

LESSON 25

THE SIXTEENTH PATH

"The Sixteenth Path is the Triumphal or Eternal Intelligence, so called because it is the pleasure of the Glory, beyond which is no other Glory like unto it, and it is called also the Paradise prepared for the Righteous."

The 16th Path is called 'Triumphal or Eternal Intelligence' because it shows the way and manner to follow so that one can enter paradise and is placed between the Sephiroth of Chokmah and Chesed. The combination of both Wisdom and Mercy which influence this Path is harmonious because they are on the pillar of Mercy. The object lesson on this Path is the way of life we wish to choose which hints at religious overtones with the end result being spiritual happiness.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Vau which means hook or nail and has a numerical value of 6. Other root words of the same numerical value are BD meaning singled, alone, GG meaning to expand or draw out which clearly shows a relationship to a nail or pin. The numerical value of Vau as a word is 12 and from this other words such as VV meaning to connect or join together and ChD meaning to penetrate with sharpness also show varying links to Vau.

Vau is a Hebrew character that has three distinct meanings

(according to de'Olivet), two are vowel and a third is a consonant. The first represents the eye of man and is a symbol of light. The following is an ear and is a symbol of sound (air and wind) and the last (as a consonant) is an emblem of water showing taste and desire. As a grammatical character it is the knot which unifies or the point between the void and manifestation. In esoteric terms Vau is the transmuting process which changes one thing into another. Vau has a variety of esoteric meanings associated to it and was said to be one of the main idioms preserved by Moses who learnt it when he was under the tutelage of the Egyptian priests. Vau is also the son in Tetragrammaton.

The Tarot association to this Path is the Hierophant who as the masculine force is a counterpart of the High Priestess. His office is firmly entrenched (shown by the bulls heads on either side of the throne) and he is the spiritual pontiff and the direct link between man and God and as such is His representative on earth. The warrant which the Hierophant holds shows that he holds the key to the mysteries beyond the veil while his crook shows that he represents the shepherd of the flock and is ready to help those in trouble. His triple crown shows that he represents the mystery of the blessed trinity and is able to rule with authority because of it.

The Egyptian godform of this Path is Apis who was also called Asar-Hapi and Serapis (the Apis-Hapi transmutation was done by the Greeks possibly because distinct knowledge of these two

dieties was unclear). Apis was often depicted with the head of a bull with solar disk and plumes and holding the crook, flail and sceptre. Apis of course was made a god of the underworld and was a physical Orisis, his outer shell, but he was also an emanation of Ptah. Legend has it that Apis sprang from a virgin heifer impregnated by Ptah through celestial fire. It was in many respects the forerunner of the biblical gospels of the virgin Mary and her impregnation by God to be Father so his Son Jesus could be born who was in fact part of himself.

The Greek godform associated to this Path is Hera (from the Greek word 'hario' meaning chosen one) wife and sister of Zeus and daughter of Cronus and Rhea. The name Hera is taken from the Greek word hario. She was well known as the jealous stepmother against Hercules who instigated the 12 labours and hoped that Hercules would fail. On his return home to Thebes she inflicted him with a fit of madness so that he killed his children. In many ways Hera was the stylised wife and gave birth to four children (Hephaestus, Ares, Hebe and Ilithyia) and was virtue personified and faithful to Zeus until the end. Her jealousy could also be considered as simply being overly zealous in the protection of her marriage in her continual persecution of those who were lovers of her husband (and his illicit children). The Roman counterpart of Hera was Juno. In many ways she is the ideal human archetype for the old concept of mother church and hence her relationship to this Path.

The astrological sign associated to this Path is Taurus the

bull. A person with this sun sign is usually a patient and persistent individual who is strong and unwavering in thoughts and ideas, opinions and modes of expression. They can be stubborn individuals on the one hand and be very hasty in jumping to conclusions on the other. They are also materialistic and are considered 'rock like' in their devotion to duty and family and are people who can always be relied on to help. Conservative is a key word to describe the Taurean, who is born under the most fixed of the astrological signs.

The Hebrew name for this constellation is Shur (ShUR) which means both coming and going. It was possibly derived from the Chaldee Tor (TUR). The Arabic name is Al Thaur and the Greek is Tauros. The largest of the stars in this constellation is Al Debaren (from the Chaldee) meaning governor or leader. Other stars in this constellation are El Nath (an Arabic word meaning wounded), The Pleiades (congregation of the ruler) star cluster which translates to kimah (CUMH) in Hebrew meaning accumulation. Also there is The Hyades cluster which means congregated. Other stars in this constellation are Palilicium, Wasat, Al Thuraiya, Vergiliae and Vertex.

The magical weapon of this Path is the labour of preparation. The keyword in the magical attainment of this association is labour, for without it there can be no work or structure to ascend. The adept must prepare himself through studious effort and will power to master the structure he is in, so that at the focal point of the merging of mind and body he is ready to become

the magus, an adept of both power and knowledge. For all those who study any magical system preparation is the most crucial and demanding of all the steps of magic. If it is not done correctly disaster can only result. Preparation also requires relentless study and strength of purpose (all attributes of Taurus) often in the face of ridicule and adversity.

The magical virtue of this Path is productivity. The previous Path deals in raw energy while here it is given shape and structure so that it has an outlet for the end product to emanate from. Fertility is also a word of sorts that can be applied here (though in a somewhat limited fashion) for it is a growth period which is slow but sure. This is the time of building and fortifying ones strengths and aspirations so that the end result can be assured. It is the time of building security, for if the magical foundation is unstable the growth of the personality will be lopsided and to avoid this all possible areas must be looked at as future growth structures.

