

Practice - Newsletter - December 2022

Topic of the month

The Light in the Darkness - Sagittarius and Temperance



After the gloomy November, which gave us the opportunity to let old and superfluous things "die", December now brings the light back into the world. I think spontaneously of the joyful hymn "You are the light of the world". In December we celebrate the birth of light into a world of darkness. Christians see this embodied in the baby Jesus, who comes into the world in the dark stable and grows up to be a torchbearer, light-bringer and prince of peace, announced by an angel, brought forth in the consciousness of virginal innocence.

Mary represents the anima, the feminine part of the psyche. To her the angel appears and announces the coming of the light. Psychologically, the angel symbolizes the pure, unadulterated life energy that appears after the "death" of the all-too-human part of the personality - usually called the "ego." In the Tarot, the kind of personality that emerges from the experience of psychic "dying" is represented by temperance. In the Tarot, the term "temperance" is somewhat broader and nuanced differently than in ordinary usage. The Tarot means a temperance that has overcome the polarity of opposites to some extent, that mediates between opposites, has come into greater unity, has overcome artificial divisions such as those between professional and personal selves, and is much more authentic than before the "death" of the ego. The authors of the Rider-Waite Tarot have probably given their temperance angel wings for this reason. The photo montage of "Cristo Redentor" on the mountain Corcovado in Rio de Janeiro, to which angel wings were deposited, fits therefore wonderfully to December, in which we celebrate his birth and to the temperance of the Tarot, which corresponds again with the zodiac sign of Sagittarius, which dominates December.

Sagittarius even completely dominates December, first the astrological sign, then the astronomical constellation. German version of Wikipedia tells us: "The Sun is in this sign on average in the period between November 23 and December 21. Due to the migration of the vernal

equinox, the zodiac sign Sagittarius no longer corresponds to the constellation Sagittarius. In the constellation Sagittarius, the Sun is approximately in the period between December 18 and January 20." ([https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sch%C3%BCtze_\(Tierkreiszeichen\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sch%C3%BCtze_(Tierkreiszeichen)))

From the feminine power of Scorpio, which allowed us to dive into the unconscious, we now move into the time quality of Sagittarius, a masculine power. With this force we emerge from the dark and chaotic aspects of November to the pure joy and promise of new life in December. Our hymn mentioned at the beginning puts it this way:

*"Just as a lamp suddenly brings warmth and light,
As the beam of the fog lamp breaks through the barrier of sight,
As a quick match brightly ignites a candle
And thereby banishes the darkness."*

(Helga Poppe, 1977, Presence Publishing House, Gnadenthal, Germany)

Certainly, the following characterizations do not apply to all people born in December without exception, but the typical representatives of the astrological sign of Sagittarius are generally described as carefree, optimistic, cheerful, energetic and open-minded. It is said that they can also be very self-righteous and get stuck on something, even becoming fanatical. But in the deepest heart they are religious people, guided by the good, moral and just. The element of the sign Sagittarius is, according to the ancient writings, fire. Sagittarians therefore understood how to give a good party and celebrate properly. Especially in their younger years they showed a lot of enthusiasm and idealism. That they often overshoot the mark, that it is difficult for them to show weaknesses, to tolerate criticism and to admit mistakes, one can imagine quite well, it is said. I think you still have to like them, these Sagittarians. They wear their hearts on their sleeves and simply say what they think. Sometimes this is misunderstood as showing off, but Sagittarians just like to communicate, guilelessly, innocently, fresh off the cuff. Sagittarians have a strong need to find meaning and are very interested in profound wisdom and philosophy, astrology continues. To characterize this sign briefly, one could say: truth-loving, freedom-loving and idealistic.

This fits the month of December, the light of the world and temperance, I think. The central pictorial element on the Tarot card are certainly the two chalices. That the flow of water from one chalice into the other is depicted in such a way that it would be physically impossible to pour the water at that angle into a lower lying vessel is intentional. The way a person who has overcome his ego and let it die deals with the problems of life appears to some contemporaries as wizardry. In the time quality of temperance we overcome artificial limitations of our thinking, speaking and doing based on moral dogmas and start to act according to the situation. We take the situations of life as they are and intuitively respond to them appropriately and correctly, guided by a kind of higher reason, the spiritual evolution of common sense. A person who has shed the chains of mass consciousness, dogmas, rigid rules and social conventions, can combine the different sides of life without creating superfluous conflicts. People who are still dominated by the ego often separate the different areas of their life artificially: "Duty is duty and liquor is liquor". In duty, everything is terribly tedious and serious, and for pleasure we must first of all drink our courage. Such people often find people sexually attractive whom they cannot love and often love people whom they do not find sexually attractive. They cannot take life as it comes. Both their professional self and their private self are false, inauthentic, and often have little to do with the person who lies buried beneath all the spectacle they put on all day long to appear what they are not. According to astrology, this is also a major pitfall for Sagittarius. In this respect, temperance is also the developmental opportunity for those born in December. Pollack writes that temperance "assembles the elements of personality in such a way that there is an entirely natural interplay between the individual and the external world." (Rachel Pollack: "TAROT - 78 Steps of Wisdom," p. 125, 15th German edition 2019, IRIS at Neue Erde GmbH). With temperance, intuition awakens, that is, the ability to combine spontaneity with knowledge. This is exactly what makes the difference between intellectual knowledge and wisdom.

