

TAROT INTERPRETATION

Lesson Ten

THE BUILDER'S VISION

On the Fool's garments are ten wheels, each having eight spokes. The same arrangement appears in the center of the wheel on Key 10, on the stars of Key 17, and is the basis of the disposition of the sun's rays on Key 19. This arrangement of four lines so as to form eight angles of 45 degrees is an important clue to the right use of Tarot.

If we imagine such a double cross as being drawn on a table, and then place eight Tarot Keys at the extremities of the lines, and a ninth Key at the center, we shall form a combination of symbols which has power to bring out meanings of the Keys which would not be so evident were the pictures to be considered separately.

When we do this, we do not select our Keys haphazard. A definite mathematical principle is involved, so that every arrangement of nine pictures expresses a certain numerical order. The total number of such combinations is 112. At the end of this course, you will be given a table showing them all. Until then, you will work with a single group of nine Keys in each lesson.

Twenty-two combinations have been chosen for your preliminary studies. They have been selected with an eye to the underlying intention of this course of lessons.

The main purpose of TAROT INTERPRETATION is to enable you to experience that transforming change of consciousness which will awaken you to a realization of things as they are. Thus we have selected for your study and practice those groups of Keys which are best adapted to bring about this result.

We shall begin with this combination:

0	1	2
3	4	5
6	7	8

You will see that lines drawn through the central number, 4, from 0 to 8, 1 to 7, 2 to 6 and 3 to 5 will make the double cross mentioned in the first paragraph of this lesson. Thus the

numbers of the Keys at the ends of the lines will always add to 8, and the central Key, 4, will be the mean arithmetical term between the members of each complementary pair.

From a consideration of this little tableau it therefore becomes evident that the Emperor represents the agency through which the hidden force symbolized by the Fool is manifested as the control of the animal nature typified by Strength. He stands also for the means whereby the self-consciousness represented by the Magician is brought to the state of perfect mastery pictured by the Chariot.

He is likewise a symbol of that function of human life whereby memory is utilized to establish the balance of consciousness and subconsciousness. This is one of the indications of 4, considered as the mean term between 2 and 6, the numbers of the High Priestess and the Lovers.

Finally, we may think of the Emperor as being the agency whereby the creative imagination represented by the Empress takes form as the intuitive perception of truth symbolized by the Hierophant.

You have already learned that Sight is the function typified by the Emperor. This applies to mental as well as to physical vision. It is associated with the Constituting Intelligence because Ageless Wisdom teaches us that the power which makes, frames and composes the universe, and regulates all its activities, is a power of the One Identity, analogous to vision. The Life-power **sees** the universe into existence. Its vision is perfect, and when we see as it sees, we ourselves behold a perfect creation.

Nor is this merely a metaphysical perception. He who, here on earth, sees eye to eye with the Creative Mind, shares that Mind's power to control the forces of nature as they manifest themselves on the physical plane. This is the secret of the works of power which characterize the lives of seers and sages.

Perfect mental vision is perfect reason. The brain of man is an instrument perfected by the Life-power for the expression of that vision. Thus the sign Aries, governing the head of man, is associated with the Emperor. Through the clear vision formulated in man's brain, the hidden force symbolized by the Fool is transferred to the region occultly termed the heart, ruled by Leo, the sign corresponding to Key 8.

To the degree that order and right measurement (4) are established, to that degree will the limitless energy of the Life-power (0) be expressed in the perfect rhythm of all the subconscious activities of personal life. When such rhythms are established, the result is mastery, represented by Key 8.

Right watchfulness, or concentration, is pictured by Key 1. This is indispensable to personal exercise of true vision. The follies of the scholastic era demonstrate how barren reason can be

unless it be fed by actual experience. To see, we must look. No clear mental vision can be arrived at by those who content themselves with superficial observation. The characters inscribed on the Book of Nature are plain enough, but we must learn to read them before we can understand what they have to say.

Thus, when we consider the Emperor as being the connecting link between the Magician and the Chariot, we are reminded that vivid awareness of what is actually going on, moment by moment, is a prime characteristic of all masters of life.

This is what fills their speech and writing with vivid imagery. They see the perfect law at work in the most familiar things. They see it here and now. Thus they teach by means of parables, for they know that the meaning of existence is to be found in the events of every day, that the great secrets are hidden in plain sight, that the laws of life are exemplified continually in the affairs of men.

When we see this as they see it, when we share their vision, we perceive that this moment is the moment of peace and victory pictured by the Chariot. We see that in very truth NOW is the acceptable time. Then it will be evident to us that the words of THE PATTERN are true when it says, "Mine is the victorious life."

