

Scorpio Festival

London, 7 November 2022

Warrior I am, and from the battle I emerge triumphant Evangelia Tsavdari

Hello and welcome to this full moon meditation meeting!

Today's Full Moon, as you may have already heard, culminates in a total lunar eclipse tomorrow morning, at 11:02 GMT. Eclipses, both solar and lunar are regular occurrences within any calendar year, and we are fortunate to be holding today's meditation meeting deeply within the influence of a lunar one.

In psychological astrology as pioneered by Dane Rudhyar, the Moon is symbolic of the past, with its habits and all matter of automatic processes, not least of which, the autonomic nervous system in humans and animals. The significance and usefulness of the lunar function is undeniable because by regulating processes that have previously been consciously mastered, it frees up space for the conscious engagement with the developmental task at hand. Imagine how crazy our days would be if we had to actively keep the process of breathing or our heart going! Hence, the role of lunar energy is to act as a diligent guardian of all that is already familiar and adequately practiced. As with all energy, no distinction is made between what is kept up and running in the manner described; it makes no difference if the activity is no longer or has never been beneficial for the system or the organism. For in the solilunar pair, it is the Sun that is associated with the present and with consciousness. Lunar eclipses mark temporal points when the solar objective is easier to grasp. As lunar influence temporarily lessens, it is easier to perceive and examine consciously how we conduct ourselves mentally, emotionally and physically – not always a pleasant exercise. Lunar eclipses mark then, periods of opportunity when amassed realisation is possible; in terms of the evolution of consciousness, one can achieve within weeks what would otherwise be covered in months or years. The catch is that any such rapid progress principally concerns consciousness. The implication is that any potential may appear fulfilled or very near fulfilment for a while, but once solar influence returns to its regular levels, which happens sooner rather than later, what is left behind is a noticeably greater divide between theory and practice, between realisation and implementation. Still, this event leaves the field of discontent fertilised, and successfully sown with the seed of desired future development.

The aforementioned phase of implementation, is closely linked to the energy of Scorpio. In evolutionary stages preceding that of Scorpio, consciousness remains more or less identified with the personality; its attention is immersed in the pursuit of physical, emotional or intellectual personality objectives. In Scorpio, the self-realisation of consciousness is beginning to gain clarity, intensifying the conflict between the soul and its personality. On the one hand, there is a consciousness that has started advancing in self-awareness relatively recently, on the other hand there is the confidence of a rather progressed self-aware and self-serving personality. This stage provides then prime conditions for the decisive introduction of a greater synthesising factor: spirit. In Scorpio and Sagittarius, the spirit can facilitate the successful harmonisation between consciousness and form, enabling the commencement of spirit and soul-infused form integration in Capricorn. Scorpio is cited as the zodiacal sign of humanity but despite its fundamental role in shaping humankind, the quality and purpose of its influence often remain elusive.

It is easier to put things in perspective, when one remembers that the influence of any zodiac sign represents a very long journey with many intermediate stops within a massive web or relationships, which brings into contact very distant points in space and time. In the case of Scorpio and humanity, this journey commences in Sirius, a star in the constellation Canis Major, and terminates in the human etheric body.

Sirius comes with some serious credentials, starting with the most obvious one, namely that it is the brightest star in earth's night sky. It has been identified as a stellar system, a binary (although a third one has been hypothesised) in mid-nineteenth century, relatively recently, given its prominence in almost all recorded ancient cultures. Both stars are rather mature by how we presently assess stellar evolution, and as anticipated, quite ahead of our own star, the Sun. In esoteric teachings, Sirius is portrayed as home to the Hierarchy of Beings who represent the evolutionary objective ahead of our own planet's spiritual Hierarchy. The latter operates under the influence of Taurus, the zodiac sign identified as the polar opposite of Scorpio.

The close link and the significance of Sirius in ancient cultures can be traced easily, from the Sothic calendar of ancient Egypt, and ancient Greek culture's reverence for the star as displayed in Socrates "by the Dog" oath in his public address before his execution, to the biblical verse querying whether the seeker can "loose the cords of Orion" – the three stars in Orion's belt being an easy way to locate Sirius – to ancient Khaldeans' calling Sirius "the Dog Star that leads", to numerous other cultures in whose lore, Sirius appears inextricably and majestically woven.

Similarly, Sirius intermediary, Scorpio, also has a meaningful resume, although it is often rather one-sided or biased, emphasising strongly the great personality trials that its energy facilitates and not near enough, if at all, the spiritual triumph they make possible; the triumph of raising the personality to the heavens, a triumph facilitated by the qualities of endless compassion, unlimited sympathy and courage, and millennia long and arduous effort.

