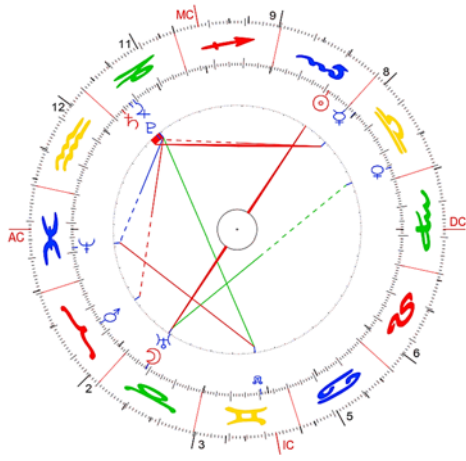




Scorpio Full Moon Festival

Labour 8: Destroying the Lernean Hydra

31st October 2020 – *the day of safeguarding*



Welcome everyone to this Sundial House Group for Creative Meditation on-line Scorpio Full Moon meeting. This Full Moon period of Scorpio is conditioned by the fiery energies of Mars from both the personality and soul perspective. In the influential energies of this 6th Ray planet the soul infusing personality responds with aspiration and idealism or when wrongly polarised within the personality with fanaticism. Scorpio is therefore sometimes called “the Agent of Deception”, yet it can also bring “the Light of Liberation”.

This is a zodiacal sign in which the elements of testing, trial and triumph predominate. On lower levels, the Scorpion is ready to wound; but for those on the Path the aspirant is continually subjected to processes of reorientation that take place through these tests and trials of the inner and outer life. This process of ‘harmony achieved through conflict, tension and resolution’, transform the warrior in Scorpio into the Eagle, triumphant and soaring and dwelling in the mountains. This symbolizes the need for the aspirant to transform the physical, emotional and mental aspects of the threefold vehicle and lift them to the heavens, establishing a reciprocal soul personality alignment.

Scorpio is the sign where Hercules and Humanity enter upon a Supreme test because it involves emancipation from illusion and the freeing of perception from the mists and the glamour of appearances which mask and veil Reality itself. The battle ground of the world Arjuna is where the soul of the individual, the group and Humanity, the World Disciple, and the personality meet.

It is where the capacity to overcome desire and the control of maya brings triumph over the death by drowning in the emotional waters of the astral plane. Poised and balanced in Scorpio, the triumph of the Real over the unreal enables Hercules to become a Warrior of the Spirit.

Humanity is presently battling between pairs of polar opposites and in the current medley of crises is under the influence of ‘*deception and seeking triumph*’. The conflict and tension arising are essential preludes to finding and holding a poised ability to *stand steady*. Standing aligned with the soul and grounded in the soul infusing personality through the applied *skillful Will* enables Humanity, the Warrior to emerge from the battle triumphant and by so doing becomes a Warrior of the Spirit. It is under this banner in battle that great reformers, great commanders and great agitators for the good emerge. Their service is that they battle not only against the limitations of Society, but also against their inner limitation.

Humanity in the influential energies of the current Scorpio Full Moon fights against limiting aspects and hindrances of the lower self, and this engagement with the fight and the overcoming of it makes the individual, the group and Humanity triumphant disciples who in group formation become world servers.

Let us take a few minutes of quiet and then say together the most ancient prayer in the world which refers to three aspects of glamour.

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

(Brihadaranyaki Upanishad 1, 3, 28).

The Myth

When a drought occurred in Argos, Amymone called upon the aid of Neptune, who commanded her to strike a rock, from which, when she did, gushed out three crystal streams. But soon a terrible hydra came to live there and a plague spread over the whole countryside. Hercules must now destroy this monster with its nine heads, of which one is immortal. His teacher warns him that conventional methods will not work, for destroying one head causes two to grow in its place. The only help he can offer Hercules is to remind him, “We rise by kneeling; we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up”.

