

Inspirational Thoughts On The Tarot



REV. ANN DAVIES

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From the Lectures of
Rev. Ann Davies

Reverend Ann Davies was a close associate of Dr. Paul Foster Case, founder of Builders of the Adytum (B.O.T.A.), and received extensive training from Dr. Case from 1944 until his passing in 1954. From 1954 until her death in 1975, Reverend Davies served as Prolocutor General of the Order.

This volume is but a tiny fragment of the work she accomplished for the Builders of the Adytum.

Reverend Davies applied her inspirational approach to the Qabalah and the Tarot to many aspects of the Order's work, from occult psychology to esoteric astrology.

The extended teachings she made available are part of the Order's curriculum, and her insight, love and dedication continue to inspire spiritual aspirants the world over. (See inside back cover)

Builders of the Adytum (B.O.T.A.), a Western Mysteries training school, was founded by Dr. Paul Foster Case, with Reverend Ann Davies extending his teachings after the founder's passing in 1954.

When once asked to define the exact nature of the Order's work, Dr. Case responded it could be best described as "Hermetic Christianity." The Order's teachings have been handed down from one group of initiates to another, over generations.

Its work, however, does not bid interest on the grounds of mere antiquity. The Order has met successfully the tests of centuries of application, and results are achieved by sincere aspirants everywhere.

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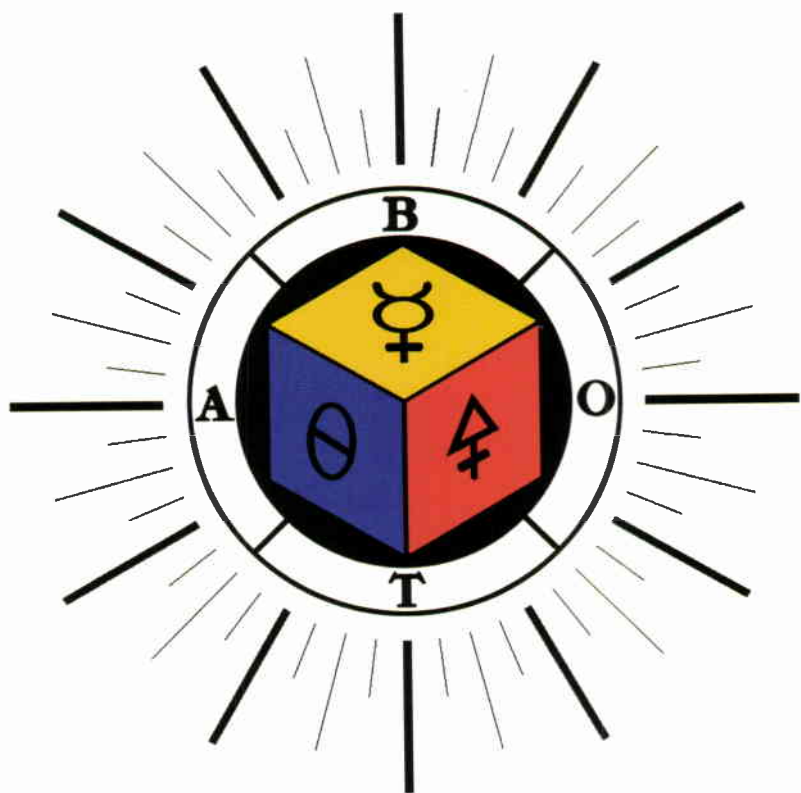
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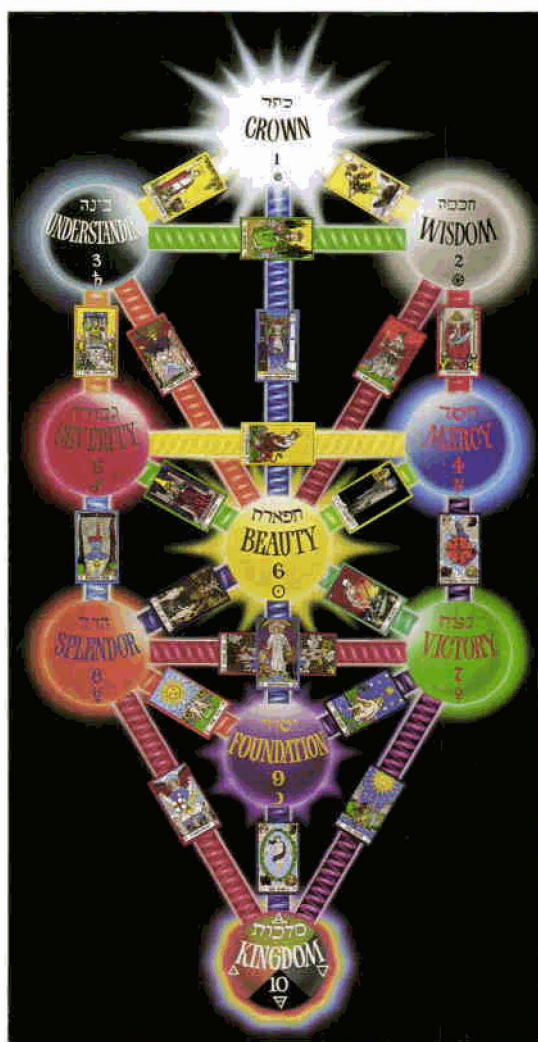
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Preface

During her lifetime Reverend Ann Davies had conducted myriad courses and lecture presentations on the Tarot, Qabalah and related subjects at and for the Builders of the Adytum (BOTA) Temple in Los Angeles.

Reverend Davies was uniquely able to communicate knowledge and feelings far surpassing the medium of the printed page throughout her life. In presenting the second edition of "Inspirational Thoughts on the Tarot," the stewards of her work hope to provide a glimpse into that wealth of insight.

In addition to 22 essays of fundamental, concentrated thought on each Tarot key, garnered from her actual lectures, this volume includes 15 of Reverend Davies' inspirational poems, reflecting the depth and sensitivity of her enlightening mission.

Reverend Ann Davies was spiritual successor to Dr. Paul Foster Case, a recognized authority on Tarot and founder of Builders of the Adytum (BOTA), a worldwide organization headquartered in Los Angeles.

It is our profound privilege and responsibility to carry on the great work Dr. Case and the Reverend Ann Davies left in our care.

Interested aspirants may contact BOTA for information on correspondence courses, books, tapes, and other available materials, via mail, phone, fax or e-mail.

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0

THE FOOL

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The Fool: Key 0

Although Tarot Key 0, The Fool, has many, many correspondences, as do all the Tarot Keys, this treatise will highlight, (1) Superconsciousness, (2) the Hebrew letter Aleph which means, primarily, "the ox," (3) the Scintillating Intelligence, the name of its particular Path of Return, and (4) its correspondence to the planet Uranus.

At first thought, all of these titles—The Fool, Superconsciousness, "the ox," etc.—appear to have very little in common. As students of the Ancient Wisdom discover, however, these apparent differences are really tools for expanded thinking and awareness. Each and every Tarot Key is assigned several names, and this multiplicity helps to keep the mind open, searching and responsive to higher levels of thought and intuition.

With Key 0 it is important to realize that anything our self-conscious or waking minds would, or could, say concerning Superconsciousness is only an attempt at description. The self-conscious mind is a limited expression of the One Mind, whereas Superconsciousness is beyond limitation. It is in and

around us all of the time. It is *inside* each of us. There is nothing *not* part of it. It is inside you, and you abide within It. This is why the number 0, or the Cosmic Egg, has been used to represent such an All-Beingness. Superconsciousness also embodies the qualities of peace, security and love. It is a state of complete unity—a unity before ever there was a division, and It dwells within and around us every moment.

Yet, it is not a self-conscious state of existence or experience. The function of self-consciousness (as we will discover more fully with the discussion of Key 1, The Magician, in the next chapter) is limitation. The waking mind needs to be trained to apply its ability to limit in appropriate ways, to become a focused receptor to the Superconscious state or experience. In Key 0, our self-conscious minds are represented by the dog, shown here as the trained companion accompanying the unique Soul or Superconscious aspect of us when we enter this world of experience we call Life.

Life is an adventure, and it becomes even more so when we embark upon the Paths of Return back to *conscious* union with the Source. Each Tarot Key represents an aspect or quality of this journey, and accordingly, each bears a commensurate reflective title. The quality, or path, given to Key 0 is the Scintillating Intelligence. The word “scintillating” means to emit sparks, to sparkle or gleam (Webster’s Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged). Every human personality bears within it a spark of the Divine, propelling us out on the journey in the beginning and dwelling within us throughout our travels. This “spark” has been called by many names— the Spirit, the Soul, the Divine Essence and diverse others. All of them attempt to direct our thoughts toward that in us which was never born and that can never die. The Fool personifies the Spirit in its image of the vital and eternal youth, standing on the mountain top.

Were Superconsciousness to remain in its totally free, uninhibited and unlimited state, we could not exist. The Divine Creator has a definite purpose for Its creation, and thus, Superconsciousness clothes Itself with a degree of limitation. The

Hebrew letter Aleph, meaning "the ox," is a reference to this limitation. An ox is a beast of burden, always working under harness. Here we see a specific indication of the prime function of Superconsciousness within human personality: the setting of goals. Anytime we have a goal, we most definitely have a harness. We have limited the Limitless to the formation and achievement of a desire. Although most of the time we are quite unaware of this fact, it is *always* Superconsciousness which projects the goals every human being seeks to attain.

Of course, the Goal Superconsciousness has set for all of us extends beyond the ordinary and daily goals of which most of us are cognizant. This Goal is an Evolutionary Plan aimed to bring every center of consciousness into full awareness of its unity with life, with one another, and with the One Creator.

An important phase in the working out, or development of this Plan will take place during the Aquarian Age. The Brotherhood of Man must become an accomplished fact before Mankind can proceed toward union with the One Life. We cannot experience oneness with the self and deny any part of our fellow men and women. The Divine Spark dwells within everyone, and we must learn to see the One within the All. As one of the co-rulers of the sign of Aquarius, Uranus is the symbolic planet of this New Age. Uranus, emblem of the unique and of the spirit unafraid of its individuality, is certainly aptly represented by The Fool. He moves gaily toward the goal of the Aquarian Age.

The fulfillment of this Evolutionary Plan, however, is not the final or ultimate goal. Since it is the Infinite Creator that desires through us, there can be no finite, or final, attainment. This is true even in the workings of our daily lives and aspirations. We cannot say, for example, "I have had the ultimate love," because from the peak of that love we must move to the next and higher mountaintop. Life, like Consciousness, cannot become static, cannot stand still. We are always in movement from mountaintop to mountaintop, from achievement to achievement.

True, there are valleys of experience we must enter. We can learn, however, to hold onto the heights, regardless of the valley depths. Thus, when times of sorrow come, as they must, we can keep those qualities of our Superconsciousness within our center. We can keep a core of peace and security that will remain free from whatever outer storms may rage around us; a center of security enabling us to keep moving with the flow of Superconsciousness. We then may avoid the cause of so much of our pain—the attempt to hold onto what has been, instead of moving on to what shall be.

The Fool, in truth then, is that part of us carrying the wisdom and knowledge of our Source. He does not rely upon material attainments of the physical world for his security, and, so, to the unenlightened, he appears a fool. Yet, Superconsciousness accepts and reveres material things within the proper perspective because they, too, are a part of the All.

We must learn to carry with us, wherever we go, the realization that each of us *is*! We should see this as evidence that the Divine has set a goal It intends to experience and accomplish through us. Thus, we cannot fail, because the Divine cannot fail. We can make mistakes interpreting a particular goal, but even this is temporary. We learn through these misinterpretations. In fact, every seeming failure gives us a fresh opportunity for insight and growth enabling us, eventually, to participate fully in the goal set by our Higher Self. Superconsciousness in *you* has desired and set a goal, and hence, you *cannot* fail that goal.

Above everything, Superconsciousness is, and thus we—you and I—are. Within all, Superconsciousness shall be, and, thus, we shall be, eternally. “And when worlds are but a memory, I shall be... shall be.”



The Magician: Key 1

It is Superconsciousness, represented by The Fool, which sets the goals, but it is The Magician of Key 1 who travels through the valleys of experience. Some of the Magician's attributions which teach us how to make our journeys into experience more joyful and meaningful to our evolution are, (1) Self-consciousness, (2) the planet Mercury, (3) the Hebrew letter Beth, and (4) the Path of Return entitled the Transparent Intelligence.

While we cannot fully understand Superconsciousness, we can come closer to an understanding of Self-consciousness. Self-consciousness is that in us which is aware of time and space. It is the "onlooker" of life, always watching; it is the observer of life's activities. It is also comparable to a convex lens focused upon a piece of paper. Put the lens to the window and it will concentrate the heat and light of the sun enough to burn the paper. Put your hand to the window without the lens and the light is diffused, unfocused, and all you feel is a pleasant warmth. Self-consciousness is a "lens" focusing the Light of Superconsciousness. These concentrated units of energy—the

One Energy—are then utilized for the purpose of cognitive, self-conscious awareness.

As we travel through the valleys of experience, our Self-consciousness chooses the means we will use to achieve a goal, or the next mountaintop. Through our acts of conscious choice, we gain knowledge via direct experience. We enter the realm of “knowledge of constructive and destructive actions,” or put another way, we bring pairs of opposites into our fields of observation and testing. Through the means we choose to obtain our goals, we reveal our understanding of constructive conduct.

What we label “constructive” are choices and actions coinciding with the Divine Will and the laws of the Divine Order. “Destructive,” then, is what we choose to do which goes against the Divine Purpose. Such choices inevitably bring repercussions teaching us the error of our ways, enabling us to learn what steps to take, one by one, as we proceed through the valley. Thus, when we achieve the mountaintop, we do so with the magic and rapture of *conscious* fulfillment.

For example, our experiences with the pairs of opposites will eventually teach us that such a concept as “the end justifies the means,” simply is not valid. We learn there is truly no excuse for avoiding discrimination, which is our ability to focus the Light of the One Mind. If we look to history, we see indifference to moral and ethical conduct eventually leads to the destruction of all liberty, whether within society or the individual. Conduct promoting separatism has never achieved the goals of unity, which comprise the Evolutionary Plan.

One of the attributes of Key 1 is its assignment to the planet Mercury. In the physical solar system, Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun. In Roman mythology, Mercury was known as the Messenger of the Gods. Both of these correspondences allude to the proper use of our self-consciousness as being a witness of and for the work of the Divine. The closer we keep our self-conscious awareness (Mercury) attuned to the reality that *all* of life is an expression of the One Life, the more do we fulfill the true purpose of Self-consciousness. We need to

remember the natural propensity of Self-consciousness is to watch, weigh and measure, but it must also be trained to become the tool of the Divine it was meant to be. We must learn to use Self-consciousness as the means for seeing the Most High in all appearances.

The Hebrew letter Beth, also an attribute of Key 1, primarily connotes "a house," and our interpretations of what we observe actually build the house of the personality. If we observe life as a bed of sorrow, then that becomes the essential structure of the personality. If, on the other hand, we observe life as an out-working of the "Primal Will-to-Good," we create a far more pleasant dwelling for our persona.

The letter Beth is also a reference to "the arrow." Our self-conscious minds weigh and measure, but in order to truly understand something, we must *pierce* through to the core of its inner reality with the arrow of a specifically focused consciousness. Through focusing our attention upon a problem, we can come to know our own limitations, as well as the limitations of other expressions of consciousness, human or otherwise. We may then use this self-knowledge to create goals in harmony, not only with the Divine Will, but with what we are capable of achieving at the moment.

Let us use for an example, a student of piano having difficulty with a very advanced course at a leading school of instruction. She focuses upon the problem and realizes her limitation is that her mother desires she become a concert pianist, while, in reality, she desires to be a conductor. Once the student lets go of her mother's desire, and concentrates upon her own desire instead, she can put her developed musical ability to work in the area it will truly flourish and serve the Divine Purpose.

Knowing our own limitations, and/or the limitations of others, saves us, too, from the pain and disillusionment of false expectations. Thus, we shall not hurt ourselves by looking for qualities in the human personality that we really have no right to expect to be there! Our faith may then be placed in the ultimate goal, and in the energy and power directed through

Self-consciousness for its achievement. Remember, all personalities are but the house of the Self. They are not that Self in its perfection. Therefore, we should not look to *any* personality to be perfect.

The title of the Path of Return represented by Key 1, The Magician, is the Transparent Intelligence. The magic of Self-consciousness really consists in our ability to realize it is God and God alone for whom the personality has been, and is being, developed. Allowing our consciousness to become a transparent channel for this knowledge heightens our daily experience in every way.

Upon the Magician's table are implements we use to attain the magic of the Transparent Intelligence. The wand is representative of the Divine Will. Each of us receives the Divine Will through our personalities, which we then interpret as a seemingly personal desire. The cup symbolizes our faculty to develop mental imagery from what we observe. We all look at essentially the same things, but the way we interpret them is colored and given shape by the developmental level of our individual imaginations. The sword represents intellectual processes which discern and lay out corresponding patterns within which we develop the imagery. The coin corresponds to the final result, or manifestation in the physical world, of the original desire.

Within our personalities these tools of the Magician are intermixed. Some of us are fiery like the wand of Divine Will—others more imaginative, like the cup. Still others partake more of the sword and are interested in discernment and intellect. And some are more apt to concentrate on the physical manifestations of life symbolized by the coin. These are our implements for the Transparent Intelligence. We can create a magical experience every instance of our lives by the way we utilize these implements in our relationships with others and in the manner we respond to the circumstances of daily existence. And, finally, the day will come when we can consciously choose the right tool for the right situation and BE the magical Transparent Intelli-

gence of the Most High.

We must consciously and deliberately reach for the awareness that we ARE because God IS. We exist because God desires to exist. We live because God desires to experience the manifestation of our "livingness." To feel the magic of God¹ living through us in every instance of our lives is the central essence of our destiny.

¹ *This kind of understanding requires a more refined and expanded concept of God than an anthropomorphic one, or limited 'personal savior' idea.*



2

HIGH PRIESTESS



The High Priestess: Key 2

The four attributes that will promote our understanding of Key 2, The High Priestess, are, (1) the quality of Subconsciousness (2) Its Path of Return, entitled the Uniting Intelligence, (3) its astrological correspondence to the Moon, and (4) the Hebrew letter Gimel—"the camel."

Superconsciousness, Key 0, makes the first determination of a goal; then Self-consciousness, Key 1, sends forth an image in the form of a question, need or desire in relation to that goal. These are received by Subconsciousness, Key 2, which initiates processes necessary for manifestation to occur.

The first step toward manifestation is the reception of the self-conscious mind's projected image within Subconsciousness. Once received by Subconsciousness each of these images is like a vital life-bearing seed activating all the creative principles of that level, and causing them to move toward the production of an appropriate result.

Subconsciousness always works with these creative principles, and if we are to become true rulers of our environment (as is our destiny), we must learn to consciously point ourselves

toward goals in harmony with the universal principles. Once we know a law, we may use it to achieve the goals determined for us originally by Superconsciousness. For example, by following the laws of aerodynamics, Mankind can take objects weighing thousands of tons and lift them into the air to fly from city to city, country to country, and planet to planet... How our awareness of each other and our solar system has increased! As we study the principles and laws of life, we become masters of our environment and experience the fulfillment and happiness it is our destiny to achieve.

An important principle to consider is that Subconsciousness and its powers are *impersonal*. To believe they have their source within a particular personality is not only a delusion, but a projection from the self-conscious mind of an image that we exist separate from God. Although this image is incorrect, it is nevertheless a life-bearing seed Subconsciousness causes to blossom forth. Unfortunately, this flower bears petals of selfishness, isolation and insecurity. Subconsciousness and its powers are the mind-substance of God, and they dwell within each and every one of us and hold the living essence of all God's little creatures as well.

This ties in with another vital principle concerning the workings of Subconsciousness: it elaborates *without question* whatever image we send to it. Thus, all our images, thoughts and actions toward others act as seeds eventually manifesting, in like kind, within our own lives. Usually, due to the extra awareness and powerful imagery of spiritual aspirants, what we manifest may be in even greater measure than what we thought we sent out. We need to remember we have the wealth of the All within us. There is no need to hurt others in order to achieve what we want. Subconsciousness can create anything and everything within the framework of the Divine Principles.

Subconsciousness is also likened to an ocean in which everything dwells; an ocean of Divine Mind Stuff wherein all thoughts, all feelings and all beings intermingle and interweave. There are no barriers or separations at this level, and, so, the

quality given the experience of this Path of Return is called the Uniting Intelligence.

All sense of separation is actually an aspect of the defining powers of self-consciousness. The self-conscious mind observes the movements of consciousness in much the same way we observe ourselves in a mirror. The mirror in this case, however, is multifaceted and reflects the unity from many different faces. Everything is the ONE, but since we view from—and at—such a variety of angles, it appears to be a “manyness” instead. We must look upon all “manyness” as the infinite variety of a unified whole. No matter how evil or immature a particular part of this whole may appear, we should remember what we see is only one moment in its vast evolutionary movement. All and everything emanate from the mind of God, and therefore, everything is essentially a part of the Uniting Intelligence.