Memory also enters into the Divine Wisdom. The Life-power's record of past experiences is complete. Nothing escapes it, and through the Uniting Intelligence symbolized by Key 2, every personal center of the Life-power is indissolubly linked to the Mind which never forgets. Our personal memories are but words and sentences of the cosmic memory record. Yet, since they are part of that record, they are also related to, and associated with, the whole story written on the scroll of the High Priestess.

As we persist in right watchfulness, so that we attend to the infinitely rich and varied experience which comes to us moment by moment, our personal memory record becomes clear, and subconscious processes of association link it up with cosmic records. Thus we begin to see things in their true relationships, and we estimate every experience at its proper value.

It is not long before this results in the harmonization and co-ordination of our subconsciousness with our conscious awareness. Thus, by mental vision of the meaning of past events, we come to understand the interaction of self-conscious activities with subconscious life, and the relation of both to superconsciousness, shown by Key 6.

Then we begin to enjoy the beneficent results of creative imagination as pictured by the Empress; for when we reason correctly, subconsciousness is impregnated with our right estimates of the meaning of experience. Our day-to-day observations of life thus become the seeds of intuition and revelation.

Intuition seems to come to us from a source outside ourselves, and so it does, in a way. But until we have learned to set our mental house in order, we cannot put ourselves in a proper position to hear what the Hierophant has to tell us. Today's intuitions are the fruit of yesterday's clear vision.

The Inner Voice is really the voice of the Emperor who assumes the office of the Hierophant when occasion arises. Hierophant and Emperor are not two, but one. The Emperor is the Divine Reason taking the measure of the outer world of time and space. The Hierophant is that same Divine Reason conveying to us the eternal significance behind these outer appearances.

Psychologically, intuition is the subconscious process of deduction applied to the elaboration of the meaning of our conscious estimates of experience. Thus true intuition is a consequence of right reasoning, and they who are too careless to watch, and too lazy to reason, never hear the Inner Voice.

Now look at your combination of Keys again. This time you will notice that in addition to the four pairs of cards related to the central Key there are also two other groups—0, 1, 2 and 6, 7, 8—which have the peculiarity that the middle card is the mean arithmetical term between the other two.

Thus our little group of nine Keys gives six significant groups of three: 0, 1, 2; 0, 4, 8; 1, 4, 7; 2, 4, 6; 3, 4, 5; 6, 7, 8. During the next six days, conclude your morning practice by reading the meditation given for that day's combination of three Keys, and during the entire day keep in mind the statement which is underlined at the end of the meditation. Begin your morning practice, from now on, by looking for five minutes at the week's group of Keys. Then recite THE PATTERN. After this, write whatever suggests itself for your occult diary. Finish the practice period by reading aloud the meditation for the day. Copy the underlined sentence, and repeat it many times during the day.

MEDITATIONS

FIRST DAY: Keys 0, 1, 2. The boundless energy of the Life-power fills my whole being. I concentrate its light-giving power by close attention to this day's experiences. Thus I engrave a clear, sharp record of this day upon the tablets of my memory. **The Life-Breath works freely through me to invigorate and perfect my whole field of personal expression.**

SECOND DAY: Keys 0, 4, 8. The vision of my heart's desire is a gift of the Spirit, a true perception of what now is really mine. The perfect order which rules all things is even now adapting suitable conditions for the perfect manifestation of this vision. The mighty forces of my subconscious life are being co-ordinated for this manifestation. **Life Limitless shows me my goal, sets my affairs in order, fills me with abundant strength.**

THIRD DAY: Keys 1, 4, 7. All my senses are alert to catch every intimation of the perfect order behind the veil of appearances. The Divine Reason enlightens my mind; for my personality, even now, is a vehicle for the One Power ruling all things. **I am a living witness of the perfect order which establishes peace and victory throughout creation.**

FOURTH DAY: Keys 2, 4, 6. Everything I remember is a record of the working of the Perfect Law. Every event in my life has its proper place in the perfect order of the Life-power's self-expression. The healing presence of the One Reality harmonizes my personal activities, conscious and subconscious, and establishes balance among them. **Linked subconsciously with every phase of the One Being, I am truly one with the Power which establishes all things and share its knowledge of right relations.**

FIFTH DAY: Keys 3, 4, 5. Today I reap the harvest of yesterday's clear vision, and plant the seeds of tomorrow's realization. Today I see eye to eye with God. Today I listen to the Inner Voice, and give heed to its instructions. **Filled with understanding of the Perfect Law, I am guided, moment by moment, along the path of liberation.**

SIXTH DAY: Keys 6, 7, 8. Consciously and subconsciously, I realize the overshadowing presence of the One Identity. My personal existence is the field of the Life-power's perfect manifestation. The secret force which pervades the universe is my unfailing source of power. **Harmony, peace and power are mine this day.**

Because only six meditations are required for a week's work, the two vertical groups, 0, 3, 6 and 2, 5, 8 are **intentionally** omitted from the exercises. Try writing a meditation for each of them for your diary.