

TAROT INTERPRETATION

Lesson Thirty-two

This final lesson is intended to point out various practical ways to use the combinations of Tarot Keys, apart from their employment in exercises in meditation.

Suppose you have a specific problem. Consider it carefully. When you have done so, it will be relatively easy to determine what Key symbolizes the essential nature of the problem. Then select one of the tableaux or magic squares in which that Key is a central unit. Lay this arrangement of Keys before you and look at it with the definite intention of letting it evoke from your inner consciousness an intimation of what should be your **next step**.

Do not try to force an answer. Sit ten or fifteen minutes with pencil and paper at hand for notes of any ideas which may come to you. If none come at the first sitting, do not be discouraged. Sometimes these hints from within come during the course of the day after the morning practice with the Keys. Often they pop into your head just as you are waking the next morning. However this may work out, be sure to follow the suggestion.

Another practical use of the squares and tableaux is to give you a better understanding of your own individuality and personality. To learn more about your individuality, use the squares and tableaux in which the central unit is the Key corresponding to your Sun sign. To learn more about your personality, use the squares and tableaux in which the central unit is the Key representing your rising sign; also those in which the central unit is the place of the Moon in your natal chart. If you do not know your rising sign, or the place of the Moon, consult some astrological friend. For one who knows even the rudiments of astrology, it is easy to determine the place of the Sun and the Moon, by sign, simply by referring to an ephemeris for the year of your birth. Unless you know your birth-hour, the rising sign is not so easy to determine. But a great deal of insight into your own make-up can be gained by following this method with the Keys corresponding to the positions of the Sun and the Moon.

By using the same method, you may get a better understanding of the lives of persons with whom you are associated. Even those who puzzle or annoy you may be less of a mystery if you use Tarot to help you get below the surface of their outward behavior.

You may also use these combinations of Keys to develop a better knowledge of the particular principles and laws concerned with the realization of your heart's desire. What you want to be and do, more than anything else, is an expression of a principle symbolized by one of the Tarot Keys. It may take a little time to determine which Key stands for what you want, but you will find it if you look.

By now you understand that even the solid objects of your environment are actually embodiments of seed ideas in the Universal Mind. Tarot is a catalogue of the fundamental seed ideas and of their relations, one to another. Thus you may employ it to help you make clear images of the germinal principles from which the particular forms of expression you wish to experience are to be developed.

What Jung calls the “collective unconscious” is a vast reservoir of these seed ideas. They are held therein as **symbols**. As the CHALDEAN ORACLES say: “The Father of gods and men placed the mind (nous) in the soul (psyche); and placed both in the human body. The Paternal Mind hath sown symbols in the soul.” Here what is called “soul” is what is called “psyche” throughout the New Testament where it is distinguished from “pneuma,” or the mode of the Life-power symbolized by the various masculine figure of Tarot.

To be dominated by immature psychic levels of our consciousness is to be what St. Paul calls the “natural man.” It is to be within the fatal field of influences which Jacob Boehme termed the “astral spirit.” It is to be caught in the web of Maya (Illusion). Nevertheless, the symbols in the collective unconscious are the seeds of all possible combinations of physical conditions which may be experienced by mankind.

To be able to evoke the images which correspond to the conditions we desire to have manifested in our surroundings is to possess a key to extraordinary exercise of power. We do not escape from domination by the “astral spirit” by ignoring it. We do not break the web of Maya by trying to destroy Maya itself. What liberates us is right use of the symbols sown in the soul.

These seed ideas are actually the basis of all physical conditions both known and as yet unknown to man. These seed ideas constitute either singly, or in definite numerical combinations, principles upon which the universe around and in us is undeviatingly built. They may, but not necessarily must, be relatively few in number. The “real events” of this universe, which embraces **all** phenomena including us, are built in accordance with these basic principles.

Consider the building of a housing structure, be it a home or a sky scraper. There can be an infinite number of blue prints setting forth the specifications for an infinite variety of buildings. Nevertheless each set of plans must embody and conform to a relatively much smaller set of engineering principles . . . seed ideas implanted by the Cosmic Mind from which there must be no deviation.

