

## LESSON 16

## HOD - SPLENDOUR/GLORY

'The 8th Path (Sephira) is called the absolute or perfect intelligence because it is the mean of the primordial, which was no root by which it can cleave or rest, save in the hidden places of Gedulah, from which emanates its proper essence.'

'The absolute or perfect intelligence' means in relation to this Sephira that it has reached its point of perfection, for Hod is the Sephira of the intellect and the intellect is the point of manifestation in Hod. It does not mean that one who enters into this area knows it all but gives the individual who enters Hod the opportunity to come to grips with this facet of their being, and as such a new rapport is developed as the intellect and body start to work hand in hand. It is a point of regression, like the other Sephiroth, each catering for a different aspect of the self. The reference to the 'hidden places of Gedulah' shows simply the influence of the Sephira (which Hod was once a part of) holds a special balance or ray as Hod. Gedulah shows mercy and this ray (working through Tiphareth) draws away the emotion of Netzach from Hod, leaving intellect.

Hod is the 8th Sephira and stands for Splendour. The Oxford Dictionary defines Splendour as a great brightness, magnificence, parade, pomp and brilliance. The masculine centre of Netzach must now revert to its feminine nature as it enters Hod, as it

takes the essence of victory and refines it yet again to a more stronger aspect by showing all who bear witness that victory has been won. Hod in fact communicates the news of victory to all who will listen and as such an important key word in relation to this Sephira is communication.

The virtue of Hod is truthfulness. Since the individual who comes into Hod faces his intellect and slowly develops a harmonious relationship to truth, it is the first thing that must accompany this alliance. Truthfulness comes through the communication aspect of Hod's nature, as any exchange here must be one in which there is no deception or the communicative factor of Hod will not propel its occupants into Netzach.

The vice of Hod is self deception and deceit. This also relies on the communicative aspects of Hod's nature. It is here that one encounters the first major aspect of ego expansion and self deception, it is that false impression that can sway us off our path. Hod, in terms of ascent, is analogous to the water element and there is a real danger of sense and perception loss here unless one truly devotes oneself to the path of the Great Work. The self deception of Hod is rooted in the mental imagery which must be trained in archetype association when the psyche begins to come aware of the attempts to corner it into submission, and it will send out many false impressions that one must be aware of.

The magical power of Hod is the vision of Splendour and by

association is shown in the vision of Ezekiel. Chapter 1 Vs4: 'And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the North, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of fire'. For all intents and purposes this is a description of the entry into Hod, for Ezekiel the Prophet was the communication of Adonai.

The magical weapon of Hod is the badge of office of the ancient mystery schools. This was used not only as an identification or prestigious symbol as a definite magical amulet that awakened certain powers of the office of the wearer. If the office be of a planetary, elemental, or Kabbalistic nature it would attract those powers to be utilised by the adept in question. An example of this is given in the ceremony of the Portal Grade where the lamen of the Hierophant is thus explained: 'This Hierophant's lamen is a synthesis of Tiphareth, to which the calvary cross of six squares forming the cube opened out is fitly referred. The two colours of red and green, the most active and the most passive, whose conjunction points out the practical application of the knowledge of equilibrium, are symbolical of the reconciliation of the celestial essences of fire and water, for reconciling yellow unites with blue in green which is the complementary to red, and with red in orange which is the complementary colour to blue. The small inner circle placed upon the cross alludes to the Rose which is conjoined thereto in the symbolism of the Rose and Cross in our Order.'

The Chinese metaphysical association to Hod is the I'Ching trigram Sun, and is related to wind. Some of the characteristics of this trigram are: indecisive, gentle, restless, yielding, fragrant, obedient etc. But the abstraction is one of penetration. The body parts it relates to are the thigh, breath, upper arm, and relates to the compass direction of the south-west. It is a symbol of growth in its first stages of manifestation. The human archetype it is associated to is the eldest daughter.

The Eastern chakra centre of Hod is associated to the Svadishthana and has six petals. With the letters b, bh, m, y, r and it represents the water element and is designated by the Moon as part of its emblem. It is governed by the dieties of Sakti and Rakini. This chakra governs the reproductive system. It is this centre that plays havoc with sexual desires when over stimulated, unless these abundant energies are sublimated within the other body systems. It is here, as in the case of Ezekiel that mystical manifestation frequently occurs.

The mineral drug of Hod is Mercury or quicksilver and must be administered in an extremely diluted form. Some of the various aspects of Mercury are: Mercurius Jodatus (for throat problems), Mercurius Cyantus (Bronchial), Calomel (ear problems), Mercurius Corrosivus (kidney ailments). Mercury helps more specifically with complaints of the nervous system. Its psychic effects are those of the prophet, in whom it induces a state whereby man believes he has seen and talked with God. He in fact considers himself the Divine Messenger or Herald of the Gods.

