

## LESSON 20


## THE ELEVENTH PATH

'The Eleventh Path is that of Scintillating Intelligence because it is the essence of that curtain which is placed close to the Order of Disposition, and this is a special dignity given to it that it may be able to stand before the face of the cause of causes.'

In simple terms, the above statement, from the Sepher Yetzirah, shows that as a Path it is placed just outside of the Godhead in Kether as it is an emanation from it in both terms of ascent and descent. It is given the quality of a veil or curtain because the totality of truth can only be shown to the individual when in Kether itself. The name 'Scintillating' is attributed to it because this Path is the first essence of life itself, in its purest form outside the 'cause of causes' (Kether).

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Aleph. By Gematria ALPh:  $1+30+800=831$  which means "direct, guide or teach" which demonstrates an authoritative force taking the initiative. Another method of viewing Aleph is to study its shape and component parts. In fact Aleph is made up of a Vau placed between a Yod and a Daleth which makes up the word IVD = YOD: which by the pointed hand illustrates the direction of force by guidance. The shape of the letter is also said to resemble a plough. Since a plough is used to till the earth and prepare it for growth it

stands as a symbol of potentiality. The English translation of ALPh is Ox (or bull) which stands for power and growth, the beginning of spring.

The alchemical symbolism of this Path is  (Mercury), it is the divine essence and is part of the first matter. From a practical alchemical viewpoint it is the watery essence of the experiment, this applies to the three kingdoms, animal, vegetable and mineral. There is a certain relationship here to the Indian concept of prana and the Chinese concept of Chi that circulates within the body.

The Tarot Trump applied here is the "Fool" which depicts a naked child under a tree. He stands in the shape of the letter Aleph and holds his darker side (portrayed by the wolf) in check with the divine leash of innocence. The blossoms he reaches for are those of divine wisdom, which show as the microcosm, the subtle centres of the body and as the macrocosm the stars themselves. Here, in this trump, the child has emerged the victor (of life) and personifies the concept of the 'Divine Child' for he (or she) is the child in all of us that has emerged to take control. It is also important to note that the 'Child God' aspect, in modern psychological terms relates to the psyche of the individual in its primordial state which is dependent on the actions associated to the god in question.

The Hindu belief is that all things are governed by tides or currents which are called tattvas. These are in five divisions,

having associations to the five elements. The name of the Tattva for this Path is Vayu which is symbolised by a blue circle. The keyword of this Tattva is 'Locomotion' because if one were to classify motion it would be cyclic, so its energy is directed into spheretical ethers. Vayu has the function of skin nourishment and repair which if broken down can be classified into five different subdivisions (such as Tejas of Vayu or Prithivi of Vayu).

One of the Egyptian godforms of this Path is Nu which is one of the eight gods of the city of Khemennu (Hermopolis). The Egyptian Book of the Dead refers to Nu in the form of an invocation: 'I am the great godself created, Nu, that is to say, who made his names the company of gods as God'. This undoubtedly refers to Nu as a sky god who was before the creation of the earth. Just by studying the Egyptian character for Nu we find the direct translation is 'God of the watery mass of the sky'. Because of his unique position a great deal of difficulty was experienced in pinpointing his exact boundaries in the heavens. He was neither Pet (the sky) or Nuit (the Heavens) so the logical placement of his boundaries was in between them. In water dynasties he was later merged into other areas. Other key names associated to this god are abyss, deep and young. From a modernistic viewpoint Nu was the god of atmosphere which is directly linked with the Vayu Tattva.

The Greek attribution to this Path is that of Hermes, messenger of the gods, and the epitomy of the 'Divine Child' myth.

His birth was in a cave, the chaos and rose to become one of the main Olympian gods. One important association is god of the wind and was also guide to the dead souls to the underworld. He was also a protector and benefactor to mankind and acted as a guide in travels and business affairs. Another important aspect of Hermes the guide is that he could also lead a soul back to life, from the underworld. To the Kabbalist this shows that Hermes, like the 11th Path could be associated to descent as well as ascent.

The Indian myths associated here is that of the Maruts (who are an eastern counterpart to the western concept of the Sylphs, the fairies of the air) who were the son of Rudra and Prisni (goddess of the monsoons). The best way to think of them is the gods of wind, storm and rain (when they united). Later associations however elevated them above their elemental status to gods of the atmosphere. They are often depicted flying across the sky in the company of Rodasi, wife of Rudras, who apparently has some control over their unruly nature.

The precious stones allotted to this Path are the Topaz and Chalcedoni. The magical effects of Topaz are numerous but in the 'Book of Ragiel' states that it will acquire the goodwill of kings, princes and magnets. In modern terminology it is said to influence those in powerful offices to favour you. In Sanskrit Topaz is called Pushyaraga, Si-Lang-Syak in Cantonese and Ynakunt Al-Azrak in Arabic.

Albert Magnus described its colour like Saffron with the magical properties of restoring sanity while Rabancs Maurus stated that it induced prophecy if contemplated on. Chalcedony, a bright red gem, has the magical powers to ward off evil actions (of a psychic nature) against the wearer and as a general protection against evil demons (according to Gonelli).

The eagle is the bird of this Path and the ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic for the letter 'A' depicts an eagle over it which signifies the start of a new day. As an elemental symbol the eagle stands for air but it goes much deeper than this. Depending on the context, the eagle in alchemical symbolism shows Mercurius (1st stage) soaring or being liberated from the Primea Materia. From the early Christian viewpoint the eagle is a symbol of the divine messenger which equates with the Greek association of Hermes. The Syrian concept also links closely with the Hermes myth as the eagle guided the souls to immortality.

