

LESSON 103

KING OF SWORDS

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"Prince of the Chariot of Swords"

Rules 20 degrees Capricorn to 20 degrees Aquarius

A winged king with winged crown and seated in a chariot drawn by arch fays, represented as winged youths very slightly dressed, with butterfly wings. Their heads are encircled by a fillet with a pentagram on it while the wands they hold are surmounted by pentagrams. The butterfly wings and fillets on their feet are the same as those protruding from their backs and worn around their heads. The general equipment of the King is the same as his opposite number in the suite of Wands though he bears crests with a winged angelic head with a pentagram on the brows. Beneath his chariot are grey nimbus clouds. His hair is long and waving in serpentine whirls, and whirls compose the scales of his armour. He has a drawn sword in one hand and a sickle in the other. With the sword he rules, and with the sickle he slays.

The wings of the King depict his airy nature while those on his crown show his airy kingdom. The pentagram on the head of the arch fays allude to the symbol of spirit (spiritus means breath in latin). The butterfly wings show part of the transmutation stage undergone by the Primea Materia. As a driver he has control over the Sylphs and Sylphides, the elemental spirits of air. His long wavy hair gives a lack of restriction to his reign, in the higher strater of air. The dark grey clouds in fact represent nourishment, creativity, (because they bring rain as a source of life and nourishment), and also equate with the Enochian Aires hinting at stronger elemental powers lurking about him.

The King has blue eyes and translucent yellow skin. His wings, on his back and helmet are white while his armour is a bright yellow with a gold crown. The sword and sickle are both dark yellow with mauve shadings. The chariot is a light gold with mauve shadings around the wheel rim. The armour of the King is gold with mauve whirls. The emblems on the King have white wings and a pale yellow colour for the child's head. The arch fays are the same colour as the King and they have mauve wings with yellow circles on them, their headress is also mauve. The background to this card is pale (or light) yellow and is slightly darker than the skin colouring of the King and Arch fays.

Applied to man, this card shows the psyche being pulled into an area of no restriction, following its every whim, which describes an elusive quality and a scattering waste of energy. It

shows expended energy, wasted as soon as it is created as the psyche travels across the uncharted regions of the mind.

The Airy part of Air is an individual who is the epitome of the thinker and planner. He is a person who will plan skillfully, taking his time in trying to bring his vast plans into action. The Airy part of Air people never do things in small measures when great ones will do. They become extremely abstract in thought and action and as such they are in danger of losing sight of the goal of the plan. This will ultimately involve complex manipulations. The Airy part of Air people often disassociate themselves from the reality of the situation when dealing with peoples' emotion. They resent any form of restriction and prefer to go it alone in their ventures.

He rules 20 degrees Capricorn to 20 degrees Aquarius which shows the detached aspect of Capricorn combining with the open gate and curious but cautious approach of the Aquarian. Interests and energies can be scattered in too many directions.

The first hexagram of the I'Ching is associated here which reiterates the creativity of the card but cautions against arrogance. The King of Swords differs slightly from that of the Chinese Cosmos in as much as where the I'Ching cautions against the use of too much energy, and where the card shows swift movement. The main difference being the application. This is because the Trigrams of Ch'ien that make up this hexagram is merely an association to air or the initial impetus of it which shows only the beginning of the card, not the complete range and this is one area where the overlap associations do not properly mix well. The Great Symbolism says. "Heaven in motion, gives the idea of strength. The Superior Man, in accordance with this, nerves himself to ceaseless activity".

The alchemical meaning of this card is at the later stage of separation. Paracelsus says of this: "Separation is the greatest miracle in philosophy, and that magic the most singular by which it is effected; very excellent for quickness of penetration and swiftness of operation, the like whereof nature knows not". The Tabula Smaragdina Hermetis also says: "Thou shalt separate the earth from fire, the subtle from the gross, gently, with much sagacity; it will ascend from earth to heaven and again descend from heaven to earth...". Applied to this card it shows that the death of the body by decapitation in the Queen of Swords has released the spirit to heaven, where it prepares to return yet again.

Vau of Vau is the neutral part of a neutral force, its core center is created by the outside influence. This shows the case of redemption through the Son (Vau) who acts as an intermediary

force. It is the Son, as an outer shell who has a new divine Son imprisoned inside him which can only be released through trial and suffering. It shows hope, salvation through belief in new concepts that will shatter the old values.

DIVINATION

ON MATTERS OF the Physical Body; Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

The King of Swords in this Fire house shows an individual who is always mentally active. He is very hard to pin down and if you do manage this the answers you will get from him will be unclear. Placed in this house position the King has apparently started (in draught format) on the plans of a project. When dealing with him it would be advisable to understand that it is too early for results at this stage. It would be better to apply a little self discipline to oneself and wait until the project is more underway before asking the King to show what he has accomplished.

