

LESSON 24

THE FIFTEENTH PATH

'The 15th Path is the Constituting Intelligence, so called because it constitutes the substance of creation in pure darkness, and men have spoken of the contemplations; it is that darkness of in Scripture, Job xxxviii.9. "and the thick darkness a swaddling band for it".'

The entire aspect of the above text relates to the creation of life in the chaotic darkness of space. Though it does not say it outright, it refers to the development of light and heat where there was none. The darkness or void in this instance becomes a womb so that creation goes through a gestation period hence the reference to Job. The definition of the word constitute in Websters Dictionary is to compose or elect: setup or establish. This of course is recognised as the first principle of development.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Heh and is shown as HH which has a numerical value of 10. By Gematria other meanings are determined, such as GBH meaning "elevated, exalted, high", or DAH meaning to "soar." Both of these phrases denote height, the position of the ancient windows in the Hebrew temple; and also the position as part of the name YHVH. Heh as a window had a main feature, to let in light, and as such has certain esoteric considerations.

de'Olivet says that Heh as a letter is a symbol of universal life. It represents the breath of man, air, spirit and soul: that which is animating and vivifying. As a grammatical sign, it expresses life and the abstract idea of being. It is, in the Hebraic tongue, of great use as an article.

The Tarot card of this Path is the Emperor. Here we have supreme authority from which all under his rule bow to. He is energy personified and also shows mercy along with his aggressive tendencies, illustrated by the lamb under his feet. To many he is life itself as his word carries the power of both life and death. He is the masculine dynamic force exercising his right to exist. He is more than a king, he is the emperor-priest in charge of his subjects' spiritual and physical well being. The Emperor is the conqueror who shows victory and the negative aspects of rule that go along with it.

The Egyptian godform of this Path is Men Thu, who is often depicted wearing a head-dress with a falcon's head, solar disk and a uraeus-serpent with two large plumes. He was a warrior god of war (often shown with a sword) and an aspect of the sun god Amen Ra and was also sometimes called Menthu Ra and Mont. in later epochs he was shown with a bulls head. Legend has it that he was once king of Mermonthis (Upper Egypt). Ra tried to adopt Mont, his former rival, but the god preferred his present dwelling and took the attitude that it was better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.

The Greek association here is Athene and the Roman version is Minerva. Mythology tells that Minerva sprang fully armed from the head of Jupiter. She was not only a goddess of war but wisdom and all the arts as well. Her prowess was formidable to say the least and she was known to hurl thunderbolts, bestow long life and give prophecy. She was an extremely powerful goddess and almost equalled Jupiter in power and stature. It is said that she aided the voyage of the Argonauts in navigation. As a war goddess she was often shown with warrior helmet and plume and shield with the severed head of Medusa painted on it and armed with a spear.

The astrological sign linked to this Path is Aries and is depicted by a ram's horns which shows its aggressive head-butting nature tempered by its single-mindedness. An Aries person is a dynamic individual full of drive and the urge to get ahead no matter what level of work they are in. They are creative people who are constantly striving for something new and have a strong authoritarian approach to life in general and are extremely impulsive along with it. The Arians are the individuals who have the need to win at everything they turn their hand to. The key words to their success are willpower and decisive action.

The constellation of Aries is the ram or lamb as it has been sometimes depicted and is called TLH (Telah) in Hebrew while its Arabic counterpart is Al Hamal meaning the gentle sheep. Its ancient Akkadian name was Baraziggar which roughly translated means the sacrifice of the righteousness (from Bar meaning

sacrifice and ziggur meaning righteous). The whole ancient concept of this constellation was one of sacrifice as its main star was called El Natic meaning slain (or wounded) as was also the next brightest star in this system which was called Al Sheratan.

The magical weapons of this Path are the ram's horns and the burin. The horn is often an Old Testament symbol of victory (when raised), and defeat (when broken) and links very heavily to the old fertility cults which related the 'horn of plenty' to new growth and to sexuality. Jung considered the horn a dual symbol because it can both penetrate and be a receptacle (its hollowness) which relates to the cyclic concept of nature. The phallic representations of the horn relate also to power and energy for it is a sign of strength and power. The burin, like the horn, is often used like a knife for magical work with its tip as the projecting point.

The magical virtue of this Path is martyrdom and relates to the individual giving his or her life in the pursuit of an endeavour so that others will benefit from it. Of all the saintly virtues martyrdom is the most revered. In modern times it is often shown as the soldier who gives his life in war for his country. In the hermetic tradition the martyr is the individual who brings through the work for the benefit of others and to an extent attains immortality (in the eyes of the beholder) by becoming an example for others to emulate in performing the great work.

The vice of this Path is self pity, here the individual gives up and has no drive or ambition to complete life let alone understand its spiritual significance. Generally this occurs when the driving force of the individual has expended itself or in plain terms when one is simply worn out. From an esoteric viewpoint the psyche has rejected the tasks allotted to it from the higher self and tries desperately not to comply with these directions which eventually begin to close in on it from all sides, and in an act of what some would call self preservation simply shuts itself down to its lowest ebb.