Another prominent attribution of Key 2 is its planetary assignment to the Moon. The Moon shines by reflecting the light of the Sun, and so it is with Subconsciousness. It shines, or manifests, by reflecting images given it by the Sun—our Self-consciousness. Self-consciousness has the capacity to focus or hold an image. As Self-consciousness does this, Subconsciousness receives and reflects it back into manifestation.

In addition to the Moon being reflective, it is also cyclic. This is true of Subconsciousness as well. It is a moving ocean filled with thoughts and feelings, some happy, some sad, periodically washing in and out of our personal “bays” of self-conscious awareness. We must learn to accept this as part of life’s miracle. To experience only sunshine and never any rain, would provide us no real happiness. Life is a variety of emotions and experiences.

This does not mean we must give in to any negativity that may “wash in.” Instead, we should seek the principle of consciousness involved therein, and in understanding it remain at peace in the midst of any “storm cycle.” Actually, we need the storms as much as the calm, as they help us to develop that essential core of peacefulness in our hearts allowing us, eventu-

ally, to recognize the need and real objective of every storm.

The Hebrew letter assigned Key 2 is "Gimel," which means camel. Once again, the Ancient Wisdom has given us reason for thought, (and thus, expansion of awareness) as we ponder the connecting link between the High Priestess and this unusual attribution.

Camels move over immense oceans of sand, carrying goods and messages from place to place. For many peoples they were at one time the sole means for the exchange of thoughts, events, and various commodities. They were essential to communication and to the unification of a people. Thus, a camel is an appropriate symbolic image for Subconsciousness.

Every thought and every feeling causes a movement within the substance of Subconsciousness. Where there are many sharing the same thought, it becomes like a current and moves throughout, multiplying its influence. Life is in constant interaction, even when we are unaware this interaction is taking place. Whatever you consciously image enters into the Universal Substance and gathers about itself corresponding creative principles. Then, it returns to the point of projection, your self-consciousness. Gimel, the camel, travels the roads of our consciousness sharing the storehouse of images we have created.

The area of creativity over which we have most control is that of our own attitudes, thought processes and feelings. We begin exercising control by choosing what we want to extract from our environment. For instance, while taking a drive or a walk, do you give your attention to the beauties of nature, listening to the songs of the birds and noticing the colors of flowers and leaves; or do you focus on the unpleasantness of automobile exhaust and telephone wires? We needn't ignore what is faulty or imperfect, but when we put our attention upon some imperfection we should do so to make it more positive, not just to engage in lamentation. Seek out what needs change, but remember the first place to seek change is within yourself and your reactions.

When we bring the Divine into our realizations, we needn't

struggle so hard to give up those immaturities not in harmony with the larger laws of the One Life. Our conscious awareness is God's way of being conscious within a particular framework. We should be aware that our abilities to experience ourselves and other forms of the Divine Life—our ability to reason deductively, to remember, to image, and to use the past for wisdom—are treasures, since we share and live within the Universal Mind Stuff... the High Priestess within.



The Empress: Key 3

Tarot Key 3, The Empress, is often considered one of the most beautiful Keys, and rightly so. She represents some of the most important qualities of human nature: (1) as Venus she portrays our capacity of love, (2) she is also the fertile, Creative Imagination of each one of us, (3) the Hebrew letter assigned to Key 3 is Daleth, meaning “the Door,” and certainly, the pregnant Empress is a fitting representation of the door to life through which we all enter, (4) the particular experience, or Path, assigned to The Empress is the Luminous Intelligence, giving the image of something emitting light. Indeed, there are at least three types of physical experience that seem to bring human beings to a plane wherein they quite literally emit light, or shine: 1) the expression of love, 2) for a woman, carrying a child within her body and 3) for a man or a woman, the joy of expressing the Creative Imagination, whether designing a building, cooking, dancing, carpentry, or any number of other creative activities. As with all Tarot Keys in the Western Mysteries, however, there are still deeper and more profound understandings to be gained through a

more enlightened look at The Empress.

In discussing Key 2, Subconsciousness was compared to an all-pervading ocean. To most of us, this ocean is not as yet a tangible reality. It is not something we can see and feel. And, since we don't see this ocean—this continuation from the invisible to the visible—we are under the delusion that there is a separation between the inner and the outer life. We believe there is a separation between thought and substance, or what occurs in the mind and heart is separate from what goes on in the manifested world. This is one of the greatest delusions of all, and why we must come to understand The Empress as fully as possible.

Manifestation is the shape into which consciousness has poured its thoughts and emotions. Your body is a form shaped by consciousness. In fact, the world and the entire universe are forms consciousness has shaped. We may think of these forms as being many, or one form with many parts. For example, your body has many trillions of parts in terms of cellular life, but it is essentially one body. Everything we experience is the end result of the fluidic inpouring of Mind Stuff into images. The principle of form (Key 3) is, then, the end result of Subconsciousness (Key 2) pouring itself into images (Key 1). Each and every one of us is a channel for the imaging process. All things are due to God, the Universal Consciousness, having imaged it, and imaging it now. If it wasn't being imaged, it would not, and could not, be. Creation, quite literally, takes place via the principle of imaging.

As Key 3 shows us, however, this is not just sterile picture making. The Empress is assigned to the planet Venus, an outer representation of the love nature, the desire nature, and creativity. Form may only result when the Mind Stuff of Subconsciousness has been impregnated with the desire, or will, of Self-consciousness as it channels for Superconsciousness. In other words, there must be will or desire for the Mind Stuff of Key 2 to become fertile and create form. Remember, however, these are not separate consciousnesses. They are, rather, only different levels or expressions of the One Consciousness. Thus, what occurs is The One contemplating Itself; creation occurs via self-contem-

plation. So, too, do we image and create as does our Creator.

Through self-contemplation we have an image of ourselves that is actually several images. At times we see ourselves as wonderful. At other times we don't know how anyone, including ourselves, can stand us. We see ourselves as smart or dumb, lovable or unlovable. These images are always charged with emotion, the feeling nature of Venus. Where we have been in error is in thinking love, or feelings, are separate from will or desire. This is not so. What we love or what we feel strongly about, we are, in fact, desiring, wanting and willing to be or to occur. Therefore, to become the master of our image making power, we must learn to recognize the *quality* of our feelings.

If we contemplate ourselves as unlucky, unfortunate persons, then we are meditating, image-making and pouring our emotions into images of what being unlucky involves. We are telling subconsciousness we "want" to be unfortunate, and so, is it any surprise that at some point we begin to experience this state of being? We have brought forth the projection, or birth, of a particular image into the world of form. Everything born through "the Door" (the Hebrew letter Daleth, assigned to The Empress) of creative imagination is the fruit of its own kind.

We have been creating because we have never had to learn, and we will never have to learn how to manufacture our own thought forms. The memory of God (Subconsciousness) knows how, and our own subconsciousness is a part of That. What we do have to learn, however, is to create consciously. Subconsciousness creates whatever we tell it to, whether our instruction is unconscious or conscious. It creates with joyous abandon, for this level of consciousness is meant to do just that. It does not care whether it may hurt or not. Thus, we must find out *what to create with our Self-conscious minds*. We need to learn how to create in terms of the laws established by the Higher Consciousness regarding creation.

One of our most vital lessons, then, is to recognize that our self-image must be developed in harmony with Cosmic Law or the Cosmic Intention.

Included therein is the need to hold an image of ourselves in accordance with the reality of our present development. For example, it would be foolish, indeed, to image oneself a concert pianist, with fingers flying over the keys and people applauding, if we have never undergone the many disciplines necessary to achieve this level of talent. Without the lessons, the exercises, the hours and hours of practice, we could not possibly know all that would be needed for the proper image of a concert pianist. (This is not to discount the rare soul who, from early childhood, knows its destiny in a particular field of endeavor. These are beings who have a subconscious recall from hours of discipline spent in previous lives.) Unreasonable self-expectations in regard to a goal provide Subconsciousness improper images and create results other than what we actually desire.

To truly bring self-image into a state of accord with present development, we must also recognize how we have been using this self-contemplation on a daily basis. In other words, how have we been using the Creative Imagination assigned to Key 3? What is our *total* self-attitude? What have we been thinking about ourselves day in and day out, throughout the ups and downs of each day? It is our daily and hourly attitudes that reflect our emotions, and emotion, remember, is the “growth power” behind the manifestation of our imagery. We need to regularly take stock of how and what we are imaging. Daily self-contemplation enables us to attain a more conscious awareness of the quality of our imagery.

Ofttimes, since our imagery involves other people, we do not recognize that this, too, is a creative process. If our predominant imagery is concentrated on self-pity and upon lamenting what others do, or do not do, to or for us, we grow ourselves a host of sorrows without realizing it. Such imagery builds experiences of like kind, because every image planted with emotion is a seed reproducing itself. If we focus on negative images regarding other people, we actually have negative images about ourselves. We are actually expecting other people to act negatively toward us when we carry these types of images.

The great secret of changing our relationships and our personal environment is related to emanating beauty, laughter, goodness and kindness wherever we go. To do this, we must change our self-image in order to gain the capacity to exude these qualities. We must gently and tenderly train ourselves to give the touch of tenderness, the touch of interest to others. This does not mean one can eliminate certain kinds of conduct from others through loving them. Some immature souls simply cannot respond to kindness. Although one may continue to feel compassion for such people, one nevertheless refuses to enter into negative interaction with them.

Creative love—Venus—has to do, first of all, with learning how to be more tender toward ourselves. This is not self-centered narcissism, involving solely the personal self incapable of loving another. True creative love is concerned with changing the self-image so that we may become more loving, thoughtful, kind and considerate of others. We, thus, become concerned with making others secure and with giving tenderness. We want to develop these feelings instead of concentrating so much on how others are treating us. In this way, we bring our self-image into a sphere of being and doing in harmony with the Divine plan, because the Divine Plan is aimed at the Brotherhood of Man. We plant the seeds for the birth of like experiences, for one cannot really give love or receive it unless one can first feel lovable.

When we work at obtaining fulfillment through providing love, comfort, tenderness, kindness and hope, we find ourselves actually experiencing a strong guiding force. Our creative love begins aligning our imagery into more and more harmony with the Divine Will. Hence, what seemed an invisible ocean of consciousness, so intangible to us previously, becomes something we can touch and feel within ourselves. We then realize there is no separation between the inner and the outer, and, eventually, we will know no separation between God, The Creator and the Creation.



The Emperor: Key 4

The four attributes to Key 4, The Emperor, we shall examine are, (1) the Hebrew letter Heh, meaning "the window," (2) Aries, its zodiacal assignment, (3) The Constituting Intelligence, its Path name, and (4) the internal capacity for Order and Reason Key 4 represents.

As we have seen, each Tarot Key, through the Hebrew letter assigned it, has a special name that acts as a shorthand message to consciousness. Key 1 is Beth, "the house," representing individualized self-conscious awareness. Key 2 is Gimel, "the camel," an animal which carried goods and riches from house to house, or from town to town, representative of the communicative principle of Subconsciousness. Key 3 is Daleth, "the door," corresponding to our creative imagination, or what we allow into the world through our imaginations, as well as what we permit to enter in. With Key 4, The Emperor, we have the assignment of Heh, "the window," or the way we see the world.

Proverbs 29: 18, in the Bible says, "...where there is no vision, the people perish." But what exactly is vision? In human physiology, sight is the registration of certain vibrations upon the

brain. These vibrations are then taken by the mind and interpreted as to their content and value. Our ability to interpret, or to reason accurately regarding what we see, enables us to look into the deeper realities behind appearances, thus attaining vision in harmony with the Vision of the Most High. If we are to flourish (as opposed to perish), we must learn to see and envision in accordance with reality and use our reasoning ability to pierce through the distortions of surface appearances and interpretations. Learning to use the attributions of The Emperor will aid us in achieving the dominion over illusion and delusion necessary for true sight, making our window to the world one through which we see clearly.

The astrological assignment of The Emperor is to Aries. As the first sign of the zodiac and the sign which initiates the spring season, it is symbolic of all beginning and newness. Physiologically, Aries is assigned to the head and eyes, further emphasizing the strong connection between Aries, sight, and the Hebrew letter Heh, "the window." All of our personal beginnings are intimately connected with, and dependent upon, sight. Whatever new enterprises we undertake, they all begin with a vision. It is crucial, therefore, that we learn to envision in harmony with Reality.

Besides the eyes, Aries also rules the head—the skeletal house of the brain. It is here we must take our first look beyond appearances. The brain is *not* the mind. The brain is a channeling instrument *for* the mind. Consciousness is not limited to the body, since, as discussed, consciousness built, and builds, the body. We have the wonderful instrument of the brain because the One Mind established a Divine Order, and it is the human brain that acts as a mediating agent in the accomplishment of the larger, Divine Plan. When we learn to stop separating ourselves from the One Mind through falsely considering the human brain to be the source of thought, we take the first steps toward gaining the capacity for true vision.

All understanding of what we see, be it the human body or the universe, is based upon everything being built according to

a specific design. The Author of All That Is has a plan with laws and regulations perceivable, in degree, to Man. These reflect a quality of consciousness, in both macrocosmic and microcosmic aspects, the Ancients have entitled the Constituting Intelligence. The Constituting Intelligence allows us to carry our visions into manifestation. To do so, however, we must be willing to undertake the discipline involved in specific plans and designs. Through discipline we make full use of the reasoning faculties that lead to satisfying accomplishments, complete in form.

Proper action in regard to our plans depends upon the development of concise reasoning habits, and as aforementioned, clear, precise reasoning begins with realizing the brain is the instrument of the mind. With Key 4, The Emperor, we begin to identify ever more closely with that part of us which is one with the Constituting Mind of the Universe. We are not separate from That. The Order keeping the planets on course, birthing new stars from the death of older stars, and maintaining the cellular structure of every kind of vehicle, is the same Order that our brains can *consciously* channel. Thus, when we move in accordance with the constitution of the universe, we find everything unfolds more in harmony with our expectations and anticipations.

A second realization of great importance is that proper reasoning is a faculty that may be developed and improved. In many ways, it is no different from learning to walk or to draw. We, however, must be willing to learn and to practice. It is this willingness that will assist us to refrain from feeding negative patterns during situations we find our insecurities and anxieties aroused. We can learn to look upon painful experiences as indications that there is still more to discover about our ability to reason properly. For example, perhaps through incorrect reasoning we have seen ourselves, another person, or a situation unrealistically. By striving to reason more accurately, we may develop the capacity to remain serene during painful situations that in the past would have caused us deep emotional trauma.

The Emperor is also another guise for the Magician. He is that part of the Magician, Key 1—Self-consciousness—that rules, constitutes and reasons. The Emperor takes measure of his images and sees they are in harmony with WHAT IS. This quality of the Emperor must be applied most specifically to the images we hold of ourselves. Success is built upon desiring and expecting what we are really capable of accomplishing. If we have real talents and, then, take proper measurement of ourselves, we will find our interests naturally gravitate in the direction of our talents. We, thus, may be able to learn what is necessary to accomplish the manifestations of these talents. If we are involved in something that seems very difficult and does not really hold our interest, we should let go of that particular activity and idea. We should go on to something our interest and our abilities indicate as right for our unique and individualized talents.

How we see ourselves is integrally interwoven with what happens to us. We rule our own lives in proportion to our ability or inability to take proper measurement of ourselves. We need to realistically consider the gifts we have, and the best means of developing them. Our willingness to undertake this endeavor is the secret leading toward the fulfillment represented by the Emperor.

When we see ourselves as we are, we may begin, then, to see life as it is, as well. It will dawn upon us that the Constituting Intelligence reflects an Order moving in accordance to a beneficent Will. The pains we have experienced are the means we have required in order to learn how *not* to create more pain for ourselves and others. As we learn to view the movement of life in this manner, our dominion over our experiences grows, and, soon, we become what we are all destined to be, The Emperor, "...and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28).



The Hierophant: Key 5

As one can see from the imagery of Key 5, The Hierophant, this Tarot Key deals with a state of being both reverential and mystical. For many of us, however, the first reaction to Key 5 can be quite negative, since we assume it pictures an outer state of worship—the worship of some person or personage separate and outside of ourselves. In actuality, the attributions of The Hierophant are designed to develop the mystical experience of the Inner Teacher who dwells within each and every one of us. The attributes we will examine are, (1) Intuition—the quality of consciousness expressed in Key 5's imagery, (2) Taurus—the second sign of the zodiac ruling the neck and ears, (3) Vav—the Hebrew letter which means, basically, “the nail” and (4) The Triumphant & Eternal Intelligence—the title of Key 5's Path of Return.

Like the Hierophant, the term “intuition” is often misunderstood. Most people think intuition is to be used in place of reasoning, while, actually, it is an extension of reasoning. The position of The Hierophant following Key 4 is a clue to this fact. The Emperor precedes Key 5 because we cannot receive

the wisdom and instruction coming through intuition unless we first perceive a particular situation, person or idea through the eyes of reason.

By our use of reason, we may begin learning to discern our surface hunches from true intuition. Still, it usually takes several experiences of real intuition before we becoming familiar enough with its distinguishing marks to recognize it completely. Those things we most often misinterpret as intuition are the telepathic influences from others that subconsciousness 'washes' our way. Remember, we are all part of the ocean of subconscious mind stuff. We cannot separate ourselves from what we share with all other lives. Because these telepathic influences or communications are below the threshold of the outer, reasoning portion of the mind, they are not always easy to recognize. They are undercurrents we actually register all of the time, and although we cannot escape these telepathic influences, we can protect ourselves from acting upon them. Once we give attention to the existence of these influences with our outer, reasoning minds, we can begin to differentiate between those in harmony with our deepest aspirations, and thus, intuitions, and those we have taken in, and identified with, that are actually contrary to our real goals.

Remember, too, one of the most difficult tests for spiritual aspirants is the test of spiritual pride. True intuition never appeals to pride. We all have such a poignant need to be important that it can be quite easy to mistake an appeal to our pride for intuitional guidance. Intuition does not build up our false self-images. Rather, it reveals to us firmly, but tenderly, what we need to acknowledge in ourselves as not yet being perfected. The more we realize Who and What we really are, the more we come to know we are important—not due to our personality and its talents, but because we are Children of God.

The zodiacal assignment of Taurus further illustrates the connection between intuition and correct reasoning. The part of the body governed by Aries is the head, and most particularly, the eyes. The head is *supported* by the neck ruled by Taurus.

We receive verification or support of our reasoning via the guiding principles arriving through our intuition. These principles, in turn, strengthen our ability to see correctly and in harmony with reality.

Taurus also rules the ears, the outer symbols for the inner listening to be practiced before we are in a position to receive instruction from our Higher Self. To cultivate our ability to receive intuition, we must maintain an attitude of inner listening. What we must listen for is the *principle* underlying our problem.

The correct inner attitude of one truly listening is graphically pictured by the two kneeling figures before the Self, or Hierophant. The figure on the left represents the desires of the personality, while the one on the right, with lilies upon his robe, signifies human intellect. The figures are kneeling, in a symbolic position of humility—an attitude we need to develop as an expression in our daily lives if we are to experience the Teachers' Voice in our inner lives. After all, is it not true we often feel what we desire, or what we know, is the only truth? For example, if someone desires music other than what we want to hear, don't we feel offended by their tastes? Or if someone expresses opinions contrary to our own, aren't we incensed by their beliefs? In Key 5, however, our emotions and mental processes are symbolically placed in a position of reverence and humility. To be receptive to the Voice of the Self, we must be willing to put aside our personal desires and personal opinions in our outer lives, as well as our meditations. We must be willing to acknowledge our imperfections, to stop rationalizing our opinions by calling them knowledge, and stop referring to our ambitions and jealousies by more comfortable names. Only in this way can we receive and hear the higher wisdom.

Note the yokes the two figures are wearing. A yoke is the ancient symbol for the letter Vav. A nail (the English translation of Vav) binds things together, similar to the tying or yoking of ancient times. A yoke is also something placed upon an ox, which, as we discussed with Key 0, is a symbol for Super-

consciousness. Thus, these two kneeling figures tell us that by quietly putting aside our personal thoughts and desires, we may harness the larger viewpoint of Superconscious wisdom.

All occult writings agree we must cultivate the practice of listening for the Voice... but at the same time we must be able to distinguish between the One Voice and "psychic" voices. First of all, your Inner Teacher, a part of the Divine Life or Divine Superconsciousness, does not flatter. Any time there is an appeal to your ego, you are not listening to the Hierophant. Secondly, your Inner Teacher is very well mannered. It never, never interrupts your own inner chatter. Thus, if you are busy mentally conversing with yourself or others, you are not in a position to hear the inner guidance of the Hierophant. We are blessed, indeed, that our Inner Teacher awaits our attention with unlimited and loving patience.

The wisdom the Divine Life so willingly and lovingly waits to bestow upon us is a reflection of eternal truths. The principles of truth cannot be limited by time and space. They are applicable now and in centuries to come. It is no wonder, then, the title of the Path of Return related to Key 5 is the Triumphant and Eternal Intelligence.