It is the ability that King Solomon demonstrated when he ordered the child to be cut in two with the sword in order to give one half to each of the two women who claimed it as their child. The true mother immediately gave in and asked that the child be allowed to live and given to her opponent, while the latter insisted on the division. This ended the court case after 10 minutes and the truth was found. Nowadays, this would take months, involve extensive research and witness interviews, expert witnesses and DNA tests, then appeal and cost the taxpayer a lot of money. I have seen such a case in practice when paternity was at stake. Even a DNA test could not clear up the case because you can manipulate all these intellectual structures. King Solomon could not be manipulated in his wisdom, he was imbued with temperance in the sense of the Tarot.

"Temperance" is derived from the Latin "tempero," which means "to mix" or "to combine properly." The angel on the Tarot card stands with one foot on the earth and with the other in the water. Temperance thus connects the "real world of events and people" (the earth) with the unconscious (water). The temperance or mediating person in this sense thus brings his spiritual consciousness into the real world and actively and intuitively shapes it according to his ideas, thus creating for himself "heaven on earth" where others see only desolation and despair. The iris, which blooms next to temperance on the Tarot card, refers to the Greek goddess of the same name, the goddess of the rainbow. According to Greek mythology, this goddess used the rainbow to deliver the messages of the gods to mortal men. Just like the angel of Tarot's temperance, Iris is almost always depicted with the wings of the messenger of the gods. The triangle in the square on the robe of the Angel of Temperance symbolizes the rise of the spirit out of the mortal body. Directly above it, the name of God is woven into the robe of the angel, if you look closely (יהוה = "Jehovah" in Hebrew script), thus a reference to the union of the soul with the Divine Principle.

As a messenger of the gods, Iris went to the underworld and filled her golden goblet with water from the River Styx, the river that the deceased had to cross on their way to the realm of the dead. The mythology wants to explain us with it that we reach only to new life, if we go into the underworld of the unconscious. C.G. Jung has impressively shown how dream interpretation and other work with the symbols of the unconscious can help us to track down those complexes and neuroses that bind us to the false self and prevent our resurrection to new life. Intuitive work with the symbols of the Tarot can also be helpful and fruitful here. There is an instance within us that always tells us the truth about ourselves and others. Jung once gave the example of that lady who dreamed she was visiting someone who received her kindly and told her that her friends were already waiting for her. She went ahead and opened the door to the room where her friends were waiting. The lady entered a cow shed. So this inner entity has a sense of humor and has no problem shocking us, if it serves to find the truth. It also does not care whether "cow" is a politically correct designation for a lady, as long as it designates that which comes closest to the psychological truth behind our everyday theater.

Joe South wrote the song "Games People Play" in 1968. I will close with a passage from it:

„Oh the games people play now every night and every day now
Never meaning what they say, yeah never saying what they mean
First you whine away your hours, in your concrete towers
Soon you'll be covered up with flowers in the back of a black limousine.“

Temperance can save us from this dreariness, even if we all have to leave the physical body at some point. Let us use the time quality of temperance in December and let the light of inner truth into our lives.

Dates, important and current events:

➤ **Elke's date preview:**

Dec. 02, 2022: **free (!)** online meditation (at 8 p.m.)

Dec. 15, 2022: Online: Winter solstice celebration with forgiveness ritual ho'oponopono
Dec. 20, 2022: Winter solstice celebration
Jan. 11, 2023: Meeting point: holistic self-help with cancer (at 4.30 p.m.)
Jan. 19, 2023: **free** introductory event to the "Love of Life" program
Feb. 09, 2023: Start of annual seminar "Love of life".

For more information, please contact Elke: naturheilpraxis.tegel@gmail.com

- **From January 2023 on** we organize in irregular intervals on **Sundays from 3:00 - 6:00 pm** a spiritual devotion, so common prayer and singing, Bible text with metaphysical interpretation, common meditation, messages, work with Tarot cards. Afterwards, a cozy get-together with coffee and cake. („Voluntary energy compensation“ 😊). **Dates 2023:** **Attention date change!** Jan. 15, MAR 19, Jul. 16, Oct. 15

It only remains for me to wish you a light-filled December!

Yours Joerg Schuber



Image credits:

1. <https://pixabay.com/de/photos/cristo-re-dentor-rio-de-janeiro-3343057/>
2. Rider Waite Tarot: temperance
3. Joerg Schuber: private