

## LESSON 36

## TWENTY-SEVENTH PATH

'The twenty-seventh Path is the Active or Exciting Intelligence and it is so called because through it every existent being receives its spirit and motion.'

This Path joins Netzach and Hod and is called Exciting Intelligence because every being in existence receives its impetus. Another title allocated to it is Active Intelligence because it shows continuous active changes or transformations. This of course relates to a fiery disposition because of the constant changing activity which shows little or no rest. The beginning of the Path shows excitement and stimulation of both mental and physical energy, while at its maximum point this energy in abundance swells and gushes forth so strongly that it reacts something like an exploding volcano.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Peh (which means mouth) and has a numerical value of 80. Some related words of the same value are KS meaning "throne", YAa "shovel", VAaD "union" and YSUD "foundation". The positive aspects shows throne and foundation while shovel is neutral and GZAa meaning "to cut" works on the negative side. The word Peh has a value of 85 and relates to YAaH "shovel away", NLH "to complete" and MYLH "circumcision". Broken down into abstract concepts one finds that Peh can be analogous to an object that is a fundamental

basis, for merging and splitting and is phallic in shape (due to MYLH) while a shovel relates strongly to stoking (a furnace).

It is considered by de O'livet that Peh has two distinct articulations. The first is that it reinforces Beth (by virtue of its shape) which gives it an outlet. The second is that in Peh in its final form we find a reinforced Vau. The link between Peh and Beth also goes back to pronunciation which ties in closely with ancient Egyptian usage. The Zohar says of this letter: 'I am the beginning (Peragina) and deliverance (Peduth) thou will execute in the world....but thou also givest rise to evil (Peshang), and in thy form resembles those animals who walk with bowed heads, like wicked men who go about with bowed heads and extended hands.' This warns that Peh can be a dual edged sword that will quickly cut the wielder if he is not careful, and warns of the danger beneath the surface of things.

The Tarot trump related here is the 'Blasted Tower'. It depicts a single tower (with three windows) struck by the lightning of Mars whichs takes off the crowned top of the tower. From this disaster two bodies fall. On the right hand side of the tower there is the Tree of Life and on the left hand side the Tree of Evil. The whole concept here is the application of an external force (heat) which is used to separate the factor in the tower. This card is very alchemical and relates heavily to the author of the alchemist. In its general sense it foretells of disaster and the splitting up of a project.

Anher (Anhert) is the Egyptian godform of this Path and is a derivative of Ra the Sungod and personifies his most warlike attributes. He is often depicted as a bearded warrior holding an upraised spear. His headdress was usually one with four tall plumes mounted above it. Originally he was the god of the dead but his title was taken over by Osiris. Anher's main function in later Egyptian Dynastic periods seems to have been the avenger for he hunted down the foes of his worshippers from his divine chariot and showed them no mercy. The festivals of Papremis were in honour of this divinity and were noted for their violent exchanges between priests and worshippers alike.

Ares is one of the Greek divinities of this Path and has already been described in the lesson on Geburah. Another set of divinities that also could apply here as well are the Cyclopes, who were Arges, Brontes and Steropes and represented the various elements of destruction (such as thunder and lightning) and it is they who in fact made the thunderbolts of Zeus. They were considered the repairmen of the gods and built fortresses for them though their own home was in Hesiod. Legend has it that they were destroyed by Apollo after his son was killed by the thunderbolts of Zeus which were fashioned by the Cyclopes. The Roman association is of course Mars who is explained in the lesson on Geburah.

The Magical Weapon of this Path is the lightning flash which in the old testament was delivered by Yahweh to destroy his enemies. This is the tangible spiritual descent of power from ones higher self which shows both the destruction of ignorance

and truth. In order to control and direct a force of nature of this magnitude one must be able to be in communion with ones higher self or at least be able to petition it and be helped in return. It is in fact far more than being able to direct an aspect of the elements but shows that one is in harmony with ones karmic destiny, for apart from the physical aspect of the lightning flash itself, it is also symbolic as being representative of flashes of illumination, with this also a weapon in itself that shows deep insight and understanding in a situation when all appears to be lost which can completely reverse the outcome to ones advantage.

The Magical virtue of this Path is forgiveness and relates to forgiving those who have harmed you or those near you. To forgive is not an easy thing when a wrong has been done to an individual, and the greater the wrong the greater the virtue it is to forgive those who have wronged you in the first place. To understand the impact of hurt and injustice done to an individual on a karmic level is closely allied to the doctrine of Catholicism on gaining grace which amounts literally to stockpiling ones good traits. There are many practical reasons for this which when placed on a mundane level have little to do with holiness but first appear to come under the heading of hedging one bets. In short we are all subject to the laws of cause and effect and while we should try to protect ourselves from harm it does not mean we go on a vigilante hunt after those who have hurt us. The real hidden concept of forgiveness is to understand why things have happened to us and with that thought in mind turn to

working a way at making the best of a bad situation and not shifting the blame on people who also have their karmic act to play in life.

The vice associated here is Wrath, which is a cross between cruelty and vengeance, but hints that the meaning of the word relates to having to retaliate in an overly zealous manner or rage. Wrath is the point where indignation ends and vengeance begins but it is a vengeance so soul destroying and encompassing that it becomes the focal point for almost the entire existence of the individual and gradually consumes him or her. Many of us have heard the saying 'wrath of god' and in some ways this is quite frightening, for the Yahweh of the Old Testament smited the foes of the Israelites left, right, and center and used everything from thunderbolts and plagues to good old common battle strategy. The point to be made here is that only those who are considered omnipotent can afford the luxury of wrath and there are not too many of them around today.

