

LESSON 28

THE NINETEENTH PATH

'The Nineteenth Path is the Intelligence of the secret of all activities of the spiritual beings, and is so called because of the influence diffused by it from the most high and exalted sublime glory.'

The 19 Path is called the 'Intelligence of secret works and Spiritual activities' and joins Geburah and Chesed which shows that all activities on this plane are wholly spiritual. There are also secret works that are happening which can overtake the spiritual, providing that it goes along and does not interfere with it. The term 'most high and exalted glory' relates to the horizontal Paths like this being a diffused reflection of Kether. In fact the emanation of Kether is the secret influence which sometimes works with the Paths natural order of development, giving it additional impetus.

The Hebrew letter associated to this path is Teth which means snake. Teth has a value of nine which equates with other words such as ACh meaning brother and BGD meaning garment. On the face of it these words have no relation to Teth but if we use the word NChSh meaning serpent a link is then formed with both words meaning serpent. This has a value of 358, as does the word Messiach (Messiah) which is the brotherhood of Christ. The legend of the garment or robe of Christ still lives on to this day and

of its miraculous powers. The full word Teth has a value of 419 which when reduced to a double digit figure of 23 relates to ChYH, part of the Kabbalistic soul which shows the strong links to the spiritual insight of the word. Teth representing both Christ and the Devil at the same time is a perfect example of the ability of gematria to give opposing views of the same whole or different aspects of the same thing. As such Teth is a letter of both resistance and protection.

The Tarot association of this path is the card Strength which shows a great deal of complicated symbology. Here we have a woman holding some red roses standing next to a lion. In the earlier versions of this card a woman was usually shown prying open the jaws of a lion which was supposed to show the weaker overcoming the stronger. The Golden Dawn format takes this a step further by the addition of alchemical symbolism with the same meaning. The rose held shows the emblem of Rosicrucian philosophy as well as the blood of the lion in the hands of those strong of spirit.

One of the Egyptian myths of this associated to this path is that of Bast, the cat and sometimes lion headed goddess who was called the lady of the East. She is often depicted holding a sistrum and ankh with a serpent mounted on her head and was often identified as a female counterpart of both Ra and Tem. Bast is in fact a goddess of fire, a title she also shared with Sekhet, but she represented both the sun and heat in a milder form than her sister goddess. Bast is also linked to the moon through her

association to fertility and childbirth as was her son Khensu who also had many attributes of his mother.

The Greek association here is one of the legends of Heracles (or Hercules) and the Nemean lion. This was one of the twelve labours or tasks of Heracles who went to Neamea to kill a lion who had been on a rampage. After finding that weapons were no use against the lion Heracles threw down his bow and fought with the lion using his own strength and eventually killed it. One of the esoteric concepts behind this myth is that if one must fight, they must fight on their own terms and whatever one starts he must finish, for if Heracles let the lion go from his grasp he would have surely been killed.

The Roman myths associated here is that of Venus and her union with Vulcan the deformed son of Jupiter. Though Vulcan was the god of fire Venus often mimicked his lameness and caused him a great many problems with her infidelities. She eventually tamed him through the enchantment of her girdle.

The astrological sign associated here is that of Leo. Those born under this sun sign are proud and emotional individuals usually with a great strength of character and are generally characterised in the mould as leaders. Looking at both ends of the scale, Leos can be very sensitive and overbearing, both at the same time. They like pleasant surroundings and can be easily swayed with flattery. They are the typical autocrat and as such being a leader is natural to them with their boldness. On the

physical side of things they often have trouble with blood pressure and other arterial related problems.

The constellation of this Path is Leo the Lion. Throughout the zodiacs of the various civilisations the Lion is a constellation of importance and has been recorded since the time of the Egyptians and the Persians. The constellation has over 95 stars in it. The main star was sometimes called Regulus which means standing or treading on. Other stars include Denebola meaning the judge or he who comes, Al Gibha meaning exaltation and Zosma meaning shining forth. Ptolemy says 'Of the stars in Leo, two in the head are like Saturn and partly like Mars. The three in the neck are like Saturn, and in some degree like Mercury. The bright star in the heart is called Regulus and is much the same as Mars and Jupiter; those in the hip and the tail are the same as Saturn and Venus, while those in the thighs are the same as Venus and to a lesser extent Mercury.'

