

**Festival of Sagittarius**  
**New York, NY, December 1, 2009**

Headquarters Staff

Good evening friends, and welcome to the Festival of Sagittarius - a sign deeply related to humanity and a sign of discipleship. The full moon is a time when we can come together as a group and truly be of service by working with the energies of the constellation Sagittarius. During this time, as the spiritual energies flow into our planetary life, our cooperative group effort is to let in the light by becoming a channel of distribution of light and love to humanity.

Sagittarius is the sign of the disciple treading the arduous path and struggling to move forward from point to point while developing at a higher turn of the spiral. The life of one who treads the spiritual path is not only a life filled with struggles and challenges, but a life filled with inspiration, joy and hope. The New Group of World Servers is growing and becoming a potent force helping to uplift and bring in light and love into the world. So let us take a moment to align ourselves and say together the affirmation of the disciple.

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, focussed 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.

The voice of counsel says to Hercules, "The time has come to tread another way. Find the marsh of Stympthalus where the havoc wreaking birds dwell. Discover the way to flush them from their long secure abode. The flame that gleams beyond the mind reveals direction sure."

Sagittarius is the ninth labour in which Hercules traveled to the far off land, the marsh of Stympthalus to clear out the dreaded Stympthalian birds that terrorized the land. These large birds with iron beaks sharp like a sword hid deep within the marches and could hardly be seen. Their feathers were like steel shafts and their ferocious and screeching cries echoed the discord into the distant land. Three birds carefully watching Hercules came down and swooped over him. Hercules used his heavy club to defend himself. Wondering how he was going to rid these birds, Hercules at first used his arrows to shoot the birds down, but there were so many. He set traps, but they did not work. He quietly pondered and thought in silence, and recalled the voice of counsel that said to him "The flame that gleams beyond the mind reveals direction sure." Hercules then comes back to the marsh with cymbals, and clashed them together creating an unbearable sound that finally drove away the predacious birds.

In this particular labour, Hercules achieved his goal through going beyond the mind using the intuition to eliminate the baneful birds that symbolized the unpurified lower personality. Sagittarius rules the higher mind, intuition and expansions of consciousness. The "three birds" that were beaten down by Hercules were the symbol of the three-fold personality nature that were transformed and uplifted by the power of

the intuition through the developed higher mind. Sagittarius is a sign that relates to the development of the intuition. The intuition is that flash of light that transforms the thinker into the KNOWER. Hercules went into silent contemplation to reach the intuitive level. He realized that through the soul or the intuitive nature, the use of sound was needed to achieve the goal. This sign relates to sound and the need for silence in speech, in order to attain and move higher into the realm of the intuition or the life of the soul. Sagittarius, the archer points the arrow upward within the higher planes of the mind using the intuitive realm, with the objective to sense the greater vision through expanded consciousness. It is no wonder in Sagittarius, the disciple travels mentally on the higher planes of consciousness. Through the use of the creative imagination, the energies of Sagittarius enable us to trail-blaze into the furthest realms of the spiritually unknown spheres. For when we travel into the spiritual realms, we are guided by the soul's compass or an internal GPS system giving us the needed guidance and direction to serve the plan. One of the goals of meditation, we are told is to develop that sensitivity that enables us "to work in the light of soul guidance".

In the book, *A Treatise on White Magic*, Rule IV is about the creative work of sound. It may not seem apparent, but sound is the source of power. Hercules used sound to reach his goal. The Tibetan describes two notes that are to be sounded synchronously and with a one-pointed focused mind. The cymbals, the instrument that Hercules used to drive away the birds were the two notes that were dual in nature. Through a focused, one-pointed mind, Hercules sounded the note, which was the O.M. The O.M. is the voice of the soul, and sounded inaudibly is the word of power. By using Rule IV of the disciple, Hercules drove away the birds by blending the chord of the two notes, which were dual in nature.