We can triumph over any situation when we become aware of the inner principle involved. Our so-called "failures" occur only when we have allowed ourselves to react unconsciously to the pressures applied to us by difficult situations or experiences. Once we stop allowing appearances to be our sole source of influence, and turn, instead, to a reasonable review and examination of the seeming obstacle, we then prepare the way for our Inner Teacher to guide us to a recognition of the lesson every painful occurrence holds. We are not separate from the Triumphant and Eternal Intelligence, and through the imagery and wisdom of the Hierophant we can come to consciously and joyously participate in it.

As Key 5 becomes a part of our understanding of ourselves and consciousness, it will aid us in receiving the knowledge and guidance the Higher Self always seeks to reveal. The mysteries

of the universe are available as clear and definite perceptions to those who listen for the answers with quiet reverence. We are the Children of the Most High, and the Hierophant within so lovingly teaches us to more fully practice that which we truly and eternally are.



6

THE LOVERS

7

The Lovers: Key 6

When we have utilized the Reason of Key 4 to obtain inner guidance from the Intuition of Key 5, we are then in the harmonious position pictured by Key 6, The Lovers. The attributions provided here to highlight Key 6 will aid us in understanding and expressing the harmony and wholeness pictured by The Lovers. First, we will look at its (1) Path of Return, entitled the Disposing Intelligence, followed by (2) the Hebrew letter Zain, "the sword," (3) the astrological sign of Gemini, and finally, (4) the basic quality of consciousness we call Discrimination.

The word "disposing," as in the Disposing Intelligence, basically means to arrange or settle a matter finally or definitively. This is the activity pictured in Key 6. Superconscious knowledge (the angel) in the form of intuition, is being reflected through Subconsciousness (the woman) into Self-conscious awareness (the man). By knowing the principle of a situation we can draw conclusions based upon Reality, and dispose of the question or problem originally prompting the process. Further, we achieve a greater state of harmony between Subconscious-

ness and Self-consciousness by having discerned the difference between illusion, which created the problem, and intuition which solved it. We have brought Superconsciousness into our self-conscious awareness and can now act upon this guidance. Key 6 is the image of ourselves after we have received and made use of intuition.

The capacity to express the Disposing Intelligence, or to know which actions, thoughts, feelings we will keep and which we will dispose of, is developed from our wonderful ability to discern differences. The consciousness of man is able to tell 'this from that' and be aware of variations. In the Secret Wisdom we are trained to realize this ability "to tell differences" is a *power* of Consciousness. It is the power that actually brings us conscious awareness of the pairs of opposites. Without this capacity to discern one thing from another, we could not be aware of nor could we come to consciously *know* the Self.

When we make use of the power of the Disposing Intelligence, we actually use our consciousness like a sword, which is the meaning of the Hebrew letter Zain, assigned to Key 6. We "cut" through and arrange the appearances of the pairs of opposites to be more harmonious with the One Life and Its creation. The power and necessity of the Hebrew letter Zain are expressed in the New Testament (Matthew 10:34), "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword." The attainment of the Christ Consciousness comes through no other means than by cutting through, and cutting out, the illusions of the world of appearances and continuously refining our powers of arrangement or disposal.

In order to compare something with another there must be a relationship between them, and relationships are an obvious highlight of The Lovers. Our primary relationship, of course, is between Superconsciousness, Self-consciousness and Subconsciousness. Superconsciousness is our real identity, and Self-consciousness is our identity experiencing awareness of itself. The *interpretation* of self, made by Self-consciousness, is what Subconsciousness then receives and builds upon. You can have

no self-awareness without Subconsciousness reflecting yourself, or that image of yourself to yourself, nor can there be one facet of consciousness without the other. Therefore, to say one facet is better, or superior to another, is not only nonsense, but will affect our inner harmony and our relationships with other men and women as well. Holding a realization of the loving interdependence existent between the levels of consciousness will aid us in attaining greater wholeness both inwardly and outwardly.

Key 6 is also a lesson in how all opposites are actually two presentations of one thing. The assignment of Gemini to Key 6, and the parts of the body this astrological sign governs, repeats the unity of the many. Gemini rules the arms, hands, shoulders, lungs, collarbones and upper ribs. Every one of these bodily parts is a twin aspect of our two-sided bodies. Is one side better than the other? Could we function without both sides? We need our pairs of opposites if we are to enjoy and fully live in the physical world.

So often we fall into traps by thinking that since we experience different aspects of a thing they are really separate. Since we see each other as distinct things—one from the other—we get the idea that we are separate. This is a primary illusion. If we accept this illusion as real, it then becomes a delusion we must experience by manifesting it in our personal lives. In such delusions the man (Self-consciousness) and the woman (Subconsciousness) are not in harmony, and thus, Super-consciousness is prevented from helping us to act with discrimination, which is the quality of consciousness assigned to Key 6. Until we have experienced enough pain through living out this delusion, we continue to be deceived by the illusion of separateness, and by our fellow men and women. Believing we are separate actually prevents us from experiencing real, deep, and lasting love. Love is wholeness—one with the other—and in the more awakened members of humanity, it is also the union of the Child with the Self.

We, as spiritual aspirants, hope to learn that while the illusion is necessary, the delusion is not! We must have the appearance

of “manyness” in order to consciously come to know the unity behind the appearance. In the Secret Wisdom we re-train our responses to accept the illusions as illusions and NOT as the ultimate reality.

Key 6 expresses yet another secret of how our consciousness really works. That in you which sees differences, variations and the pairs of opposites is your self-consciousness. The *unconscious reaction* to what you see is your subconsciousness. In the Lovers, the man is looking at the woman to illustrate this fact. The only thing we ever really see, whether it be a bird, a friend, an enemy, beauty or ugliness, is the reflection of our subconscious patterns. In essence then, we always look at a reflection of our own inner life.

Does this mean we should pretend we do not see suffering, injustice, or ugliness in the world? Absolutely not! We live in time and space and, therefore, our consciousness is designed to be aware of both sides of oppositional pairs. Hate and love, for example, are different extremes of the principle of unity. Hate occurs because we feel separate, and love occurs when we feel unity. But they both exist in our time and space since we are still evolving to the point of consciously knowing unity.

As we come to realize everyone, including ourselves, is a growing aspect of the One Life, we gradually eliminate our own ability to hate. If necessary, however, we are able to take up our swords against injustice and human suffering. When we have eliminated personal hatred, we have the strength and insight to take up the sword of discrimination for the sake of every evolving soul. Through discrimination we can comprehend the evolutionary needs of others and know when severity is the greater beneficence.

The primary message of Key 6 is to learn how to exercise our powers of discrimination, particularly in relation to ourselves. In learning this, we release our subconscious from domination by our self-conscious misinterpretations of the past. Every misinterpretation was actually only poor discrimination. We need to gently accept our misinterpretations as

exactly what they were... misinterpretations. Through this gentle acceptance we may free our subconscious to reflect reality instead of delusion.

Whatever you believe yourself to be, subconsciousness will accept it and reflect it back to you. Think of yourself in a negative way, and life will become filled with those who think that way of you also. When you begin to see, however, that you are an expression of God, and your personality—with all its unfinished aspects—is as tenderly deserving of love as any baby learning to walk, you begin to free the subconscious from the enslavements you have placed upon it. Then you become honest and open with yourself, and the Angel is able to pour the wisdom of love of the Divine Father and Mother into your life and consciousness.



The Chariot: Key 7

Tarot Key 7, The Chariot, presents the basic principle it portrays in a particularly direct and unmistakable manner. Every correspondence used to define its meanings follows one specific pattern of thought, exemplified in the following attributions: (1) the basic quality of consciousness pictured by Key 7 is our receptivity to the One Will, (2) its quality on the Path of Return is called the Intelligence of the House of Influence, (3) the Hebrew letter assigned to Key 7 is Cheth, "the fence," and (4) astrologically, it represents Cancer, the crab. All three of these latter assignments (a house, a fence and a crab) present the idea of an enclosure—a specific something that surrounds another specific something. They refer to the manner our personalities surround, or enclose, our true being which is a facet of the One Will.

As with all the Tarot Keys after Key 0, The Chariot is an "outflowing" from the Key preceding it, in this case The Lovers. Through discrimination we become aware that the true function of personality is as a receptive vehicle for the One Will. According to the most esoteric of the Secret Doctrines, the only

way we really become able to express the powers of the Self is by learning how to become consciously receptive to the One Will. The important word here is *receptive*. Will is not personal. It is not something we can claim as a possession of the personality. We feel "will" as being within us and as being a very personal experience. Yet, according to all the deeper teachings, these feelings and experiences are illusional. At all times, we are really experiencing the One Will as it flows through our particular vehicle. We are receivers of the Divine Will.

As you will notice, the Charioteer, which is the Self, is dressed for battle. Like the Emperor, who also wears armament and must see through appearances to perceive reality and reason, the Charioteer must move through the field of oppositional pairs. These pairs of opposites are, for a time, the battlefield of the personality as it learns to consciously participate in the evolutionary drive away from separatism and toward unity. The motivating power for the persona, both within the battlefield and beyond it, are the senses, represented in Key 7 by the sphinxes. Once we have realized the senses, when properly controlled, can enable us to perceive infinite variations as but the many facets of the One, they no longer dash us about the battlefield of opposites so wildly. Thereafter, the Self moves the personality through life experience with more control and we can begin to more fully appreciate the marvelous creativity and variety of the One.

All of us need to learn more about how to become free-flowing channels for the Divine Self, or Charioteer. The problem causing interference with this flow is one of identity. We all tend to identify with the chariot and the sphinxes, rather than the charioteer. As soon as we become identified with the True Self, we control the senses just as the charioteer is doing in this Key... via the invisible reins of the mind. Controlling the senses requires control of our consciousness. We must not permit it to make rash decisions and interpretations based only on messages and information received via the senses. Remember, the senses have been specifically designed for a range of perceptions pur-

posefully very definite and narrow. We must not, therefore, give them "free rein," but must guide them with the knowledge we have gained.

As aspirants in the Western Mysteries, we do not denounce or seek to repudiate the senses. Rather, we want to heighten and spiritualize them. We accomplish this by using the senses to search out the Central Essence dwelling behind the world of appearances. After all, each of our sensory organs was created by Superconsciousness, and thus, to consciously return them to the position of being a tool of Superconsciousness is not really so difficult a task! To do this we must consciously free them from the misinterpretations of a seemingly separated self-consciousness. We need to remind ourselves over and over again that our eyes are God's eyes... our ears are God's ears listening to the melody of creation... our noses inhale the aroma of life carried on every breeze... our tongues savor the taste of God's bounty... and every creature, every being we touch is a beloved child of the Most High. By practicing these states of realization we lessen our identification with the chariot, and move ever closer to identify with the Charioteer. Thus, in using our senses positively the Divine Will can live in and through us, enabling us to manifest without interference that which we and Life desire.

Our personalities receive the Divine Will and interpret it according to our perceptions and philosophies of life. Thus, the personality, or chariot, forms the "house" receiving the influence or Will from the Most High. Tarot Key 7 graphically pictures the Intelligence of the House of Influence when it has reached a state of perfected reception and guidance by the Charioteer, or Self. The symbol of the chariot reminds us, too, that the personality is a moving and ephemeral phenomenon in the world of manifestation. It is not the *all* of us, but rather a vehicle for part of us. Through the personality we develop more conscious awareness of the Charioteer, and we should treasure it for the heightened consciousness it does enable us to develop.

The Hebrew letter Cheth, "the fence," is also another correspondence to the personality. In this sense, it is the personali-

ty being likened to a fence drawn around the Infinite Mind Stuff so It can be cultivated, developed and grown into a unique specialization of the Divine Mind. The fences of the personality are, however, very moveable! Through our acquisition of wisdom and understanding we move them out—extend them—to bring larger and larger areas of the Infinite Mind Stuff under our cultivation. In this way, we become able to express more and more the powers of the Self, including the capacity to receive more and more of the principles of consciousness. This is evolution. It is the development of larger and larger fields of growth and awareness.

Astrologically, Key 7 is ascribed to Cancer, the Crab. As we learn to realize personality is a 'shell' surrounding the infinite beauty of the Self, we can also learn to look for the indwelling God within every personality. No matter how frightening or "crusty" another may appear, the One Life lies within. This is not to say we won't on occasion have to get out of the way of their "pincers," but we can do so holding a beneficent good will in our hearts.

We are all destined to become that which we truly are... each of us a moving glory through the heavens. The time will come when we will no longer bind ourselves to an identity with this admittedly wondrous, but limited, earthly vehicle and personality. Instead, we will let go of the sense of separation and reach to the canopy of stars rising over the head of the Charioteer. We will realize our citizenship lies in the heavens with our heavenly Creator, now and forever.



8

STRENGTH



Strength: Key 8

Although the title of this Key would seem to imply otherwise, the Strength of Key 8 has nothing to do with physical muscular activity. As we consider Key 8, we shall discover the means to expand our conceptions concerning strength, and what really makes us strong. Its attributes are (1) the Hebrew letter Teth, "the serpent," (2) its basic quality of consciousness is the same as its title, Strength, (3) its astrological assignment is to Leo, the Lion and (4) its designation on the Paths of Return is the Intelligence of the Secret of All Spiritual Activities.

Most of us are familiar with the book of Genesis wherein Adam and Eve are tempted by the serpent (Teth). Most interpretations of this allegory make the serpent a vile and evil creature—a spokesperson for the Devil—who caused poor Mankind to be thrown out of the Garden of Eden and into troublesome times. Those trained in the Western Mysteries, however, have quite another view; to a Qabalist the Tempter and the Redeemer are one and the same. The serpent is a symbol for the evolutionary drive that has brought Mankind from

the state of pleasant subconsciousness experienced by all creatures, to the full awakening of his self-conscious awareness. Teth represents the drive of evolution taking us from our perceptions of separation to complete, conscious awareness of our oneness with the Divine Life. Without the serpent, and the vital drive it represents, we could not and cannot come to the rapturous knowledge of our union with the Divine.

In Genesis 3:1 it says, "...the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field..." In Qabalah the word "subtle" is always a reference to wisdom. The definition of wisdom in Webster's Third New International Dictionary is given as "the effectual mediating principle or personification of God's will in the creation of the world." The drive to evolve is the drive of God's will. It was not evil which led us from the Garden of Eden, but God's desire for us to eat of the fruit of the Knowledge of Good and Evil... that we experience the pairs of opposites and through our experiences become wiser, until finally we are God's conscious mediating principles in the world.

It is the evolutionary requirement of Mankind to develop consciousness by weighing and measuring, by discovering what is constructive action and what is separative and, therefore, brings pain. Conscious awareness and strength are finally developed through the presentation or *temptation* of pairs of opposites. Our strength to withstand the temptation to perform a separative, destructive action comes only by having experienced the self-correcting repercussions of erroneous choices often enough that we are able to choose the more constructive path. For many aspirants, however, these tests of our strength in the face of temptation are synonymous with pain. Actually, however, the pain comes not from the test, or the temptation, but from trying to hold on to old, outworn patterns. As we learn to let go of the negative, unnecessary ways, we can meet these tests with a sense of adventure and truly gain strength from the experience.

One of the secrets of withstanding temptation and controlling our drives to move in accordance with evolution is

expressed through Key 8's astrological assignment to Leo. Leo is the Lion, as pictured here, but physiologically it governs the heart. It may seem a lion and a heart do not have much in common, but further meditation should help us perceive the unity reconciling these two concepts.

A lion is a strong, vital, untamed creature, aptly named King of the Jungle. The heart is perhaps the strongest muscle of the body and its function is vital to the continuance of life in the physical vehicle. It is both the symbolic and, on more subtle planes, the literal center of love and desire in human beings. Through the imagery of this Key we are being told our desires rule our lives. Desires are strong, necessary to our feeling "alive," and may be either untamed and wild like the lion, or the very essence of love, as the symbol of the heart portrays to Mankind.

Key 8 shows us the only way to tame our desires, while still retaining their strength and vitality, is through love. We do not want to "stamp out" desire and become pale, wishy-washy shadows of human beings. No, we want to serve the Lord of Life full of sparkle, vitality, and a strong, passionate love for our fellow men and women, our world, and our Creator. Thus, we have the lion of Key 8 (our animal nature) being controlled and tamed by Subconsciousness (the woman) as she places a garland of roses (symbols of love and desire) around his neck. She is able to do this because she has received the proper suggestions in the form of images and goals set by our *spiritually* awakening self-consciousness. We train our animal nature and our drives, not by stamping them out, but by placing them under specific rules of loving self-discipline.

The vital "livingness" of our drives provides the power to accomplish our goals. Applying that power to make our goals successful, however, is dependent upon our having enough aspiration, or love, to be willing to give up the fruits of our work to the Divine Will. Herein lies the Intelligence of the Secret of All Spiritual Activities. As spiritual aspirants we learn to give up our attachment, not to the goal, but to the results.

When we are attached to results, we are in a state of anxiety regarding those results, and this suggests nothing but failure to subconsciousness. By turning the outcome over to the Most High we provide our subconscious with truly success-oriented imagery. Do not make the mistake of thinking the Western Mystery Training System advocates indifference, however. Certainly we want results, but we relinquish attachment to them. We realize the desired results are inevitable if they are harmonious with the Divine Plan, and if they are inharmonious, why should we want them?

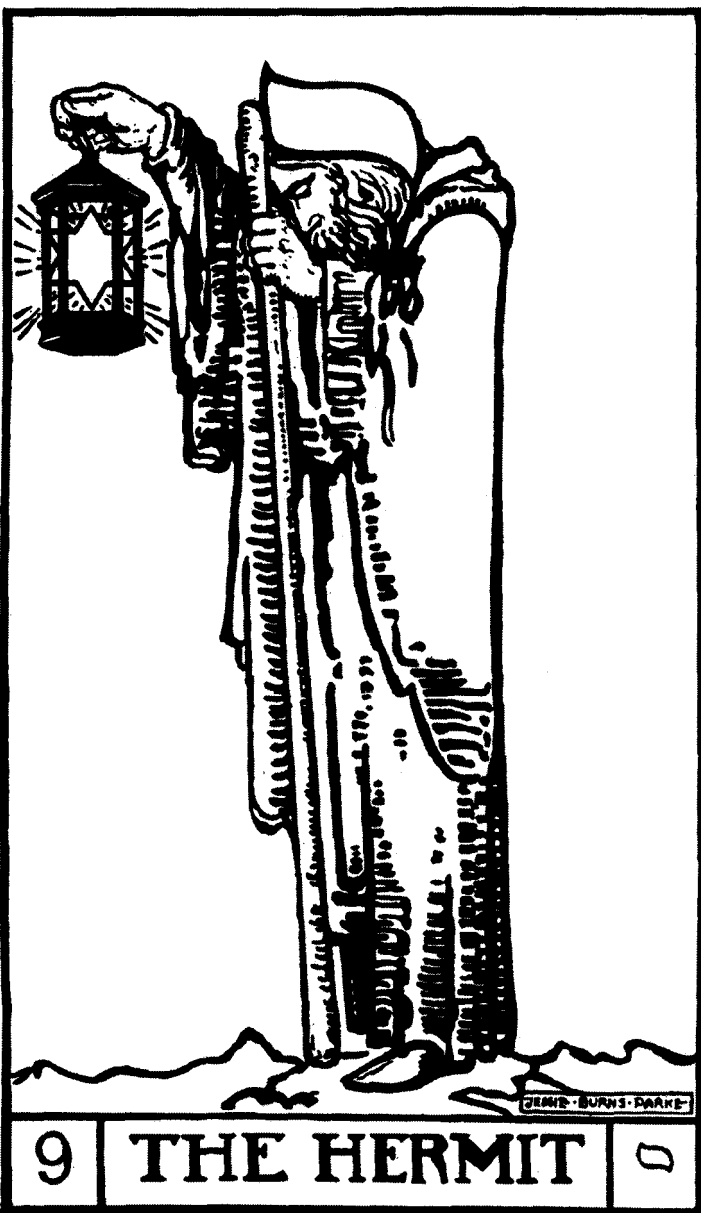
We must have images and make goals, but since we are still growing aspects of the Most High, our interpretation of a goal may be imperfect. To attain a sense of peace regarding our goals, we need to cultivate a feeling of release regarding the final result... a sense of knowing the final manifestation is in the hands of the One Life. In effect, we release our egos and identities from being erroneously tied to achieving the outcome. This frees us from another common error—impatience. Impatience can actually act as interference to the working out of the Divine Will through us, and certainly, this is not what we want.

Our attachment to results, in reality, has been a source of some of our greatest pains. How often have we heard ourselves, or others, insisting all of our happiness or fulfillment is dependent upon achieving a certain job, or a certain relationship? When we allow ourselves to form such thoughts and resolutions, we only expose ourselves to terrible anxieties, and consequent images of failure. Reach instead to the Larger Will! Only this may give us an abiding faith in the ultimate outcome of all our experiences, and free us from the pain of false attachment.

The Intelligence of the Secret of All Spiritual Activities is knowing the attainment of our goals depends upon our openness to the Divine Will to which we attune ourselves through loving, but firm, guidance of our vital life drives. We make use of that strong force within us by providing it with *conscious* fields of endeavor, and then releasing the results to God.

The serpent, that living, creative force of evolution which

has brought us through the alternating experiences of the pairs of opposites, can become for us another aspect of the Redeemer. As we learn to turn our animal nature into a friend—instead of a foe—we move from the pains and sorrows of ignorance to the happiness and peace of wisdom. Thus, we eat the fruit of the 'Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil,' and thereby gain the strength to move onto the conscious immortality of the Tree of Life.



