

LESSON 29

THE TWENTIETH PATH

'The Twentieth Path is the Intelligence of Will and is so called because it is the means of preparation of all and each created being, and by this intelligence the existence of the primordial Wisdom becomes known.'

This Path is commonly called the Intelligence of Will and is the preparatory stage for all created things under the creator. At this point the inherent will, which was previously latent, now becomes noticed. To a certain extent one could call this the state of awareness, for it is our awareness of being part of a divine plan under the direction of the higher self. The whole concept is being very much aware of the spiritual evolutionary process that one undergoes at this level. It is here also that one starts to become aware of the existence of our karmic destinies and the puppet like moves orchestrated by our higher selves on our behalf.

The Hebrew letter of this Path is Yod which means hand. As a letter Yod has a numerical value of 10 which relates to other words of the same value like GBH meaning "to be exalted", HH as an exclamation of grief (in the form of a tear drop). As a word Yod has a value of 20 which relates to other words such as DIV meaning black liquid or ink, which shows the first manifestation of the writing of the Hebrew Alphabet. In the book of the Lesser

Holy Assembly it says: 'And all things are included in IVD, Yod, and therefore is the Father called All, the Father of Fathers'. This rather cryptic explanation has a number of different meanings applied to it, depending how deep one wishes to go, but the essence is that Yod relates to Chokmah which is also dubbed the Father.

Yod represents more than the outstretched forefinger or hand but also to a drop of seminal fluid, life's essence. De O'Livet considered that Yod represented manifested power but as a grammatical sign was in fact a potential point of manifestation and intellectual duration. When applied as a consonant it works on the material plane and serves only as a link (such as Zain and Shin). Yod, by its nature and shape (the womb) is linked to the female reproductive organs and as such represented the tender aspect of emotion in its infant state.

The Tarot card related to this Path is the Hermit and depicts a hermit garbed in a hooded cloak holding both a lantern and a staff. The entire concept is that of a man who has learnt the spiritual aspects of what life represents through the forces of nature. He travels alone with the light he carries which represents his spiritual guide, his own Higher Genius which teaches him in solitude. The rod he holds is a symbol of his ancient powers and gives him strength throughout his journey. He is the pathfinder for all those who come after him.

The Egyptian myths associated to this Path are two varia-

tions of the Isis theme. The first is Isis the wanderer who travelled in strange lands after the death of Osiris. Because of her knowledge and manner she soon gained the respect and affection of all those she served and rose to a position of prominence in foreign courts. The second form of Isis associated here is that of Isis the virgin which is sometimes connected with the Virgin Mary. This relates to Isis as both virgin and mother and also is heavily associated to Mary weeping at the cross for her dead son. Both as virgin and sometimes as mother Isis is usually shown with a veil.

One of the Greek myths linked to this Path is that of Britomartis, which means sweet virgin. She is said to have been the daughter of Zeus and was apparently a young huntress in Crete who was once seen by Minos who fell instantly in love with her. Britomartis refused his advances and when he tried to rape her she fled to the hills of Crete, where she avoided him for 9 months until he eventually caught up with her on a cliff top overlooking the sea. Rather than give in to Minos she threw herself into the sea, preferring death rather than surrender. As a reward for preserving her virginity Artemis let her appear at night to navigators on the seas.

One particular Roman myth that can be applied to this Path is that of Virginia, one of the oldest of the Roman dieties who presided over fields and crops as their protectress. Also apart from being a goddess of protected the fields and crops she was also a goddess a victory and the diety who presided over corn

festivals. Legend has it that she roamed the fields and woods at night, guarding crops and guiding travellers. She was said to have visited farmers in their dreams and instructed them in how to achieve better results from their crops.

Those born under the sun sign of Virgo (which is applied to this Path) are studious and versatile individuals. By nature they are methodical and skeptical people who have a knack of getting to the heart of any problem. Sometimes they become so preoccupied with their thoughts and problems they tend to be oblivious to those around them. They usually have a dread of disease and any form of illness no matter how trivial. As individuals they like to have their own way in areas that they consider their territory and to the antagonist they can become very devious.

The constellation of Virgo is associated to this Path and is called Bethulah (meaning virgin) while the Arabic name is Sunbul (ear of corn). Another Arabic name for this constellation means "a branch" and in latin is Virga. There are over 110 stars in this constellation and one of the main ones is Tzemech meaning "preserved", which in Arabic is Al Zimach (now called Spica - an ear of corn). Other stars in this region are Zavijaveh (the beautiful), Al Mureddin (who shall come down), Subilon (spike of corn), Al Azal "branch", and Subilah meaning "who carries". Ptolemy observes 'The stars in the head of Virgo, and at the top of the southern wing, operate like Mercury and somewhat like Mars: the other bright stars in the same wing, and those about the girdle resemble Mercury in their influence and also Venus

moderately those at the points of the feet and at the bottom of the garments are like Mercury and also Mars, moderately'.

The magical weapon of this Path is the lamp. Though representative of heat, warmth and life, it is also stated in the Neophyte ceremony of the Golden Dawn when the Hierophant addresses the Neophyte and points to the lamp: 'In all thy wanderings in darkness the light of the Kerux went before thee, though it was not seen by thine eyes it is a symbol of the light of the hidden knowledge'. The lamp is in fact a symbol of bringing light into darkness, though it also is a symbol of the person who holds it for it is he that traverses the unknown areas seeking wisdom.

