

LESSON 35

TWENTY-SIXTH PATH

'The Twenty-sixth Path is called Renewing Intelligence, because the Holy God renews by it all the changing things which are renewed by the creation of the world'

This Path lies between Tiphareth and Hod and is called 'Renewing or Renovating Intelligence' because, by it, the Holy Spirit renews all changing forms which are renewed by the creation of the world. Taken to another level it shows a continual change in the growth structure of the individual, his consciousness. He uses what he can and discards whatever he cannot utilise. In many ways this Path is a testing or proving ground in seeing how the mind can cope with the rapid changes, yet still retain a formal structure. It begins to emanate a stream of universal consciousness through Tiphareth which is perceived and acted on by the structure that governs the individual's own inner beliefs.

Ayin is the Hebrew letter associated to this Path and means eye. It has a numerical value of 70 and relates to other words of the same value such as ML meaning "pluck off", SChB "pull by force" and KN meaning "honest". These root meanings relate heavily to the biblical aspects associated with the eye, such as if it has seen something it should not have and is to be plucked out. On a deeper level this shows or relates to the all-seeing

eye that one cannot hide ones actions from. The word Ayin has a value of 130 and relates to such words as KPL "to double or repeat", and SML "image or idol of worship" which clearly relate to both eyes and their function.

According to those like de Olivet, Ayin represents by its vocal characteristics the inner ear of a man and as such represents the state of the confused or dull and sounds without harmony. As a consonant it represents the body cavity of the upper chest. The Zohar states: 'To the letter Ayin, the initial word Avon, though it is claimed the origin of Anayana, the Holy one said: 'I shall not create the world by thee' and forthwith Ayin departed. By associating Avon (roughly translated as an evil act) to Ayin it relates it very heavily to evil manifestations.

The Tarot Trump related to this Path is the "Devil" and shows a winged goat headed satyr like demon whose legs are hairy and who has claws for feet. In his left hand he holds a downward pointing torch while in his right an elevated horn of water. He is perched on an altar with a male and female (demon) chained to each side of it. The entire concept is to show us the evil or negative side of the astral forces collectively gathered under one archetype. It is very much the lust for the material over the spiritual forces of life with a strong sexual theme attached to it. Whatever one attaches to this card it is still a force which cannot be ignored.

Set (whose name means "below") is one of the Egyptian associations to this Path. This god is often shown as a camels head with large ears and a forked tail. He was the son of Seb and Nut and the husband of Nephthys and was considered the archetype of evil itself and represented the negative forces of nature. His reign not only extended to land but to water as well and any area that rejected light. Though he was the god of the underworld Set also had a kingdom in the heavens which was typified as the constellation known of in modern times as the 'Great Bear' and was associated with the elemental forces of cold, damp and mist.

Pan (meaning "all" or "everything") is the Greek diety of this Path. He was the son of Hermes and Penelope and resided in the wooded area of Arcadia. Legend has it that he had two small horns on his head with a ruddy complexion and the lower body of a goat. He was on the odd occasion able to change his form and in one famous incident managed to seduce Selene by assuming the form of a white goat and drew her into the forest. Pan was strongly associated with the art of seduction but on its more lustful side than that of any of the other gods or goddesses. It is said that when he played on his flute he could captivate the heart of any woman.

The Roman god of this Path is that of Faunus who was known as chief of the satyrs. He was the son of Picus and Canente and was also a fertility god. His other name was Lupercus and had a temple named after him in Palatine where goats were sacrificed. Another association who is equally at home on this Path is the

Roman version of Bacchus (as the god of wine), the son of Jupiter and Semele. Bacchus was often shown as a young man with a crown of vine leaves with a thyrsus in his hand. Though many of his exploits are nothing to do with this Path his religion of drunken orgies does link him with Faunus and masculinity with distinct sexual overtones.

The Sun sign related here is that of Capricorn. Those born under this sign are emotionally immature and often show it by being an introvert. They are forever in thought and never do anything before thinking about it first. They can be timid people who often brood if things do not go their way yet will make no direct attempt to alter the situation. As a result of this introversion their entire resources are tuned into the mental approach which is their real source of power. Capricornians have a powerful concentration which can be useful when turned to subjects like economics, in which they seem to have a natural affinity. On the negative side they can be the very voice of doom itself and are said to be fatalistic in attitude.

In the early zodiacs of Egypt this sign was shown to have a goats body and a fish tail and was called Hu penius 'place of sacrifice'. The Hebrew name for this sign is Gedi which means the kid (or cut off) while its name in Arabic is Al Gedi with virtually the same meaning. There are over fifty stars in this constellation such as Deneb Al Gedi 'the sacrifice comes', Al Debik 'the sacrifice slain', Saad al Naschira 'record of cutting off' and Maasad 'the slaying'. Ptolemy observes that the stars

in the horns of the goat are like Venus and a little like that of Mars. The stars in the mouth are like Saturn with a small Venusian influence. Those stars in the feet and belly are like Mars and Mercury while those in the tail act like Saturn and Jupiter.

The magical weapon of this Path is to use sexual energy and its conversion for practical magical use. In Indian yoga this referred to the manipulation of the Tantric principle while in China it was called Taoism. In the west the sexual act itself and the tremendous auric power it generates was utilised for practical ends. Sexual energy however does not have to specifically generate from the sex act itself but can be harnessed (as the Taoists have shown) and converted back into the body system so that additional psychic power can be generated, but it requires supreme discipline to be able to do it.