Furthermore, the esoteric doctrine behind Tarot includes the explicit statement that all physical manifestation is the consequence of the creative mental activity of the Originating Spirit. That Spirit is omnipresent, and is therefore present in man. Today, as always, it creates by processes of thought. From our self-conscious human point of view, it **appears**

that the physical universe, its energies and laws, are things given. They were here before we appeared on the scene. They will be here after we leave it.

So far as this goes, Ageless Wisdom agrees with it, but says the truth of the matter goes even farther. As **persons**, we had nothing to do with our appearance on the scene. As **persons**, we do not set the stage. But within our personality dwells a higher life which is the real Being assuming the outward mask of the personal existence.

This real Being, the true I AM within us, is the only God there is. This is the inner significance of the statement in Exodus to the effect that the Name of God is **אֶהְיֶה**, **Eheyeh**, or I AM. In Hebrew, Eheyeh is the present indicative of the verb “to be.” Thus the Bible tells us that the true “God” is simply what really is and that the only intelligible name of God is simply the announcement of Absolute Being—I AM, without a predicate.

All version of Ageless Wisdom bring us to this idea. All agree that the true Self at the center of every personality is identical with the Originating Spirit. **Identical** with it, not derived from it. Personality is derived. The Self is ONE.

Fortunately for us, we do not have to grasp the full meaning of this truth in order to use the power it gives us. We simply have to act as if it were true. This is the basis of true theurgy, or **God-working**, as contrasted with various forms of sorcery which aim to bolster up the weakness of human personality by calling outside entities to its aid.

Much which passes for religion is actually a form of sorcery. When prayer is conceived as being a method whereby the person praying flatters, or compels, some being outside to fulfil his desires, that prayer is a form of false magic. When prayer is recognition of an indwelling power, able to modify external conditions because it is the power which brings to pass every external manifestation, such prayer is true theurgy.

Various New Thought cults have had some glimpse of this truth. So far as it goes, their method of procedure is correct; but it often is limited by misunderstanding of the law whereby that method produces results. The law is that of focusing creative seed ideas in subconsciousness. This is the law at work in all our use of Tarot.

Man’s place in the cosmic order is to act as a distributor for the power of Originating Spirit. Man is able to bring into actual, concrete manifestation **new combinations** of the seed ideas in Universal Mind. By so doing, he “controls” the forces of his environment, and brings into tangible existence, on the physical plane, conditions which would never make their appearance but for the action of human self-consciousness.

Actually, of course, man does not exert personal control of circumstance, even when he is able to perform works of power which seem like miracles. For true theurgy is based on recognition that none of us ever does anything of himself. We do not control. We act as conscious instruments of the original Creative Power which operates through us—always in

harmony with its immutable laws. When we are awakened from the dream of separateness, we know the indwelling presence of this Creative Power and are made aware of its laws of manifestation. Then we simply obey what we know, and the results amaze all who do not share the wisdom which comes from within and above.

The beginning of this modification of man's environment was probably the domestication of wild animals, by subjecting their lower order of intelligence to human direction. Then came agriculture, establishing special conditions in which grass was transformed into grain, as Luther Burbank proved conclusively. Step by step, man's consciousness was fashioned by the Life-power, and through combinations of energy known as tools, man extended the empire of self-consciousness over subconsciousness. So was developed the complex system of artifices whereby the forces in our environment have been made to serve us.

What has not been well understood is that human personality is the finest tool of all, and, like other tools, may be improved. Human personality, even now, does express the Administrative Intelligence symbolized by Tarot Key 21. When one realizes this, it becomes perfect human personality. By "perfect," as we use it here, we do not mean that personality is to be brought to a state such as is, by some thinkers, conceived as absolute perfection. What we mean is that the average man or woman is far from living up to the true potentials of personality.

As brought into existence by what may be called the general averages of the evolutionary process, human personality is only "man in the rough," like an early model of some invention. Even the more "advanced" races (as some of their members like to imagine) are by no means perfected instruments for the Life-power's self-expression. Furthermore, members of supposedly "backward" races may, and do, equal, and sometimes surpass, the achievements of members of races which, until very recently, were supposed to be the "flower of humanity."