One story that comes to mind when considering this zodiac sign is the eighth labour of Hercules, when he goes against the Hydra of Lerna. It serves to remember though, that Hercules, the symbol of the disciple, is working overall under the influence of Scorpio. And, in the wonderful myth of his twelve labours another significant connection is discreetly presented: that between the signs of Gemini and Scorpio. In the labour associated with Gemini, to gather the golden apples of Hesperides, Hercules has to wrestle with another serpent, Antaeus. When the hero defeats it, it reminds him that they will meet again in Scorpio. In sidereal astrology, Sirius is currently said to be in Gemini, meaning, that the star's location as viewed from Earth, falls within the portion of the sky associated with this zodiac sign.

The energy of both Gemini and Scorpio decisively ushers in actualised duality as an organ that, in a way, compels the emergence of a third, synthetic factor. Even though the nature of the pair of opposites under question may differ, the manner of their synthesis is in both cases by means of the elevation of consciousness as high as necessary to see the opposing ends simultaneously. One might even say, high enough to see the "serpent" moving between them, connecting them by being the means of their opposition.

It's a very simple concept but one that has eluded mankind for a while although thankfully, not our pioneers.

Why then is "destruction", including "self-destruction", so readily associated with the energy of Scorpio?

In relation to the evolution of earthly humankind, Scorpio energy is relayed to this solar system by means of heavenly mediators expressing three different energies within it. These bear the names: Devotion and Idealism, Harmony through Conflict, and Will – Power. The aspect most readily perceived is the one associated with the first, Devotion and Idealism. It signifies the way of Light in the Scorpio processes: revelation of the elements in a person or a group's life, which remain unconsolidated primarily due to emotional or practical reasons embellished with emotion. The factor which makes the process possible is desire, as it fuels the person or group's persistent and one-pointed pursuit of the object of desire, offering them the opportunity to venture beyond themselves and become acquainted with other forces in their inner or outer environment, counteracting or aligning with their endeavour. Thus emerges new understanding of the dynamics operating in a given framework, and later an improved understanding of the discontinuities present within. In humanity's development, this stage's timing is now past but whether humanity is past this stage remains to be decided.

This introductory engagement with the energy of Scorpio, and humanity's inherent connection with the energy of Harmony through Conflict – most frequently perceived through two major glamours it generates when working through humankind, war and the pursuit of comfort – constitute the main reason why Scorpio influence is interpreted and described largely as negative and as causing adversity in individual or group life. It does often cause war obliterating comfort, at least for a time. It is not easy to come to terms with the fact that humanity, remains to a large extent under the low octave of this zodiac sign's expression.

But Scorpio is one of the two triple signs in the zodiac, the other one being Virgo, and it is of immense importance that this is remembered.

In astrology, the concept of triplicity as well as the definite orientation toward the spirit that Scorpio marks in the life of the disciple, is communicated by the glyph of the zodiac sign. Three touchdowns, two bouncing up to touch down again, the third pointing upwards to become the arrow in the glyph of Sagittarius; one for the physical body, two for emotion, three for the mind, the third reaching out to become intuition, a compass, henceforth pointing to the true north of spiritual progress.

This triplicity is also attested to the three symbols traditionally associated with Scorpio: the scorpion, the snake, and the eagle. The period of the scorpion, as very briefly presented here is surely very familiar. When the contrast between what is materially and what is emotionally preferable becomes pronounced enough, having wreaked adequate havoc within oneself and/or the environment, mediation and the resolution of conflict becomes itself the object of desire. Thus, the former conflict is resolved and the alignment of the physical body and the emotional body, with sensitivity as the dominant factor, is a fact. This can be historically observed in the life of humanity, as any person or population that emerges triumphant from the struggle for material survival, guickly moves on to the strugale for emotional satisfaction. When that too is satisfied, a new antagonist appears on the stage and the story is repeated on a higher turn of the spiral. It ends again in peace but this time with intellect as the dominant factor.

As in Scorpio conflict is meant to terminate in harmony, the unity that emerges every time becomes, again, a pole in another, greater pair of opposites. With pairs of neutron stars and even black holes coalescing now observed, it becomes easier to imagine equivalent processes governing evolutionary careers from the tiny human atom to the immense galactic atom. The scales involved are so grand that they seem other worldly, but the law of correspondences ever remains a valuable tool. One that enables a richer understanding of our macrocosmic aspect – the spiritual aspect – and the comprehension of how the material universe operates through the examination of our microcosmic aspect – the form.

Moving on to the second period of Scorpio, we come across the snake, a rather versatile symbol, with associations ranging from the "serpent of matter" and the "serpent of illusion" to the "serpent of wisdom", and its iconographic connection with medicine and

healers. An imaginary "snake" can be pictured in the energetic interaction between any two objects linked by desire, by any other emotion, or by thought. The serpent stage of Scorpio is not a place of conflict but rather a place of tension, a place of lasting mediation.

