides at the First and Second Initiations and therefore must and will reappear once humanity passes through this "new birth".

On the discipleship path, the tests and trials in Scorpio are ever self-initiated, and increasingly difficult for they are faced on multiple levels of one's constitution at once. The entire lower self is put under tension and strain as a result of the disciple's sustained and conscious effort at reorientation. At a high stage of development, the entire past is evoked. Every latent unconquered situation, unresolved fault, uncontrolled disposition is summoned to the surface and coheres into that psychological entity known as the Dweller on the Threshold. At the same time, the Angel of the Presence is also evoked and the two come face to face in a profound battle of opposites. This battle is resolved when the personality recognizes itself as the Dweller and enters consciously into relation with the Angel. In humility and self-effacement, the personality eventually concedes to the Angel in Whose light all evil dispositions fade away. The two parts of the disciple at last become one. Fusion is attained and ever greater avenues of service open before his way.

As Scorpio is the sign of discipleship, it is a good time to reflect on what it means to be a disciple. What are its requirements? What are its goals? And most importantly, what does it mean to serve as a disciple within or on the periphery of a Hierarchical Ashram?

The Way of the Disciple has been called "the lonely way of self-unfoldment, of self-effacement, and of self-discipline...the way of mental illumination and intuitive perception." This way is the way of soul

consciousness above all else and necessitates developing a sensitive response to that “still small voice of the soul.” Disciples therefore seek first mental illumination, soul consciousness, and the demonstration of all the qualities of the soul: group consciousness, creative intelligence, service, sacrifice, and universal love. Most importantly, the disciple must balance his inner development with an outer life of service. All that he comes to know himself to be on the inner planes must become objective and expressed in the spiritual livingness of the daily life.

As soon as the disciple is able to function as the soul and establishes that two-way channel of “ascending radiance and descending illumination,” he enters into relationship, unconscious at first, with some Ashram within the Hierarchy. As he proceeds towards the center of the group spiritual life, he learns to participate (at first in very small degree) in the Ashramic meditation which is ceaseless, magnetic, and radiatory in its effect. The disciple’s field of service is always self-chosen and self-initiated; it emerges from his or her participation in this group meditation.

Tonight we gather together for a group meditation and can keep these many ideals in mind as we strive forward in service upon the way. Today is a day of preparation before tomorrow’s full moon. We are asked to drop all of our own problems, personal and spiritual, and to meditate upon the Plan, and how we as individuals and the group can cooperate with it.

And as a way of preparing for tomorrow’s Day of Safeguarding, we can consider one final question: what exactly is meant to be safeguarded on that day? It is certainly no aspect of the form life which needs safeguarding, not our own thoughts or bodies or consciousness. Nor is it even the group integration, the group mind or the group ideas. What must be safeguarded is the Plan itself. The exact moment of the Full Moon is the moment of climax of a united act of invocation involving both Hierarchy and Humanity. Each month, the image of the Plan in all its livingness streams forth into human hearts and minds and is impressed upon the very fabric of human thinking. Much of it is misinterpreted, misappropriated, and misunderstood. But every month, in cyclic rhythm, the seed of divinity within Humanity is coaxed gently and steadily awake. The disciples of the world stand as representatives of Humanity in this great act of invocation, and the means of triumph lie in our hands.

We must keep the channel open, and we must keep the channel pure, above all we must see past all illusion and glamour. We must see the way, and become the way, and persevere past every obstacle and distraction—for the group, for Humanity, but most of all for the Plan itself.