There are no superior, and no inferior races. Inferior personalities predominate over superior ones in **every** race, when one simply counts heads. We have to learn the lesson of Key 14. Wherever a superior personality appears, that person always knows that he has been fashioned by the Life-power and not by "himself." This is one of the distinguishing characteristics of every truly superior man or woman.

Yet it is also true that before this higher self-knowledge blossoms into full splendor, a preparatory period, during which one seems to be in the midst of a sharp conflict and making intense personal effort, precedes the actual realization.

Mere lip-service to the idea that the Life-power is the only Thinker and the only Actor is not enough; and the wise agree that even the perfected personality, except in rare moments of ecstasy, remains in the **illusion** of separateness. Consequently, he **must** exert what seems to be "his" will, but all his exertion consists in the effort to surrender that will to the One Will, to "dive into the depths of Pure Being." In the outer affairs of human existence, such a person is active, industrious, and assiduous. The main difference is that, though he experiences the

same illusions as the rest of mankind, he is never deluded by them. Thus his whole motivation is different, and so is his main purpose.

Such a perfected human personality knows, even in the early stages of his awakening, the wonderful truth that the destiny of man is to go beyond humanity. Man is truly the Son of God, and, as the old Rosicrucian aphorism puts it, "There is no God but Man." In every man's innermost being, the essential Reality is what we call "God." Nor should we be provincial in our concept of the word "man." This is a large universe with probably billions of inhabitable planets . . . not to mention other modes of existence. Man can exist in other places and forms when he evolves beyond the purely animal state. For in our Father's house are many mansions, both physical and nonphysical, wherein Man dwells.

Human personality, however, masks the true nature of man, and this mask makes unenlightened human beings appear to one another as animals, or even as mere objects. This delusion is characteristic of the greater number of persons in incarnation at present. There are, happily, some men who have escaped from this delusion, and to them we owe the Ageless Wisdom which tells us we are destined to become true sons and daughters, of the Most High, able to act as the human instruments whereby truly divine power may be brought to bear on man's own nature, and, through that regenerated nature, on human environment and human society.

The power which condensed the physical objects is present in us all. It works from the center outward. The laws whereby it works are summarized in Tarot, and Tarot is one of several symbols of the Creative Pattern. We may follow this pattern so as to produce selected results. Using Tarot in this way, we establish in our field of personal subconsciousness the particular seed ideas which are the universal basis for the forms we desire to see around us. This is true theurgy.

There is, of course, no intrinsic power in a Tarot Key. It is not Tarot that works. A Tarot Key is merely a pictorial announcement of some principle or law of life. It influences subconsciousness because the natural language of the collective subconsciousness is pictorial imagery. While you hold the image of a given Key in your consciousness, your subconsciousness is being impressed with the meaning of that image.

Day after day, week after week, you have given conscious attention to various combinations of Tarot symbols. This work may have seemed more or less mechanical. It may be that you have not been tremendously thrilled by it. Seed-planting, after all, is not so very exciting. But, if you have stuck to your practice, you have been impressing your subconsciousness with the fundamental principles of the universal creative process.

By using many different combinations of the Keys, you avoided the danger of specializing on those which, for one reason or another, you fancied, while neglecting others which, for you, lack superficial appeal. Thus this course, besides adding to your general knowledge of Tarot

symbolism, has provided you with daily exercises in the employment of the subtle power of pictorial suggestion.

You are now ready for another step ahead. In the months to come, you will make further use of your Tarot knowledge to prepare for the exercise of powers truly divine.

Here let us remind you that Tarot was invented by the same Inner School which first brought the True and Invisible Rosicrucian Order to the notice of the erudite of Europe, early in the seventeenth century. The doctrine and practice veiled by Tarot is true Rosicrucianism. It is a combination of the Secret Wisdom of Israel, concealed by the letter of the Old Testament, with the Gnosis veiled in the language of the New Testament.

This Gnosis is identical with the Gupta Vidya of India, and with the esoteric doctrine of Egypt and Chaldea. It is the fulfillment and perfection, but by no means the abrogation, of the ancient Hermetic Wisdom. Hence much of it is to be found in such fragments as are preserved in THE CHALDEAN ORACLES and other partial survivals of the writings of the Neo-Platonists and Neo-Pythagoreans. Traces of the same doctrine are to be found in the books of Iamblichus, Plutarch and Philo.