The line between the opposites has been perceived and it cannot be unseen. Nevertheless, that does not mean that opposites have ceased to exist. In the scorpion period, conflict rages between elements of the lower self and the logical mind emerges as the final peacemaker but the proceedings are clearly taking place within the domain of the personality. In the subsequent era, the personality is no longer a fragmented land but decisively united under the iron hand of the intellect. From an emotional perspective much is sacrificed, much frustration and loss are endured but the sphere of influence of the individual or the group is significantly increased. Meanwhile, peace in the kingdom, or inner peace – even if shaky and kept by force – permits consciousness a clearer gaze into the outer world, into the environment. This is by itself a great accomplishment albeit the lesser one involved.

The coordination of the lower self by means of the intellect permits the appearance of universal conflict between the soul and the material aspect. It happens on the quality axis and no longer within the domain of personality but rather within the domain of the spirit encompassing both the soul and the personality. The judgement pending is whether the lower mind will guide the form it now directs towards the satisfaction of its intellectual, emotional and material desires, or towards serving the purposes of consciousness. Although the choice sounds obvious, this is a time when an individual is knowledgeable, emotionally mature, intellectually capable of great concentration, and effective and skilful in action. For these reasons, it is difficult for such a person to accept any truth that does not verify their own perception of the truth– no matter how lofty, any method that goes beyond their skills – no matter how numerous, or any effort that does not further their objectives – no matter how noble. So, the great question is whether the individual or group will decide to remain at the pinnacle of a triangle formed by their own materials, or whether they will select to sacrifice their dominion to become, as a whole, one point of a greater triangle consisting of a greater group or humanity at one end, the self at the other end, the spirit on top, and consciousness as the way between all points. Enter the serpent as unifying force, enter consciousness. The tension resulting from such an endeavour is considerable, for perception is still very much torn between two types of awareness. There is the objective awareness of the self as a finite and distinct entity – no matter how expansive, and of distinct "others" even if they are as grand as humanity or the spirit. Then, there is the subjective awareness whereby perception centres on flow, on processes, on the perpetual unfoldment of life neither stopping nor limited, ever, to any one point.

When a person or a group works to understand this "space between", they are starting to sense the influence of Scorpio energy by mediation of the principle of Harmony through Conflict, with equal emphasis on the potential for Harmony this time. It is the Love stage in the Scorpio processes, since the focus is on the attractive current, the interaction that connects two different parts of a being. Prolonged contact between the two poles permits their final coordination so as to finally vibrate as an expanded unified entity encompassing a greater part of being. The process is possible because, despite difference, the current of contact has been definitely perceived.

Walking this stage is predominantly the work of a personality whose mind has been freed of its bias and its allegiances, has shed its analytical comfort and agreed to embark on a great adventure to the unknown. It is also the work of a personality who has agreed to invest its skills and resources to whatever objective the spirit presented it with. This stage is sometimes referred to as the "dual life of the disciple". On this note, let us take a moment to remind ourselves the Affirmation of the Disciple, being certain that as part of humanity, the Great Disciple, we are no strangers to this Path.

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 tread this way the ways of men, And know the ways of God.

And thus I stand.

To conclude, there remains the last symbol of the zodiac sign of Scorpio, the Eagle. And such a wonderful symbol too.

By means of the conflict introduced in Scorpio, the person becomes acquainted with all the many diverse dynamics – inner and surrounding – sometimes converging, sometimes diverging, other times in opposition. And through this exercise we learn what it means to be whole and what it means to be in turmoil as a person and as part of a group. By means of the tension, creative or destructive, generated by our interactions with other people and with other groups, we learn what it takes to preserve and what it takes to sever connection, and what it takes for a greater being to be born. We learn our nature as light: dual, a particle and a wave. And we learn the nature of the cross, both still and in motion.

By means of the expansion of consciousness generated by this process, we become aware of the field wherein we exist and relate. And we find ourselves, hovering within it, free to move in any direction, or to stay still, in serene triumph.

For this reason, always,

Keep your eye on the eagle; call down fire; do not look at the ground; be centered in divinity¹.

Let us now take a moment of silence to prepare ourselves for the full moon meditation *Letting in the Light*. Today we will be working under the influence of this great zodiacal sign of humanity with the keynote:

Warrior I am, and from the battle I emerge triumphant.

Remembering that a true Warrior always keeps peace in their heart.

Resources:

Alice Bailey, Esoteric Astrology Alice Bailey, Esoteric Psychology Alice Bailey, Discipleship in the New Age Dane Rudhyar, The Universal Matrix Dane Rudhyar, The Way of Creative Accomplishment Wikipedia, Sirius Encyclopaedia Britannica, Sirius Alice Bailey, The Iabours of Hercules 154



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