

Festival of the Full Moon in Scorpio - London, November 2021

Welcome, dear friends, to this meeting today, the festival of the full moon in the sign of Scorpio, a time when the strengthening of the link, and relationship, with what lies above is within reach more than ever.

At a time such as this, by closely aligning our mental energies with the essence of the incoming influences through directed thought, and in meditation, we aim to purposefully broaden the channel linking the world of meaning with the world of form, of entering the world of spiritual realities. While we do this, let us, as the Tibetan Master suggests, "not formulate to ourselves what will happen [or] look for results or for tangible effects... [but simply] attempt to hold ourselves steadily in the light. "

Let us now take a moment of silence, followed by the sounding of the Ancient Mantram:

Lead us O Lord from darkness to light,
From the unreal to the Real.
From death to immortality.

As we delve into a consideration of the nature of the energies now emanating from the sun, perhaps it is useful to consider, for a moment, the esoteric correspondences of this celestial event.

The time of the full moon is also described as one, if not the most prominent, of the moon's phases. The word "phase" is commonly defined as "a particular appearance or state in a regularly recurring cycle of changes." This definition is more than adequate to describe a phenomenon whereby the appearance of the moon to the naked eye changes with the angle at which it is viewed from earth, in relation to the sun.

For the student of esotericism, on the other hand, forever seeking to plunge ever deeper into the world of meaning, into the sea of energies that lie behind forms and phenomena, an alternative, more specialised definition of the word, one which alludes to frequency and vibration might be more revealing. In this context, a phase constitutes "the point or stage in a period of [...] harmonic motion, [...] varying according to a simple harmonic law [...]"

To the esotericist it is obvious that the harmonic law to which this dictionary definition refers is none other than the great law of cycles, which the Tibetan master describes as "the law governing the appearing and the disappearing of great and active energies which pass in and out of manifestation, fulfilling the purposes of Deity¹," and of which the orbit of the planets around the sun, the moon around our home planet, the earth, even the rotations of entire galaxies, are nothing but exoteric manifestations.

And though, in the same passage, the Tibetan goes on to say that these manifesting energies fulfilling the purpose of Deity "are limited and handicapped by the quality of the forms upon which they make their impact" he suggests that an "intervention in time" is possible by those "who know and take right action," by wielding power selflessly through preparation and understanding.

Perhaps we, here, today, as a humble group working selflessly, pooling our energies, aligning our streams of thought and directing our attention in unison and with ardent receptivity to the momentous influence of the energies now emanating from the constellation of Scorpio, can play our part in wielding the power of the forces of light on our planet, by furthering our understanding, by reaffirming and strengthening our preparedness. Perhaps we, subjectively linked with those like-minded individuals and groups who, regardless of background, nationality or religion, work along the same lines, have a role to play in this much-needed "intervention in time."

In a universe comprised of energy, all understanding must, in the final analysis, correspond to a synchronisation of phase, a harmony among frequencies, and it is to this end that a reminder of,

1. The Externalisation of the Hierarchy, pp. 251-282

and contemplation on the nature of the influence of Scorpio is at this time instrumental. For while we choose to view this process of evolution in terms of stages, crises and life experiences, it is always extremely useful to remember that we are referring to symbols which represent an "interlocking system of energies, in so far as they affect and condition a human being."

A most interesting fact to bear in mind is that Scorpio is one of the four zodiacal signs which are mysteriously concerned with what one might call the "personality expression" of the solar logos Himself. It is linked to Sirius, the Dog Star, the great star of initiation which - interestingly enough, was astronomically the foundation of the Egyptians' entire religious system. Sirius, a star twenty-or-so times brighter than our own sun, is esoterically called the "brilliant star of sensitivity." In the book *Esoteric Astrology*, the Tibetan reveals that that *the energy of this most powerful star pours into the seven groups forming our planetary Hierarchy*, which is under the supervision or spiritual magnetic control of the Hierarchy of Sirius². One cannot help but wonder whether the Scorpio full moon approach to the hierarchy, is especially potent with respect to the indirect influence of this distant, enigmatic star and, if that is the case, what this might mean in terms of opportunity.

Scorpio's most defining and overarching influence however, in the context of esoteric studies, pertains to the fact that it is closely linked, both at the level of the individual as well as that of the group, with one of the two most significant transitions of consciousness on its evolutionary path, and the beginning of the pilgrim's journey on the path of return.

As we probably all know, in relation to the wheel of the zodiac and in the context of esoteric astrology, this path is perceived as being comprised of three major stages, or crises, each symbolised by a cross, formed by a group of four constellations.

The first stage, during which the individual finds herself on the Mutable Cross of the heavens, formed by Pisces, Virgo, Sagittarius and Gemini, is known as the Crisis of Incarnation, the Cycle of Rebirth, in which earthly experience produces those conditioning circumstances that transform the animal human into an aspirant. While at this stage, the individual is mostly concerned with matters concerning her lower nature, and tending to the demands of the undeveloped personality. During this period, the influence of Mars, the orthodox ruler of Scorpio, and the planet which rules and controls the physical vehicle, is ever-present. It accompanies and affects the individual, regardless of the sign into which he is born at any given time, through seemingly endless cycles of birth, experience, death and rebirth, through friction and disillusionment with the world of matter, as the great war between the dualities which constitute his nature wages on.