9

THE HERMIT



The Hermit: Key 9

The Hermit, Key 9, is one of the most beloved Keys in Tarot. At first glance, however, one might wonder why a man, older and apparently alone, should inspire such affection in aspirants. We shall see, after examining a few of the attributes of Key 9, the Hermit is, literally, a lesson in love: (1) it is assigned to the Path of Return known as the Intelligence of Will, (2) the particular quality of consciousness it expresses is Response, and in harmony with this quality it also exemplifies the sense of Touch, (3) astrologically, it is Virgo, the Virgin, and (4) its Hebrew letter Yod means the “open hand.”

Tarot Key 8, you will recall is a positive image of the Self developing strength in the personality. Continuous attention (as symbolized by the infinity sign above the head of the woman) is being given to gently and lovingly retrain the animal nature. This attention, focused in a constructive manner, eventually develops real strength. Remember, a strong soul is someone who can resist temptations not in harmony with the Divine Plan. Those who simply remove themselves from the source of temptation do not develop strength; in fact, they actually create

further weakness. Aspirants in the School of Western Mysteries are full of vitality and life (the red lion is also symbolic of life) and resist the pull of negative forces due to the development of a stronger desire to fulfill the Higher Will.

The final outcome of the true strength being developed in Key 8, is shown by The Hermit, Key 9. He is the manifestation of the Intelligence of Will. He has gone through the temptations of the pairs of opposites and found the unity that lies behind all appearances. He is even clothed in the robes of unity, for in the Ancient Wisdom, grey is the color representing unification of oppositional pairs. Through the temptations of the world of manifestation, he has consciously attained the knowledge that he is an expression of the One Will. He does not respond to the illusions or appearances of separation, for his response is only to the "Will of the Father," that sacred level within all of us.

The Hermit holds only two implements in his hands—one is his staff, which has aided him in his climb to the heights of awareness, and the other is a lantern of Light. The Secret Wisdom teaches that all manifestation is a form of Light—you might even say, all is congealed Light. Everything we touch is, thus, Light. In like manner, we are able to respond to the Divine Will, because we are "touched" by It.

Key 9 reminds us we cannot revere the touch of the Divine without revering that special form of the Divine, our bodies. Our fingers, our arms, our faces are the congealed Light shining forth from the Universal Center. Therefore, our attitude about our bodies—any portion of our bodies—directly affects our ability to touch and be touched by the Divine Experience. If we feel distaste for any portion of our bodies, or consider them ugly and unspiritual, we separate ourselves from directly experiencing that Light which is the essence of our being.

At the same time, we must realize our personalities respond to the touch of the Divine Will in *whatever way and on whatever level they are able at this particular time*. We must have the strength to resist being mentally and emotionally trapped in

what we, and others, appear to be at the moment. To do so may be compared to taking a photograph of something in constant movement, and then keeping our minds and hearts focused on the photograph instead of on the flow of life. What we are now is only a part of the total Self. We are Light made in the image and likeness of God. Let us not make the mistake of limiting this Light to just the fractional part of ourselves (and others) expressed in this one particular moment.

The Hermit knows if his personality were perfect, he would not be here in the physical world where all manifestation is in a state of growing toward perfection. In astrology, Key 9 represents the sign of Virgo, the Virgin. A virgin is a conception of perfection and relates to the pure and undefiled essence within everyone no matter the present state of the outer. Virgos, as interpreted by traditional astrologists, however, are often thought of as “perfectionists”; the kind of perfectionists whose over-concern for detail is upsetting to those close to them. This type of personality constantly seeks a perfect outer environment, rather than attuning himself or herself to the perfection and purity of the inner. Consequently, they (and all of us, really, since we are each composed of all the signs of the zodiac) tend to expect perfection right now from their own personalities and the personalities of others.

The type of Virgo represented by Key 9, The Hermit, however, has gathered wisdom and an all-embracing benevolence through the experiences of the pairs of opposites. He is humble since he knows perfection is a quality of the Divine, not of the personality. He has been freed from the burden of supporting an ego that thinks personality—*any personality*—must be perfect.

Of vital importance to us as spiritual aspirants is the application of the Hermit's realization to our own relationships. We simply cannot expect other personalities to be our image of them. To do so is to separate ourselves from others by a wall of false expectation and imagery. If we are truly to reach out and “touch” another heart and mind, we must be willing to accept

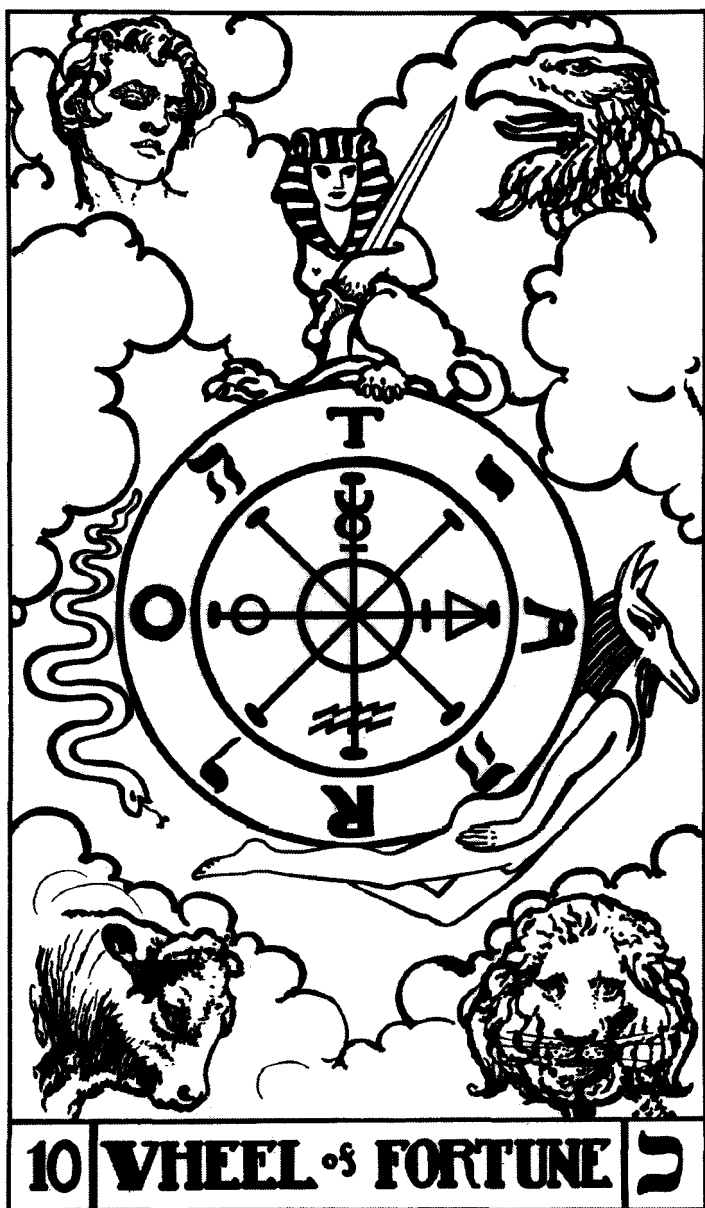
that other's personality. In a loving relationship (be it between husband and wife, sister and brother, or friend and friend), we can expect responsibility and support, but not perfection.

Above all, we must give that which we expect and want from others. This is the real expression of the "open hand" of the Hebrew letter Yod. If we want tender concern, then that is what we must give. If we want appreciation... and who does not want and need appreciation?... then we must give it, freely.

Our ability to be the Open Hand of God illuminates the lantern held by the Hermit. The love we give to others is an inevitable response to the love of the Most High as it flows through our being. The Hermit does not concern himself with whether or not those still toiling up the mountain love him. His concern is to make the love he is able to express bright enough to light the way for those still traveling in darkness.

True fulfillment does not come by concerning yourself with whether or not someone loves and appreciates you sufficiently, but, rather, by touching them with your own capacity to give. We can only know love when we actively love, and sometimes this requires being loving enough to let go. Not everyone wishes to leave the darkness, and if this be the case, we must let them remain where they are until they have learned to welcome the Light. By seeking to understand others in this selfless way, we develop our ability to care and to love. This projects quite a different image to others, and in turn, they cannot help but respond to us in a more positive manner.

Let the Hermit remind you that you exist because it is the Will and Desire of the Most High that you should BE. Within you abides an Essence forever pure, and no matter the experiences necessary for your personality in the past, the purity within is irrefutable and unchangeable. Illumine the lamp of your consciousness with the desire to serve and love life, and "even the Night shall be Light unto Thee."



The Wheel of Fortune: Key 10

Key 10 holds special realization for our journey through the Tarot. It carries forward the principle begun by The Hermit that we are still growing toward perfection, and awakens us to the additional fact that nothing ever really attains a state of final completion or ending. The idea of continuation, or duration, is shown in another way by the placement of the Wheel of Fortune after the Hermit. To all appearances, the Hermit looks like the end of the journey. It would seem he exemplifies the final result of our gathering experience and wisdom. However, we find him followed by a Tarot Key bearing the numbers 1 and 0. The number one is always a symbol of beginning, and zero, as you will recall, symbolizes Superconsciousness—the Fool at the start of a new journey. Thus, with Key 10, we are moving on to a new cycle.

The four attributes we will look at are, (1) the Hebrew letter Kaph meaning, “the closed hand” or “the hand able to grasp,” (2) Cycles, the particular aspect of consciousness expressed by Key 10, (3) the Rewarding Intelligence, the name of its Path of Return, and (4) the astrological assignment to the planet

Jupiter, considered to be a planet of good fortune.

The number '10' is one of the Qabalistic symbols for the physical kingdom—the world in which we all presently dwell. The Western Mysteries teach us that the daily, mundane world provides an opportunity to train our consciousness to realize that all manifestations of life are but various garbs of God. Through the pains and joys, the wisdom and the ignorance, the gifts of love and the lack of love—through all the pairs of opposites experienced in the physical world—we progressively become more receptive to the True Being Within. As this inner knowledge permeates our consciousness, we gradually begin to 'grasp' the truth regarding who and what we really are. We have been touched by the 'open hand' (Yod, Key 9) of the One Life, and now we reach out with the 'grasping hand' of Kaph, Key 10 to comprehend the reality of our being. Our consciousness begins to grasp the truth that everything within the physical kingdom is an expression of the creative hand of God. Everything is realized to be the handiwork of the Most High. Key 10 represents our consciousness moving on to a new cycle of greater comprehension, understanding, and ability to grasp the hidden meaning of the world of manifestation.

Part of our deeper comprehension of the physical world will come from seeing that it is, in time and space, the Most High's unfinished, or incomplete, realm. The painful, destructive forces we see manifest on earth, such as violence, famine, abuse of others and of environment, are expressions of Mankind's, as yet, only partially developed consciousness of who and what we are. The Kingdom of today is the handiwork of God *on its way* to completion.

All negative manifestations, whether personal or belonging to Mankind as a whole, are caused by our still developing consciousnesses making mistakes and creating necessary repercussions in our life experiences, which, in turn, teach us to balance the pairs of opposites by knowing them through direct experience. Much like a child running into the street and receiving the balancing repercussion in the form of a spanking

from its mother, so too, does our consciousness grow via checks and balances. To realize Consciousness is in movement toward a more developed expression helps us refrain from becoming trapped in agonies that only extend the life of a negative situation. Whatever type of experience we may be in, it is only a passing movement in the eternal flow of consciousness toward fuller awareness. As aspirants we must 'grasp' the principle of cycles, or rotation, and know all is balanced through the movements of the universe in time and space.

When we become more observant and attentive (Key 1 and the '1' of the number '10') to life around us, we may see everything has its cyclic ebbs and flows. As human beings we have not only our personal ebbs and flows, but also those of Mankind in general. In fact, there are even cycles connected to the destiny of the planet, and the very universe itself. This is really what is alluded to in Ezekiel's vision of the "Wheels within Wheels."

The practical application of this awareness is learning to move in accordance with the ebb and the flow, through our attention to the changing cycles. Most of us have had the experience of attempting to start certain projects when either we, or life energies in general, were at a low ebb. It is very rare that projects can come to full completion if started during this type of cycle. However, if we had been more aware, we could have saved our energies for a more propitious time. A further example of this may be found within the plant kingdom. If our trees are to bear fruit, seeds bear grain, and bulbs bear flowers, they must be planted at the right time, or seasonal cycle, for that particular form of plant life. We attend to the cycle of the seasons to ensure the specific life cycle of that plant comes to full fruition; or you could say, we have tuned into the inner core of reality for the movement of that particular plant in this time and space. *Everything* has cycles because Consciousness has cycles.

Just as Mankind has learned to plant its seedlings in accordance with the proper season, we must also come to realize our personalities are seedlings in the garden of the One Life. We

have been conceived and planted by the Creative Love of the Most High, and there are seasonal cycles eventually leading us to the full flowering of our destiny. At times, however, we may interpret these seasons as bringing pains we feel we don't deserve, or as unjust treatment from others. Such interpretations of experience are actually reinforcements of separative thinking. Key 10, The Wheel of Fortune, represents not only the principle of rotation, but the planet Jupiter as well. Jupiter has always been given the meaning of "riches," since *whatever* we experience is for the enrichment of our consciousness. If we look for that enrichment *within* our painful or negative experiences, then we receive the intellectual and emotional riches contained in each situation that much sooner. We also receive the added benefit of releasing subconsciousness from the erroneous interpretation of seeing pain as coming from 'out there.' Winter is no less a benevolence of the Divine Will than is Summer, and certainly if we are experiencing Winter, we can look forward with happy expectation to Spring. Jupiter, or Key 10, bestows upon us the riches of a consciousness in movement through the Seasons of the Evolutionary Plan.

The idea of all our experiences bringing enrichment to consciousness is further carried out by the assignment of the Rewarding Intelligence to the Wheel of Fortune. We are in a continuous state of reward for our desires. What we experience today is the rich, universal reward for the quality of comprehension we have regarding our desire nature. We are each rewarded for our seeking and questing, and our interpretation of those quests or desires. If our 'rewards' seem more like punishments at times, then perhaps we need to change what we are seeking... or the manner of our seeking.

We must not, however, make the mistake of thinking that changing a desire, or an interpretation of a desire, is a sign of failure. If we did not have the riches of experiencing our negative desires made manifest, or experiencing the movement of the cycles and seasons of the soul, we would not truly know "livingness." The capacity for rapture comes only to those who

have known the sadness and sorrow of life as well. Our ability to live fully is deepened and expanded by our periods of contraction. For example, were it not for the intense gravity, or field of contraction, at the heart of the physical sun, it could not shine forth its life-giving rays. The conflagration of light we see and feel warming the earth each day is literally the result of contraction. Our ability to radiate joy and beauty to others is a direct result of the pains we have endured and by which we have been forced to expand and grow.

Everything that has ever happened has been the Rewarding Intelligence of Key 10, The Wheel of Fortune. Suppose you had never known loneliness... could you possibly appreciate companionship? Could you have the richness of compassion for others if you had never known pain? To carry this realization and intelligence with us is to be able to look at reality and gather greater discrimination therefrom. Life brings us whatever a particular cycle requires, and when we can be grateful for both our smiles and our tears, we have moved into true wealth. After all, who can take away the incomparable riches of an understanding heart?



Justice: Key 11

With Tarot Key 11 we come to the middle of the Major Keys. It is the fulcrum balancing the other Keys, and thus, indicates the importance of balance as a concept for a deeper understanding of Justice. As you will also note, the female figure sits holding a sword poised, or balanced, for action and a pair of stabilized scales. These are the implements necessary to exercise Justice. And, as we will see after further study of the attributes of this Key, the cyclic movement of Universal Life is a movement toward the expression and unfolding of Justice: (1) Libra, the Scales, is its zodiacal attribution, (2) the quality of consciousness expressed is Action (3) its Hebrew letter is Lamed, "the ox-goad," and (4) the name of its Path of Return is the Faithful Intelligence.

Astrologically, Key 11 is assigned to Libra which has as its symbol the Scales. *Libra* is the middle sign of the zodiac, and psychologically, as well as physically, it signifies balance: "the equipoise produced between two contrasting or opposing elements whereby one neutralizes, makes up for, or offsets the other" (Webster's Third New International Dictionary). A psy-

chological example of this is the Libran's tendency to weigh both sides of an issue before making a decision. Physiologically, this principle holds true as well, for Libra governs that area of the body containing the kidneys—two organs whose purpose is to maintain the chemical purity, or balance of bodily fluids.

Both of these examples seek balance through an action of separation. Balance is not, as so many of us suppose, inaction; rather, it is movement away from imbalance. The Libran quality in our consciousness allows us to examine both sides of an issue in order to separate the valid from the invalid, the false from the true. The kidneys separate water and waste products from the blood in an effort to keep the bloodstream and body healthy and pure. Whether it be mental, emotional or physical, balance (*equipoise*) is achieved through some form of action.

It is not surprising to find, then, that Action is the quality of consciousness correlated with Key 11. Consciousness requires we act upon our images, and through action we may develop the ability to more fully express what Key 11 represents. No matter how lovely our thoughts or images may be some of the time, our daily works, or actions, speak the loudest. The Laws of the Most High can take place through our actions, but only when we become more attuned to the Self. Once this occurs, we act with justice toward all forms and expressions of Life.

To attain the ability to truly express Justice, we must become aware of what needs changing in our thinking, our feelings, our desires and our values, since these are the aspects of the personality that determine the way we comprehend and react to each day. Once we are aware of what needs changing within ourselves, then we may begin transmuting the personality to be more harmonious with our true aspiration. The manner in which we react to our life circumstances creates future experience. Thus, control of our fate lies with the control of our actions, so we may move from imbalance to balance and begin to reflect the Oneness of Life.

The ideas of movement and action are further emphasized by the assignment of the Hebrew letter Lamed, the "ox-goad," to

Key 11. If you will recall, the word "ox" is ascribed to Key 0, The Fool, representing Superconsciousness. Superconsciousness establishes the goals of the Self, but the "ox-goad" keeps us moving along the Path toward the goal. Whenever we decide we would like to symbolically "sit in the road" like the oxen of old, we feel the sting of universal movement. Life is not static. We cannot cling to old forms, old patterns, old desires, or old thoughts. Whenever we fight to maintain an outworn status quo, we go against the very rotation of the universe (Key 10), and we will inevitably receive a stimulus painful enough to prod us back into movement.

Lamed, "the ox-goad," also symbolizes the type of life experience which teaches us discrimination (the poised sword). Through the consequences we create for ourselves whenever we fight against the evolutionary flow, we gain more understanding of the principles of consciousness. Step by step, as we proceed toward the Goal established by the Life-Power, we realize the true cause of our pains lies within our own consciousness. We begin to gather wisdom through the sting of the ox-goad, so we may dispel the delusions of separateness, and balance our identity more and more within the Central Self.

As aforementioned, balance begins as we change our attitudes, our thinking, our comprehension of reality, and our values. We do this because the experience of the ox-goad is very personal. We are not being taught *about* discrimination. Rather, we *experience* the consequences lack of wisdom inevitably creates for us. Like a child learning to walk, we take each step ourselves, experience every fall ourselves, and then get up and try again all by ourselves. This is absolutely necessary. Otherwise, we would not develop our own strength and stability, which are synonymous with balance and the Faithful Intelligence.

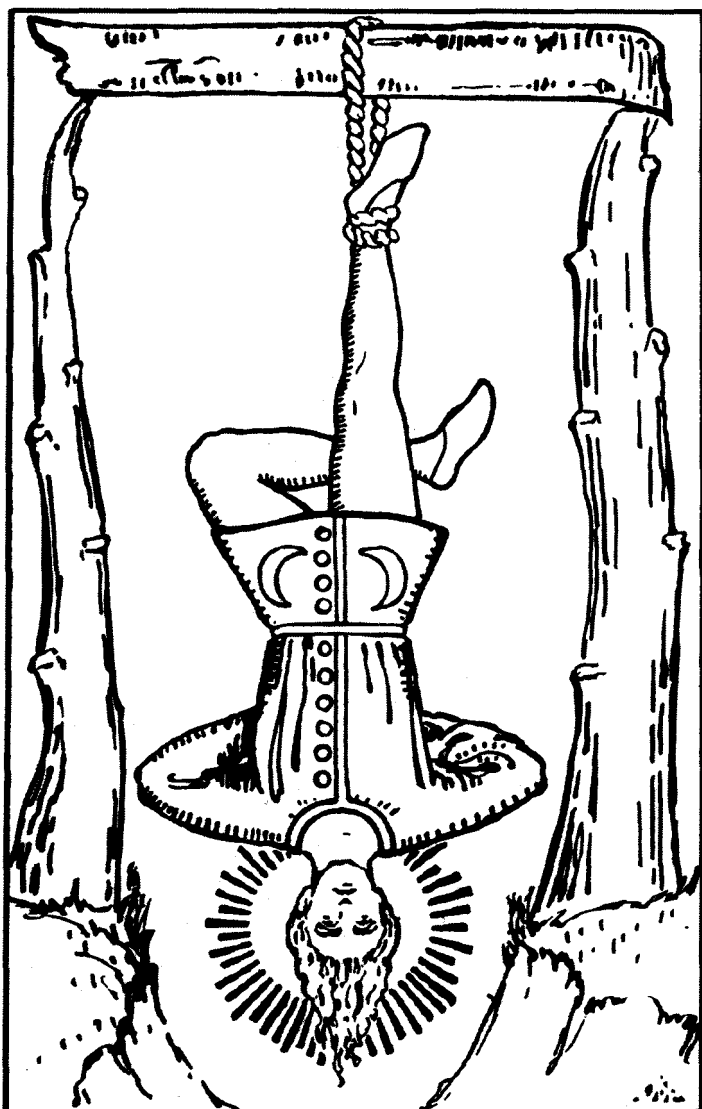
Through lessons in discrimination, we learn that we cannot place our faith in the personality. Our faith must lie in God, and such faith depends upon our comprehension of Justice. The vision of the vaster mind—the more developed consciousness—is spread over lifetimes. Such an adept sees fully the develop-

ment of karma from lifetime to lifetime. But much earlier in the soul's spiritual evolution, as we experience our own creations, we become conscious of what we have been doing mentally, emotionally, or physically that is either negative or positive. If there were no justice to life and the universe, we would simply remain in ignorance, doing and experiencing the same pains over and over again. But there is a wonderful and beneficent Justice to Life! It allows the aspirant to see the personality is a changing mystery and miracle, being grown by and belonging to the Self. As we increase our sense of identification with the Self, so, too, do we gain confidence and faith in life. Soon, our personalities shine forth as expressions of the True Center Within, and our faith radiates a confidence brightening the dark days of others.

