## Christine Aagaard

The constellation of Scorpio is associated with the tests of discipleship. There are three tests that are each threefold in nature, symbolised in the great myth of Hercules as the nine-headed Hydra. Each head represents a problem that the spiritual aspirant has to overcome in himself, of which the great God Hercules slayed them all. There are tests of appetite relating to sex, physical comfort, and money. Tests connected with desire that relate to fear, hatred, ambition or desire for power and tests of the lower critical mind relating to pride, separativeness and cruelty. As we are within the full moon period it might be good to reflect on the nature of the tests to which the world disciple, humanity is today being subjected and we can probably surmise that humanity's relationship with money is at the root of them all. For, money creates sexual allure, it provides physical comfort and it is also a cause of fear. It is a source of power, it creates hatred in others and much of the cruelty in the world such as war, vice, drugs, gang violence and trafficking are all fuelled by it. So, if humanity can deal with the problem of money, it will make huge strides in bringing about right human relations.

The Tibetan's words on this are most revealing, 'This whole question of money is one of the greatest difficulties at this time and also one of the utmost simplicity. The difficulty is due to the wrong thought which, for generations, has been brought to bear upon the problem, leading to wrong attitudes, even among the most devoted disciples. The attitude of humanity to money has been coloured by greed, by grasping for the lower self, by jealousy, by material desire and by the heart-breaking need for it which—in its turn—is the result of these wrong attitudes. These wrong attitudes lead to the disastrous economic conditions which we find all around us. They are effects of causes which are initiated by man himself. In the re-generation of money and in the changing of man's attitude to it will eventually come world release'. 1

The Tibetan has provided the new group of world servers with a meditative tool to aid in the changing of humanity's attitude towards money. 2 Money is the manifestation of energy which can be selfishly or unselfishly used. The Money Meditation, when rightly utilised, has the power to shift human focus away from seeing money as a means for meeting personal and family need to seeing it as a means to meet group or world need. The meditation aim is to deflect money from material ends so that it becomes available for the work which the Hierarchy seeks to have accomplished. The Money Meditation is a short and dynamic meditative prayer that is available for all who are interested in participating on the Lucis Trust website. AS students do this as an additional meditation on a Sunday as recommended by the Tibetan, the day of power.

We read that the issue of money and its role in the new age is the focus of a group of disciples on the seventh ray. That there are also adepts who are authorities upon modern financial matters who are preparing to institute new techniques and modes of financial interplay which will eventually supersede the current methods. The Tibetan tells us that these disciples face a challenging task because the subtle energies of the inner worlds take much time in producing their effects upon the objective, tangible plane of divine manifestation. However, at the time of writing the Tibetan said that the task was well in hand3 So, we can surmise that today these ideas and techniques are already seeping in to the group mind and that the problem humanity faces is bringing them into being due to the established forces working against them.

Today, within the realm of economics and finance there are important thinkers emerging, people such as Kate Raworth, Joseph Stiglitz, Thomas Piketty and Rutger Bregman to name but a few. They are offering new ways of organising resources encouraging a move from divisive economies to distributive ones where value and opportunity are shared far more equitably. Economies that are "regenerative," that support people to meet their needs and thrive, but do not destroy the planet. 4

Economics that puts the environment not economic growth at centre stage, where sustainability is the goal, where wealth is redistributed through progressive taxation, universal incomes, and borderless states. Such ideas are of course being fiercely fought by the established forces bringing crisis after crisis and the world instability in which we currently find ourselves. But it is through this process of crisis that humanity is being forced to face the reality of that which needs to change and which will allow, eventually, the new economics to become increasingly accepted and widely implemented.

Increasing inequality is widely seen as being a major problem in the world. Old style economic theory such as the Trickledown Effect, the main policy of the UK's previous and short-lived prime minister, are recognised as adding to inequality rather than reducing it. It is a theory based on the belief that when growth is stimulated through lower taxes that the wealth generated trickles down to meet the needs of the majority. Joe Biden and Kate Raworth have both been recently quoted as saying that trickle-down economics does not work, that it is a "a false story" and, "that ignoring the social economy, extremes of inequality get worse.

Stiglitz and Picketty are in favour of greater taxation, particularly of the wealthy, to deal with the rising inequality in the world.6 However, such ideas can create very aggressive reactions as Bregman experienced when he presented to a private panel at Davos the idea that maybe the rich need to stop avoiding their taxes and start paying a higher rate. He went on to address the situation directly in his televised speech, saying that "This is about saving capitalism". "Most innovation has come about through government spending" he said. "During the golden age period [after the second world war], there were way higher taxes on wealth, property, inheritance, and top incomes. That's what we need today if we are going to tame this beast called capitalism".7

Clearly money and our relationship with it constitutes a major test for humanity today; will we continue to support a system that rewards the few at the expense of the many or will we be led by the men and women of goodwill and all those who are motivated by unselfish purpose to release the energy of money towards the good of the whole. An energy that will eventually allow money to be a saving force within humanity, eradicating poverty, ugliness, degradation, slavery, and despair. Thus, we slay one head of the Hydra and prepare the foundations for victory against the others. This new civilisation is coming and cannot be stopped but the process and speed of transition is within humanity's hands.

Let us now work with the potent energies of Scorpio in our meditative Triangles visualisation.

- 1 Discipleship in the New Age I pg. 272
- 2 Discipleship in the New Age II pgs. 228-231
- 3 Discipleship in the New Age II pg. 222

- 4 https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/sep/25/forgetrickle-down-what-the-uk-needs-is-middle-out-economics
- 5 https://www.pioneerspost.com/news-views/20220928/swap-trickle-down-economics-the-doughnut-says-kate-raworth
- 6 https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/17/economists-stiglitz-and-piketty-us-needs-a-wealth-tax.html
- 7 https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/01/rutger-bregman-world-economic-forum-davos-speech-tax-billionaires-capitalism