

## LESSON 34

## TWENTY-FIFTH PATH

'The twenty-fifth Path is the Intelligence of Probation or Temptation, and is so called because it is the primary temptation, by which the Creator trieth all righteous persons'

This Path lies between Tiphareth and Yesod and is called the 'Intelligence of Probation' because it is the primary temptation by which all people are tried in this level of existence. Here our ideas of sensation (in Yesod) must be now lifted to see the higher spiritual values in Tiphareth. The temptation and pull of Yesod is ever present if we divert our attention from Tiphareth, and the only way to avoid the pull of this lower Sephira is simply set ourselves higher ideals and goals and go for them without distraction. Our ideas and actions are in fact "on trial" with the final judgement being death itself.

The Hebrew letter associated here is Samekh (or Samech) and means "prop" or "support" and has a numerical value of 60. This relates to other words of the same value such as BNCh meaning "to build a house", BChN "tried by fire" which relates to Sagittarius as a fiery sign, YKL "Power or ability". The word Samekh (SMK) has a value of 120 and equates with other words such as NAa meaning "to move" or "be agitated", KMS "to store up things of value", TzL "to shade" or "shelter", SS "being active". This entire concept is one of a fiery pursuit or disposition.

Samekh when utilised as a consonant relates to all types of hissing sounds. In its primal outline form Samekh is said to represent a bow with some emphasis on the sound the released string makes. As a grammatical sign it relates to any type of circular movement. Like the drawn bow it will ultimately return to its original state when released. Some consider that Samekh is an aspect of Zain that has turned back on itself and thus becomes reinforced.

The Tarot card Temperance is the trump associated here and shows an angel standing with one foot on land and another in the sea while pouring liquid from one jar to another as a volcano explodes in the background. This is the distillation or merging of the higher and lower forces so that a careful type of balance can be attained. It shows that a cycle has been completed and the next level is to be ascended. Mundane meanings of this card relate to co-ordination and adaptation.

The Egyptian myth of this Path is that of Sati, or Satet as she is sometimes called. Her name is said to have been derived from the root meaning "to shoot or pour out". In early times Satet was a fertility goddess and was connected with the sprinkling of water (over dry land). Sometimes was she depicted carrying a bow and arrows (and sometimes water pots) and was also considered a divinity of the hunt. Satet is often shown wearing a crown of bulls horns and as such is identified with the Isis-Hathor concept. Legend has it that Satet was the counterpart of

Khnemu and sister of Anket, and was worshipped mainly in the southern part of Egypt.

The Greek myth associated here is that of Chiron, chief of the centaurs and son of Saturn and Philytra (when Saturn visited her in the form of a stallion). Chiron was possibly the only noble centaur and as such was said to be the perfect balance between man and animal. He was married to Charicles, one of the water goddesses. Overall Chiron was a teacher of esoteric skills that he knew man must have, if he was able, to try and rise above himself. Chiron died when he offered to trade his immortality for the life of Prometheus. The Roman godform related here is that of Diana because of her prowess as an archer.

The Sun sign of this Path is Sagittarius and those born under this sign are mostly energetic people who take great pride in what they accomplish. Though they are considered idealists they seem to take things in their stride and are extremely open and frank in discussing their ideas. Sagittarius could also be considered the sign of the extrovert as these individuals are extremely outgoing in attitude with a pleasing disposition. They are what could be described as "up front people", what you see is what you get. Sagittarians are generally open air type people with a love of sports though they tend to be a little excessive in their pursuits.

The constellation of Sagittarius (the archer) is called Kesith in Syriac (which also means archer); in Arabic it is

called Al Klaus "the arrow" and in Greek it is Toxotes "the archer". There are over 70 stars in this constellation with the main one being Naim (Hebrew) meaning "gracious one" which is the same as the Arabic name Al Naim. This constellation is a very old one as far as recorded astrological history goes, though Greek mythology relates the shape and name to Chiron while even older civilisations still relate it to an archer. In Egypt Sagittarius was called Pi-Maere meaning "appearance of gracious beauty". Ptolemy said that the stars at the point of the arrow in this constellation have much the same type of influence as Venus and Mars. The stars on the bow and grasping hand are like Jupiter and Mars. Those in the waist are like Jupiter and a little of Mercury while those in the feet are like Jupiter and Saturn.

The magical weapon of this Path is of course the arrow which apart from its phallic representations is one of penetration and light (of the hidden knowledge). The arrow in this instance is an aspect of the rays of Tiphareth and the Sun which have been able to be penetrated by those who stay on the Path. In esoteric terms the arrow is a merging and a balancing of mans forces so that he can be let into the secret mysteries without deviating from the path. In the ritual of the Portal it states: 'Therefore by the straight and narrow Path of Sagittarius let the Philosophus advance like an arrow from the center of Qesheth, the Bow.'

The virtue associated to this Path is to regulate or place in order. It is here that man must merge the lower and higher aspects of his nature into a single unit so that he can advance

towards spiritual progress to uncover the nature and essence of his real self. It is a perfectly balanced concept of power and direction for it is here that man must take this new found unity and aim it at a place where it will do the most good. The concept of regulation relates as much to the unification as it does for the direction one is about take. Although journeys of this type for spiritual growth can be unconscious ones and guided by the spirit they also can be ones governed by hermetic and esoteric orders who have mapped out clear and safe Path for mans self attainment.

The vice of this Path is Puritanism and is the state where order for the whole transcends the rights of the individual, which are wavered, so that the masses are served. In esoteric terms, individuals who are corrupted by this vice find that to impose this type of ideology places others in situations where personal freedom is lost and everything is decided by the state. One of the offshoots of this vice is to surrender to these forces, which reduces any growth experience that one has had into hardship. It also regresses back into past experiences that should have already been transcended.

