

## SAGITTARIUS: YOU ARE THE TARGET

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The keyword of the sign of Sagittarius – “I see the goal, I meet that goal, and then I see another” – symbolizes, as no other astrological keyword does, the human being’s eternal struggle to attain his destiny, since it succinctly describes the long pilgrimage on which an individual brings his life into expression.

Here we have the story of his struggles, desires and aspirations, of his successes and failures, his right and wrong actions, his joy and discouragement, and – above all – his incredible capacity for rising up from his own ashes and converting it all into the final triumph.

Thus is the road: plains and mountains, nights and days, high roads and low roads, all laid out in a sequential and cyclical process, generally maintaining an upward, demanding and stimulating path leading toward the goal of evolution.

The lives of intelligent people have always been distinguished by the goals they set for themselves. In the beginning the goals of the less evolved are survival, pleasure, power, recognition. Later, to the degree that we mature and understand how ephemeral these values are, we go in search of the transcendental, for what is beyond the daily appetites, for the spiritual world.

This change in orientation comes about naturally via the application of universal laws and through the force of evolutionary impulse. It takes place through infinite repetitions of lives, cycles and rhythms.

Life is expressed cyclically via alternating objective and subjective manifestations, rhythmically ascending, and revealing in that unfoldment a harmonious interplay of the different stages of development and their corresponding challenges. Thus also is the life of an individual human being, with closely related major and minor cycles overlapping in an orderly fashion – the cycles of major influence nurturing the evolution of the personality toward the eventual predominance of the higher entity, the Soul.

By virtue of these cyclic processes the evolving being is exposed to various influences that are periodically re-experienced in such a way as to serve as orienting stimuli that impel the individual around the “wheel of Life” toward a constant growth of consciousness. Passage through each of the different zodiacal signs is necessary in order to receive the influence of each one’s conditioning forces and energies, all of which will be synthesized eventually in the search for a condition of “totality in unity.”

Each zodiacal influence has its own special characteristics. Thus Sagittarius is seen as the sign of the pilgrim, of the one who seeks the path and finds it by creating it with his own feet. This sign is especially related to man, his Soul and its qualities, and it is the sign of the “centralized disciple.” It indicates his orientation toward the goal in order to transcend his identification with form (the Centaur), reaching Soul expression (the Archer), and then exchanging his ambition and egotism for fiery aspiration and altruism, leaving behind the half-human half-animal shooting the arrow in order to become the arrow itself.

The arrow is directed toward the infinite with the eternal intention of becoming “that” which is seen as “the goal” – the consciousness focused on its source in constant yearning, a sustained crescendo. The individual’s attention, alertness and thoughts are directed toward the attractive center that is felt and intuited. The creative mind builds the path from within itself, a path of Light and Fire.

Sagittarius is a fire sign, the same as Aries and Leo, and this fire is related to the fire of the spiritual Soul, the fire of mind, the fire that transforms and purifies. In Aries the fire of mind emerges, and in Leo we become conscious of the small flame of the Higher Self. In Sagittarius the disciple learns to fan this fire of the Soul so that it consumes the remains of what has been transcended.

The fire of the Soul is a spark of the Original Fire, that “Consuming Fire” that has been defined as God, so that we can understand, perhaps, His capacity to synthesize in His own essence everything created.

The Soul, as fire, represents the individual’s potential to synthesize and meld himself into the great Cosmic Fire. It is the flame of life, the spark of the mind and of consciousness. Because of that fire, the Soul gives us vitality, our capacity to think, create, act and link with others; the Soul encompasses all the fires of manifestation and, along with its principal characteristic as an attractive aspect, it gives us the means by which we can unite all the components of our triangle of fire into one, from the lower substance up to the higher Spirit. Thus we become one.

The Soul is the flame of that life that illuminates and gives off warmth to all that exists, a fragment of that vibrant energy that is driven to manifest due to its potentiality. The Soul is a spark of the “fire of the mind,” the power of consciousness, the possibility of thinking and creating, of knowing and being known, the guarantee that man, as Soul, is a thinker, creator, and will inevitably fulfill his destiny.

The Soul acts as mind-consciousness in its function as the true Self, and thus man, as a mental being, develops this quality and establishes relationship; he comes to know consciousness as an exchange, a way of perceiving possibilities with unlimited expanse.

