

Sagittarius and the Arrow of Aspiration

Festival of Sagittarius

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Good afternoon everyone. My name is John Riesenman.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this Lucis Trust full moon gathering for the sign of Sagittarius. It's said that groups of any size have a unique opportunity at the time of a full moon when they come together for shared meditation, giving voice to an invocative appeal to that which is higher. This is especially the case when group participants are developing the esoteric sense and have some awareness of the subjective energies and forces at work behind the outer appearance of things.

Groups of this nature have a particular opportunity at the time of the full moon to facilitate the entry of higher level spiritual energies into human consciousness. Extra-planetary energies, distinctive to the constellation in focus for any given month, pour into Shamballa, that highest planetary center. These energies are then distributed throughout the whole of the planetary system using the network for energy distribution: Hierarchy, the NGWS, the people of goodwill, and the five specific planetary inlets for the distribution of energies.

Those of us who gather together for a full moon meditation strive to provide a channel for the inflowing of these spiritual energies into the minds and hearts of people throughout the world. As we're all well aware, the human family is greatly challenged at this current time of evolutionary experience. Because of the challenges with which humanity is grappling, all of the other planetary kingdoms are struggling as well. One may wonder at times, too, what the Great Ones Who watch over the human kingdom think as They witness what may appear to be hesitant steps taken forward and then, on occasion, a step or two backwards.

It's said that evolutionary processes are slow and deliberate, but it's also been noted that they can be quickened if there is an invocative appeal sufficiently sounded to attract the attention of these Great Ones, Who, by reason of this cry for assistance, can summon essential energies of support to provide aid. An invocative appeal is especially potent when the individual or group is capable of accessing the spiritual will to provide dynamic power to that appeal. This spiritual will is accessed when consciousness is lifted up to the soul and held at a point of tension—resulting in a sustained identity with the soul. So, as we move into our brief consideration of some characteristics unique to the sign of Sagittarius, and then do the meditation, let us say together a mantra that invokes the spiritual will.

In the center of the will of God I stand.
Naught shall deflect my will from His.
I implement that will by love.
I turn towards the field of service.
I, the triangle divine, work out that will within the square
And serve my fellow men.

Om

The Keynote for the sign of Sagittarius is “*I see the goal, I reach that goal, and then I see another.*” It’s a Keynote that seems immediately understandable and one where easy application can be made to a person’s life. Most everyone, after all, no matter his or her level of consciousness, probably has goals of some sort. The symbol for the sign of Sagittarius is an arrow with part of the bow pictured, and it’s a symbol that clearly portrays the idea of striving to achieve a goal. This symbol, however, has undergone a few transformations prior to its current representation. With this in mind, it might be useful to take a quick look at these previous symbols and see what insights can be gained. Brief consideration will be given as well to the Three Crosses—The Mutable, The Fixed, and The Cardinal—in order to look at the connection between these crosses and the symbols for Sagittarius.

The Alice Bailey text, *Esoteric Astrology*,¹ points out that an earlier depiction of the symbol occurred in the Atlantean era. At that time, the sign of Sagittarius was represented by a Centaur, the presumably mythological creature that was half man and half horse; the torso of the Centaur was typically male. Bailey describes this symbol as portraying the development of the human soul during its identification with form and the selfish desires of that form.² Thinking in terms of the human being, this would be the stage where the personality is identified with the three vehicles through which it expresses—the mental, the emotional, and the physical bodies.

A human being with this level of consciousness would be under the control of the Mutable Cross, described as the Cross of the Hidden Christ. The experience of this cross covers that long period of time, incarnation after incarnation, when form identity primarily holds sway. In the later stages of the Mutable Cross, however, the human soul has awakened from the thrall of material identification. It is seeking to guide the personality away from its identity with form, and personality integration is now steadily occurring. So, this initial symbol for Sagittarius does a good job of portraying that early stage of human evolution.

A later depiction of the symbol for Sagittarius shows a man riding a white horse with a bow and arrow in hand. In this symbol, the man is no longer part of the horse. Thinking of the horse as the human personality, this might indicate that for the man—or woman—identification with the personality is diminishing. The fact that the horse is white, in addition, might suggest an increasingly purified personality.³ The archer astride the horse is now increasingly focused on goals that do not relate to selfish personality wants and desires. Whereas the Centaur’s goals were primarily concerned with such, the goals of the archer astride the white horse are now aspirationally focused. They are concerned with supporting the greater good, and they are concerned as well with a steadily growing sentient response to soul purposes.