Justice, truly, is more than an abstract expression of Cosmic Law. Every circumstance in which we find ourselves is justice expressing itself in our lives. Being able to see the "undeviating Justice" manifesting itself in every aspect of our daily lives has to do also with our grasp, or comprehension (Key 10) of life, of ourselves, and of our interpretations of others. This illustrates the principle that no one Tarot Key really exists without the others, for they are all different aspects of the One Consciousness. Thus, to really respond to Life in a manner reflecting the Faithful Intelligence and creating a happier, more fulfilling personal life, we must be able to comprehend what is really occurring. Our grasp of and reaction to each instance creates our tomorrows, and our comprehension determines the lessons Justice will teach us tomorrow.

Justice is the balancing of the scales of action and reaction in harmony with our mental and emotional comprehension of reality. Our ability to comprehend the true meaning and essence of Life determines our ability to transmute those actions which have brought us pain in the past. And remember, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32), meaning that as you change your future, you change that of Life, as well. This is the beauty of an aspirant's

life, for your very existence then, can be a service to all Mankind; a living, loving expression of the Justice existing at the very core of the One Life.



12

HANGED MAN



The Hanged Man: Key 12

Key 12 is one of the more enigmatic of the Tarot Keys. The image shows a man in what looks like a most uncomfortable position, and yet he appears totally at ease. He is beautifully and mysteriously dressed, and although his head hangs close to the earth, there is a starry, otherworldly radiance emanating from him. We can assume, therefore, there is a hidden quality at work in Tarot Key 12, The Hanged Man. An analysis of its attributions should help us pierce the veils of obscurity—(1) the Hebrew letter Mem is assigned to Key 12 and means, “the Waters,” (2) its Path of Return is the Stable Intelligence, (3) astrologically it is ascribed to Neptune, the planet of either mysticism or illusion, and (4) the primary state of consciousness represented is Reversal.

The waters of the letter Mem are none other than the waters of consciousness—the Primal Substance of Being without beginning or end. These waters, running over the surface of the earth, have created the chasm over which the Hanged Man is suspended. Since each Tarot Key is an archetypal image, the exposed earth of Tarot Key 12 is actually a representation of the

earth of material appearances. Thus, what the Waters of his purified subconsciousness have worn down are the false materialistic interpretations of life... the surface interpretations. The vision of the Hanged Man is such that he can now see below the surface of situations and people.

One aspect of this is his ability to hold his mind in a suspended state when necessary. Looking closely, we can see he really is not hanging precariously; rather, he is purposefully suspended above the earth. The Hanged Man has trained himself to still the waters of consciousness. In his training as a spiritual aspirant he has learned to still the mind of the thrashings and storms washing over and through most of humanity. Thus, when problems come, as they must, he can quiet himself long enough to gather the correct information and interpretations. For the moment his physical actions, too, are stilled so he may turn within and come to understand what will be the next correct movement.

Turning within is not simply sitting like a wet rag and letting in anything that approaches the borders of our consciousness. Real meditation is quite the opposite of this. It is a state of extraordinarily intense alertness of mind. The body is still, and the mental chatter is still. The mind is intently focused upon receiving principles and knowledge regarding a very particular question. Tarot Key 12 represents the result of accurate meditation, and the correct use and focus of Mem, "the Waters."

Another name for Key 12 is the Stable Intelligence. Until we are stable in our individuality, we cannot really give ourselves over with safety to that "mute, dark mirror of substance," the waters of the Primal Substance. To do so prematurely would be to risk having our consciousness overcome by the waters of the mass mind—that level in the ocean of consciousness wherein dwells the Vital Soul of all humanity, but no self-conscious individuality. The Hanged Man can still the waters safely because his focus is intent upon the Central Self. The shape of his legs in the number 4 with the color attribution of red (Tarot Key 4) exemplifies the need to make full use of the power of

reason to suspend the mind above the roar of the storms of daily life.

Another aspect of the Stable Intelligence is seen in the 'gallows' from which the Hanged Man is suspended. If you will look ahead to Tarot Key 21, you will see the gallows are actually in the shape of the Hebrew letter Tav. Thus, the Hanged Man is suspended from, or supported by, Cosmic Consciousness (the quality of Key 21). In training ourselves to turn to the Self Within, we also train ourselves to know we are always supported by the One. We do not and cannot derive any real support from things, or other personalities. We can only be truly sustained by the reality of the Mind Stuff that is God. This is the only support able to provide us real stability, for it is eternal and subject to neither time nor corrosion. Knowing whence his real sustenance comes, the Hanged Man is able to control his mind and emotions so they are not enslaved by the necessary movements and changes of outer appearances.

When we are stabilized within individuality, then the waters of consciousness and the inner holy planet Neptune, ascribed to Key 12, hold mystical revelations and creative inspirations. Our meditations serve to water the seeds of the Self and they bloom with new beauty and new perceptions. If, however, our individuality is focused upon the personality and the world of material appearances, then Neptune brings us the corresponding illusions and delusions. Our focus must be intent upon the Self, if the veils of Neptune are to part and show us the real Inner Worlds.

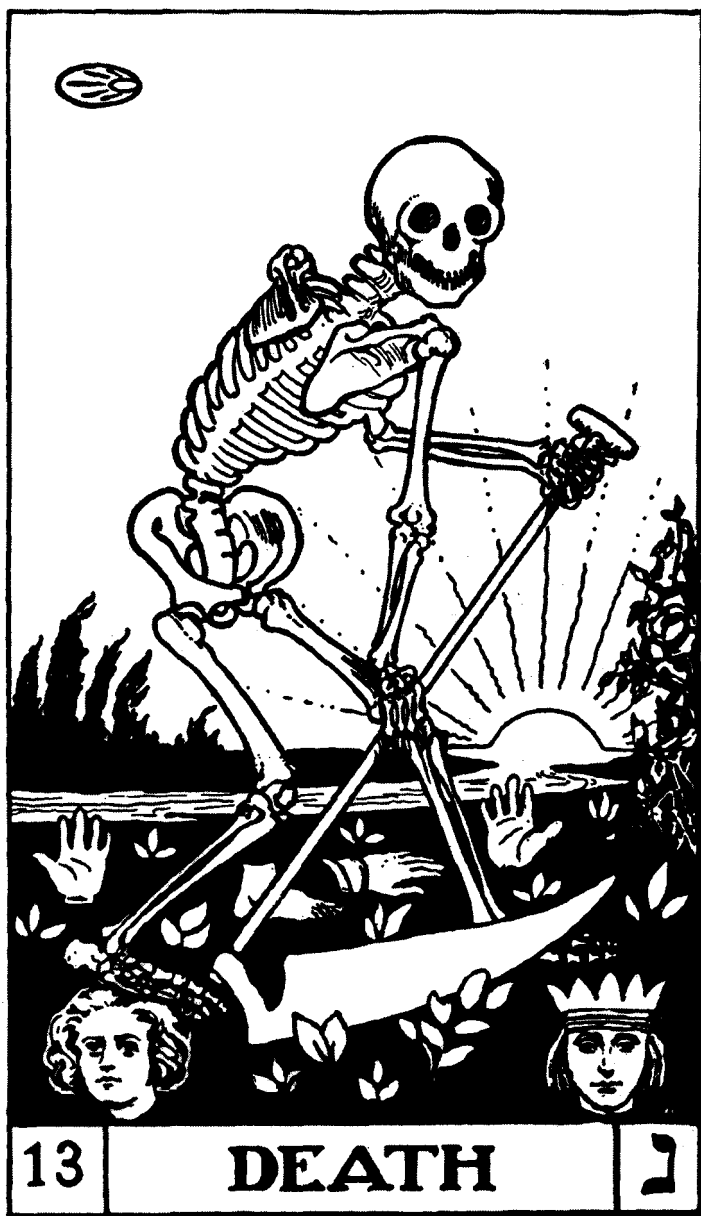
As we gain a modicum of control over our minds and emotions, we may begin to experience the real inner quality of The Hanged Man to reverse the illusions of appearances into reality. Another way of expressing the same quality is to say we gain the ability to change our misery and pain into fulfillment and understanding. This is not an instantaneous process, however, as the white hair of the Hanged Man indicates. It takes repeated experiences of actively participating in the transmutation of the personality if we are to reverse our erroneous thoughts and

interpretations of life in general and of ourselves in particular.

Through consciously striving to realize our awareness can be channeled (the chasm, or channel, over which the Hanged Man is suspended) to reflect our True Center, we gain the ability to see below surface appearances, and to change our identity from the personality to the Self (the Stable Intelligence). This leads to an actual reversal of our entire concept of what consciousness and life are all about. The art of reversing adversity lies in changing our concepts regarding the source of pain and the reason we are subject to it. When we realize all "...circumstances are a particular dealing of God with my soul," then we truly suspend ourselves from Cosmic Consciousness and have reversed the illusion of appearances.

We no longer look at ourselves or our painful situations and say, "What am I doing wrong?" The real "I" in you can do no wrong! All occurrences are part of the benevolent plan of the universe. Every adversity is an opportunity for gathering wisdom and understanding, for only experience cures ignorance.

Each of us must learn to suspend ourselves from the Stable Intelligence and accept the Cosmic as being our true Selfhood. When we have reversed our concept of identity, then and only then, can we walk with our heads in the stars, glowing with the radiance surrounding the Hanged Man, secure in the realization that our support is eternal and ever-present.



13

DEATH

2

Death: Key 13

Key 13, Death, is one of the most important Keys we will study in terms of changing our consciousness, since the fear of death is the root and source of all other fears. Thus, if we gain a greater understanding of the beneficence of death, and realize cessation is an appearance, rather than a reality, we can begin to affect more rapid transmutations within our consciousness. We can begin to change our fears into happy expectations.

The basic quality of Key 13 is Death, or Change, and it is upon this quality we will concentrate. The other three attributions assisting us in our study are: (1) the Hebrew letter Nun meaning "the fish," (2) the astrological assignment of Scorpio, and (3) the Path of Return entitled the Imaginative Intelligence. These three attributions act as stepping stones leading us into an understanding of the Qabalistic principles regarding Death.

The Hebrew letter Nun, "the fish," is an archetypal reference to our creations or images existing in the waters of consciousness. In Key 13, these are the waters flowing behind the skeleton. As we will see a little further on in our study of

this Key, the fish is also an apt assignment due to its reproductive ability.

The second attribution correlates to Scorpio as the natural ruler of the House of Death and Inheritance in an astrological chart. It also governs the part of the body containing the reproductive organs. In Scorpio, then, we have two apparently opposite concepts, death and reproduction, or birth. This is a hint concerning the Qabalistic teaching that death and birth are essentially aspects of one process—Life.

The Path of Return correlated with Key 13 is the Imaginative Intelligence. It is not our imagination to which this Path refers, but how we use that imagination. Do we allow our imagery to bring fear and distress into our lives, or can we learn to use our imagination to see change is the Will of the Most High moving us toward greater expression and fulfillment? Using this attribution positively will be one of the object lessons of this discourse.

The river behind the skeleton is a representation of the waters of consciousness. It flows toward the East to indicate the entire movement of consciousness is toward the dawn or rising of Life... not the cessation of life. If you look closely, you will also notice both the river and skeleton are drawn such that they have unusual twists in their forms. These twists refer to the need to alter our previous concepts concerning evolution if we are to understand its real meaning, for there is an aim to evolution purely materialistic thinking does not see.

Evolution is actually carried forth by desire. The basic desire in all life is to reproduce forms to perpetuate evolution. It is this selfsame desire to reproduce that trained spiritual aspirants use to produce *images* altering and enhancing not only their personal evolution, but that of humanity in general. The white rose on the bush in the one corner of Key 13 symbolizes this. It is the purified desire of spiritual imagery.

In order to understand evolution better, however, we must gain a greater understanding of death. Death is actually something we see all the time on the physical plane. We do not seem

to realize, however, there could be no such thing as life, if there were not also death. Life is continuous movement. It is movement from one thing or place to another, from one form to another. To progress to the new, the old, outworn and negative must cease to be. Our old thoughts must be replaced with new ones. An old, dilapidated and dangerous house must be replaced with a new house. Our very bodies have cells that die all the time, in order that they might be replaced with newer cells. This is a vital part of the life process.

Still, we fear and we weep over death, and we rejoice over birth, regardless of the fact that from the moment we are born, we are in a state of dying until the final cessation of the vehicle. But what a blessing cessation is! Were there no such thing as death, a single pair of codfish (Nun, "the fish") would have the Atlantic Ocean so inundated with codfish offspring there would be no room for other life forms. The older, unfulfilling and unconstructive forms—be they physical, mental or emotional—must cease to be if there is to be new life, new ideas, or new advance for Mankind.

Nature points out the principle and necessity of death in another way, as well. We have apparent death taking place at the end of one season, and with the coming of the new season, new seeds burst forth into fresh beginnings. And with each new season and seed, there is an opportunity for that seed to bear even better and more abundant fruit.

The "seed" of life walks hand in hand with death. What we call death is really transformation and change... a continuance of life in another, newer form. The inherent benevolence of death and change allow growth and evolution to take place. Death is not a cessation of being! It is a change from being one thing to another. Our problem lies in thinking that if something changes, then it has ceased to be. Yet, as medical science has pointed out, our physical bodies change cells many times in one lifetime. The cells with which we began life have all been completely replaced, not once, but many times!

Change and transformation are essential. Knowledge and wis-

dom can only develop through our experience of the movements of life. Were there no change, no movement, life would become so boring we would long for release. The fact that everything will change and is changing makes life and our relationships so very precious.

Besides being a representation of the waters of consciousness, the river of Tarot Key 13 also represents the river of evolution. When we view this river from a larger perspective, we see that within it some souls fight and cling onto anything seeming to offer a hold. They will do anything to stay where they are, and to keep from maturing and moving on with the flow of the river to the rising sun. Since they attempt to resist change, these poor souls bring themselves bruises and sorrows that will, however, eventually awaken them to the futility of their ways. Others, as yet few in number perhaps, go with the current of the river. They accept change, and are willing to go where the river takes them. Since they do not fight the river, there are times when they simply float and rest upon the current. When necessary, however, they swim with the force of the river, and, thus, achieve their destination that much sooner. For these aware souls, the journey through life—through evolution—is one of joy and wonder at the miracle of changing scenery.

We cannot remove ourselves from the river of change. It will carry us for all of eternity. It does us no good, therefore, to fight it and try to cling to our immaturities. Eventually, the river will take us with it, since it is an inexorable part of us and we of it. After all, we belong to the consciousness of God, and the consciousness of God is the river of evolution.

Our fighting is due to our fears... our fear of change, and our fear of the unknown. We have to train ourselves to know painful experiences are like messages reminding and informing us we are on our way to the dawn. In this way, we learn to reach beyond the pain to the ultimate outcome, and this can give us extraordinary strength. Instead of focusing our attention upon our pains, we turn our minds to a happy expectation of the outcome. Like swimming with the current, this allows us to reach

that outcome far sooner, and with less bruising of our minds and hearts.

When we stop looking upon death as the enemy and start seeing it as a friend, and when we stop fearing the unknown and learn to have faith in ultimate outcomes, we begin to gradually realize our own immortality. Yes, a part of us is mortal, and this part we must come to accept and to love. But, eventually, we will also see that other part of us that is a moving "livingness;" that was never born and will never die.

As we free ourselves from our fears and insecurities regarding death and change, we may begin to enjoy the beauty of 'the shoreline.' We become searchers of beauty, and interestingly, this is a vital part of developing our awareness of immortality. As we search for beauty, we learn to see beyond surface appearances. We bring our consciousness into harmony with the movement of life, and thus enter into an awareness of the beauty awaiting the ultimate outcome of everything. Our awareness of deeper truth grows and grows until finally we become receptive to the direct experience of immortality.

Let us end with a poem borrowed from our Eastern brethren that speaks to our hearts, as well as our minds, about Key 13, Death.

"Never the spirit was born.

The spirit will cease to be never.

Never a time it was not... end and beginning are dream.

Birthless, deathless and timeless.

Abideth the spirit forever... Death hath not changed it at all, dead though the house of it seems."



14

TEMPERANCE

D

Temperance: Key 14

Although the imagery of Key 14, Temperance, does not seem to readily indicate it, this Key appropriately symbolizes spiritual Initiation. In the Western Mysteries an Initiate is one who has reached the point in his or her evolution where a vow is taken to pursue the journey into consciousness going beyond natural man to spiritual man. Such an individual takes the Divine "seed" residing within all Mankind (pictured in Key 13), and develops it through the Paths of Return into the fruit of Cosmic Consciousness.

To accomplish this goal the Initiate will make use of the qualities attributed to Key 14: (1) the astrological characteristics of Sagittarius, (2) the Hebrew letter Samekh meaning "the prop," (3) the special Path of Return known as the Intelligence of Probation and Trial, and (4) the inner experience of Verification.

Physiologically, Sagittarius governs the thighs, which actually support the entire vehicle. The support given by the thighs enables Mankind to walk upright in the world. Of all the earthly creatures, only man walks in this manner. This unique ability to stand and walk upright is a physical indication of the ego

that man possesses and of his capacity to develop self-conscious awareness and individuality. The spiritual aspirant, however, develops self-consciousness beyond the personality levels, to enter the regions expressed by the symbolism of Sagittarius, the Archer. The aspiration of the Initiate is solidly formed into an arrow of purpose pointed toward the goal of becoming More Than Man.

Our aspiration, and the experiences derived therefrom, will confirm that our support (Samekh, "the prop") always comes from the Higher Self. We may have sorrows, and we may have apparent personal tragedies, but if we are open to the truth, we will realize all that has happened to us has been for our greater benefit. As we begin realizing there is a continuous sustenance given us during *any* experience, we gradually enter into the awakened consciousness of an Initiate. Our conscious support becomes the Higher Self which has always grown our personalities, is now growing them, and will continue to do so in the future.

Until the dross of the personality has been turned to gold, and our character and strength have been brought to higher states of conscious union with the Divine, we must have our cycles of discomfort and sorrow. This is the Intelligence of Probation and Trial. The Higher Self works on our personality to transmute one particular group of traits at a time. When one group has been perfected, then the Higher Self moves on to the development of the next set. While our vehicles and characters are in the process of developing the power to express a given set of abilities and capacities, we continue to be tested. The Higher Self *must* determine how thoroughly each quality has been integrated and absorbed into the personality, so it may remain stable no matter what. Before we are ready to enter into a yet more rapid development of consciousness, the Higher Self tests the personality to determine the dependability of these strengths.

We need to be aware of these testings and trials to retain our faith in the benevolence of the Most High, no matter how

severe the test may seem. Evolution cannot be one continuous experience of everything coming our way, but we can learn to keep our consciousness positive even in the face of seeming adversity. We must develop the kind of strength that can withstand even the undercurrent and pull of the mass mind, to become a radiating source of truth for the Most High. This is the purpose of the Intelligence of Probation and Trial.

The more we make our prop—our support—the realization that the Higher Self is in us and with us all the time, the more in harmony with our tests will we be. We can say to ourselves, “Ah, this is the testing. Thank you, Lord of All, for I am being brought to the next step.” It is a verity that anytime we are experiencing an uncomfortable test or trial, we are being prepared for something more glorious in the near future. We are only experiencing the testing necessary for steeling our nature to begin the climb to the next higher pinnacle of joy and rapture. When we focus our consciousness on thoughts such as these we shorten the period of discomfort. To think in these terms also reaffirms our determination to be strong and to hold to the Higher and Divine.

