

LESSON 26

THE SEVENTEENTH PATH

'The Seventeenth Path is the Disposing Intelligence which provides Faith to the Righteous, and they are clothed with the Holy Spirit by it, and it is called the Foundation of Excellence in the state of higher things.'

The 17th Path connecting Binah and Tiphareth is called Disposing Intelligence and is said to dispose faith to the devout. The other title given to the emanations of this Path is called the Foundation of Excellence which shows that faith and hope come to those who earn it. From an esoteric viewpoint one could also consider that the Holy Spirit is Binah (due to its association to Vau-the Son, the third person of the name YHVH) which through the 17th Path unites with Tiphareth, which also is analogous to Vau but on a much lower scale than Binah. Since Tiphareth is the Sephira of the righteous, Binah sends its emanation down the 17th Path because it is also the Foundation of Excellence in the state of higher things.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Zain which has a numerical value of 7. ABD meaning to perish or destroy is one Hebrew root of particular interest for this ties in well with Zain and the concept of a sword. Other martial roots of the same value are GD meaning to assault and DNA meaning strength. As a word Zain (ZIN) has a total value of 67 which equates with Binah

which means understanding. Zain can also be spelled as ZYN(F) which makes its numerical value of 717 which relates to TChN(F) and means grind or reduce to powder and YZN(F) meaning preparations. This can also relate to things being reduced to dust as a result of a martial conflict.

It is considered by de'Olivet that Zain when used as a consonant relates to a hissing sound, which certain objects make when whirled about one in the air. He further states that Zain not only relates to a sword but to any sharp instrument such as an arrow, dart or javelin and as a grammatical sign it shows an abstract form of a link.

The Tarot card associated here is the Lovers and in its Golden dawn format is quite unique for it shows the myth of Persues flying through the air and rescuing Andromeda, who is chained to a rock, from the sea monster who is about to devour her. In this card we have Persues holding the sword and in fact becomes its outward tool and represents air. Andromeda is chained to the rock which rises from the sea and she represents water. The chains show that Andromeda is trapped in the stone and Persues will rescue her from it by penetration (remember the previous association to powder which is the shattered stone) with the sea monster acting as the catalyst. For if he were not going to devour Andromeda then she would not be trapped in the first place and hence the meeting with Persues may never have taken place. The whole concept is one of uniting aspects of both fire and water.

The Egyptian dieties here are any that form a twin function and not necessarily that of lovers. For example take Horus and Set, the early Egyptian dynasties had Set as ruler of the night and Horus (the elder) as ruler of the day. Both of these gods held the celestial ladder which the dead climbed to which had to be done in harmony. Isis and Nephthys are another example showing how the two sisters worked together. Isis was agriculture goddess of growth and her sister looked after the crops in the twilight while Isis slept.

The Greek association to this Path is the legend of the Dioscuri or the sons of Zeus. They were conceived by Zeus who made love to Leda in the form of a swan. Leda brought forth two eggs as a result of the union. One contained Castor and Clytemnestra and the other Pollux and Helen. Though the parentage of the four has always been in doubt, they were acknowledged as children of Zeus because they were hatched from an egg which would have hardly been from Leda's husband Tyndarus. Many of their heroic epics are recorded in the voyage of Jason and the Argonauts. Eventually Castor was killed and his death was avenged by his brother, and Zeus permitted Castor to join Pollux (who was immortal) as a constellation in the sky.

Though the legend of Castor and Pollux could apply equally as well here, the legend of Romulus and Remus is a purely Roman myth that could also be associated to this Path. These infants survived on the milk of a she wolf until found by Faustulus, a

shepherd. The twins were in fact grandsons of the former king Numitor of Alba, and were ordered to be thrown into the Tiber by their Great Uncle Amulus after he had taken the crown from his brother. After avenging their grandfather's death the brothers built the fortifications of a city, and in doing so they founded (Rome), and Remus was killed by his brother after he ridiculed his basic design.

The sun sign associated to this Path is Gemini. Those born under this sign show the attributes of the curious and versatile. They are more than likely associated to the arts in some way with a love or flair for the dramatic in communications. They are people who are quick on the uptake but also dislike sticking to routines. They are sensitive individuals but always on the move, never attaching themselves to one place or thing for any length of time before it loses interest for them. The whole idea of this sign is bound up in the mental pursuits and this is where they excell best providing they remain long enough at them.

The constellation of Gemini is called the twins and is said to have been based on the legend of Castor and Pollux. The Coptic name for this constellation is Pi-Mahi meaning the united. There are approximately 85 stars in this constellation with the brightest two being Apollo meaning ruler and Hercules meaning who comes to labour, both of these are in the heads of the twins. Other stars are Al Henah meaning hurt or wounded and Mabsuta meaning treading under feet. Ptolemy says 'The stars in the feet of Gemini have an influence similar to that of Mercury and

moderately to that of Venus. The bright stars in the thighs are like Saturn,'

The magical weapon of this Path is the tripod. One of the most famous uses of the tripod was the oracle of Delphi who sat on the tripod seat above the sulphur fumes and became the voice of the gods. The tripod is in fact a tool of the Inner Order and as such can only generally be gone into at this level. Mathers says 'And remember in working with a tripod the cone of reception will attract any passing Intelligence or Force. Thus, without the greatest care, much deception could arise, and even against the intention of the communicating Intelligence, deception may result through confused mistranslations by the Operator or Operators.