The virtue of this Path is reorientation. Here the self is thoroughly analysed and goes through a general shakeup. A more encompassing outlook now develops as the individual goes beyond the bounds of his previous experiences in the sense that he now works for the common good of all. It is a completely new spiritual concept that has developed within the self. To a certain extent this is an initiation of sorts into another mode or level of existence. The leap forward in this Path, compared to the previous one, is a drastic change as the ego now must accept its true place as a part and not as a whole of the the universal harmony.

The vice of this Path is that of blind acceptance. It is here that the individual adapts to every changing situation while

not maintaining any single line of approach. All the pitfalls and traps of this Path are blundered into by the individual and are not recognised for what they are. As a result of this there is no great leap forward either emotionally or spiritually and the reorientation process cannot develop properly. Training for this development is given but in this instance it is the wrong type and it lacks any depth, so the deep forces of the self cannot be manifested into taking the correct course of action.

The magical attainment of this Path is invisibility. There are a number of variations of this theme which can be categorised into three stages. The first is when the adept can alter the vibrations of his aura and slow them down to such an extent that he becomes the typical unnoticed person, someone who can blend in anywhere no matter what the situation and go undetected. The second stage is when a person deliberately cloaks his aura so that it is not detectable on the astral. This is usually done when he is under some sort of astral scrutiny or attack. The third and final stage is the highest aspiration of the adept of this Path, when he controls his auric pitch to such an extent that he can exclude light rays and can attain complete invisibility.

The mineral drug of this Path is Kali Sulphuricum which when taken internally manufactures oil in the system. It then unclogs that oil that has gathered in the tissues and distributes it throughout the body. Generally it rules the bowels and controls the oil flow through the entire system. The vegetable drugs of

this Path are any that are classed as a sexual depressant. A good example of one of these for men is any form of extract from hops, such as beer. However this has a complete reverse effect in women and actually stimulates their sex drive.

One of the Indian association here is an extract from the Bhagvad-Gita: 'Learned persons and great sages in the renounced order of life who utter the Omkara, enter into Brahman. Desiring such perfection, one practices celibacy. I shall now explain to you this process for attaining salvation. The yogic situation is that of detachment from all sensual engagements. Closing all doors of the senses and fixing the mind on the heart and the air of life on the top of the head, one establishes this situation.'

One of the gemstones related here is Peridot (which is Greek for golden stone) which is a bright green in colour. In early days Peridot was called Chrysolite and also Topaz, but they are in fact a distinctly different stone from the Topaz and are not to be confused with it. This stone had an extraordinary inner glow about it that is said to be detectable at night. It was a stone held in high esteem in ancient Egypt. Peridot had the reputation of protecting one against almost any kind of evil or sorcery having much the same effect a crucifix has on the vampire of the movies. It is also said to be a powerful amulet for obtaining love and for dispelling fevers from the body.

A plant that could be ascribed to this Path is the Narcissus. In Greek mythology Narcissus was a beautiful young

man who fell in love with his own reflection and eventually pined for it so much that he died of a broken heart. Legend has it that this flower sprung from the place where he died. This and its extracts have a narcotic type effect that is said to bring a stupifying effect if eaten or used as an aromatic. The magical use of this plant is said to bring one in touch with his Holy Guardian Angel if eaten at the correct time, though this plant is poisonous and dangerous.

The aromatics of this Path are Narcissus (described in the previous paragraph) and Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum zeylanicum*). The oil of Cinnamom is obtained from the bark of Lauraceae which is obtained in both the East and West Indies and South America. The Egyptians first used Cinnamon as both a spice and an aromatic especially in embalming and religious ceremonies. Though mainly used in fertility ceremonies, oil of Cinnamon was also used in catholicism in later years and became an incense of wide and varying reputation. It was reputedly used as an anointing oil for the temple of the vestal virgins in Rome.

The legendary order of beings of this Path are the fairies. The origins of these beings are possibly Celtic and there are said to be three stages of them. They are impenetrable by nature and have occasionally consorted with men to be their husbands. Another association to this Path are mermaids and although they are watery by virtue of their environment they are virginal by nature (in the sense that they cannot mate with man) and as such are associated to this Path.

The Archangel of this Path is Hamaliel (HMLYAL). The roots of this word are HM meaning a burden or disturbance, while HML mean "a falling of rains" or "tears". The numerical value of this archangel's name is 116 which in turn relates to others words such as BlAaDY meaning without. Reduction to a double digit gives us 17 which relates to ZBCh which means slay-food for sacrifice, ChT meaning press or join together and YHB to give or supply. The entire concept is that of the waiting virgin for it is a sign of potential that has not as yet been fulfilled but is looked forward to with a mixture of sorrow and happiness. This shows that this archangel is one who prepares people for coming events.

The animal of this Path is any animal of a solitary nature. There are numerous associations here that only relate to the animal's natural tendencies and as such are not really a true representation of the animal itself and what its symbolism stands for.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF WILL
HEBREW LETTER:	YOD
TAROT:	HERMIT
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	ISIS
GREEK DIETY:	BRITOMARTIS
ROMAN DIETY:	VIRGINIA
SIGN:	VIRGO
CONSTELLATION:	SCORPIO
MAGICAL WEAPON:	LAMP
VIRTUE:	REORIENTATION
VICE:	BLIND ACCEPTANCE
MAGICAL POWER:	INVISIBILITY
MINERAL DRUG:	KALI SULPHURICUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	HOPS
GEMSTONE:	PERIDOT
PLANT:	NARCISSUS
AROMATIC:	CINNAMON
ORDER OF BEINGS:	FAIRIES (MERMAIDS)
ARCHANGEL:	HAMALIEL
ANIMAL:	THOSE OF A SOLITARY NATURE