Consciousness is a fundamental quality of the Soul by which spirit and matter are united in a relationship, and the cultivation of this relationship is the Path.

In order to realize this relationship, the seeker works as a nucleus of energy that is taken to its highest vibration, thus undertaking the path of return and becoming conscious of it. The seeker is the Soul, and it is the Soul, the nucleus of the cosmic life, that directs the search. It is a voyage that is complex, difficult, drawn out, yet inevitably carried to its conclusion. Here the concept of return is an important consideration because it speaks to a return to the source and reaffirms the teaching about a Universe that is in eternal movement, that constantly renews itself due to its unlimited potentiality.

When the individual becomes a seeker, he begins to perceive the attraction of the center of that overriding One Consciousness, omnipresent, underlying each created being.

The moment that the seeker perceives the presence of the Soul, it marks the beginning of the path of a conscious return. Left behind are the goals of the lower self, all the personality anxieties, and one begins to glimpse the higher goals: purification, liberation, fusion and identification.

Slowly, step by step, the pilgrim builds the path. He slowly produces from within himself this lighted path, which is built out of the thread of consciousness. The journey is long and uncertain because there is no map to show the way; there is no clear ground upon which he can set his feet; there is only a far away call always resonating within himself. The path only appears as he moves forward, supported by his own strength, guided by his own light.

Thus he goes, stretching a line of light between the two extreme modalities of manifestation; he goes about reestablishing the apparently lost relationship between cause and effect. What the ordinary mind interprets as separate, apart, subject to the effects of time and space, is resolved into a unity when he enters the path of return; the separations disappear as he goes about recovering the original qualities of the Soul.

The Path is a mental voyage that is built with mental matter and developed via thought. It is in the mind where new relationships are established as a basis for expansions of consciousness. It is the mind that has the capacity to perceive, imagine, visualize, construct, direct. That's why the seeker has to achieve a mental focus by placing himself on the plane of the mind, directed toward his ruling mental center – his Soul. In other words, he has to seek fusion with the Soul, become the Soul. This is the first duty of a human being.

On the long road toward supreme union – his true goal – the disciple must establish innumerable relationships and go through an infinity of stages that are closely linked with his triple nature (as Monad, Soul and Personality), with the triple nature of each of these three aspects within themselves, and with the Universe of which he forms a part.

Thus his first great goal is the *transformation* of the personality, its purification and its attunement to the vibratory keynote of the Soul, and this will be expressed via the service for which his vehicle is perfectly prepared. In this way the Soul is freed from the limitations of the form and is able to act freely, without obstacles, as a spark of solar fire aware of its potential to become that very fire.

It's worth reflecting on the essential meaning of this liberation process, since what it involves is not in any way a separative, dissociative process. Rather it is a combination of transformative actions by means of which that which is the antithesis of spiritual values is refined so that it is attuned with these values and can translate them into some objective expression in the world. It's about developing an inclusive consciousness that is simultaneously sensitive to the highest spiritual values and capable of perceiving, interpreting and assimilating as a Soul the divinity that embraces the multiple lower forms of manifestation.

It is, then, a redemptive work, a purification, by means of which a transmutation of energies takes place and forges one more link in the chain of life.

The second goal is that of the *fusion* of personality and Soul and the total rule of the Soul. This goal simultaneously complies with the Law of Attraction, transmuting the energy of the not-self and assimilating it, and with the Law of Synthesis, preparing for the next goal of identification with the Spiritual Entity. It is the flowering of the human being, in which he becomes an intuitive being, centering himself in the higher mind. It is the Soul expressing itself as the equilibrating center within the triple relationship of Spirit-Soul-personality. The Soul, true consciousness of the being it inhabits, guarantees unity.

The third goal is the *identification* of that fused nucleus of Soul-personality – now pure Soul – with the Monad, the essence, the spark of Divine Fire. This stage marks the passage of the evolving entity beyond the individual's field of consciousness proper in order to acquire mastery and be able to enter into the dimension of the Supreme.

The attainment of these goals is like a journey through time and space; in his struggle to reach them, the pilgrim unites past and present while projecting himself into the future; he links the lower self with the higher Self, creating a bridge toward the eternal that is known as the Antahkarana.

Each goal attained establishes a new relationship and is not an isolated event, but rather is part of a series of approaches, of simultaneous encounters, toward which the attainment of the first goal stimulates us as an advance on future attainments.