The magical attainment of this Path is the power to consecrate. This power is one that is developed through both ritual practice and knowledge, and involves calling and controlling names of power that one has been associated with by directing them to perform a desired task for you. It involves binding these powers to consecrate an object such as a talisman or elemental weapon, or even use their power to clear an area of negative forces so that one can work in an uncontaminated area (of astral influences that is). It also involves projecting ones aura into the object being consecrated as well so that a vital link is established between one and the object in question. Sometimes in simple consecration it does not involve certain spiritual hierarchies but merely extending ones own aura to clear areas, generally speaking these types of consecration are almost always under the banner of some hierarchy or another even if they are not invoked during a ceremony.

The bloodstone is one of the zodiac gems associated to this Path and is both green and red in colour with the red aspects considered to be like drops of blood. Its old name was Heliotrope and was related to the old Egyptian city of Heliopolis where it first gained some fame during the Egyptian dynasties as a stone of important religious significance. Legend associated to this stone says that it has the power to make the wearer invisible and it was often consecrated by priests to give armies the ability of stealth and to attack their enemies before being detected. Bloodstone was often worn into battle as an amulet against being wounded. It was used as a good luck piece by all those undergoing surgery and child birth so that no excessive blood would be lost by the patient. When this stone appeared in dreams it was usually an unfortunate omen which showed sorrow or loss due to an accident.

One of the plants associated here is the Geranium which has been used in birth control by various civilisations. As a body wash, a solution of the leaves awakens the aura closest to the skin and performs much the same functions when applied externally as does Rosemary. It is a type of auric revitaliser which gives one a renewed vigor and freshness. Potions of Geraniums have been used for many other uses as well, such as an infusion to gain the love of another, which is supposed to fill the individual with ardent desire for you. Other uses for it included to wear it during ancient celtic fertility rites.

Dragons Blood is a perfume associated here which has a very

unpleasant aroma and gives off a thick pall of red smoke when used as an incense. It was used in ancient times before a battle where soldiers inhaled its aroma, for it was said to aid them in their fighting ability by filling their nostrils with the blood or scent of the enemy. In works of evocation it was used to summon spirits whom you wished to perform a martial task for you. Also during sacrifices (for victory of a battle) it was used to engulf the sacrificial animal with its aroma before death so that the animal would carry the scent with in into the next world so that there would be no mistake in what the sacrifice was offered for.

The legendary order of beings associated to this Path are the Eumenidies who were considered the ministers of the vengeance of the gods. They were said to have been born from the blood of Coelus when wounded by his son Saturn. There were said to be four of these beings: Tisaphone, Megara, Alecto and Nemesis and were said to give repeated torments to those who earned the gods disfavour. They were sometimes known under other names such as Furiae, Erynies and Dirae and the weapons they used were conscience and flagellation. In appearance they were very much like the Gorgons to look at and had seething serpents instead of hair and always wore black bloodied garments.

The angel of this Path is Aiel whose name is derived from the Hebrew root AI meaning "manifestation" or "desire". It shows the raw aspect of both passion and desire within the self) with no object or point of direction for it to go to. It is strongly

related to the concept of a blind force. The root AIL relates to force and desire united. The animals associated to this root are the ram and deer. AIL equates to 41 and relates to other words of the same value such as YAL (to be willful), LVH (bind or associate), GAUAL (Divine Majesty) and GChL (to burn), all which are varying degrees of the nature of Aiel.

The animals of this Path are the ram and owl. The former has been already discussed in previous paragraphs and we will concern ourselves only with the latter. The owl, because it is a night bird, relates to the night, to death and also to wisdom. In mythology the owl was sacred to Minerva which related to the wisdom of foresight.

Extracts of Betal Nut is the vegetable drug of this Path and it is found mostly in the South Pacific. It is simply chewed and the natural juices which contain arecoline (a volatile oil) are released when the saliva acts as a catalyst with the calcium oxide (the lime) in the nut.

The mineral drug of this Path is Potassium Phosphate which is commonly called Kali.Phos. This mineral cell salt works mainly on the nervous system and tries to calm it down from a highly nervous state such as emotional strain, melancholia and hysteria. It is mainly used by those who are over emotional or panic stricken. Kali. Phos. is in fact a nerve nutrient and helps those whose nerve fluids have been depleted through over stimulation which bring on states of exhaustion.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	CONSTITUTING INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	HEH
TAROT:	EMPEROR
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	MEN-THU
GREEK DIETY:	ATHENE
ROMAN DIETY:	MINERVA
SIGN:	ARIES
MAGICAL WEAPON:	RAMS HORNS
VIRTUE:	MARTYRDOM
VICE:	SELF PITY
MAGICAL ATTAINMENT:	CONSECRAT'ION
MINERAL DRUG:	POTASSIUM PHOSPHATE
VEGETABLE DRUG:	BETAL NUT EXTRACT
GEMSTONE:	BLOODSTONE
PLANT:	GERANIUM
AROMATIC:	DRAGONS BLOOD
ORDER OF BEINGS:	EUMENIDIES
ANGEL:	AIEL
ANIMAL:	RAM/OWL