There are three types of tests, or Verifications, we undergo many times as Initiates. These are the same tests Jesus (whom the Qabalistic Western Mysteries regard as an Elder Brother and as The Initiate) underwent when led by the Spirit (The Archangel of Key 14) into the desert. The first test deals with our hunger for material objects. At what point will we sell our souls in order to satisfy our hunger for things? How much of our inner gold will we tarnish in order to feel secure with many possessions? Our security must finally come to rest on the one prop (Samekh), the one support we always have, the Higher Self.

The second test is more subtle. It is the test of spiritual pride. In the Biblical telling of the initiation of Jesus, he was taken to the top of the Temple, symbolizing the very pinnacle of spiritual attainment. There, the Spirit tells him to jump, and to use his powers of consciousness to keep himself from being crushed

by the fall. If he had succumbed to this test, what would have been the purpose? What would he have really accomplished? In essence he would have exercised his spiritual powers in order to satisfy not the needs and burdens of humanity, but to satisfy his own pride when being confronted by temptation and doubt. Since the life of Jesus depicts the initiation of the Son of Man, he was tested for failings of which all human beings are capable. True spiritual humility comes from knowing that while we are the Children of God, we are also the Sons and Daughters of Mankind, capable of the same highs and lows. Realizing this, we can save ourselves from the devastating fall that comes directly after spiritual pride!

The third test has to do with power, and usually, money. Sooner or later we are all subject to the test of being able to tell others what to do. Perhaps we are millionaires with large retinues of servants and employees, or ministers of a large congregation, or maybe we are supervisors with only two or three people for whom we are responsible. The test will be the same regardless the size of our field of influence. Whether we fail or succeed will depend upon what it is we truly worship. Do we worship power, and exercising it over others, or do we worship the Higher Self dwelling within all human beings?

All of these tests serve not only to verify the growth and dependability of Its personality to the Self, they serve to verify we are growing and expanding within our own consciousnesses. When we see definite changes in our thoughts, feelings and activities as to the outcome of a trial, then we *know* the principles we have been reaching toward with our hearts and minds are valid and they do work. This establishes that we have attained a certain level of Initiation. No longer are Self and the Laws of Evolution purely intellectual conceptions or emotional feelings for us. They are things of which we may have direct verification. Initiation may symbolically occur within a mystical or occult Order, but it is by no means limited to that type of fraternal experience. The tests of initiation occur within consciousness, regardless of our outer affiliations. They take place

within our daily lives and in the choices we make concerning how we will express ourselves in everyday situations. In all of the tests there is one facet of our nature being continuously subject to the Intelligence of Probation and Trial for our own verification. It is the quality of our love nature which determines how fully we “pass” each test. Do we love material things? Do we love feeling our spiritual development is a personal attainment? Do we love people worshiping us? Do we love the power to have specific effects on people? Or do we love in a deeper, more all-encompassing manner?

Every test is an opportunity to develop our ability to love and *be of service* to humanity. Initiation does not lead us away from our fellow men and women, but, rather, confirms through experience we have the strength and the desire to bear and lift up the pains and burdens of Mankind. Our conscious aspiration brings to others a sense of hope, and an awareness of the beauty continually surrounding and supporting all lives. The Spirit leads us always, and will one day guide us to the incomparable joy of conscious union with the Indivisible One.



The Devil: Key 15

A quote from Voltaire aptly sums up both the surface impression given by Key 15, The Devil, and its deeper, more recondite meanings—"He who believes in absurdities, commits atrocities." Great truths lie within this statement, and, accordingly, it is why we must yearn not for what we want to hear, but for reality... no matter what that reality might turn out to be. The only valid liberation comes out of an ability and capacity to receive, to know, and to experience the Truth.

If we look to history we readily see that throughout the centuries of Mankind's existence, there have been those who have maimed, murdered and tortured in order to promote their narrow concept of truth. Unfortunately, their "truths" were, in reality, absurdities, and brought forth the consequent atrocities. The truth we can discover hidden within and underlying the appearances of the world requires actions exactly the opposite of those we have just mentioned.

The attributes of Key 15 are tools we may use to prepare us for discovery of the Divine Truth. They are (1) the Hebrew letter Ayin which stands for "the eye, as the organ of vision," (2)

the quality of Mirth, (3) the Path of Return entitled The Renewing Intelligence, and (4) the zodiacal sign of Capricorn.

Having "the eye as the organ of vision" assigned to The Devil, tells us this Key is related to the way we see the manifested world. And yet, the world is seen in almost as many ways as there are people! What is pulsing with beauty for one set of eyes, is throbbing with ugliness for the next set. How, then, are we to pierce through this veil of "manyness" and achieve true vision? We must develop a fluidity of perception and conception, and realize, as well, that what we see—what anyone sees—is interpreted not by what is out there, but by our own minds.

All our physical eyes see are the external aspects of a thing or situation. Since what we see is only an appearance, however, does not mean it is unreal. It is simply not the total picture. If we make judgments based on this partial picture, we cannot possibly arrive at reality.

The primary illusion in the realm of manifestation, and the one Key 15 portrays so well, is the illusion of separateness. Thinking of ourselves as separate beings in a world of other separate beings, leads to conduct based on that delusion. We act truly devilish! We think we can get (and have to get) the better of one another. We attempt to exploit each other in the very saddest of ways, and of course, we are the recipients of like conduct from others. All of this, and worse, occurs when we accept the appearance of "manyness" as proof of separation. When we begin to truly "see," however, we find just as our five, apparently separate, fingers are nevertheless dependent upon the one hand, so too, is every member of humanity dependent upon the One Life.

When the mind can correct what the eye sees, then you have the vision of the Emperor, Key 4. With correct vision we rule; with false or incomplete vision, we bind ourselves with the chains of Key 15, The Devil. Let us make an attempt at more complete vision right now. Using the mind to analyze, let us take a closer, more penetrating look at Key 15. Let us go beyond its frightening appearances, and "see" what is really

there. There is a goat's head, bat's wings, a donkey's tail and a human abdomen. He is truly a ridiculous and physically impossible conglomeration! How can we fear, then, such a silly creature?

This leads us to our second attribute, Mirth. Mirth is the ability to see the ridiculous and ludicrous, such as our friend in Key 15. When we cannot laugh, then we take it all very seriously and we become merely another sour face in the crowd. Without a sense of humor about our personalities and the world of appearances, we wear the chains of bondage shown in Key 15, and nothing but terror, fear and insecurity are available to us.

Key 15 shows us what our fears look like and points out that Mirth is one of the vital cures for this misapprehension. Laughter gives us the ability to put the appearances of this world in proper perspective. We laugh and enjoy, but we do not ignore the painful. We use our mirth to give us enough perspective so we may look into our problems, solve them and change them. Through true vision and the quality of Mirth, we learn to use the appearances of adversity as tools for our further growth and development.

The Path of Return assigned to The Devil is the Renewing Intelligence. Our greatest renewals always come out of the depths of our sorrows, terrors, and fears. Through pain, something deep within us is awakened, and we move toward a greater unity with life and the self. Sorrow and fear actually serve the Higher Self by awakening us to the need for something better: a better job, a better understanding, a better life, etc. Therefore, when we do analyze our problems, oft times referred to in the Mysteries as the Dweller on the Threshold, we pierce through and see the face of the Beloved, or Higher Self. Knowing there is beneficent purpose behind our pains, we can achieve the Renewing Intelligence with greater rapidity and a sense of security within.

Astrologically, Key 15 represents the sign of Capricorn. The driving force in all Capricorns is the need to express themselves on the physical plane. As with all forces, this can be done

constructively or destructively. The man and the woman shown in this Key symbolize our Capricornian nature expressed negatively, or destructively. If you look closely at where their feet should be, you will notice, they have hooves instead. This indicates the Piscean nature (Pisces rules the feet) has not been developed, thus, there is no mystical awareness, only materialism. Without mystical awareness, we can have no feeling for the unity of life, and consequently, we live the life of separatism. The horns on their heads are also an indication of the negative Capricorn expression. The head is always a representation of consciousness, therefore, horns would indicate they are using their attention, or consciousness, to view manifestation as though it were the full extent of reality, and the cause of all things. By so doing, they are making unhappiness for themselves (as opposed to mirth and joy) by blaming the "outside" for their injustices, lacks and corresponding state of bondage.

If we are to express our Capricorn nature positively, we must learn to see the reality and unity behind all forms of life, and to use our wonderful ability to laugh, to enjoy the appearances of this growing and changing world. In this way, we can make manifest, for ourselves and others, our perceptions of life and how to live it fully and joyfully.

The message of Key 15, The Devil, is since evolution is still in progress, we must use our sight to see this fluidity of movement. We cannot allow ourselves to become fixated in the appearances of negativity. We must learn to view them as necessary transitions leading us toward positive and constructive brotherhood and unity. The suffering of humanity the figures within this Key represent, comes as a result of seeing ourselves as separate from one another, and of seeing God as something separate and outside ourselves. The truth is that wherever any kind of consciousness is, there is God. The appearance of the world is not the reality. Appearances are the moving and shifting scenery of life, as we go about accomplishing the various tasks of evolution for and with God. This is the True Vision which the qualities of Key 15 can aid us to develop.



The Tower: Key 16

If we had to choose one word to sum up Key 16, The Tower, it would be “activity!” This Key represents not only a state of consciousness, but it is a statement pertaining to very specific activities of consciousness. These activities are occultly described in the attributions assigned to The Tower as (1) the Hebrew letter Peh meaning “the mouth,” (2) the state of consciousness termed Awakening, (3) the activity planet of Mars, and (4) the Path of Return entitled the *Exciting Intelligence*.

It is not difficult to see the correspondence of the Hebrew letter Peh, “the mouth,” to Key 16, if we look upon this Tower as a version of the original Tower of Babel. The Tower of Babel was built by people who thought God was a deity dwelling apart from them, in a physical location “up there.” The consequence of attempting to build a permanent structure to a separate God was their loss of communication with the indwelling God, and, thus, their communication with each other.

Communication is even a problem today—both with one another and with the Central Self. We misunderstand each other consistently and continuously via our words, because we

have not taken the time to determine what the other person will be receptive to hearing. Consequently, our use of speech becomes a wedge separating us from others. In addition, rather than listening ourselves for the Inner Voice, we are often busy allowing our minds to go round and round, incessantly chattering and babbling away with each go round! In these instances, our inner chatter actually blocks off our intellects from the Higher Mind. We must learn to use the power of speech to give expression to our recognition of the Self dwelling silently within ourselves and all others.

Unfortunately, yet another problem exists in our use of Peh, "the mouth." So often, we allow our words to describe—both in our minds and to others—the world of *outer* appearances. In so doing, we are actually telling subconsciousness we accept these appearances as the complete reality, and we, thereby, reinforce separatism. We must realize the power of the word works toward creating what it utters! Thus, as aspirants we want to exercise control over our words, which will then give us greater control over our powers of creativity.

Before we reach full management of our personalities, however, we pass through the seven stages of spiritual unfoldment. Key 15 represents the first stage of Bondage. Key 16 is a vivid image of the second stage of spiritual Awakening. To be awakened is to arouse consciousness from the darkness of non-awareness into the light of greater illumination. In Key 16, the lightning flash represents an act of arousal or illumination, *by the Higher Self*, upon the personality. The imagery of Tarot always uses a sun to symbolize the Vast Countenance or Consciousness of the Self, and herein the Self is seen casting a bolt of lightning upon the false crown of personal will. The personality is being awakened to the fact it is the offspring of God, that there is only One Will, and that is the Divine Will. The false ideas we hold concerning a separate, personal will, keep us isolated in our Towers of Babel. The second stage of spiritual unfoldment, Awakening, throws us out of the Tower and into the open air of the real "I Am."

We erect our towers of isolation because we believe in the delusion of separation. We wall ourselves in and wonder why, in the darkness, we seem to have lost our way. Eventually, we begin to have small yearnings to be free of the pains engendered by the darkness. Our bondage becomes evident, and, suddenly, we are struck by the lightning of the second stage of Awakening. For brief moments, at first (until we grow stronger), we realize there is no reality to separation. The Divine Life is not separate from Itself, but exuberantly expressing Itself in abundant and manifold ways. The Divine Life is not chaos. It is order and plan, and we are each a part of that Divine Plan. The illumination of the lightning flash awakens us to the Divine Will, to which we can align our "personal" will, eventually freeing us forever from the walls of isolation built by the delusion of separation.

The activity of Mars, also assigned to Key 16, relates to those actions we take to express our desires, or drives. Without reliance on the Divine Will, we feel the burden of accomplishment lies solely upon the personality, and anxiety, fears and worries will sweep in regarding our tomorrows. These insecurities awaken our sense of isolation and our Mars puts into action the results of such feelings. It will cause us to dwell in the Bondage of Key 15, for we will have falsely placed our security in the material world. We then erroneously feel that if we are to be secure, we must obtain a certain job, or a particular him or her, or large quantities of paper... we call money. Our deluded actions create storm after storm until the lightning flash finally shatters these false securities. Once Mars has destroyed the false, it is free to express and put into action the plans of the One Will. When we strive to become harmonious with the Larger Will, our activities reflect and express the force of the Divine Plan. Harmony with the One Will enables us to accomplish whatever needs to be done with a minimum of "storm-like" activity, and with a maximum of assurance in the desired outcome.

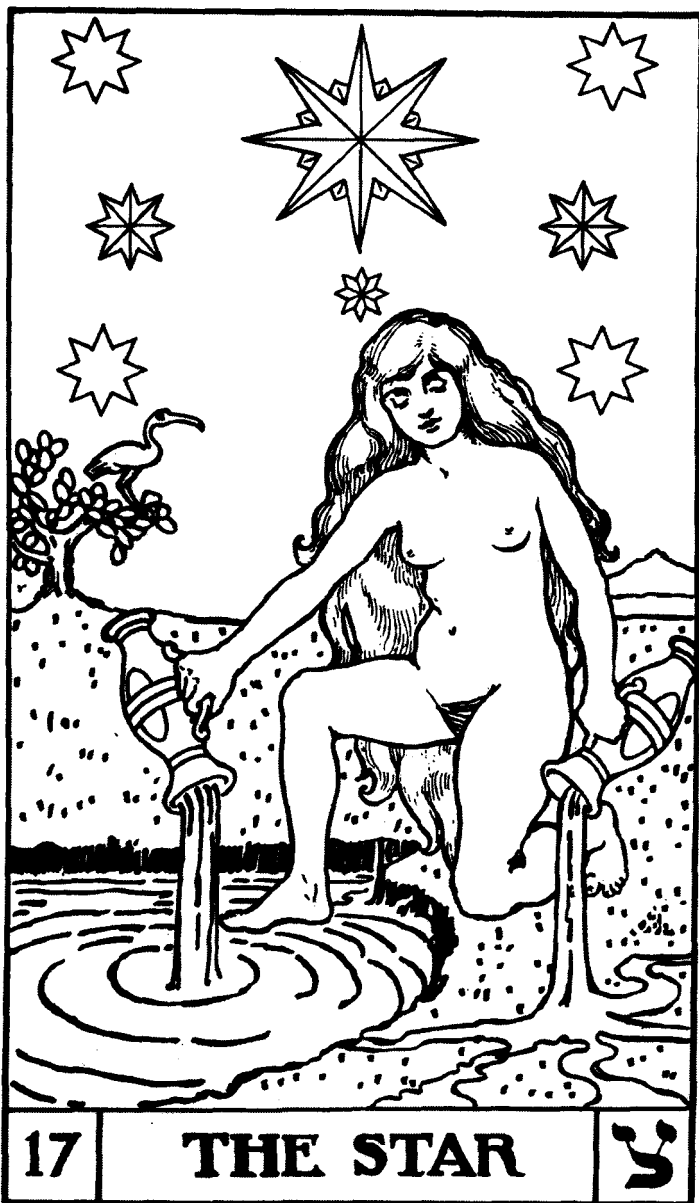
Destruction is a vital aspect of Key 16. The process of

destroying our old, false concepts regarding personal will and separation excites us into more positive activities, and for this reason, Key 16 is assigned to the Path of Return known as the Exciting Intelligence. Prior to awakening to the reality of The One, have not, in fact, the "storms" threatening the very foundation of our existence actually driven us to God? As our false concepts came tumbling down did we not find we had enough excitement, or energy, to suddenly want to study and aspire? Until the errors in our thinking and feeling have been dissolved, we cannot change. We cannot have a better condition unless we part with those older conditions bringing about our current states of discomfort, sorrow, or fear. The Exciting Intelligence makes way for growth and evolution by destroying outworn and invalid patterns.

In reality, there is beauty in the storms of the Exciting Intelligence, and as aspirants, we must learn to search for this beauty. We must learn to realize every storm is a *deliberate* effort on the part of the Higher Self to awaken the personality consciousness into an awareness of the unity in which we all, actually, dwell. We must let go of the false assumption and erroneous idea that God dwells only within the peaceful, "no questions/no problems" type of experiences. In fact, until we learn to maintain a constant aspirational drive, these periods of peaceful euphoria are simply lulling us into a hypnotic state of inertia. The storms illumine the darkness and remind us we must work at transmuting our immaturities and developing our personalities still further. They drive us to seek the shelter of Reality. These are the storms the Exciting Intelligence within us has created to awaken us from the false identification and false isolations we have projected into our life experience.

Every painful experience is a gift of the Exciting Intelligence. Thus, when storms brew, as they must, we can use this knowledge to *consciously* surrender the negative in us and that which is in need of change. In this manner, the illumination the Higher Self has prepared for us may enter our minds and hearts even faster. We will see the storm, too, is just as much a part of the

Divine Creation as any other type of experience. We can awaken to the fact that God is within us and around us always, and that with practice, our actions and our words can reflect the truth of unity.



The Star: Key 17

Key 17, The Star, is the exact opposite of the Key it follows, The Tower. Where Key 16 is filled with darkness, action and destruction, Key 17 is filled with quiet, peace and profound beauty. It is the ultimate image of the peace following the storm—whether that storm be on the outer or inner levels.

The use of two such opposing Tarot Key images reveals an important principle. If we are to experience true peace, we must undergo the destruction of our false towers of isolation. The nude woman of Key 17 is freed from the materialistic identifications represented by the clothing of the two figures in Key 16. She dwells under the canopy of the stars, open to the revelations of the cosmos. She may now experience Truth, and since each Tarot Key is a representation of the Self within each one of us, study of the attributions and imagery of Key 17 will enable each of us to develop greater receptivity to the Truth. Key 17 aids us to know the peace following the storm.

The attributes given to The Star are (1) the Hebrew letter Tzaddi, “the fish hook,” (2) the Path of Return entitled the

Natural Intelligence, (3) the astrological sign of Aquarius, and (4) the quality of consciousness called Meditation.

The assignment of Tzaddi, "the fish hook," to Key 17 indicates there is an important correlation between this Key and Key 13 which bears the Hebrew letter Nun, "the fish." Peace comes to us as the result of discovering, and, thus, knowing, what must be corrected in us to still the storm. Through meditation we can discover the wisdom principles to apply as corrective solutions to our problems. During meditation, our problem, or question, acts as the "fish hook." We cast our fish hook into the waters of consciousness, and seek the "fish" (Nun) of revelation. The fish may be large or small; the size of the revelation is not important. Attracting the creative image providing necessary "nourishment" for our consciousness at that time, however, is important.

Crucial to our reception and perception of the Truth is the lesson revealed earlier by Key 13, and again by Key 16. To receive revelation brought by meditation, we must become willing to die to our old selves, our old ways of thinking and feeling, and to our ignorant yesterdays. We must be willing to expose our consciousness to Reality free from the false clothing of the world of appearances. Our meditations must seek the truth regardless of whether or not that truth will destroy our personal ideas and assumptions regarding life, right and wrong, etc. Through accepting the principle of death and change we can achieve the peace of Key 17.

But what is meditation? We are told by certain schools of thought that meditation is very difficult and requires years of training before it may be accomplished properly. Still other schools of metaphysical training may give us an object or sound that is of little, if any, interest to us, and say, "Meditate that." Both of these are valid conceptions of meditation, but only in part. The Path of Return assigned to Key 17 gives us an important clue regarding meditation, for this Path is known as the Natural Intelligence. Meditation and revelation are natural modes of consciousness to a certain part of our natures, and

what we, as aspirants, must learn is *not how* to meditate, but *what have we been doing* with our powers of meditation.

Put simply, meditation is a focused concentration upon a subject of definite interest to us. When we are in love, we meditate upon the beloved. When we are in conflict with someone, we meditate upon our apparent antagonist. Meditation consciously undertaken to attain greater wisdom and understanding concerning our life experiences, however, requires the additional application of the principles and attributes expressed by Key 17. In this way, our meditations produce positive results, and ultimately, freedom from the pain and sorrow we have been creating for ourselves.

Exploring the assignment of Aquarius to The Star, Key 17, can give us further insight into achieving constructive meditations. Aquarius is the sign of universal tolerance, of brotherly love for humanity, and of consciousness expanded beyond the strictly personal. These are the attributes we must apply to our meditations.