One of the vegetable drugs of Hod is a tincture taken from the Licorice plant (Glycyrrhiza) and was used since the times of Egyptians. From a medical viewpoint it was used for bronchial complaints and the psychic effect helped the voyager on his astral journey. Valerian is another herbal tincture that can be used here as well, it is a nervine and antispasmodic.

The effect of the world of Atziluth on Hod is through Elohim Tzabaoth. God of Hosts (or armies) and in a sense shows the power of God's name in martial concepts. This of course reflects power of spiritual association to mundane aspects. Atziluth reflects the collective victory (of humanity as a whole) through the power of the intellect to discriminate and choose the various paths offered to us. It is the path on the evolutionary scale in which the power of the intellect predominates and is the vanquisher over the emotions (Yesod) and material (Malkuth). Any exchange in this area is psycho-spiritual and above the mundane.

The Briatic emanations of Hod are shown through the archangel Michael which means 'Who (is) like Mighty' or 'Who (is) Like God'. Also called Sabbathiel, Michael was generally the forerunner or herald of any divine plan. He is often called the Prince of Light. He was a leader of archangels into battle against the forces of evil. Michael's presence in Hod is to show us enough of the Divine to want it and emulate it wherever possible. Since this archangel is the one next to God out of all the other archangelic beings he is the one, through reflection,

we should try to look at by the process of example. He stimulates the intellect of nations and civilizations to communicate along mystical paths and ideals.

The Yetziratic attribution is the choir of angels called the Beni-Elohim, or "sons of God" or "sons of the chiefs". The angelic choir are said to reveal all occult matters and secrets of theology and law. It is they who discriminate the powers of light and darkness for us in intellectual terms so we can more easily grasp their concepts. They provide the patterns of our thoughts and make us utilise our archetypal concepts to the fullest. They also provide, through this service, the rational balance of the intellectual as well as stimulating motivation.

The Assiatic forces of Hod are expressed through the planetary emanations of Mercury. These rays govern the intellect and any form of communication, and the sense of sight. It is a planet which in esoteric concepts shows us the way to the Universal Mind. It shows us how to apply will, through the stimuli of the intellect for a more stronger application of the true self. Here the discriminator is ever present and continually gives us new avenues or paths to traverse in order to get the best from the self. It is the continual searcher or enquirer who is always looking for new ideas and actions.

The Qlippothic forces of Hod are the Samiel or Jugglers, whose form is that of dull yellow demon headed dog like monsters. The disruptive aspect of their nature is by communicating the

impetus to break with order in general. Their idea is to bring forth total chaotic conditions, so that they can feed from the random energy patterns of such conditions without the interference of the higher Tree.

The Egyptian godform associated to Hod is Thoth, the scribe of the gods and teacher of all the arts and sciences. He was the personification of the god of all knowledge. Because all the sciences of Egypt were recorded he was the diety who presided over these books of learning, as well as that of divine speech. As a god he was curiously apart from most gods because he was self created and his powers were unrivalled. He had the head of an Ibis and held the Ankh in his most common form of appearance. Thoth was also called the arbiter of the gods and seldom sided with any. He was the central pivot in recording the laws of cause and effect and only used his powers when unfairness develops between gods.

The Greek counterpart of Thoth is Hermes, the patron god of travellers. In one of his forms he conducted the souls to the underworld. He is often depicted with winged sandals and a helmet. Because he was once guardian of the flock he in turn now protects the possessions of others. Hermes is also the idea of youth itself by being shown as a handsome youth. As the Roman god Mercury he was the son of Maia and Jupiter and undertook much the same duties as he did as Hermes. His Roman name is derived from the 'Merce' because he was the god of merchandise. His winged helmet was called Petasus and his winged sandals were called

Talaria while his sword was known as the Herpe.

The Tarot association to Hod are the 4 eights which show solitary success: i.e. success in the matter for the time being: but not leading to much result apart from the thing itself. The 8 of Wands is called 'The Lord of Swiftmess' and shows too much force applied too suddenly resulting in a quickly expended force. The 8 of Cups has a title of 'Lord of Abandoned Success' and shows only temporary success. The 8 of Swords is 'The Lord of Shortened Force' which shows too much force applied to too small an area. The 8 of Disks is called 'The Lord of Prudence' and shows over carefullness in small things at the expense of great things.

The abtract geometric shapes applied to Hod are the Octagram and the Octangle. Mathers says: 'The Octangle as a whole is referred to the 8th Sephirah, Hod. The Octangle naturally represents the power of the Ogdoad, and the Octagon showeth the Ogdoad operating in Nature by the dispersal of the rays of the Elements in their dual aspect under the presidency of the eight letters of the Name. The Octagram reflected from every third point yielded eight triangles at the apices thereof; fitly representing the Triad operating in each element in its dual form, i.e. of Positive and Negative, under the powers of the name YHVH ADONAI or as it is written bound together IAHDONHI'.