Yet another source of instruction is to be found in the books of genuine alchemists. Eliphas Levi tells us that without Tarot the true meaning of these cryptic writings is undecipherable, but becomes plain to the person properly instructed in Tarot symbolism.

True alchemy has much in common with the Hindu philosophy and practice of Yoga. Indeed, alchemy might be termed the Western Yoga. It is a method of training whereby those who undertake it are able to work, principally by mental means, in the laboratories of their own physical bodies. The alchemist himself is the primary subject of the Great Work. Success in this work is attained when the alchemist has transmuted his own body, so that it may express a higher order of consciousness beyond the limits of ordinary human personality. With this higher consciousness go powers beyond those of the ordinary man.

The next five courses will prepare you for the esoteric aspects of Ageless Wisdom training. As a Corresponding Probationer you will be given a thorough grounding in the secret wisdom which is behind Tarot and Alchemy. THE MASTER PATTERN, THE TREE OF LIFE, and THE THIRTY-TWO PATHS OF WISDOM contain the essence of this wisdom and of its application to the practical art of living. Following these is SOUND AND COLOR, which gives instruction in the use of sound and light for healing. Then comes the final course in your initiatory spiritual preparation, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF THE GREAT WORK, which deals with the art of true Alchemy.

The above is not all we have to impart, however, for there are several courses of Extended Doctrines which were given by Dr. Ann Davies. Heretofore, these advanced teachings have been reserved for only the ears of the few; but now, as we enter the Aquarian Age, the influx

of spiritually prepared souls is such that this Esoteric Work **must** be made available to those who are ready. We ask, therefore, that you begin your work as a Corresponding Probationer with an inner dedication to the principles which your further enlightenment will necessitate. These are incorporated in the STATEMENT OF DEDICATION which is on the following page.

May your aspiration burn brighter, and your soul grow ever lighter.

TEST

In answering the questions below, type or write in ink on one side only of standard letter size paper. Put your name and address at the upper right hand corner of the first page, and number each answer to correspond to the questions. Do not copy the questions.

1. State briefly your purpose in seeking to become further acquainted with our work.
2. Submit three examples of meditations which **you have written out** from any of the tableaus given in Lesson 31.
3. What is your understanding of the term, "Magic of Light?"
4. Name the seven stages of spiritual unfoldment.

Please copy **in your own handwriting** the following statement and submit it with your test paper. It will be returned to you.

STATEMENT OF DEDICATION

I hereby invoke my Higher Soul to help me to apply myself ever more fully to the attainment and practice of the Spiritual Life.

I will not lend or circulate the lessons I receive as Corresponding Probationer, nor will I use this material in giving instruction to others, unless authorized to do so.

I hereby express my earnest intention to employ all knowledge and power I may now possess, or later develop as a result of these advanced studies, for the express purpose of promoting human welfare, regardless of race, caste, color or creed. I will work quietly and persistently to apply what I learn to further the cause of better understanding, harmony, and peace among all my associates, in my home, in my vocation, and in my social contacts of every nature.

Date:

Signed,

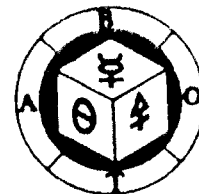
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Beloved Companion Builder:

You have been a member of our Order for quite some time. As a conscientious aspirant, you undoubtedly have achieved a development that is far higher than you realize. Only as you progress into the more advanced WORK will you gradually know how much you have developed the inner part of yourself.

You cannot know a Spiritual Truth until you have experienced it. You can only experience it by application, never by mere reading. Whenever Life offers what appears to be an obstacle to your progress, do not put aside your lessons while you busily attempt to straighten out a seeming difficulty. That is the time to turn to your Sacred Keys of Wisdom and find the one that will unlock the door to the solution you seek.

You are now prepared to take the higher instruction in subjects which reveal methods and information kept hidden for centuries and which only recently were made available to students by the Masters of the Inner School. Though they remain invisible to you, it is their guidance that will reveal in all its glory the MASTER PATTERN and lead you to the mystical Tree of Life.

With all blessings and good wishes for your further advancement in the Limitless Light.

Fraternally yours in L.V.X.,

THE BOARD OF STEWARDS

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it ..."

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