The virtue of this Path is classification, for here the powerful energies thus developed along certain lines are taken a step further and classified or pigeon holed. This is a very necessary thing for without the classification, the energy attained in previous Paths would scatter and be wasted. This is a point where logic is introduced to diversify varying energy forces so that they are channelled into the correct areas. This is a point where terms of reference need to be applied so that more growth can be developed.

The vice of this Path is isolation, for it is here that energies are developed along a single line with no thought for diversification into other areas. In isolation there is no classification for it is but a single approach which is restrictive

to say the least. Any different energies found that do not fit in with the single isolation theme are discarded and not channelled into useful areas. In isolation one also ignores the developments going on in other areas and in many instances this is a duplication of effort which can be considered a waste but more importantly it shows a narrow viewpoint.

The magical attainment of this Path is to be able to be in two places at the same time and of prophecy. The key word added to this statement is awareness. To be in two places at the same time without awareness is no benefit at all and this occurs in the legend of the doppelganger, that mysterious double who turns up in other areas and is an exact duplicate of the self with all his or her memories. These are of course involuntary projections with no direction at all. Using the astral body though to experience things on the earthly plane is another matter and this when controlled, is an experience of this Path which is a very powerful one at that, for it breaks down all walls of privacy and because of this a great deal of discretion should be used for those who can master this exercise.

One of the precious stones applied here is the Alexandrite which was named after Czar Alexandra in 1831. The stone itself is a form of chrysoberyl which is a natural green but changes to red under artificial lighting. It is also found in the east as well, especially in Sri-Lanka (Ceylon) where large specimens have been located and where it is known to be a lucky stone but not unassociated with bloodshed. The common opinion of it is that the

wearer will come into good luck though not without paying a heavy price for it (through suffering). Other stones also associated here are Tourmaline and Iceland Spar.

The plant of this Path is any type of hybrid. Websters Dictionary says that the definition of a hybrid (in relation to plants) is the offspring of two or more plants of different species. The whole concept is merely one of grafting to produce a better variety of plant.

Wormwood is a perfume that can apply to this Path due to its mental stimulation though this perfume can apply to other areas as well. It is an extremely powerful aromatic when used in its raw state and it is strongly suggested that this perfume never be used on its own but mixed with other aromatics so that better control can be kept over it, especially during a magical ceremony. It totally penetrates the aura of the magician and when he or she is involved in evocative work this can help establish a rapport between the the magician and the force in question. One of the problem areas associated to this perfume is that any type of force can with the perfume penetrate an aura which creates double visions (which relates to the particular world of the unwelcomed force mixed in with our present existence resulting in an overlap of the senses), that is, if the magician is not prepared.

The mineral drug of this Path is Kali Muriaticum or Kali. Mur. as it is sometimes called. This cell salt is essential to

fibrin (a protein essential for clotting of the blood) formation. Kali. Mur. is often used in an inflammatory illness in its second stage of development. It helps coughs and colds and any respiratory complaints.

The legendary order of beings associated here are any that become visible in appearance which of course cuts across a variety of different spiritual heirachies. The one thing they all have in common is the power to manifest in this world while still existing in the next. To do this requires a tremendous amount of energy and the spirit in question must draw from living sources in this existence to keep the manifestation up. Most of these manifestations though are only for a limited period and relate very heavily to astrological influences and certain local conditions that all aid the manifestation.

The angel of this Path is Ambriel and is also associated to the 12th hour of the night. The name Ambriel is from the root AM meaning mother, source or origin. The root BR is a form of potential creation or internal movement. Put together it relates to the movement in the mother's womb or the formation of the foetus. Ambriel has a numerical value of 284 which relates to roots like PRD meaning to render separate and RPD to spread around. The entire aspect shows us that Ambriel is an angel who looks after new developments that are dual by nature and have a large growth rate.

The birds associated to this Path are those of the speaking

variety such as parrots, parakeets, magpies etc. Speaking is of course an aspect of communication which is a key word of this Path. Other associations here are animals of dual plumage which is a characteristic of their feathers or skin, such as the zebra, tiger or penguin.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	DISPOSING INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	ZAIN
TAROT:	LOVERS
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	HORUS/SET
GREEK DIETY:	CASTER/POLLUX
ROMAN DIETY:	ROMULUS/REMUS
SIGN:	GEMINI
MAGICAL WEAPON:	TRIPOD
VIRTUE:	CLASSIFICATION
VICE:	ISOLATION
MAGICAL POWER:	DUPLICATION
MINERAL DRUG:	KALI MURIATICUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	ERGOT (LSD)
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	ANY TWIN DIETIES
GEMSTONE:	ALEXANDRITE
PLANT:	HYBRID
AROMATIC:	WORMWOOD
ORDER OF BEINGS:	MANIFESTED SPIRITS
ANGEL:	AMBRIEL
ANIMAL:	SPEAKING VARIETY OF BIRDS