In the stench of the Lernean swamp, Hercules tracks the foul beast to its lair and is forced to resort to firing arrows, dipped in burning pitch, to draw it out into the open. Provoked, the raging monster attacks Hercules and battle commences – the hydra growing stronger, not weaker, with each assault. Then, recalling his Teacher’s advice, Hercules throws away his weapons, drops to his knees and raises the hydra aloft. In the pure air and sunlight, the monster loses its power and its nine heads drop, lifeless. Then Hercules is able to perceive the mystic head that is immortal. He cuts it off and buries it, still fiercely hissing, beneath a rock.

Interpretation of the myth

Scorpio has been described both as a turning point for the individual and in the life of humanity. In the hydra, we have depicted the serpent of desire and all the unredeemed aspects of human nature and in the associated tests and trials are illustrated the formidable problems of self-mastery. Its symbolism is particularly apposite in our contemporary way of life in the ethos of a consumer society that feeds selfish desire with little regard to the consequences or the pressing material needs of others.

If we aspire to reconnect to the wellspring of spiritual life, we must free ourselves from the prison of clamouring desires. Like Hercules, the disciple must first recognise the existence of the hydra, search for it with patience and finally, with humility, destroy it. The concise reminder, given to Hercules by his Teacher, is revealing: “We rise by kneeling, we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up”. As long as Hercules fights the hydra in its own environment, representing the unredeemed aspects of human nature, his task is impossible. When he raises his problems above the slough of the subconscious into the light of that wisdom we call the soul, he can view his dilemma from a new angle of vision, overcome the hydra and bury its immortal head beneath the rock of the will. Rightly controlled and channelled, it now becomes a source of power.

In Scorpio, Hercules becomes the triumphant disciple. He demonstrates to himself that he can rise above the thrall of matter and stand, for all time, in spiritual being. The same test awaits each disciple and humanity, the world disciple. But all who work in Scorpio to overcome the Great Illusion in their own personal lives contribute to the good of the whole and the progress of the group disciple.

Hercules shines a light onto the Way, and highlights the challenges that humanity is collectively facing at present. This gateway indicates a supreme transformational 'labour' and can be seen as the individual and the collective seeking *choices that will lead from darkness to light..*

We have considered the myth and its interpretation and it holds lessons for us at this present time. So let us give some open our awareness to the wisdom modelled for us by Hercules and his endeavours as we stand at the Gateway of the Scorpio Full Moon.

Reflective Consideration

The zodiacal sign of Scorpio presents tests and challenges in which a range of fiery arrows are let loose enticing the *hydra out of the cave into the Light*. Once into the *open* the aspirant struggles with the hindrances associated with the astral plane and endeavours to lift these up into the heavens, thereby 'elevating the Hydra' of passion and hate, of greed and aggression, and of selfishness and ambition up into the region of the Soul. One word of counsel allowed to be given by the Teacher was "We rise by kneeling; we conquer by surrendering; we gain by giving up". The 'giving up' is a play on words and relates to invoking the higher energies and guidance of the soul.

Take a moment to relax the physical body, calm the emotions and let go of any previous thoughts. Bring the focused attentive mind to rest in the familiar place of silent stillness. From within this point of soul infused awareness give some consideration to the following seed thought:

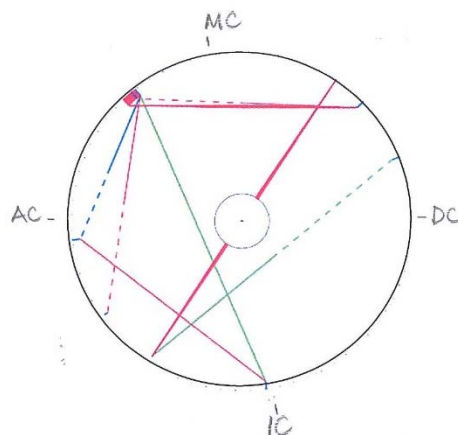
- ❖ It is said that in life we learn by doing, and we are assured there is no such thing as failure. What have you noticed playing out in and around you that demonstrates this philosophy of life?