The human being with this level of consciousness has most likely moved off of the Mutable Cross and is now under the control of the Fixed Cross, which is also called the Cross of the Crucified Christ. This can be viewed as that period of time, or incarnations, characterized by the Path of Discipleship and the experience of the first and second initiations. The person at this stage would, in addition, very likely be a member of the NGWS, whether the individual is consciously aware of the soul or not. On the Path of Discipleship, the ordinary wheel of life typically experienced by people identified with form has now been reversed. The soul is now able to guide the disciple with increasing assurance. The die has been cast, so to speak, and there is little chance that any kind of extended re-immersion in form identity will occur.

The third portrayal of the symbol for Sagittarius, and its current representation, is an arrow with part of the bow depicted. There is no Centaur, there is no archer with a white horse, there is only the

arrow with part of its bow. This third depiction is described by Bailey as attention given to some “form of inner focus or emphasis.”⁴ It’s pointed out that this inner focus will depend on a person’s level of consciousness. So this newest symbol, it could be said, underscores what the person is aiming toward. This inner focus can vary, for example, from one that is centered on some emotional ambition to a focus centered on a spiritual aspiration.⁵ It can involve as well a lower mind that is totally absorbed in achieving selfish interests or a mind that is concerned with strengthening soul contact. The current symbol for Sagittarius, therefore, can be easily descriptive of many different levels of consciousness depending on the nature of the inner focus a person may be holding.

In regard to the disciple on the Path, this third depiction can perhaps be understood as relating to intensified aspiration to identify with the soul. This is the disciple’s inner focus. When this inner focus has intensified even further so that the held aspiration is to identity with the Spiritual Triad, it could be said that a transition is occurring from the Fixed Cross to the Cardinal Cross, that period of time in which the third and fourth initiations are experienced. This Cross is described as The Cross of the Risen Christ. The disciple’s inner focus now involves the complete transcendence of identity with form. It is wholly absorbed in offering service to Hierarchy and the Plan.

Having taken a brief look at the symbol for Sagittarius, it’s not surprising to note that one of the major themes of the Keynote is *Direction*. It’s probably easy to see as well the connection between this theme and the Keynote—*I see the goal, I reach that goal, and then I see another.*

The connection between the idea of *direction* and the current symbol for this sign, an arrow with a fragment of its bow, is also easy to grasp. In order to achieve a goal, a person typically needs to have a motivating intention lying behind it. This motivating intention can be viewed as a *direction* toward which the person’s energy and attention are given. This would seem to be true whether it’s an individual identified with the personality or a disciple striving to identify with the soul.

For the individual who is still largely identified with the personality and under the control of the Mutable Cross, the sense of *direction* would probably manifest as the fulfilling of selfish wants and desires. This would likely be the case until the later stages of this Cross when the personality is becoming integrated and response to soul contact may be occurring. However, for the person who is strengthening soul contact, the experience of *direction* would be very different. This individual, now on the Path of Discipleship and under the control of the Fixed Cross, would be increasingly directing his or her life energy toward developing greater soul contact and offering service to humanity. The person’s aspiration would be steadily directed toward the sustaining of an uplifted consciousness. Because of developing soul contact and commitment to service, this disciple would be experiencing a gradually awakening intuitive sense. Only flashes of intuition might initially be experienced, but through a continuing effort to strengthen soul contact the door to a greater, more sustained experience of the intuition would gradually open.

In regard to the intuition, it’s interesting to note that an additional theme for Sagittarius is “The returning arrow of the intuition.”⁶ It’s pointed out in *Esoteric Astrology* that when the arrow of one-pointed aspiration is sent forth—the aspiration, for example, to identify with that which is higher or perhaps to engage in some activity that supports Plan-related goals—this arrow returns to its sender as intuitive vision. This suggests that as the disciple directs his or her energy in one-pointed aspiration, an ability to access the intuition will be steadily facilitated—that illuminating energy of pure reason which characterizes the Buddhic plane. The disciple’s next steps ahead in service to the Plan are illumined as a result of the returning arrow of intuition.