We are told that the word, the O.M. is sounded audibly during the initial stages of the meditation work. Later, as the disciple becomes more experienced, it is sounded inaudibly in which the disciple becomes attentive to the soundless sound of the O.M. within the brain. Sagittarius, the archer projects the arrow in the direction of the goal. Just the same way, the O.M. when sounded is projected and sent forth towards the goal. The Tibetan says, "OM sounded forth, with intent thought behind it, acts as a disturber, a loosener of the coarse matter of the body of thought, of emotion, and of the physical body. When sounded forth with intense spiritual aspiration behind it, it acts as an attractive medium, and gathers in particles of pure matter to fill the places of those earlier thrown out." As Hercules sounded forth and projected the sound, he drove away the glamour and illusion coming from the lower thresholds of matter, thus, freeing and expanding the mind and allowing for more light to enter into the realms of material existence. The projection of the will energy is needed in the use of sounding the O.M., in which the disciple holds steady that one-pointed and focussed intent.

Sagittarius helps the disciple achieve his goal through the higher mind. In the work of white magic, the disciple must have a developed mind, as well as have attained a capacity to control the mind to a certain degree in order to work creatively within the spiritual realms. Sagittarius is a sign of discipleship. And as the disciple learns to tread the spiritual way, he learns the use of right speech. Not only does Sagittarius rules the quieting of the mind, but it rules the restraint of speech, thought and silence, which is all related to the control of the developing mind. We are told that "speech is the most occult manifestation in existence; it is the means of creation and the vehicle for force." If one is not utilizing right speech, one is scattering his or her forces and energies and wasting away in idle chatter. Rule One in *White Magic* says, "The Solar Angel collects himself, scatters not his force, but, in meditation deep, communicates with his reflection." The trained disciple knows not to scatter his force, but to conserve one's energy through silence and reticence because the soul naturally expresses itself through right speech, right thought and right action. Gemini, the polar opposite of Sagittarius relates to the chatter of the mind and the lower personality expression of speech and duality. Sagittarius is about synthesizing the duality and the higher expression of speech through the soul and through sound. The cymbals, the instrument that Hercules used was dual in nature. He clashed them together synthesizing the duality.

The Tibetan says to learn to be silent before the sufferings of the world and waste no time in idle plaints and sorrowful demonstration, but lift the burden of the world by the power of thought and waste no energy in talk. Unfortunately, we live in a world polluted with clamor and useless and harmful speech, all of which are unhealthy and unwholesome for spiritual growth and development within our planetary life. The modern disciple living in the fast-pace noisy world has to adjust and contend with these undesirable energies and forces that bombard our everyday life. It is Sagittarius that helps the disciple become a focused and one-pointed server, undeviating from center and firmly aligned with the expression of spiritual living.

Sagittarius is also about idealism since it is govern by the sixth Ray of Idealism and Devotion. Through meditation, the disciple recognizes the ideal governing the Plan. This ideal, however, is always practical and applicable to the present time because it is the clarity, the one-pointed understanding, and the clear vision and direction that leads us towards a right response to the present crisis. The qualities of Sagittarius helps us to hold the higher vision, and when correctly utilized and understood brings us to the next gate, which is the initiation in Capricorn. Through meditation, silence and deep reflection, the vision becomes clear and the purpose is recognized. The archer on the white horse forges ahead with firm undeviating action and divine intent. This “Divine intent of man” we are told is the basic sensing of a plan. It is the capacity to think abstractly and to concentrate on the ideal, which is the gift of Sagittarius. Today, with all the difficulties and confusion in the world, it is a challenge for many people to sense a higher vision and a direction for humanity. People are affected by the economic turmoil and are not only seeing life with a shortsighted vision, but feel a lack of purpose during these times of crisis. The qualities of Sagittarius however, give us a clear vision, purpose and meaning in life. And it is the task of the New Group of World Servers "to hold that vision before the eyes of humanity" and distribute and impressed them into the hearts and minds of humanity.

Today humanity as a whole is definitely sensing the higher purpose in life. This is seen through the various activities of planning that are taking place around the world in many countries, and the decisions made within the many international conferences that are addressing the urgent needs of humanity. Sagittarius is about making progress. The archer riding the white horse is constantly moving from point to point, goal to goal, objective to objective, and frequently having to mount and dismount the white horse. In other words, the archer must dismount the “purified personality” nature in order to find the intuitive arrows that point the way towards the goal.