Most of the time our meditations revolve around our problems. We ask, "Why was I fired from that job?" "Why did he or she leave me?," etc. These are external symptoms of the real problems, but the solutions will aid us in transmuting our personalities and correcting the negative patterns laying at the core. If we are to discover real solutions, we must ask ourselves what we are really seeking when we meditate. Do we want an answer or reason that will keep our own self-image and self-contemplation intact, or are we willing to let our idea of the smaller self go? If we are to receive a true solution, we must reach inward to the larger, Aquarian aspect of our being, and let go of our strictly personal images and our pride concerning them. Remember, the personality is but a part of our larger Self, and its growth problems are only reflections of its development. They are not reflections of our sum total, nor of our self-worth. Therefore, we really needn't cling to that false need to be "right." We can reach for the principle that will free us from the negative pattern, regardless of its effect on our personality, since we know only Truth liberates.

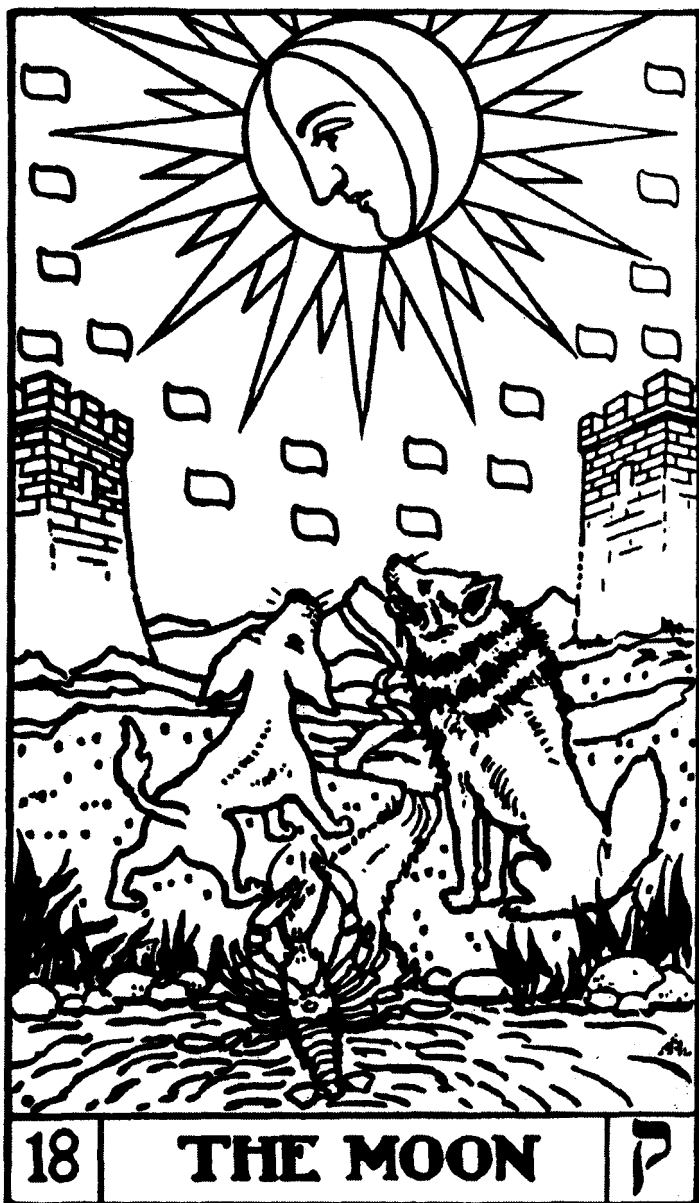
The humanitarian facet of Aquarius also brings into being the quality of benevolence. Proper meditation, therefore, must include benevolence, which is a sincere feeling of good will toward ourselves and whomever else will be affected by the changes brought about by meditation. Definite changes will occur in our lives because what we call the physical world is the *end result of consciousness*, and meditation changes the emotional/mental patterns of consciousness we project into manifestation. Naturally, then, we want our subconscious foundational patterns to be imbued with a benevolent quality, so the subsequent changes may be in harmony with the universal benevolence of Divine Justice.

With each revelation we receive, we enhance our evolution and our spiritual attainment. As developing members of the body of consciously awakened individuals, we will find our inner changes have brought about the privilege of having enlarged and enhanced areas of responsibility. We have opened our ears to the truth, rather than straining to hear what would only confirm our preconceived ideas. No longer do we try to insistently force the Mind Stuff into our desperate images of what must be. Consequently, the Mind Stuff now flows through us bearing with it the qualities of peace and wholeness. We are freed to function more and more as what we actually are—conscious Co-Administrators for the Creative Life.

In meditation, our consciousness turns inward and examines, from every angle, a particular subject of which we fervently desire to know. According to mystics and occultists throughout the ages, this is the same process—different only in degree—by which the Divine Mind meditates and sustains the universe. Thus, our seemingly personal meditations are actually a participation in the continual meditation of the Divine Mind. We participate and attune ourselves to the Center Within that knows no without.

Creation takes place through meditation at both the universal level and in our individual life experiences. Our habitual thinking and feeling are meditations continuously molding the shape

of our physical life and experience. To become that which we are, we must learn to take the attributes of Key 17 and hold them in our contemplations. "The peace that passeth all understanding" will be our reward, and illumination the gift we will have to share with all who come our way thereafter. Our creations will be one with the Creator, and those of the Creator an intimate part of our personal universe.



The Moon: Key 18

The intentional and primary impact we receive from looking at Key 18, The Moon, is of activities seemingly devoid of Mankind's intervention, or self-consciousness. The moon dominates the nighttime sky, and to it various creatures pay homage. We have evidence of Man, however, in the towers lying in the background, and in the well-worn, well-kept Path going from the water's edge to the far-off mountain peak. By developing this imagery and the Qabalistic attributions to Key 18 we will gain further insight into the hidden processes of nature and our subconscious: (1) its zodiacal correspondent is Pisces, (2) its Hebrew letter is Qoph meaning "the back of the head," (3) the Path of Return is the Corporeal Intelligence, and (4) it is related to the state of consciousness we call Sleep.

Astrologically, Key 18 is assigned to Pisces. Pisces rules the Twelfth House of self-undoing, institutions, and the hidden occult workings of the past into the present. How each of these meanings express themselves in our lives is related to the way we use our subconsciousness. As aspirants, we want to control our subconsciousnesses so that we are not our own undoing, so that

we may belong to and participate in institutions expressing a good for all, and that our interpretations of the past work for the conscious benefit of our present and future. To do this, we must gain knowledge about how subconsciousness operates in the establishment of our daily patterns. An increased understanding of how we express the qualities of Key 18 is an essential step in gaining such knowledge.

Pisces governs the feet, and our feet tread the Path of Return pictured in Key 18. Until now, we have but followed the path in its evolutionary stages from the waters of creation symbolized by the pool at the front of the Key, along that part of the journey traveled by all of life's creatures, to the towers of Mankind shown midway. Now, if we are to go beyond the towers and up to the mountain of spiritual attainment, we must begin to consciously guide our steps toward the Height.

Conscious participation along the Path of Return requires the application of knowledge contained in the Hebrew letter Qoph, "the back of the head," assigned to Key 18. Physiologically, the back of the head corresponds to the medulla oblongata, which is both part of the brain and the spinal cord, and actually serves as a mediating point between the higher, cognitive brain centers and the miraculous system of involuntary functions running the body; i.e., the heartbeat, breathing, blood circulation, assimilation of food, etc. At this point the imagery we hold regarding ourselves, life, and our life companions works its way into the bodily processes, cell structures, and finally, into the creation of a vehicle expressing what we image ourselves as being. As we learn to impress subconsciousness with conscious imagery, we move past the towers of man seen in Key 18, into the regions of the Path traveled only by Homo Spiritualis. Through the mediation of Qoph, "the back of the head," our aspiration actually becomes a tangible part of our physical vehicle, and we can consciously evolve the specialized body of the Adept and Master.

An important part of becoming consciously involved in our evolution is the realization that wherever we see form, we see

the Divine growing and experiencing Itself within a specific boundary. This is the boundary of the Corporeal Intelligence assigned to Key 18, The Moon. There are no forms which are **not** the result of the One Mind restricting and specializing Itself. All form is "born" from the vast sea of Subconsciousness in order to fulfill the Divine Purpose. Key 18 exemplifies this principle in the pool (subconsciousness) from which have emerged first the rocks or minerals, then the vegetation, followed by the early forms of biological life represented by the crustacean, and, finally, the animal kingdom. Man is absent from the picture since he has evolved as far as Nature alone will carry him. From here, his evolution depends upon using his self-conscious awareness to develop the subconscious processes making him the "more than Man," Homo Spiritualis.

Applying the Corporeal Intelligence to our personal lives is to realize every cell in our bodies is a living aspect of the Most High. We release ourselves from the delusion and limitation of believing the vehicle is "just a body," and open ourselves up to an identification with that which we really are. We can, then, consciously align ourselves with the Divine Purpose of our vehicles, giving us the privilege and opportunity of continuing and furthering our evolution.

Combining the principles of the Corporeal Intelligence with our realizations that evolution is as yet unfinished, we can also release what negatives we may hold toward our vehicle and its "imperfections." To complain about our vehicles only sends imagery and energy whirling into our very cellular structure via the medulla oblongata, or Qoph. Instead, we must hold to the thought that we are the Corporeal Intelligence of the One Life, and in time, our bodies will express this knowledge.

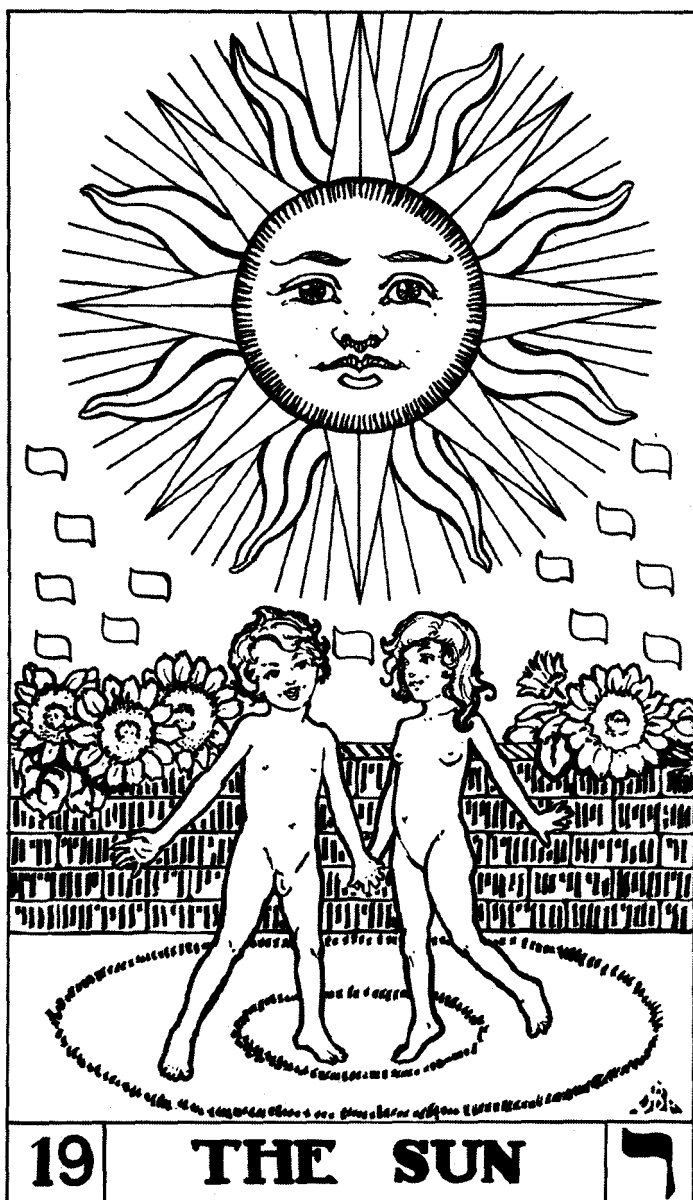
There is one other attribution vitally important for there being no human forms within this Key. A hint of this reason may be seen and felt in the nighttime sky which gives the impression events taking place are occurring in the deep, dark hours of the night. These are the hours when most human beings sleep, and sleep, along with the bodily organization occurring during sleep,

is one of the final attributions we will examine.

It is during sleep, when our normal, waking mind no longer supplies sensory and interpretive information to the body, that Qoph (the medulla oblongata) transforms the thinking, feeling and basic habitual patterns into the subconscious processes of the body. The imagery we have held most consistently throughout the day becomes an integral part of the cellular organization of the vehicle. Thus, our daily practices literally become a physical expression via that hidden manifestation of "livingness" we call Sleep. This is the way the pup becomes a dog, the cub a wolf, the student of piano a concert pianist, and the aspirant an Adept.

Our bodily forms are the physical expressions of our patterns. They are the highly organized manifestations of those incarnational experiences held in consciousness so long they have formed living patterns within our vehicles. Every function we perform subconsciously, today, was once something laboriously worked upon by self-conscious intelligence. Conversely, every emotional, mental or physical quality we consciously strive to develop today will, in time, become a part of our subconscious nature.

What we are today is then, in truth, a reflection of the Immortal Self—albeit a growing, developing aspect of that Self. Like the Moon shining via the light of the Sun, our bodies are a reflected, corporeal envelopment of the light of the Self. They are the reflection back to our self-consciousness of our growth and evolution. They are the miraculous means by which we travel the Path of Return to the One, bearing as our gift to the Creator, the conscious knowledge of our oneness with Life and the Life-Giver.



19

THE SUN



The Sun: Key 19

With Key 19, The Sun, we move from the velvety dark subconscious “livingness” of the Moon into the full, brilliant sunlight of conscious awareness. It is a movement indicating further completion of the spiritual aspirant’s growth toward identification with the Central Self. The organization of new truths revealed through meditation (Key 17), into the cellular structure of the physical body (Key 18) has occurred, and the aspirant is now able to express—on a conscious level—his or her new understanding of Life.

The prominence of the Sun in the imagery of Key 19 corresponds to three of the Qabalistic attributions assigned to it: (1) astrologically, this Key represents the Sun of our solar system, (2) it is given the Hebrew letter Resh, “the head, or face,” and (3) its particular Path of Return is known as the Collective Intelligence. The fourth attribution of Regeneration is related most particularly to the children.

The sun as a heavenly body is a brilliant, warm, illuminating reminder that there is light and life imbuing our existence at all times. The physical radiations of the sun are actually like an

ocean of light surrounding and permeating our entire planet. We quite literally live within the sun. We cannot separate ourselves from these radiations, nor live outside of them. Were it not for the sun, there could be no life form higher than the mineral kingdom on our planet. We can correctly say, therefore, the sun has given life to the higher, more complex forms, providing consciousness with a proper vehicle for its evolution toward full Self-awareness.

The Sun of Key 19 is more than just a radiant physical orb, however. The Sun of the Western Mystery's Tarot bears a face, intimating that the physical sun is the outer form of an inner reality. Until now, our senses have been developed to focus most specifically upon the world of appearances and sensations. This has been a necessary limitation for the evolution of our self-consciousness. The thrust of our *spiritual* evolution for this present age, however, is toward the development of discriminating inner senses and awareness of the living consciousness pervading, dwelling within, and impelling the creation of every outer form. Tarot Key 19, The Sun, is one of the tools provided us by the earlier Masters and Adepts to aid subconsciousness in changing outworn, separative patterns into ones reflecting the truth that the Divine Life and Consciousness are the inner reality of *every* form.

The face on the Sun of Key 19 is a token of this inner consciousness, and also, of its connection with the Hebrew letter Resh. Resh means "face," but it has the additional meaning of "head." The head is that part of the physical body wherein we experience our thinking. It contains the brain, the organ enabling us to express and experience the cognitive faculties, or self-consciousness. Through the correct use of consciousness' thinking ability, those capable of becoming forerunners and participants in the Brotherhood of Man come to consciously realize the inner reality of what Man is, as opposed to what he seems to be. The Resh of Key 19 represents the growing ability in Mankind for our self-consciousness to be *Self-consciousness*.

Growth toward true Self-awareness requires the additional

qualities represented by Key 19's Path of Return, the Collective Intelligence. The term "collective" in reference to the Sun—normally considered a radiating or giving-out body—shows the deep wisdom that belonged to those who devised the Tarot many hundreds of years ago. Today, science knows that long before a star or a sun may exist, it must first be a center within a body of gas and dust that starts *collecting* from the space around it, and gradually—ever so gradually—compresses these space particles to such a degree they, then, burst into thunderingly awesome bodies of light. According to Qabalah, there is only one cause for that initial center of collection and compression, and that is consciousness. In our personal lives we must use this principle of compression if we are to learn to express and manifest our own center of Light. We must learn to concentrate, putting our minds into focused states of compression, upon the inner truths and principles of life. Following a disciplined course as provided by a true Mystery School is the best means of learning to collect our consciousness toward the Center, and then we can radiate out from this Center as a source of beneficence and knowledge to all in sincere need.

Until we learn how to use the Collective Intelligence positively, however, there is but the collection of darkness. If we view life from the perspective of appearances only, where only the material has worth, we are in a state of darkness indeed. Our estimation of self-worth is, then, based solely upon materialistic values. Are we beautiful enough? Are we famous enough? Do we have enough money? Does our employment give us enough status? To esteem only the outward appearance, without consideration of inner development, is to live in loneliness and fear. There is always someone who appears to have more than we, and our reaction to this is a collection of even greater insecurity and anxiety.

When we take our evolution in hand, and learn to see the inner reality behind and within every outer form, we change all this negativity. We bring about a positive physical expression of the Collective Intelligence within our own bodies. As we dis-

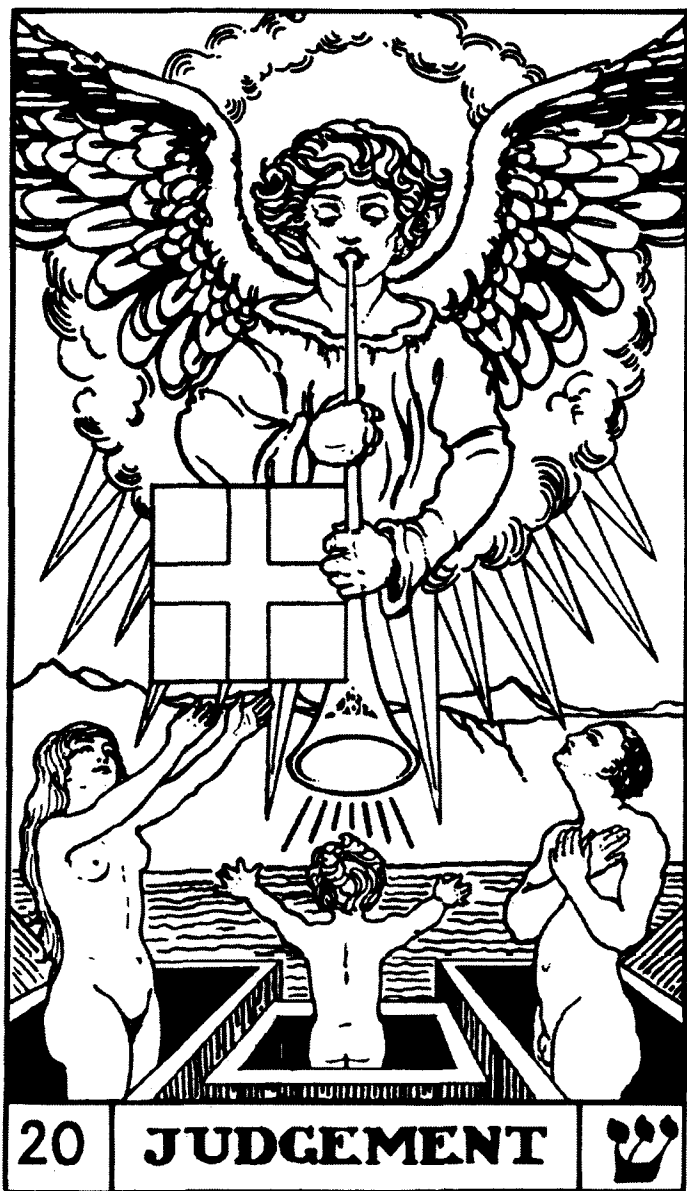
cussed in regard to Key 18, The Moon, our thinking and feeling literally become part of our cellular structure which is in a constant state of change. Old cells are dying and being washed out of the body, and new ones are being created to take their place daily. It is due to this ever-present cellular alteration that we can, in point of fact, transmute those parts of our body which have been holding onto old, negative ways of thinking and feeling. Since we consciously strive for more enlightened ways of expression, our newly created cells become more and more refined. We actually collect around our Central Essence a vehicle more and more expressive of the wisdom and understanding of the higher, Superconscious levels of being.

The prepubescent children of Key 19 are images representing the regeneration that occurs as the result of the positive use of the Collective Intelligence. "Truly, I say to you, unless you change and become like little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3, from The Peshitta, The Authorized Bible of the Church of the East, translated by George M. Lamsa.) For those members of Mankind who have learned to use their minds to collect for themselves more refined, light-bearing realizations of the true Source of life and myriad expressions of that Source, the darkness of appearances dissipates. They dwell consciously under and within the Sun. These are the children of Key 19, the "new born," and the regenerated. No longer are they trapped within the confines of a materialistic philosophy. They have, instead, let that illusion die, and have been physically, mentally and emotionally reborn into a greater freedom.