Receptive Consideration of The Aspect Image of the Scorpio Full Moon

The Huber Astrology image generated by the aspects at the exact time of the Scorpio Full Moon in 2020 offer a pattern for contemplation of energies not usually or normally contacted at these times. These Divine energies resonate with those deeply hidden in humankind as all are related to consciousness and to responsiveness of the parts within the Whole.

'Images and words are living things, possessing form, soul [consciousness] and spirit or life.'

'Much that is inexpressible by words may be supplemented by symbols. Thus, in every symbol there will be the element of the inexpressible. – 'Aum' © Agni Yoga Society



Take a moment to realign with your centre of stillness, letting go of any previous thoughts, and hold the focused silent mind within the head centre.

Consider the image, symbol and the aspect patterns of the Scorpio Full Moon

1. Does the image convey a form?
2. What are the feelings this image gives rise to?
3. What is the life or livingness conveyed by it?

In the silence of this consideration become aware of the three levels, form, emotions, livingness. Staying present in this experience record any impressions and insights that you may receive as you continue to contemplate this image,

A synthesis of the Scorpio Full Moon 2020 influential energies

In the sign of Scorpio, the Aspirant, Humanity, is challenged to undertake the evolutionary task of confronting the toxic power which thrives in the caverns of the subconscious. It is the fiery aspiration of the Will-to-Good that drives the demons reluctantly into the awareness but the Aspirant's well-honed strategy of defeat through combat only serves to magnify the monster's destructive force. Aligning with the soul and adopting a submissive stance exposes the demons to the air of the mental plane and the sunlight of the soul's wisdom. Thereby, progressively over many cycles, the lower nature of man is purified and redeemed.

This is a prickly and restless chart with minimal blue energy available to temper the combative red activity or to calm the painful green longing for solutions. This is also a chart with a marked inward-looking, defensive orientation which points to a preoccupation with self-interest and self-preservation.

There are two separate themes at play which cut sharply across each other.

Firstly, the full moon theme of Scorpio/Taurus. This polarity offers a cyclic opportunity to address current attitudes to the management and sharing of resources at both an individual and societal level. However, at this time a state of entrenched antagonism exists between the head and heart of humanity and neither side is able to find a healthy way of externalizing its pent-up frustration. The only way to resolve this crisis is an inner shift which accesses the higher values of the soul, but humanity has not yet attained the wisdom needed to transcend the stalemate. Emotions are heightened and unpredictable, and although a longing for justice and harmony does exist and is keenly felt, it offers no relief and only aggravates the bottled-up feelings.

The second theme is a focus on tackling the ongoing and increasingly dramatic breakdown of established social institutions. Here 3 attack strategies are at play:

Firstly, there are far-sighted ideas to develop new ground-breaking ways of sharing information and communicating with the masses. These may come from a lofty vision but are predicated on an over-idealised, confused or even delusional sense of national identity. There is the danger of compromising with a PR quick-fix that neglects the deep analysis and learning that is required if real solutions are to be found. Without this greater commitment, the issue will remain as a gnawing tension within the core of the psyche.

There is also some talk of opportunities to reform the field of resource management in order to make it function more equitably, but this is largely drowned out by ongoing negative messages focussing on the difficulties and obstacles to change.

And lastly, there are bold independent initiatives to attack the causes of societal breakdown which try to capitalise on the opportunities it offers for positive change, but these are lacking the traction needed to produce results.

Whilst these differing strategies are as yet uncoordinated, the Aspirant is awakening; materialistic value systems are being challenged and, in due course of evolution, we are assured the wisdom of the soul will triumph.

The summons to a unity of consciousness is necessary everywhere,
because this is the simplest introduction into the life of the heart."

- Heart © Agni Yoga Society

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