The virtue of this Path is assimilation and is the jump off point where man leaves the self alone to seek another source or center of his power or purpose of life. In the initial stages of this Path he puts together his structure in a way that he sees that his far flung boundaries now can be confined because his gaze was still on the self. With contact from other levels of existence these borders have now narrowed and he realises that he must venture into this other area, but not only this for he must discover the core essence of it and act accordingly for the larger plan. In the latter stage of the Path the information he receives must be assimilated and this is the 'point de part' into

the next level of spiritual growth.

The vice of this Path is collectivising energy which differs from assimilation only in its use. While the former worked to a grand plan the vice works on an ego expansion and ignores the purpose of the greater plan and centers completely on the self. This still does not ignore the the greater plan, but focuses on how the individual can achieve greater power by participating in it with little regard to the plan itself other than that of a stepping stone or a glorification vehicle, which is something seen often in government today.

The magical power associated here is the power of the curse and its effect. The curse is of course not a negative concept but something that has polarities though it is described in the Websters Dictionary as a tool of evil intent but one can in fact be cursed with benefitting gifts as well. The concept here is that an individual can alter certain elemental and planetary aspects and bend them to suit his or her own purposes. Curses can in fact be broken down into the following categories: (1) using the name of a spirit to implement the procedure; (2) using ones own power.

The mineral drug is Calcium Phosphate which works on the bones of the body and supplies a type of bone strengthener, it is commonly referred to as the limestone of the skeletal system. Deficiency in this cell salt causes bone diseases such as rickets and tooth decay but when taken it acts quickly in helping the

rebuilding of blood corpuscles. A lack of this salt also prevents food from being digested correctly and plays havoc with the gastric juices.

The vegetable drug associated here is a tincture of Black Cohosh (*Cimicifuga racenosa*) which has ranunculin, salicylic acid, tannin and resin among its properties and works on helping to ease arthritis and rheumatic complaints as well as preventing cramps and helping to balance the bodies sex hormones.

There are a number of gemstones associated to this Path which can overlap with other paths. Some of these are White Onyx, Moonstone, Jet, Sapphire, Ruby and the Black Diamond. Some have considered that all stones that are black in colouring be applied here, while others have considered all stones that bring bad luck should be related to this Path which of course cuts across other associations. If a gemstone had to singled out that had all these characteristics it would be the Black Opal. These became commonly mined in Australia and were considered bad luck, so a Black Opal, though very valuable was the considered the worst possible stone to wear. This superstition comes from ancient Aboriginal legends that filtered through to those who mined the stone late in the last century and found their way to the outside world.

The plants associated to this Path are the Thorn and Thistle. The bible says in Gen iii: 'Thorns also and thistles shall it (ground) bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb in the field'. This passage relates these two plants to both

suffering and sorrow. The Thistle has long been a symbol of vindictiveness and suffering while the Thorn relates heavily to Christs suffering when crowned with thorns. The Thorn also relates to the Rose and guards it against being picked. In esoteric terms it is the suffering one undertakes before achieving union within the self.

Pine is the aromatic used on this Path as both an incense and an oil. As an incense it is mainly used to accumulate material possessions while the pine needles were used in purification and fertility rituals (of Celtic origin). The pine cones were often burnt in houses to make the female pregnant and the male more fertile. The pine oil has many attributes related to from protection against magic to being able to attract a member of the opposite sex with ones virility (through body scent). Also pine needles have been used in exorcism.

The legendary order of beings associated here are the satyrs, fauns, panes or sylvani. They were beings with an upper body like men though covered with thick black hair, and had two horns protruding from their heads and the lower body of a goat. They acknowledged Bacchus as their chief and attended all his orgies. They are noted as seducers of women and despite their extreme ugliness they become the inspiration of desire in any woman making her completely let go of her sexuality. It is said that one was actually captured while asleep in a cave and was brought to the Roman general Sylla, who was amazed that it closely resembled the above described creature so well documented

by poets and painters alike.

The Archangel associated to this Path is Hanael (HNAL=86) who also presides over the Sephirah of Hod. The Hebrew root HN relates to a painful act expressed through meditation. It links with the concept of relenting, clemency and pity. Also it relates, through its Arabic origins, to the idea of being apart and fixed in a defensive stance against the unexpected. The root MUS means "Cup" (which has a numerical value of 86) and presents the idea of mercy and prayer.

The goat and the ass are two of the animals of this Path. The ass in Christian terminology represents the animal who carried Christ to safety in Egypt and also carried him on his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In the Egyptian-Greek culture it was linked to Typhon. In fact the ass along with the goat have a dual set of symbolism associated to them depending entirely on the time and place. Both these animals have also been used at witches sabbaths in a manner that would have raised the eyebrow of many a Christian or Jew. Today there has been a distinct leaning towards considering the goat a symbol of evil and the ass as its positive counterpart in the forces of light.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	RENEWING OR RENOVATING INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	AYIN
TAROT:	DEVIL
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	SET
GREEK DIETY:	PAN
ROMAN DIETY:	FAUNUS
SIGN:	CAPRICORN
MAGICAL WEAPON:	SEXUAL ENERGY
VIRTUE:	ASSIMILATION
VICE:	COLLECTIVISING ENERGY
MAGICAL POWER:	CURSE
MINERAL DRUG:	CALCIUM PHOSPHATE
VEGETABLE DRUG:	BLACK COHOSH
GEMSTONE:	BLACK OPAL
PLANT:	THORN AND THISTLE
AROMATIC:	PINE
ORDER OF BEINGS:	SATYRS, FAUNS, PANES OR SYLVANI
ANGEL - ARCH:	HANAEL
ANIMAL:	GOAT AND ASS