

LESSON 27

THE EIGHTEENTH PATH

'The eighteenth Path is called the Intelligence of the House of Influence (by the greatness of whose abundance the influx of good things upon created beings is increased), and from its midst the arcana and hidden senses are drawn forth, which dwell in its shade and which cling to it from the Cause of all causes.'

The 18th Path is called the Intelligence of the house of Influence and joins Binah and Geburah. This shows 'by the greatness of whose abundance the influx of good things upon created things is increased' which relates to the abundance of the Mother in Binah who dispenses her bounty to the creative Sephira of Geburah directly beneath it. The reference to the hidden senses simply means that Binah is above the abyss and as such is hidden from view but its emanations work directly on Geburah through the 18th Path. The reference 'which cling to it from the Cause of causes' relates to the fact that Binah is a Sephiroth that is directly connected to Kether which is sometimes called the Cause of causes.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Cheth which means a fence or enclosure. The numerical value of this letter is 8 which relates to other words of the same value such as AGD meaning to bind together, GH meaning to restore to its former state and DAG meaning agitated. All of these can relate to a

boundary of a country or state which also gives thought to the principle of rebuilding and growth. The word Cheth has a numerical value of 418, when reduced to the double digit of 13 relates to words such as GY meaning a nation or land rising, YAB to desire and AYB meaning an enemy. All of these show the martial aspects of border patrol and expansion of ones boundaries that one is liable to come across.

de'Olivet wrote that Cheth can be considered either as a vowel or a consonant. As a vocal sound it represents elementary existence and is a symbol of the vital aspiration. As a consonant it shows man at his toil and emphasises the effort and labour in work. As a grammatical sign it comes between Heh and Kaph which relate to a balance of things attached to labour and effort. The whole concept shows that Cheth is something that must be worked and fought for so that a balance can be obtained, which is not unlike the theory of democracy.

The Tarot association of this Path is the Chariot. This depicts a winged warrior riding through the sky in a chariot drawn by two horses. The main emphasis is on the concept of patrolling for here the warrior is ever vigilant and alert. The area that he patrols is in the sky which tends to show that his boundaries are almost limitless and are ever increasing, as he strives for not only the material but the spiritual as well which tends to show a balance of sorts in his aims and directives. His winged armour shows that he in fact is changing and adapting to the areas he goes into.

The Egyptian god form associated to this Path is Khepra who originated from an early Egyptian dynastic period. The archetypal form of this god was a mans body with the head of a beetle (scarab). In a sense this represented the physical shell of man after his life had finished for this was the form from which the spirit rose. Kephra was a god who was self created and as such used the beetle emblem. The name Khepra means he who rolls and relates to the beetle who rolls its dung (and eggs) in front of it where ever it goes. It was considered that as the beetle rolled the eggs they hatched and generated life from, it was analogous to the sun rolling across the sky giving both life and heat so that the seeds of the earth could grow.

The Greek myths associated here Apollo as the navigator and Apollo as the charioteer. As the navigator Apollo assumed the form of a dolphin and guided a ship of Cretans to Crissa where they eventually worshipped him under the name of Delphinian. As Apollo the charioteer he would go every winter from Delphi to the land of Boreas in a chariot drawn by griffins or white swans, and as such was often related to the coming of summer as his chariot was often considered a solar chariot for he always brought warmth with him to Delphi.

The Roman myth of this Path is dual and not only associates to Apollo but to the war chariot of Mars as well. The emphasis here is that the chariot was an instrument of war, conquest and victory. Without doubt the attributions of the chariot are all

solar but the chariot also stands for growth, development and the evolutionary process of life itself which when reduced to its primary concepts shows life in its protoplasmic state emerging from a shell. The chariot is in fact the shell (body) with the driver as the spirit who guides it.

The astrological sign associated here is Cancer. Those born under this sun sign generally show some artistic ability and are maternal and benevolent in their approach to life. Their favourite abode is the home where the Cancerian is the strongest surrounded with his or her possessions. They are sometimes psychic and dreamy by nature but on the other side of the coin they can be lazy and restless. By nature they are generally receptive individuals who are also reserved and in control of themselves though they have an inert magnificence for self sacrifice if the pressure becomes too much for them.

The constellation of Cancer (The Crab) was originally drawn as a beetle in both the Egyptian and Hindu zodiacs (around 400 B.C) though earlier Egyptian zodiacs used the hawk's head. Its modern form as a crab is said to have been derived from the Greeks who maintained that Juno placed this sign in the heavens in gratitude for biting the heel of Hercules when he fought the Hydra. One of the Arabic titles for this constellation is Al Sartan meaning he who holds or binds while the Greek name is Karkinos which has the same meaning and the Latin form is Cancer. The brightest star in this constellation is called Tegmine meaning holding. Ptolemy says 'The two stars in the eyes of Cancer

are of the same influence as Mercury, and are also moderate like Mars. Those in the claws are like Saturn and Mercury.'

The magical weapon of this Path is the furnace of the alchemist which is called the anthanor (an old terminology for oven). This is of course an empty shell which when heated up to a constant temperature has the power to transmute one metal into another. The adept who uses this must be well versed in alchemical principles and understand their reactions with each other. The Primea Materia placed in the anthanor does not have to be metal but can also be from the organic world.