The symbol of Sagittarius, the Rider on the white horse, has been depicted in both the eastern and western traditions. This Rider is also known as the Coming One or the messenger. We are told in the spiritual teachings that the Hierarchy of Masters are great Sagittarians. The saying goes, “Let the Rider from the secret place come forth and coming—save. Come forth, O Mighty One.” This Rider on the white horse, we are told is “no extra-planetary Entity or Life, but is essentially One like unto ourselves—human and animal combined as are we all, but fused with divinity and inspired from on high, informed by some cosmic and divine Principle.” As the many aspirants and disciples move increasingly towards the center, the jewel in the Lotus, their vibrational potency gradually helps to uplift humanity’s consciousness. We are told that individual aspirants and world servers can reach the Rider on the white horse if he or she can align and raise the level of consciousness high enough. This Rider will come forth only when humanity can truly attune to divine Love and establish right human relations with all through "wisdom, understanding, and effective, skilful activity.” It is through the power of invocation that we can invoke the Rider on the white horse. Therefore, the power of Sagittarius helps us to not only raise our consciousness as high as possible, but give us the power to invoke this Rider on the white horse. This Rider on the white horse is also known in other religions as the Christ, the World Teacher, the Lord Maitreya, or the Imam Madhi. As we draw nearer to the externalization of the Hierarchy and the reappearance of the Christ, the experience in Sagittarius will help us to attain a closer rapport with the subjective approach to Hierarchy.

We just came out of Scorpio, which brought us into the deepest and darkest part of the human nature, and from that battlefield we emerge triumphant. Out of the human struggle, Sagittarius helps us to rise above from the depths into the light of day with a clear vision and a new goal to move courageously forward. The Sagittarius experience is about preparing for initiation, a sign that precedes Capricorn. And in preparing for initiation, one naturally needs to have right orientation towards soul life through service and spiritual living.

Today as we deal with the economic woes, climate change, and the many problems we face on this planet, humanity is given an opportunity to orient itself and to move into a different direction. Sagittarius is about right orientation and redirection towards a mindful and purposeful goal. This crisis of orientation is helping humanity focus on the essentials, and bring us closer towards the spiritual aspects of life, respect for the planet and for all the kingdoms that exist. It is a crisis of reorientation towards the spiritual life. Just as the individual aspirant reorients and makes the necessary adjustments towards spiritual livingness through right speech, right thought and right action, so must humanity as a whole. The struggles that we are witnessing today within humanity are the inner adjustments that need to be made within ourselves.

As we draw near to the time of the climate conference in Copenhagen that will begin next week during the lower interlude, the energies of Sagittarius give us the opportunity to think and act with purpose and simplicity along with a clearer vision and direction. Simplicity of thought, purpose, and action is what is needed during this time of decision for humanity. The Tibetan says, "Simplicity and unity are related; simplicity is one-pointedness of outlook, free from glamour and the intricacies of the thoughtform-making mind; simplicity is clarity of purpose and steadfastness in intention and in effort, untrammelled by questioning and devious introspection; simplicity leads to simple loving, asking nothing in return; simplicity leads to silence—not silence as an escape mechanism, but as an 'occult retention of speech.' "

The world is filled with complexity of ideas, thoughts and selfish material ways of living--and it is becoming more and more complex everyday. However, it doesn't have to be that way. What humanity needs during these times of crisis and decision is the essential practice of simplicity. We need to go back to the basics. Simplicity brings us back to our common source of oneness, unity, understanding and the very essential needs of humanity. It brings us to the heart of the matter. It brings us straight into the very core of our being. Sagittarius, the one-pointed archer projects the arrow straight into the heart of the goal leading us towards a spirit of cooperation, right human relations, goodwill and higher understanding. The gift of Sagittarius through the higher mind and the intuitive nature facilitate simplicity in our lives, and gradually reorient our thinking towards a new and higher objective.

Therefore, as we meditate and let in the light and love during this auspicious time, let us think of those qualities of Sagittarius and integrate them into our own lives so they can be radiated out into the world. Using the keynote: I see the goal. I reach that goal and then I see another. Let us meditate.