Hanuman is the Hindu diety of Hod and is usually shown with a mans body and a Monkey like head. He was one of the greatest



supporters of Rama and was possessed with enormous strength. He is a diety of high spirituality as well as having fantastic strength and esoteric evaluation he is one who has conquered his earthly wants for higher spiritual union. The Monkey aspect of his nature relates to his uncontrollable urges, but these are never unleashed and always under control. His head is a constant reminder of this. He is triumph, victory, and invincible.

The Opal is one of the precious stones of Hod. It is said that an Opal is a stone that reflects the moods of the wearer. It has as many colours attached to it as there are moods of human nature. Among its so called mystical attribution was the power to make its wearer invisible. Hence it was a stone often used by travellers as a talisman of protection against theft. Also it is said to enforce the vital aura and guard against age. the Opal was a stone of both good and bad fortune, depending on its type.

Storax is one of the perfumes of Hod and is obtained from a variety of trees (Myrrh) which yield the resin Storax. It is used in ritual as an auric condenser for it lingers in the aura and transmits the will of the wearer to another individual whether for good or evil. In medicinal work the Storax as an oil is used for skin preparations and when utilised as a compound helps a number of skin problems.

Lavender (*Lavendula Officinalis*) is a plant of Hod and as an oil extract is used in the cosmetic industry (for soaps etc). It can be used for both glandular and skin complaints and is said to

get rid of wrinkles. It is used in preserving meat (through smoking) and in magic it is considered a love charm to get rid of unwanted attentions. It is used as a relaxant for any type of psychic work.

The Grade associated to this Sephira is Practicus which is designated by the numbers 3=8. It is here that the candidate is linked with the Kamea of Mercury and the water elements. While in Yesod one becomes aware of emotional control, here in Hod the intellect is stimulated through study. The effect of the aura of the lower mental body which governs the reasoning and thinking process of the brain patterns is that it completely alters ones mental approach, by producing a higher vibration level which creates new patterns of thought and reason.

One of the animals of Hod is the Jackal and is considered as the Pathfinder. In mythology the Jackal guided souls to the underworld in the form of Anubis. The Jackal is a scavenger and lives off the remnants of the kill of other animals. It is symbolic of ones sensory nature as shown by the collar often depicted around its neck, which shows knowledge obtained by the senses. From a psychological viewpoint the Jackal is an aspect of the darker side of the self, buried in the unconscious. The magical image of Hod is the Hermaphrodite which has a direct bearing in relationship to the Jackal.

The 3rd Heaven or Mansion is called Shehakim (1018) which means clouds (or grace). The Talmud says of this Heaven:

'Shehakim is the place of the millstones that grind the Mana for the righteous, for it is said (Ps78:23) "He commanded the skies (Shehakim) above, and opened the doors of Heaven and he caused Mana to rain upon them for food". The term Mana means brilliance or brightness (Nogah).' The entire concept is one of light shining down which in effect opens up higher levels of consciousness. The millstones that grind the Mana are in fact the karmic patterns of life.

The 3rd Infernal Mansion is called Tithion - the Bilge. This equates to 749 which relates to TMN meaning to cover up, hide in the earth. The root TIT relates to earth or mud gushing forth, hence the action of a pump. It is an area of intense darkness and as such is constantly trying to cleanse itself (through the actions of the Bilge) so that it can draw down the Light to nourish it. It is very much like the actions of the physical itself with constant incarnation on this planet to purify the self.

The King of Edom associated to Hod is Saul (ShAL). ShA which relates to an opposition to calmness or peace. The Duke of Edom is called Teman from the root THOU meaning 'definitive description' and their city is Rehoboth.

ASSOCIATIONS

TITLE:	HOD - SPLENDOUR/GLORY
TITLE IN MICROCOSM:	RIGHT HIP
ATZILUTH NAME:	ELOHIM TZABAOth
BRIATIC NAME:	MICHAEL
YETZIRATIC NAME:	BENI-ELOHIM
ASSIAH - PLANET NAME:	MERCURY
QLIPPOTH:	THE SAMIEL
HINDU DIETY:	HANUMAN
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	THOTH
GREEK DIETY:	HERMES
ROMAN DIETY:	MERCURY
GEMSTONE:	OPAL
MAGICAL WEAPON:	BADGE OF OFFICE
MAGICAL VISION:	VISION OF SPLENDOUR
AROMATIC:	STORAX
VEGETABLE DRUG:	TINCTURE OF GLYCYRHIZA
MINERAL DRUG:	QUICKSILVER
TAOISM ASSOCIATION:	SUN
PLANT:	LAVENDER
ANIMAL:	JACKAL
TAROT ASSOCIATION:	4 EIGHTS
VICE:	SELF DECEPTION AND DECEIT
VIRTUE:	TRUTHFULLNESS
GEOMETRIC ASSOCIATION:	OCTAGRAM, OCTANGLE
THE HEAVENS:	SHEKAHIM

KING OF EDM:

SAUL

HELLS:

TITHION

CHAKRA:

SVADISTHANA

ROSICRUCIAN GRADE:

PRACTICUS