The Regenerating Consciousness knows, too, the One Life is always in movement, and thus, *nothing* is ever the same. Life is a living expanse of constant motion with every moment literally containing some new sight, sound or perception. Heightened awareness such as this comes not as the result of some miraculous intervention, but through the practice of compressed, and focused attention, looking for the new in even the most seemingly mundane of our daily activities. By practicing what is

essentially a new ritual of attunement to the higher realities for and with our self-consciousness, we come to know in ever fuller measure the positive excitement of creative awareness.

The spiritual aspirant who grows into the ability to wholly express Key 19 is self-illuminating like the Sun. He or she has fulfilled a destiny evolution holds ahead for all of us. When enough of us have reached that stage in the Divine Purpose, then the darkness holding a part of the world in bondage will be dispelled by the radiance emanating from the heart of a regenerated humanity. The Age of Brotherhood will come into being, and like the scaffolding for the Temple torn down at its completion, so too, will the structures of separatism come down and reveal the Light of the One shining forth in multi-rayed splendor.



Judgement: Key 20

For the spiritual aspirant, Key 20 represents the penultimate step from Homo Sapiens to Homo Spiritualis. The barriers to the Adytum, or the Inner Temple, have been dissolved, and one can now see clearly the Inner World that is the substance and foundation of the Outer. While for most of us this state of being still lies in the future, we can prepare for the experience by increasing our knowledge of the attributes assigned to Key 20, Judgement: (1) its Path of Return is called the Perpetual Intelligence, (2) the Hebrew letter is Shin which is ascribed to Fire (Shin has more than one meaning, but this treatise will discuss only the particular attribution of Fire), (3) the quality of consciousness expressed when Key 20 becomes a reality for us is Realization, and (4) its representative within the solar system is the planet Pluto.

The Perpetual Intelligence is expressed in part by the three human figures standing in the coffins. Please note this is the only Tarot Key in which more than two human figures appear, for this symbolizes an important difference in consciousness. The man represents our self-conscious mind. The woman is our

subconscious, and the child is the *new* personality created by the forces of regeneration expressed in the previous Key, number 19. The new personality will no longer be subject to the illusions of the world of appearances. Instead, attention is clearly focused on the perpetual, everlasting reality behind all appearances.

In a fully colored Key 20, the skin of the three people is grey to represent the harmonious unification that has taken place between the pairs of opposites. The coffins, symbolizing the limited world of three dimensions, are open to show the individuals stepping out of physical limitation and into the real Fourth Dimensional awareness of the true Self. The adults portrayed herein are the children of Key 19 come of age. Their maturity and resulting harmony have effectively produced a new personality that knows itself to be an aspect of the Life that always was, is and will be. Such knowledge is symbolized by the child turned toward the archangel overhead, the real You or Self behind and within every personality. This, then, is essentially what Fourth Dimensional awareness is—knowing we are not just our bodies, our thoughts, or our emotions (all represented by the coffins), but that these are the expressions of Who and What we really are. Knowing our true Center, however, brings in another never-to-be-forgotten experience: we become consciously immortal, and are able to hold this awareness as a perpetual reality in our daily lives. True, our bodies must eventually expire, but we do not, and cannot.

The ability to rise from the coffins of mortality into the perfect freedom of immortality is also a result of the maturity of a soul completely accepting the Divine Will in every life circumstance. In Key 20, the Hebrew letter Shin is indicative of this principle. Shin refers to the Divine Source behind the occult element of Fire. Fire is Superconsciousness, and when in conjunction with Shin, it is a distinct reference to the entrance and expression of Superconsciousness incarnate, the physical plane life.

We are all led to the experience of Shin, or the Divine Will, via the repercussions coming about as a result of believing

“will” has its source within the personality. These repercussions eventually enable us to perceive that the easiest way of achieving what we desire, or have set as a goal, is to accept there is but One Will, and it is useless to fight against what is our own special Divine Purpose. Such a perception enables our consciousness not only to receive the guidance of the Most High more readily, but to be increasingly aware of that guidance. As we hold ourselves in states of grateful receptivity to the Directing Will, we realize ever more completely the Divine Volition is, and has actually always been, an integral, quiet force within our being.

The quality of consciousness ascribed to Key 20 is Realization, defined as the act or process of becoming real. We realize, as we are able to express Key 20 in our lives, that we and all others are one with the One Life... *really* one. This is portrayed in the Key by the image of the coffins floating, or being supported, upon an ocean which, if you recall, is always a symbol for the Mind Stuff of God wherein we all dwell. No longer does the darkness of separation bury us in coffins of ignorance, for we have gained the wisdom to know Oneness is real.

In consequence of realizing our oneness, we are able to make proper judgments as indicated by the title of this Key. A judgment is a definitive decision implying reasoning ability. Good judgments, decisions and reasoning are results of being able to see in a manner other than through the limited data of the strictly materialistic, or three-dimensional world of appearances. The spiritual aspirant, practicing the principles of Key 20, bases his or her personal decisions, or judgments, upon the realization that the real cause of All is the Divine Will. Whatever the situation or experience laying before the aspirant, it is a reflection of the Divine Volition. The more aware we are of that Will, the more we attune our judgments and subsequent reactions to the most positive expression of the larger Desire for Good. We do not base our judgements upon the false idea that some person or situation is against us. The one that seems to be our opponent may be incapable of moving in harmony with the evolu-

tionary drive to Brotherhood at the moment, but we needn't allow such situations to arouse our hostility. Our reactions, therefore, needn't be based upon an idea such as "you are the enemy and I must hurt you." Instead, we should hold to the realization of our oneness, attune ourselves to the Divine Will, and reach for the guidance enabling us to work for the greater good. The solutions which come as the result of practicing Fourth Dimensional awareness will always serve the forces of Wisdom and Understanding, and will display a proper balance of severity and mercy.

As we accept and take into ourselves the thoughts and ideas of Unity with all of Life, we work more and more at actually bringing them into manifestation for the world. We work, then, not only for our own evolution, but for the evolution of humanity. These are the central elements of the attribution of Pluto to this Key, and what its expression means to spiritual aspirants.

Pluto is the Mars vibration, but at a higher octave or rate of oscillation. It is the Martian force of destruction breaking down the errors of false knowledge, but at an even more intense level of manifestation. Mars expresses its force in a personal manner, whereas Pluto is more expressive in and of humanity as a whole. Thus, what Pluto accomplishes is felt, eventually, throughout all of Mankind since it is the force of the Divine Will to accomplish the realization of unity.

Sooner or later each human being must take up the conscious utilization of Pluto's drive to fulfill the evolutionary plan. Otherwise, we are at the mercy of explosive Plutonian forces of change that sweep through humanity periodically, bringing with them the fears and acts of violent resistance that arise in response to change. Practitioners of the principles of Key 20, however, realize change is nothing to fear. Change is the inevitable movement of the forces of Life toward greater wisdom, compassion and Self-awareness for all. It is the liberating motion away from the illusions of separation and death, toward the realization of the immortality of the Self Within. To consciously align ourselves with the beneficence of change enables

us to keep our perspective throughout any outer storms, and to project the peace of sure knowledge and faith in the future of our fellow men and women. Utilizing Pluto on a conscious basis is to become an active participant in the service of the Light, and to bring hope and meaning into our own lives as well as the awakening inner life of Mankind.

Homo Spiritualis is the joyous state awaiting us all. As we become living expressions of the Fourth Dimensional experience, we can aid in dispelling the dark imprisonment of belief in appearances, and bring freedom to a world suffering under the bonds of a false mortality. Through the Divine Will we come to know Who and What we are, and we live in the perpetual realization of the Inextinguishable Fire giving us life now and always.



21

THE WORLD



The World: Key 21

With Tarot Key 21, The World, we come to the apparent end of the journey begun by The Fool, Key 0. We have left the heights whence we began our travels along the Paths of Return, and fully descended from Superconsciousness into The World. But certainly this is not a picture of the world as most of us see it! Instead of the wearisome burdens and laborious toiling so many of us associate with our worldly life, we have here a woman dancing on air, dressed in a beautifully uninhibited fashion. She is the ultimate expression of the freedom those who practice the principles of Key 21 come to know and joyfully experience.

There are four particular aspects of these principles we will consider: (1) the planet Saturn, (2) the special Path of Return called the Administrative Intelligence, (3) Key 21's quality of awareness, Cosmic Consciousness, and (4) the Hebrew letter Tav meaning "the mark, or signature."

Amongst astrologers, Saturn is referred to as the planet of limitation, and the majority of them regard it as also being synonymous with bondage, restriction and all things negative.

Astrologers following the Western Mysteries, however, have come to a far different realization. They see limitation as a prelude to all freedom. It is the beneficent expression of the creative organization of the Universal Mind, and it represents the vast difference between chaos and order.

By observation of the heavens, the earth, the seasons, nature and her kingdoms, we see everything has its rules, regulations and limitations. Every form of life, from the mineral kingdom up through the abundant varieties of plant, insect and animal life, follows a specific evolutionary order. So, too, the evolution of Man is due to constant interplay between the pairs of opposites within the rules and regulations regarding human physical life. The creation of the human vehicle has occurred because physical life follows definite patterns of evolution. Further, these laws have allowed for the capacity within *Homo Sapiens* for self-consciousness to develop; for awareness of what is surrounding us to arise; for perception of consequences to unfold; and for the wondrous ability to become conscious of our imagery. Through this last ability we can begin to make sentient use of the Saturn principle.

Without the proper use of limitation upon our field of imagery we suffer the consequences of our own lack of control. We can become enslaved by our own emotions, attitudes and concepts, and this, in turn, can put us in a state of bondage to people who actually devolve us instead of helping us to evolve. Using the Saturn principle of limitation wisely, however, we may begin participating in the Administrative Intelligence in all the many areas of our lives. We learn to focus inwardly; to analyze and look beyond the outer circumstances until we see the principle behind the problems we have been experiencing.

Still, there is a value to bondage only those of us who have experienced it can come to know. Only after we have been imprisoned by our own self-created chaos can we come to yearn for and to value real freedom. Our sorrows teach us freedom is not the license to do as we please. Freedom is the opportunity we have as individuals of accepting and fulfilling

our responsibilities, and our greatest freedoms come from accepting responsibility for the images we allow ourselves to hold in consciousness.

Life on the physical plane, or world, teaches us discipline over our imagery. When we do not place specific limitations upon our imagery, either through lack of knowledge or lack of desire, then we force the One Life to discipline or restrict us through the unpleasant consequences we create for ourselves. In fact, there are even times when our irresponsibilities can become painful consequences and burdens for those close to us as well. Thus, if we are to have control over our lives, if we are truly to administrate our destiny, and be sources of support and inspiration for others, then we must assume responsibility for what we allow ourselves to think and feel and do. Becoming conscious participants in the Administrative Intelligence gives us the freedom to apply our own limitations, and we no longer need the same degree of restriction applied to us by Life.

Limitation and administration are also aspects of meditation. Real meditation involves the focusing and confining of consciousness inward to a central point or question. It is at this central point that our waking consciousness can touch upon, and be touched by, the Self. When we have reached that point in our evolution, where the Self can completely encompass the personality during this "touch," we will experience what has been called Cosmic Consciousness. Simply expressed, (although this is verbally an indescribable experience) our meditation focuses and centers to such an extent that we become one with the Divine Meditator whose meditation creates, sustains and administrates the universe. All sense of separation ends. There is only the blissful, peaceful and loving state of indivisible oneness with The Only One.

Cosmic Consciousness, which is absolute freedom from the delusions of separative existence, is, therefore, the result of being able to absolutely limit, restrict and focus our imagery; to know completely that which we are, always have been, and always will be. But is this the End, the ultimate goal? No. We

have attained a height, and mountaintop, so to speak, but, like The Fool, we must venture again into the valley of experience to learn to carry this state of consciousness with us wherever we go and point the way along the Path to other souls seeking their return to the Self.

As we venture forth (after this holy meditational union), there is no discernible difference in our appearance to those who look only with the outer eyes. To those with any degree of inner awareness, however, all such Knowers bear the indefinable "mark" of consciousness that has been expanded to a direct knowledge of the One dwelling in the All. That "mark" is the Hebrew letter Tav.

The words "mark" or "signature," which are the meanings of Tav, correlate with the word "Atah" through the Qabalistic system of assigning a numeral value to each Hebrew letter. Atah means "Thou" or "to Thee" and is actually the Central Reality of Tav. Thou is that One who is within every being. This center, within each one of us, is the core of peace we perceive in Cosmic Consciousness. It is the very essence, also, of the Administrative Intelligence, since it is from this Center that all events are calmly ordered. When we meditate properly, and when we focus and limit our consciousness, we become identified with the true "I" at our center. "Thou art I, and I am Thee, in all the ways of my life now and forever."

And finally, we come to dancing, because (as you will notice) the central figure in Key 21 is a dancer. The most beautiful and impressive dances are always choreographed. They are formed and given shape by someone administering the dance. Once the correct steps or movements are learned, the dancer moves in a flowing freedom giving rapture to both the dancer and those observing the dance.

We, and our movements in life, are not so very different from the dancer described above. Once we learn the laws of consciousness and imagery, we may move in joyous harmony with the orchestrated music of the universe in which we dwell. In choreographing our actions, thoughts and emotions in accor-

dance with the rules and regulations of the dance of evolution, we become truly free. We become both that which is evolving and co-administrator of the Universal Source of all evolution.

—oOo—

Inspirational Poetry



by
Rev. Ann Davies

—oOo—

*In Dedication to You, who awakened in me the ability to live
with poetry, bathe in beauty, smile with Life.*

I could not escape.
Longing stalked my footsteps in the night.
I fled to other arms—but found they were your own.
The brooklet knew your name.
I heard its whisper on the wind.
I saw your face in every pool,
Limpid and still.
And, when I found that I could taste the fragrance of your
breath in every bloom,
Could see your radiant eyes beholding me from every star.
Could feel your longing call to me from distant hills,
Sorrow merged with wonderment.
Contentment walks with me.
Where are you not?



Together

Blessed the day that brought you
 To the Temple we share Within;
 Holy the Spirit that shaped you,
 Formed us as kith and kin.
 Treasured the Life that bore us
 To partake of the Limitless Light;
 Yes, wondrous the Peace that awaits us
 As we float through the velvety night.
 Guided out of that night,
 Would you climb to beckoning heights?
 would you taste the utter delight of your Soul?

Come then... my sister... my brother,
 With songs of praise all the Way,
 To the haven of THAT which unites us,
 Guides... protects... and awakes us,
 To the LOVE that can never forsake us!

See? Now... united together,
 We are ever... forever... together,
 ONE with the other...
 and GOD.

I Pray

I pray... I pray...
That Thou wilt teach me how to say,
"Thy Will... be done."

For out of the depths of Thy Living Flame,
Again... and again... and again, I came;
Out of a newly risen sun,
To search... to seek...
Again, to know
That Inundating sparkling glow,
As Heaven's breath
O'ertakes each death
To blow its sting away.

Ah, yes... I pray...
That I may welcome twilights deep
As but a pause... a gentle sleep;
To know Thy Will in all my ways,
That I may hold Thy golden days
In hands that touch each sacred hour
As scented, fragrant, tender flower.
For this I pray...
I pray... I pray.

The Eternal Harvest

When harvest comes
To carpet the field of life
 With its golden glow...
 It is good to know
That Thou hast sustained me
 In the ebb and flow...
 of my yesterdays.

How oft' has the seed of me
 Been born anew...
Roaming the mists of time
 Through glistening dew
 of future dawns
Until at last
Thy love has held me fast
 For harvest's gain!

And now my Ancient Soul...
Returned to Thee,
Nurtured by sunsets of Eternity,
 Goes forth with seed.

Fulfilled! Fulfilled!
I come to fill the need
 Of these... Thy children.

I Know Thee Well

Who are thou that cometh like a liquid flame?

I am consumed.

Who art thou whose voice whispereth in my heart?

I listen.

Who art thou whose eyes sweep me into infinity?

I gaze.

Who art thou whose touch openeth the gates of unity?

I melt.

Ah yes!

My soul... my soul!

Thou hast come to dwell in me,

And I in thee.

I know thee well.



L.V.X.

May Light be extended upon you,
 Throughout you—
 In and About you;
 May your Light never fade—
 May it always pervade you.
 May my love spark your heart
 Into flame ever brighter
 Below and above you,
 Becoming a part of your life
 Resurrected, Renewed and perfected.
 May Light be extended upon you...



Abide In Me

Soft—so soft the breeze upon my cheek,
Is it the breath of my beloved?
You seem so far, and yet
How can that be?
Soft—so soft the washing of my soul,
You inundate my heart,
Your flowing emanations—permeate—
Abide in me.



Giving Thanks

To Thee, Oh Lord, I sing my song of gratitude...
For eyes to see the flashing flames of Glory sprinkled 'cross
the skies,
For ears to hear the melody of Life...
Thy symphony of love,
For tongue to savor prayerfully the bounty of Earth's harvest.

Ah the miracle! The miracle!
To inhale the fragrance of Thy breath in wind and storm,
To touch the garments of Thy opalescent forms.

What wealth Thou hast bestowed on me
Oh Thou, Lord of All, of earth and star
and creature great and small.

To Thy Life in me and mine in Thee...
I sing.

Destiny

If thy soul, O my beloved—seeks a lotus like unfoldment,
Rich expansion in its growth,
And seeking, wanders far—nor can retrace its steps,
But needs must dip its all within consuming flame,
Though my heart partakes—absorbs thy pain with thee,
As the fragrance and the flower remain yet one,
Still would my heart refrain
 From holding thee from what thou wilt.

The tides must ebb and flow for thee and me.
Nor can the cool, still tranquil waters of my soul
Quench the flame.
The march of Destiny enfolds its own
 With tenderness,
Nor ought can hold.
Though writ in blood, end from beginning known—
Our paths must merge, and merging
 Seek yet further rock strewn shores
 Again.

Spirit of Thy Love

Oh Thou, who sent me forth
To live in Thee...

I breathe the perfumed
Spirit of Thy Love!

Sweet is the earth that carries me
Through star-specked seas
of Heaven.

Blessed the fruit of "livingness"
Thou givest me for leaven.

Rejoice, oh Creation...

Lift heart and sing!

Shout, sons of God, as together
We bring Him our praise!

Oh Thou, Who shares with me
The Living Essence of Thy mystery...

I breathe the perfumed Spirit of
Thy Love!

Breath of God

Tenderly... tenderly...
Wafts the Breath of Heaven
Through the Heights and the
depths of my Soul!

Fragrant and sweet
Is the nurturing Spirit...
Perfumed and honeyed,
Feeding the call of thy Heart.

Assuage, then, thy hunger
My darling... my loved one,
Receive Life's abundance,
Sacred and hallowed,
Golden-glowed rich in the Sun.

I am the Breath that inhales
thy exhalings...
Thine are the waters
That wash on my shores;
Unity... love is our
Oneness with God
Through dawn's subtle waking,
Partaken... Partaking...
My days and my nights
Are eternally yours...

How?

How can I speak of that which dwells
 within the soul?

Women bow their heads,

Men walk in fear,

 And children weep—

How lift the burden— still the fears—

 Wash away the tears

 of innocents?

How?



Messenger of Love

I have a messenger of love for you
It's angel-wings brush your eyes—
 Softly—tenderly.
It's angel-arms embrace your soul.
And gently in the lull of sleep
You will be wafted into realms of slumberous
 repose
Where I await you.
Good-night my dearly beloved
We meet in slumber-land
To greet each other in the dawn
Of nights mysterious being.



How Sweet Is Thy Essence

O Thou Lord of Life, How sweet is Thy essence,
 Thy fragrance.
 Give me the depth of Thy breath.
 I open wide my soul... to receive Thy love
 That I may send it forth on its journey... into Thy heart.
 How sweet the aroma of Thy breath.
 Where came the breath of My Lord?
 Did it grow on the mountain top?
 Did the pine needles give it its strength?
 Does the warmth of the Sun give it its flavor?
 It is the love, the Infinite... breathing itself
 Into all things... all space.
 O Lord of Life... how sweet Thy breath in my nostrils.
 Let me inhale Thee in the honeysuckle.
 Let the lilacs speak Thy name.
 Receive me... O Thou Creator... in the fragrance of the rose.
 I gazed upon a star... and gazed into the soul of the Infinite.
 I was thirsty... and Thou didst give me to drink
 Of the living waters of Thy dew.
 From the heavens came I forth... from the journeys
 of the Infinite.
 I was thirsty and cried aloud... and Thou didst hand to me
 a cupful.
 Held my hand... and I felt Thy fingertips pouring
 the liquid gold
 Of liquid color... to quench my thirst.
 "O give me beauty. Give me beauty"... I did cry...
 Into what I thought was an empty sky...
 and lightening flashed!
 Brilliance decked with diamonds and sapphires

Rubies, amethysts, pearls from the limpid waters.
"Beauty. Give me Beauty" I did cry.
And there it was... washing my brow, stroking my hair,
Caressing me, pervading me.
And then so soft a whisper, "Look O child,
Gaze upon my soul. Open thine eyes.
Here I am. I belong to thee and thou to me.
Beauty is here... learn to see.
And I shall walk by thy side... now and forever more."
Amen.