Through countless repetitions of a pattern of experience culminating to crisis, which then leads to modification of behaviour, which in turn results in new experience, and so on and so forth, every time on a higher turn of the spiral, eventually and inevitably man reaches a point where he is confronted with the first inkling of the nature of his predicament, with the reality of the Fixed Cross of the heavens. He then pauses, under the influence of Libra, the balance, at the crossroad emerging before him as the influence of the soul increasingly makes itself known. He oscillates, over multiple lifetimes, between the choice of proceeding along the lines of the past and the decision to tread the new path now opening up before him, until there comes a point in time when he consciously changes course, putting himself on the path of discipleship.

The point at which this occurs, where the aspirant mounts herself on the Fixed Cross of the heavens formed by Aquarius, Leo, Scorpio and Taurus, the cross of the soul, is a turning point of great importance, as it marks a reversal of the wheel, the beginnings of the Crisis of Reorientation, where the focus of consciousness begins to shift into that of the group and becomes identified with the soul and with soul purpose. Whereas before she was blind to meaning, tossed about by unseen forces, moved by underground currents, she now begins to discern a new, underlying reality, and willingly she hurls herself, actively and consciously into battle.

This battle is by all means the single most difficult feat the individual has ever had to face. The difficulty here lies in the paradox which emerges as a result of the dual nature of human existence: That which is, by the personality, experienced as desirable or "positive," must be denounced. The human being is called upon to move away from, leave behind, and eventually do

2. *Esoteric Astrology - A Treatise on the Seven Rays* Vol. III, pp. 193-226

away with its previously identified self and undergo a process which is, as far as the personality is concerned, at the very least undesirable, "negative," and on many levels painful, as it goes against the grain of its previous earthly conditioning.

While, in trying to convey the ways in, and means with which individual as well as group consciousness evolves, the impression may be formed that we are dealing with distinct, step-wise processes, and while this may, in the context of the infinite, approximate a truth which is conceptually manageable, within the bounds of a single human lifetime - like the one we find ourselves in presently - the internal landscape is considerably more complex, and most certainly non-linear.

Every moment of every day we are met with battles, large and small, in the form of choices - choices of thought, words, reaction to emotion, actions, either individually or collectively. The will to continue on the path of Discipleship, the first ray energy of divine embodied will, or "directed purpose," of which Scorpio's exoteric ruler, Pluto - together with Vulcan - is an expression and custodian, is constantly challenged, through events and experiences triggered under the influence of Mars and Scorpio, for as the Tibetan tells us, "cyclic impulses in the life of the disciple are of a greater frequency and speed and forcefulness than in the life of the average man."

In many ways, the disciple is constantly required to recognise and bring about the collapse of those structures which he previously, falsely deemed as constituting his entire being. He is essentially called upon to bring about the death of the personality which he previously identified with. To accept, even embrace those painful crises which redeem the energies previously crystallised in realms of lower vibrations, and learn how to "create - with deliberate intention - his own cross," the fixed cross upon which the disciple is crucified, so that progress may be forthcoming, so that "pain brings due reward of light and love." What is required of the disciple, is essentially a most profound transformation.

The energy of Scorpio affects the life experience of the disciple throughout the course of this transformation, through to the third initiation. In the book *Esoteric Astrology* the Tibetan explicitly reveals the existence of three tests, each linked with one of the three Scorpio decanates. To these tests the Tibetan assigns nine attributes of the lower self which must be overcome, three for each human aspect: Sex, physical comfort, and money, related to the animal nature, fear, hate, and ambition, related to the astral body, which governs desire, and pride, separateness and cruelty which belong in the realm of the lower mind. Surely everyone can recognise how most all the challenges a human being consciously striving towards light and love either directly or indirectly stem from these nine attributes. The influence of Scorpio is acting at all times, throughout multiple lifetimes, while we work towards realising, and overcoming, these faults in ourselves and in the world around us.

As we consider all of the above, the meaning of the keynote of Scorpio for the disciple perhaps emerges somewhat more clearly, as does its depth and power: "Warrior I am and from the battle I emerge triumphant."

It is in Scorpio that the first great crisis upon the path of discipleship takes place, both for groups as well as individuals. As a sign and symbol of death and transformation, it holds its place on the fixed cross of the heavens, the stage on which the momentous crisis of orientation is set, and marks that point in evolution where the disciple takes his first stand before entering into battle. And it is under the influence of Scorpio that the war between the pairs of opposites wages on, until the Angel of the Presence finally achieves victory over the Dweller on the Threshold, the sum total of "all instinctual tendencies, [...] inherited glammers and [...] wrong mental attitudes," a victory which results in the "anchoring [of] the divine man onto the physical plane."

In view of the unusual crisis in which the total of humanity finds itself in today, and of which we are all very well aware, let me conclude this evening's talk by sounding the Tibetan's own words, which are as timeless and as relevant as always, especially so on this day:

"I am exceedingly anxious that in these days wherein the influence of Scorpio and of the planet Mars is so strongly felt in world affairs that true insight may be cultivated, optimism and understanding developed and the nature of the tests to which the world disciple, humanity, is today being subjected may be estimated at their true value and thus light be shed upon the way of

man. Only through understanding will solution come and rectification of error be achieved."