You may recall that the Keynote for the Arcane School Conferences this past spring was concerned, in part, with the idea of the illuminating energy of pure reason producing complete freedom from glamour. So, it's likely that throughout the lower interlude of this calendar year Arcane School associates have been conscious of the need to dispel glamour. An arrow of aspiration has been directed toward this objective, and intuitive insights have likely been received about how to achieve it.

Bailey's *Esoteric Astrology* indicates as well that before the disciple can ascend the mountain of Capricorn to any significant extent—and fully realize the aspiration for union with that which is higher—a strengthening intuitive sense must be well underway. This intensified experience of the intuitive sense is known as the disciple transitions from the Fixed Cross to the Cardinal Cross. The experience of *direction* for the disciple who has made this transition would likely be incomprehensible to the great majority of the human family. The arrows of one-pointed aspiration sent forth would be dynamically focused and would include the fulfilling of the goal of complete soul infusion, identity with the Spiritual Triad, ever-deepening sensitive response to the Plan, and greater engagement with those spiritually directed activities that support the Plan's implementation. The light of pure reason would now be well known to him or her. The disciple would now consistently walk in this illuminating light, and that *raincloud of knowable things* would be easily accessible.

As we look out upon the world stage of human affairs and events, it's probably easy to recognize people who seem to have a dramatically clear sense of direction. Sometimes, too, these individuals appear to be surprisingly young, such as the climate activist, Greta Thunberg, or the education activist, Malala Yousufzai. Such individuals seem to have a strikingly clear sense of the direction towards which their arrows of service-to-the-whole need to be sent.

Considering the field of politics, sometimes it's possible as well to observe political leaders who have a genuine desire to serve their constituents and the greater good. They strive to direct their energy in a manner that supports objectives which uplift the good of the whole. Of course, it's possible as well—and quite regularly, it would seem—to observe political leaders who are very willing to direct their energies in selfish ways. Their arrows are often aimed toward the acquisition of material wealth and power.

No doubt in relation to any of the fields of human endeavor, it would be possible to find individuals figuring prominently on the world stage who are either directing their energy in a manner that indicates noble aspirations or directing it in a way that points to selfish ambitions. Thus, it's evident once again that the symbol for the sign of Sagittarius, an arrow with part of its bow, can be descriptive of many different levels of consciousness.

Turning attention now to the New Group of World Servers, their arrows of aspiration are typically guided by their souls, whether or not, as mentioned earlier, they have any conscious awareness of the soul. Working through the various hierarchical departments of service, their planned activities offer support to the unfolding Plan of Hierarchy. As we know, such planned activities include the establishment throughout the world of *right human relations* as well as *the redirecting of money away from the Forces of Materialism and into the control of the Forces of Light*. New Group workers strive to carefully aim their arrows of aspiration, and because of this, the arrow of intuition typically returns to them. They're given the insights needed to carry on with Plan-related work.

This idea of making sure that one's energies are carefully directed is important so that the arrow of aspiration is carefully aimed. In the book, *Archetypes of the Zodiac* by Kathleen Burt, an interesting example is given that underscores the importance of making sure that one's energy is being directed in a way that is truly supportive of the greater good—and for the disciple, supportive of Plan-related objectives. The example is about Hercules who is described as having been a highly skilled archer.⁷

Apparently, as he was aiming his bow and arrow at a particular target, he allowed himself to be distracted by something that was happening nearby. Hercules allowed his one-pointed centering to be disturbed, and as the arrow was released it wounded a much-beloved colleague in the distance. So as not to end this talk on a downer note, it might be good to know that Hercules' beloved friend, according to this text, eventually recovers from the injury. The text describes though how Hercules was much shaken by the incident, and learned an important lesson about the danger of careless action.

Hercules' experience can perhaps serve as a cautionary tale for us. For the disciple, it can be seen as emphasizing the importance of sustaining one-pointed focus in that which is higher. It can also be understood as emphasizing the importance of making sure that one's energy is consistently directed into planned activities that support the greater good. As this is done, there can be confidence that an arrow of aspiration sent forth will likely find its mark—and eventually return as the arrow of the intuition.

So, let us move now into our meditation work.

References

1. Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Astrology*, p.175
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid., p.176
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid., p.177
7. Kathleen Burt, *Archetypes of the Zodiac*, pp.324-6