The virtue of this Path is building, for here permanent roots and structures are set up so that when the security has been established to its optimum level new growth can develop. The whole concept is in fact one of stabilisation so that the emotions and the structure can merge together to form a stronger union. It is a process of building up one portion that has to catch up to the part that is more developed than the rest to make a stronger whole. If this does not happen the weaker aspects can drag the developed ones down so that no growth actually occurs and a period of regression develops. By building up the weaker points the full potential is realised which is growth on a previously unprecedented scale.

The vice of this Path is regression, which is not stagnation but a point where things decline to such a state that they move backwards. Though in some instances regression can be a valuable

tool, in this instance it is a form of decline. It is the point of hopelessness where one is too far behind to go ahead, which results in the the psyche retracing its steps back to its infantile source. This is a period where these individuals shut themselves off from the rest of the world and see things from their own slanted perspective.

The magical attainment of this Path is the power of casting enchantments. In simple terms it is the power to create spells (for want of a better word) over individuals. Here the adept creates the power of suggestion and this is not unlike hypnotism but on a larger scale. The magentic aura of the adept captivates the aura or auras of the individuals concerned by sending a light charge into them which throws their own defence mechanism into a state of confusion. The charge in fact is usually of a higher vibrational level than their own aura and as such takes control (for a limited period) until the individual concerned builds up his or her own defence mechanism against it. On a higher level this also concerns the adept who controls certain spiritual hierachies to do his bidding and instructs them to help or hinder an individual or place this person under their control.

A mineral drug of this Path is Calcareum Fluoricum and is a cell salt that deals in elasticity. It helps by firming the gums, ridding the skin of encrustations and it works on strengthening the internal organs. It also helps correct mental instabilities such as a fear of insecurity taken to the point of a mania. It helps repair skin tissues that form cracks near joints or

orifices and also helps blurred vision. Another important attribute of this salt is that helps memory by strengthening the brain fibres.

The Hindu association is Krishna driving the chariot of Arjuna to the battle of Kuruksetra given in the Bhagavad-Gita. It is here that Krishna teaches that hopelessness is but an illusion and the killing of the earthly forms of the enemy is simply eliminating the shells of their existences without hurting the their souls.

One of the gemstones associated to this Path is amber. This in fact is more of a fossilized resin from a species of ancient pines which were destroyed during the climatic changes in the earths temperatures. Amber was used for talismatic purposes for increasing the value of wealth and to keep one safe from harm and evil influences. It was held in high esteem for its curative powers against sore throats, toothache, dropsy, blood and kidney ailments, heat strokes, goitre and respiratory problems. As a jewel it was generally worn as a necklace touching the skin and was considered a great preventer of dying in ones sleep (if worn to bed at night).

The lotus is one of the plants that can apply to this Path and symbolises the first manifestation of life and is sometimes considered the symbol of evolution. In western myths we are reminded of the legend of the lotus eaters which states that those who have eaten the flower of the lotus will never return to

their home land and shows the concept of the eternal wanderer. Taking many of the myths into account one finds that the lotus becomes the central or focal point from around which all else evolves.

An aromatic of this Path is Onycha (Ungala aromatica) which is derived from a species of shellfish and is mentioned in Exodus (some claim that this is also a species of Rock Rose) . What ever its origin the most important thing to consider is its effect, which is a sweet smell that dulls the senses slightly and penetrates the aura. It in fact completely hides the vibratory or magnetic pattern of the aura from others so that ones presence is difficult to detect, especially in darkness though this effect is limited to a short period only. Many adepts in the past have used Onycha as a aromatic to help create a shield so that negative forces cannot find them.

The legendary order of beings associated to this Path are the vampires. By this it does not mean the common variety of bloodsucker, but those beings in the astral that can only exist by feeding off human energy and this cuts across numerous hierarchies of beings. In human terms there are also vampires as well that gain power over others by breaking into their etheric auras and controlling them by draining their energy sources, but these are generally other humans who generally prey on those who are natural victims by their passiveness.

The angel of this Path is Muriel which has a numerical value

of 287. Other words of the same value are PRZ meaning to disperse, be scattered here and there and PZR meaning dissipate. Reducing this to a double digit figure we have DChH (17) meaning to push out, thrust and TCh meaning spread over the surface. The root MUR from which Muriel is taken shows united movement which (goes upwards) and invades space or air, which relates to its Arabic origin of going beyond or exceeding. It relates to something moving upwards in space. This angel is also one used in the grimoires to invoke over a magic carpet so that it will fly.

Any shelled animal is associated to this Path. The turtle is one example and is a symbol of material existence and life itself in its most basic form. Since it is a creature of both land and water it also shows the evolutionary process in development. The crab is yet another form of life that can be applied here and is a symbol of oblique movement (and of side stepping issues) and also strongly relates to water.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF THE HOUSE OF INFLUENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	CHETH
TAROT:	CHARIOT
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	KEPHRA
GREEK DIETY:	APOLLO
ROMAN SYMBOL:	THE CHARIOT
SIGN:	CANCER
MAGICAL WEAPON:	ANTHANDR
VIRTUE:	BUILDING
VICE:	REGRESSION
MAGICAL POWER:	CASTING ENCHANTMENTS
MINERAL DRUG:	CALCAREUM FLOURICUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	ANY SENSE DEPREVIATION
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	KRISHNA
GEMSTONE:	AMBER
PLANT:	LOTUS
AROMATIC:	ONYCHA
ORDER OF BEINGS:	VAMPIRES
ANGEL:	MURIEL
ANIMAL:	ANY SHELLLED ANIMAL