The legendary order of beings associated to this Path are the Sylphs, the elemental spirits of air. The origins go back to the time of Solomon where they were described as resembling birds. Their king is called Paralda. Their abode is in the clouds and they sometimes make their appearance through mist and vapour. The favour they bring to those who appease them is wisdom and they affect the intellect of man. They also appear as winged fairies riding the wind on their steeds around dawn and sunset.

The cardinal point associated to this Path is east and is Mizrach, governed by the Archangel Raphael because of one of his associations to the sun, which rises in the east. He was the archangel who brought the magical ring to Solomon who used it to command the Demus to build his temple. The angel is Chassan whose meaning lies in the Arabic root of the verb 'to penetrate' also it shows a chopping movement akin to a sword's action.

The supreme Elemental King associated here is Tahoelej and his name is taken from the circle of names surrounding the great seal of truth - the Sigillum Dei-Aemeth. The Demonic King of air is called Oriens. He has 30 sub princes under him and eight main servants; Sarisel (Minister of God) Gasarons, Sorosma, Turitel (mountain cast down), Balaken (Ravagers), Gagison (spread on flat), Mafalac (a fragment) and Agab (beloved). The basis of Lord Orien (according to Mathers) is from the Latin meaning rising or eastern, and also if spelled Oriens is URO = "to burn or devour with flame". The Greek Eurys, Ezreia, Aneuris (Adj) meaning extensive or vast can also be applied as well.

The virtue of this Path is Noscire (or knowing) it is the Path of the intellect that craves and seeks intellectual stimuli as a means or outlet of expression. The vice of this Path is ignorance, here the individual ignores what he knows to be the correct way and instead pursues a life that is against the karmic pattern that has been set for him.

The magical power of this Path here is divination. In a lecture on the subject of divination to the Golden Dawn, Wynn Wescott (under his motto of Sapere Aude) says: 'Men perceived that the free will which they seemed to possess, was only a hope and not an attainment, and so fell naturally into the idea of predestination, and then argued that if all before us is to be predestined it may be possible to foresee future events and so divination was born and it took over a thousand shapes.'

The magical weapons of this Path are the dagger and fan. The fan of course is an instrument for creating air currents and as such is associated here. Some fans are made from feathers which further stressed the Air link and is used as such in the 2=9 grade of Theoricus in the Golden Dawn. The dagger is of course the elemental weapon in air and it is to be used in all work of the airy nature, and under the presidency of Vau, and the "Sword of Tarot".

A perfume of this Path is Galbanum and its aroma was used in ancient times to promote divination by lighting incense around the temple area. Also when astrological calculations were being deduced Galbanum was used as it was thought to promote the intellect and raise the spirit up to the lofty heights required of the work being done.

Peppermint extract is the vegetable drug of this Path. Its medical effect is to calm the nervous system down by bringing it into some sort of equilibrium. In magical rites this herb is

usually given after any sort of ritualistic or trance work, to bring the adept back to a more calmer plane of existence.

The plant or tree of this Path is the Poplar (Aspen) and the legend has it that of the Heliades, the sisters of Phaeton who watched as their brother fall from the sky into a river. Because of the extent of their grief and the constant vigil at the place where he died they turned into Poplar trees. The relationship to air is the ability of the Poplar to 'quake' or 'tremble' during heavy breezes (due to the thin trunks).

The Demonic Prince of air is Azazel which means "God strengthens". This angel was one of the leaders of the fallen angels. He is described as an angel of both the sword and shield and hence his association to air. Though sometimes described as an angel of fire he is in fact associated wholly to air in attitude and action.

The River of Eden associated here is and as described in Gen. 11.14: 'And the name of the 3rd River is Hiddekel: That is it which goeth in front of Assyra'. This relates to the east, the birth place of the rising sun. It stands not only for reason but also for growth of the higher nature manifesting in an earth plane.

The Elemental Ruler of air is Ariel which means "Lion of God". This angel is usually depicted with a lions head. Being in the kingdom of the elements, he also controls Qliphothic



demons who are under the air presidency. His charge is normally on the first wind gusts and he sometimes gives favours if called upon. Ariel equates to 242 which means to rest or support sacred objects. This relates to air as a cushion for the Heavens over the Earth.

The intelligence of Uranus (which has a dual association with air on this Path) is Ausiul who also presides over Aquarius. This is from the root AU (or AD) which is the link that joins empty space. It has been described as meaning vague desire, generalisations. The spirit of Uranus is Zaaphiel which means "Wrath of God". He has control over storm winds according to Rabbinion texts. According to legend he deals with the wicked through storms, hurricanes and the like. The angel of Uranus is Malkiel (meaning "Gods King") who according to religious lore once guarded the gate of the South Wind and he controls the fiery part of the air element.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	SCINTILATING INTELLIGENCE
ALCHEMICAL ASSOCIATION:	MERCURY
HEBREW LETTER:	ALEPH
TAROT:	THE FOOL
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	NU
GREEK DIETY:	HERMES
ROMAN DIETY:	MERCURY
PLANET:	URANUS
MAGICAL WEAPON:	DAGGER AND FAN
VIRTUE:	KNOWING
VICE:	IGNORANCE
MAGICAL POWER:	DIVINATION
MINERAL DRUG:	MERCURY
VEGETABLE DRUG:	PEPPERMINT EXTRACT
TATTVA:	VAYU
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	MARUTS
GEMSTONE:	TOPAZ AND CHALCEDONI
PLANT:	POPLAR
AROMATIC:	GALBANUM
ORDER OF BEINGS:	SYLPHS
ANGEL - ARCH:	MALKIEL
ANIMAL:	EAGLE
CARDINAL POINT:	EAST (MIZRACH)
SUPREME ELEMENTAL KING:	TAHOELOJ
DEMONIC KING:	ORIENS
ELEMENTAL RULER:	ARIEL
DEMONIC PRINCE:	AZAZEL