Transmutation is the magical experience of this Path and relates to change. The oxford dictionary states that transmutation is changing one form into another form or substance. In hermetic terminology, transmutation relates strongly to alchemy though it does not mean it specifically. In this instance transmutation is the ability to transmute an aspect of the self

or unconscious into a unified force (such as a merging of the Nephesh and Ruach) so that a higher state of spiritual awareness can be perceived.

The mineral drug of this Path is Silicea and is a white powder that is classed as a type of quartz, though it is also known as Silicis Anhydride, Rock Crystal, Flint and Oxide of Silicon. It is a powder that has been used by many alchemists (such as Paracelsus and Glauber) for medicinal purposes and in recent years it has been much favoured in Homeopathy. This cell salt travels throughout the body eliminating various congested waste so that better elimination can occur. Its fundamental job is to rid the body of unwanted products, which usually brings out the poison in the system as well as helping bone growth and teeth enamel. Silicea is also found in the brain and nervous system and is considered one of the body's repairmen.

Birch elixir is one of the vegetable drugs of this Path and is made from the young leaves of the Birch tree; from it is made up a homeopathic remedy of Anthroposophical medicine for the purposes of correct elimination and distribution of protein. Betula cortex is another association here; it is made from the bark of the Birch tree and works on the process of demineralisation and acts against the dermatoses on the skin which also helps in diseases such as sclerosis. The Birch tree is hailed by Rudolph Steiner as one of the best sources of balancing the body's good health due to the numerous actions and interactions of both the bark and leaf.

The Indian association to this Path is that of the Pragapati who was known as lord of the creatures. He was a diety who was abstract in form but known to be a unifier of forces as the following quote from the Sata Brah', shows:

'Some call the Pragapati the Father with the five feet and the twelve shapes, the giver of rain in the highest half of the heaven: others say that the sage is placed in the lower half in the chariot with seven wheels and six spokes.'

The numbers here of course relate to the five seasons, twelve months, the seven planets, and the six months, which relate to the Sun passing over the equator to both the summer and winter solstice. This diety however was a fire or solar diety associated to Agni and relates to dispersing and spiritual gifts to those who deserve it.

Jacinth is one of the gemstones of this Path and has been used since the beginning of antiquity as an amulet against fever, plague and wounds. This was a stone much sort after by travelers as legend has it that anyone who wore the Jacinth would always receive a courteous reception wherever they went. Other stories associated to this stone are that it augmented ones riches and protected one against lightning. Among others, this stone was a symbol of protection against phantoms and evil magical influences. Andreas, a Bishop of Ceasarea in the 10th Century wrote: 'The Jacinth, which is of a celestial hue, signifies Simon Zelotes, zealous for the gifts and grace of Christ and endowed with a celestial prudence'. Though archaic in language it

adequately describes the spiritual aspirations connected with this Path.

The Elder tree (*Sambucus canadensis*) is the tree associated to this Path. The name *Sambucus* comes from the Greek "Sambuke" which relates to a pipe-like instrument which is usually made from the wood of this tree. There has been a great deal of myth surrounding the magical properties of this herb which is said to hide a spirit called the 'elder mother' who tries to protect the wood of her tree whether it be a piece of furniture or anything else. Though it was considered bad luck to own anything made from Elderwood, the point that relates to this Path (from a magical viewpoint) is the concept of the spirit of protection (of the tree) for its various parts. The medicinal qualities (according to legend) attracted the goddess Freyga who chose to live in the Elder tree. The leaves of this tree are good for skin diseases and as use as a diaphoretic.

The aromatic of this Path is Nutmeg (*Myristica fragans*), which is extremely good for psychic work and helps concentration and memory. If the oil is rubbed into the temples the aromatic properties take over and it produces a mild hallucinogenic effect. Wherever used internally or externally this plant can be extremely toxic and care is needed.

Centaur here have a dual association as the animals associated to this Path (due to their speed) as well as the legendary order of beings. Chiron the Centaur was the exception to the



rule regarding the behaviour pattern of Centaurs for they drank when they could and were famous for their sexual encounters with human females and were considered nothing but wasters, though their physical prowess as beings of both human and animal natures gives them association here. They were extremists in what they did and bear many of the hall marks of the Sagittarian.

The Archangel of this Path is Advakiel (ADV KYAL= 72), who is sometimes called Adnachiel. The root AD indicates a single powerful object. The numerical value of 72 relates to other words such as ChSD meaning "abundance" and in another context "mercy", BCN "in", BSUD "secret"., This shows that Advakiel is a merciful archangel that goes about his work in secret. His reign is a vast one but he gives gifts to those who seek him out in abundance. By using theosophical reduction his name reduces to 9 and relates to AZA "make hot", GAH "increase" and ZB meaning "gush out" which are of course more relative meanings of this archangel when using the tarot trump as a descriptive basis.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF PROBATION
HEBREW LETTER:	SAMEKH
TAROT:	TEMPERANCE
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	SATI/SATET
GREEK DIETY:	CHIRON
ROMAN DIETY:	DIANA

MAGICAL WEAPON:	ARROW
VIRTUE:	REGULATE/PLACE IN ORDER
VICE:	PURITANISM
MAGICAL POWER:	TRANSMUTATION
MINERAL DRUG:	SILICEA
VEGETABLE DRUG:	BIRCH ELIXIR
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	PRAGAPATI
GEMSTONE:	JACINTH
PLANT:	ELDER TREE
AROMATIC:	NUTMEG
ANGEL - ARCH:	ADVAKIEL
ANIMAL:	CENTAUR