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:

The King of Swords in this Earth House is an individual who is not in tune with his environment (under the above matters). His airy nature cannot come to grips with his business interests which tend to tie him down too much. In dealing with the King in this instance one will find him out of his depth. His grand schemes have not yet materialised. Your association with him shows communication problems and hold-ups. It is a time to withdraw, as to go in with the King in a project, at this stage, would cause you nothing but problems.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

The King of Swords in this Air House shows an individual who is constantly on the move, something that seems to suit his lifestyle. Because of his constant state of flux he is a person

of little or no substance. His humour is good and he has a quick wit. There may be some minor correspondence developing but it will never eventuate as the King does not have the time nor the inclination to write to you. When dealing with him on family matters one finds that he treats them almost abstractly, mainly due to his lack of emotional depth. He will however encompass many new areas but will not have time to settle or develop the concepts he has laid down.

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in lifes directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

The King of Swords in this Water House shows an individual who applies his intellect through an emotional outlet. In the home he sees his task as a teacher by showing others how to plan and rationalise in daily life. If his lessons are heeded the family will be emotionally and financially secure in later years. When dealing with the King under the above matters it would be advisable to approach him in areas that he is best at. He teaches and slays with discipline in one movement. He is always on the lookout for something new and challenging. Be careful of entering into any long term projects with him. Try for short term liaisons only.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

The King of Swords in this Fire House shows an individual, under the above matters, who is extremely active in family gatherings. He loves his family and is continually pushing to try and get them to better themselves. He is the type that will take his family everywhere and they can expect constant variety in their lives because of it. When dealing with the King in this area you will find him energetic and hard to pin down or keep up with. He will not make any type of commitment as his first instincts are to fulfill his and his childrens' potentiality. During this period it would be unwise to deal with the King as he may not be able to be counted on.

ON MATTERS OF sickness (generally due to work problems); employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

The King of Swords in this Earth House shows an individual who will stop at nothing to get what he wants. He is a cunning person and is not to be trusted. As soon as he does some good he will destroy it in the next move he makes. When dealing with the King in the above matters caution is urged. The best approach to take with him is not to deal with him at all but if you have to contact him, make sure everything is legally binding for if not he will have little regard for your interests. If he is your boss at work then quit when you can. If he is an employee then get rid of him before he brings problems in the work environment or to your doorstep.

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

The King of Swords in this Air House shows an individual who is good for only short term relationships. Any form of partnership will be exciting though there is a slight danger of his not being able to live up to his ideals. When dealing with the King you will find him an excitable and likeable individual but in business matters take him at result value only. He will have many partnerships and you will only be one, as long as you accept that there will be no problems. Do not trust him completely for any deep meaningful relationships as you will be dissatisfied. He is not a good prospect for marriage.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

The King of Swords in this Water House shows an individual who has seen more than his share of death, mainly due to his travelling. In many ways he acts like an administrator of justice and he may be or represent some law enforcement office by profession. In dealing with him one will find him a difficult person to get a hold of. Overall though, his dealings with you should not be unpleasant. If you are on the wrong side of the law and meet this person through breaking it, then one will find him a relentless pursuer. If about to go to trial expect little in the way of mercy.

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the

collective mind:

The King of Swords in this Fire House shows an individual who has many metaphysical interests. His field is research and he may travel quite a lot in his job. He is more of an inquirer into the mysteries than a practising magician though he is well aware of the phisic undercurrents. When dealing with the King, under the above matters, one will find him a helpfull colleague but not a helpful teacher. This is due to his abstract concepts which he has difficulty in expressing. He has a great deal to offer in his respective field that can be utilised and adapted to suit our own interests. Learn as much as possible from him while you can.

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

The King of Swords in this Earth House shows an individual who is quite well known in his respective field of interest and study. He has status and a certain amount of power and influence in his profession and is regarded as an up and coming person. His ambition is the forefront of everything he has, and he will let nothing stand in his way of fame and power having a finger in every pie. If you work under him he will use you for his own ends. On the other hand, if you are over him at work then he will constantly irritate you. Overall, he will only help and co-operate when it serves his own ends, so check this out first before you have any dealings with him.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

The King of Swords in this Air house shows an individual who is well liked and very amiable. He is a leader in a new field and is futuristic in his outlook. He gives inspiration to others to continue with group projects. When dealing with the King in this position one would assume he is part of a large organisation or group. He will be very receptive to your demands, providing they are reasonable. You will find the King an able helper, advisor and an excellent strategist, which is his niche in life. It would do well to listen to his advice on any of the above subjects.

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret

enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:

The king of Swords in this Water House shows a individual who intellectualises over world problems. He will undoubtedly be in a group which claims all the answers. There is also a certain amount of secretiveness involved in his activities, whether for good or evil intent. When dealing with the King in the above matters one may think they know where they stand with him because of his deep viewpoints but in reality there is a hidden darker aspect to his nature that we have yet to discover.

MEDITATION ON THE KING OF SWORDS:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. Study the colours. Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations. Write down your overall impression.

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exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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