The concept of relationship is of fundamental importance because it signals an intrinsic condition of existence. Everything that exists is interrelated and part of the Whole. And this brings out two basic facts: 1) the existence of an element of relationship and 2) the mechanism through which it acts. *The element of relationship is consciousness* – a quality of the Soul, of the mind; *the mechanism of action is mental creativity*, the capacity of the mind to create out of mental matter and establish links, connective tissue, between each instance of manifestation.

The individual imitates on a smaller scale the great creative act of God, the Supreme Mind, Who has arranged that His creation be capable of such acts; that's why the human being is a thinker, why he has the faculty of thought, of creativity. And this faculty can be developed through his own efforts, passing from a primitive, limited condition governed by the lower mind to an open condition, ruled by the higher mind, giving him the right to create his own life as part of and in fulfillment of the Larger Life.

Herein lies the greatness of the thinker, and also his grave responsibility, because the more he advances on the evolutionary path, the more he becomes a co-participant in the act of creation; his influence continually expands outward beyond his immediate limited circle into an ever widening circumference.

Creativity and consciousness – creation and relationship – are, then, qualities of the mind with its potentiality for producing seemingly individual manifestations that are, nevertheless, closely related by their “essential unity” since they emanate from the same unique source and, as a result, share the same essence.

Being able to penetrate into the meaning of these concepts will help us understand the basic principle of “unity in diversity” – which applies to all life – and to accomplish the hard work of making this principle a reality within ourselves. This is one of our greatest goals, and carries implicit within it the fact that each manifestation has the same potential as the source from which it emanated and that this determines the fusion of the many and their eventual abstraction into the Whole.

The search for unity emphasizes the spherical nature of the spiritual path, which is revealed to be not as strictly vertical as one might suppose when speaking of the inner search. Rather it is *multidirectional*, as would be logical considering that it is an integral process. Thus the spiritual worker constantly demonstrates that he is part of the world of relationships and acts in accordance with its laws. He demonstrates in life a perfect reflection between his internal world and his outer expression, emphasizing the dynamic character of the path via objective as

well as subjective action, maintaining a balance between aspiration and the practical application of the inspiration received so that it is expressed on the level of daily life.

In that way the spiritual individual can contribute to the everyday world in a normal fashion, and ordinary experiences will be converted into spiritual reminders to reorient the consciousness. This perfect interrelation of inner and outer is the sign of a true server.

Accordingly, service must be seen as a state of balance that allows the free flow of the life of the Soul, as the natural flowering of spiritual qualities in order to enrich the world in which the server moves, the expression of the highest life experiences in right relationship. It is a way to contribute to the uninterrupted transmission of life divine; it is the Law of Brotherhood expressed to its fullest.

Service is the expression of that divine energy that transcends the limitations of the form in order to reach all of manifestation. It is communication, union, connection, relationship, love; it is the unifying principle of the Universe. Service is a set of actions with which we build the path, whose continuity reaches its full expression in what we know as the “Hierarchical Chain.”

The best form of service is not something that is offered as a result of a careful planning of acts or attitudes. Rather it is seen as a natural outflow of lived experiences that – like the Soul – nourish the server and reveal the comprehension born of wisdom, in which light the laws of life can become manifest.

When the pilgrim understands all these things, he penetrates into a new dimension of seeking. He no longer sees the path as a series of goals to achieve. Rather it is a joyful and natural assumption of a duty, such as the development of new states of consciousness, of new relationships, through which he is incorporated into a larger, infinite world in which – reciprocally – he himself will become his true self.

It is the identification of the actor with the act, giving of oneself without reserve; the entrance into the current of Life, in the ocean of Life; the conscious, pure and intuitive acknowledgement of the Law; the consecration of oneself in service to the Plan; the unity of the dedicated seeker’s intent with the original idea; an orientation towards the Center.

What must be left behind are the desires, yearnings, glamor and illusions. Now we do the Soul’s work, sublime in its purity; the arrow of triumphant Sagittarius, freed from the Centaur and the Archer, heading surely toward the target which – in ultimate terms – is identification with the mind of God and supreme abstraction into His vital potency.

May the hand not falter that tenses the bow and lets loose the arrow  
from which the Path emerges.

May the gaze be fixed upon the Path that opens ahead,  
and may the foot be firm upon it.

May the Path and the one who walks the Path be one,  
behind the arrow that flies ever forward!