The vice applied to this Path is when one is materialistic and works for ones own comforts without the understanding of the higher aspirations of the soul and what drives it. The work of building and fortifying still goes on but the main point of difference between the virtue and the vice is the reason why one works and builds. This is when an individual solely rejects any other concept other than what he sees or feels and he becomes a slave to his senses. Such a person will get so caught up in the part that he will forget that there is a whole, let alone how to

recognise it.

The magical attainment of this Path is the secret of physical strength. This is in fact quite a difficult accomplishment as it involves understanding of many of the fundamental principles of nature within the body of the individual who tries to develop this attainment. If one draws an analogy to the Yogis of India who do some astonishing feats of strength and endurance with apparently little physical effort one can then begin to understand the underlying principles this involves. To do this one has to first master his own body and then be able to command it to do extraordinary feats. This is not impossible but it does take many years to develop the competency to do this which can only be approached through meditation and self development exercises.

The mineral drug here is Natrum Sulphuretum (Nat. Sulph.) which works at eliminating waste water from the body. Deficiency in this cell salt makes one bilious and can produce fevers. It regulates the water flow which we obtain through the atmosphere. This cell salt works on the digestive system helping to harmonise any overloads.

The plant of this Path is Mallow (Malva Rotundifolia) and when used for magical purposes relates both as a love and protection influence. Generally carried or placed in the home it will bring peace and harmony to partners. It is also said to be ideal in rites of exorcism. The flowers of this plant are purple/pink and are trumpet shaped. As a medicine a tincture of this plant

brings relief to inflammations and bronchial upsets.

One of the gemstones of this Path is Jet (a form of lignite) which was a gemstone which had remarkable power attributed to it. Because this was a favourite gem of the gods many associated the control of the natural forces of nature to it, something which only gods could do. It was also used as an amulet for travels over water. It was said that anyone who wore jet would have it as part of the body for it was believed to gain its power from living organisms and as such attached itself to them, provided it was worn against the skin. Also it was often given to ladies whom one wish to place under their control as it was believed it had this power. Often one stone was separated into two parts with the controller having the original part and the person he wished to control having the other. In general it was a gem that protected the wearer against all evil spells and enchantments.

The animal associated to this Path is the Cherub of earth. The biblical descriptions of the Cherub of earth is a being with 4 faces and 4 wings though in recent times most use a simplified explanation of each Cherub having only one face (depending on which element it represented) and one set of wings. The earth Cherub is depicted as having a bulls head. They were the figures placed at the corner of the tabernacle where the tablets of Moses were kept. The Cherubs are referred to in both the old and new testaments (Ez ii,1 and Apoc iv,6-7). They are mentioned in the Greater Key of Solomon "Who was made the guardian of the Terrestrial Paradise with the Sword of Flame". Their functions are

still not clear cut though most scholars have aligned them with forces representative of the elements.

An incense to associate to this Path is Cinquefoil which strengthens the senses by not only increasing the vibrational pitch of the aura (so that more perception occurs) but also reinforces the aura with additional strength directly from its own vibratory level. In evocation work it is a good base aroma to work with to give substance to the astral body of the spirit in the triangle and as such acts as a holding or binding factor on it. Though Cinquefoil can be used on its own it is generally mixed with aromatics to give it a finer edge. This applies to workings not only of this Path. The best way to describe Cinquefoil is as a type of universal base aromatic as far as magical work goes.

The angel of this Path is Araziel (ARZYAL=249), meaning my moon is god, and was one of the angels mentioned in the book of Enoch who was sent from heaven because he mated with mortal women. The root ARZ relates to the earth or something permanent like foundations. This of course shows that Araziel was an angel who grew more and more into matter until it appears he may have been trapped in it hence, the term fallen angel. The whole concept of the fallen angels if viewed in this light sheds a slightly different meaning on the subject than the standard biblical texts. Being trapped in mortal form meant that Araziel and the other fallen angels simply could not take back their former state of pre-existence which was a non manifested one. Their only

method of salvation was to rework their way back through the evolutionary process of mankind.

The legendary order of beings associated to this Path are the Gorgons and the Minotaur. The former were three sisters by the name of Medusa, Euryale and Stheno who were the daughters of Ceto and Phorcys. All of these (except Medusa) were immortal and were said to have live serpents instead of hair with scales covering their bodies and wings of gold and hands of brass. Their looks were said to turn people into stone but they were defeated by Persus who killed Medusa by using his sword as a mirror so he would not have to look at them directly. The Minotaur or Minotaurus as it is sometimes called was a combination of both man and bull and was said to have been formed from the union of a white bull (from Neptune) and Pasiphae, wife of Minos. The Minotaur was confined to a labyrinth where each year sacrifices (of young men and women) were offered to it from Athens.

ASSOCIATIONS

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| YETZIRATIC TEXT: | TRIUMPHAL/ETERNAL INTELLIGENCE |
| HEBREW LETTER: | VAU |
| TAROT: | HIEROPHANT |
| EGYPTIAN DIETY: | APIS-HAPI |
| GREEK DIETY: | HERA |
| ROMAN DIETY: | VENUS |
| PLANET: | TAURUS |
| MAGICAL WEAPON: | LABOUR OF PREPARATION |
| VIRTUE: | PRODUCTIVITY |
| VICE: | MATERIALISM |
| MAGICAL ATTAINMENT: | SECRET OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH |
| MINERAL DRUG: | KALI PHOSPHORICUM |
| VEGETABLE DRUG: | NAT. SULPH. |
| GEMSTONE: | JET |
| PLANT: | MALLOW |
| AROMATIC: | CINQUEFOIL |
| ORDER OF BEINGS: | GORGONS/MINOTAUR |
| ANGEL: | ARAZIEL |
| ANIMAL: | CHERUB OF EARTH |