The magical attainments of this Path are works of Wrath and Vengeance which have already been discussed at length in the two previous paragraphs. The main point of consideration is that like the curse of the previous path, works of wrath are an attainment and can only be accomplished (from a magical perspective) through spiritual growth, it is an energy that is given to us so that we may comprehend power and its uses and misuses, for without our coming into contact with this type of energy on the path of the Magus it would never be able to be handled

objectively.

A mineral drug associated here is Sodium which can be reproduced in many forms such as Sodium Chloride which is table salt. This differs slightly from the esoteric alchemical description which describes the state the primea materia is in and not the effect the ingredient has. This mineral can be found in the sea and in kelp as well as vegetables, fruits and nuts, dairy products and herbs. It can be used as a diuretic, anticoagulant, analgesic and as an antidote for some poisons. Salt is necessary for nerve and muscle repair though too much of it can cause many problems, such as high blood pressure.

Garlic oil is one of the vegetable drugs of this Path and is considered as a sulphide of allyl. Apart from stabilising both and high and low blood pressure garlic oil will rid the blood of excess glucose as well as helping to quell bronchial complaints. It helps promote better blood circulation and is good in helping to clear sinus congestion.

One of the gods of Indian mythology related to here is that of Rudra who was considered a vedic god of storms whose arrows acted like lightning bolts to his enemies. He is also called lord of animals after being named as such by a terrified Prajapati who was caught in the act of incest by Rudra. In many ways a number of the attributes of Shiva the destroyer were associated to Rudra whose fame was at an early stage in Indian history.

One of the gems associated to this Path is the Loadstone which is a brownish red in colour and composed mainly of magnetised iron. Legend has it that this stone was worn by Alexandra the Great and some of his men as a talismanic protective device that attracted and gave power to the wearer. Because of its magnetic contents that Loadstone was also associated to the reconciling of friends or lovers which ancients considered a powerful pull of attraction. With the recent studies on magnetic auric fields the Loadstone could indeed (depending on the strength of the magnetism) alter the aura so that it could literally attract certain etheric forces to it. On a medicinal point this gemstone also was said to bring down swellings and help gout.

The plant associated here is Rue (from the Greek word Ruta meaning "repentance") and its botanical name is Ruta graveolens. A large number of legends have sprung up about this plant which have been recorded since Hippocrates where it was a recognised medicinal plant that acted on the nervous system and produced a calming effect. Greek soldiers used it the night before a battle to dispell their fears. The plant was also a well known antidote against poison and the plague.

An aromatic of this Path is Pepper which is made from crushed berries and is associated here due to its fiery nature which when brought into contact with the nostrils produces a violent reaction. Pepper is usually used as one of the main ingredients for any type of Martian incense. Stories associated the

use of Pepper in witches rituals for dispelling an evil demon of sickness from the body by forcing it to leave through the nostrils.

The Order of Beings associated here relate to the Chimaera who was a monster that sprung from Typhon and Echidna. It was said to be so terrible that it had three heads, a lion, dragon and goat, but was eventually slain by Bellropon and Pegasus. The Calydonian Boar is another association to this Path. Legend has it that it was sent by Diana to ravage the countryside (because her worship had been neglected by the King) and went unchecked because of its great size and strength. Eventually it was slain by Meleager who offered its hide to Atalanata.

The Olympic planetary spirit of Mars is Phaleg who is said to give honour in warfare. He is often depicted as a king armed and riding on a wolf, horse or stag.

The archangel of this Path is Samael (Zamael) who rules Mars. His name is derived from the root SM meaning "spice or poison". He is known for more dark traits than good ones and was the angel who wrestled Jacob at Peniel and has often been called the angel of death and destruction. He is often interchanged with fallen angels because of the destruction he causes but this is because he directly organised the wrath of god. For the ignorant this was misinterpreted as evil and he was associated as an angel of hell. Among his better duties Samael was the guiding angel of John the Baptist when he entered the desert. He is considered a



teacher of theology and the guiding light of missionaries.

The animal of this Path is the horse due to his swiftness and association to war as a tool to carry both soldiers and weapons. It has a variety of meanings associated to it from the lofty spiritual to the lustful Renaissance concept. In many symbols it is closely linked with the solar power and the masculine struggle for supremacy. However if one is more discerning about its colour one then gets into a maize of associations.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	EXCITING INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	PEH
TAROT:	TOWER
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	ANHER
GREEK DIETY:	ARES, THE CYCLOPES
ROMAN DIETY:	MARS
PLANET:	MARS
MAGICAL WEAPON:	LIGHTNING
VIRTUE:	FORGIVENESS
VICE:	WRATH
MAGICAL POWER:	WORKS OF WRATH AND VENGEANCE
MINERAL DRUG:	SODIUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	GARLIC OIL
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	RUDRA
GEMSTONE:	LOADSTONE
PLANT:	RUE

AROMATIC:

PEPPER

ORDER OF BEINGS:

CHIMAERA

OLYMPIC PLANTARY SPIRIT:

PHALEG

ANGEL - ARCH:

SAMAEAL

ANIMAL:

HORSE