The magical weapon of this Path is drawing forth internal strength to reinforce the will. This is of course an internal aspect of consolidation before application and produces an enormous drain on the vitality of the body as the controls in the main chakra centres (the tattvas) are speeded up to take in extra energy to reinforce the vital organs which in turn help strengthen the will. The whole thing is done through conscious effort. This is not to be confused with the magical power of Path 16 for here all the power is directed to the mental processors while in the former the power is directed to the muscles.

The virtue of this Path is individualism which is the form of energy that one learns to handle here. Here the individual has the energy and drive to but must learn to handle these on his or her own terms, to an extent it is the breaking away from the fold to create a new environment for the self. It is a natural progressive step and must be done with care for here the individual begins to establish the self in a pattern which is homogenous with other closely allied environments. Another word that can also be applied to the virtue of this Path is participation, which allows one to stay within the social patterns generated by this type of energy rather than being apart from them yet still retaining one individualism.

The vice of this Path is dependency and is when one has the attributes to get ahead, but refuses to use them and settles for comfort without taking risks of any sort to further ones aspirations. It is a suppression of all ones vital instincts of self development. Here the individual is so intent on fitting in with the pattern of life that whole point of the pattern is overlooked. Dependency also shows the ability to lose oneself in the scheme of things so that they cannot be singled out to take on any form of responsibility.

The magical attainment of this Path is the power to control wild beasts. While reading this many of us will think of the circus performer such as the lion tamer but this goes way beyond teaching animals to do tricks. This specifically relates to

individuals who can extend their aura so that it calms that of animals (such as Daniel in the lions den) and as such is considered as a magical attainment. This extends not only to wild beasts but to birds and reptiles as well, generally just about every living thing except man himself who is given the gift of reason.

The mineral drug of this Path is Magnesium phosphoricum which acts mainly on the motor nerves. It is a cell salt that helps relieve any form of cramp or spasm where the application of heat is required to alleviate the inflammation and also is used as a type of relaxative. Magnesium phosphoricum also helps with any problems in the glandular system by helping to regulate it.

The vegetable drugs of this Path relate to all carminatives and tonics. A list of some carminatives are as follows: Thyme, Parsley, Sage, Spearmint, Peppermint, Pennyroyal, Lavender, Yarrow and Oregano. Some tonics are Blackberry, Mulberry, Aloe, Red Clover, Thuja, Dandelion, Lemon Balm etc.

The Onyx is one of the gemstones of this Path which is said to keep away thoughts of a sexual nature. Because of this it was widely worn in countries like India in an effort to protect the young and virtuous from being led astray. From a medicinal standpoint the Onyx was said to relieve fevers and inflammations. On the negative side of the coin the Onyx was said to cause nightmares and general problems for the wearer. Any person who was thought to be effected by an Onyx was usually given a Sardonyx

Stone (a combination of Carnelian and white Onyx) which was said to neutralise the power of the onyx. The Arabs called the onyx el jaza, the stone of sadness, and said that it drained the life forces from the body.

The plant of this Path is the Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) which according to legend, brings conception to those women who want children. It is said that if the flower was placed in an area it would bring wealth to those around it. Most parts of this plant have some practical use. The flowers can be used as a yellow dye and the leaves can be used as fodder for farm animals. The seeds are of high protein value and from these a valuable oil can be extracted which can be used for medicinal as well culinary purposes. The roots of this plant are used for such things as rheumatism and arthritis.

The aromatic associated to this Path is Almond which can be used as either an incense or an oil. Its botanical name is *Prunus communis*, both its flowers and kernel are utilised. It is used as an oil in both fertility and prosperity rituals by both the Egyptians and the Romans to both Ra and Apollo. It was also used to anoint lovers for fertility festivals. The Greek legend associates this incense or oil with Phyllis, who was abandoned on her wedding day by Demophon. She eventually died of a broken heart and was turned into an almond tree which was a symbol of hope.

The legendary order of beings of this Path are the Dragons. They appear in almost every culture known to man and are consi-

dered as a combination of a serpent and a bird. To understand what they represent one must study their effect during certain periods of cultural development. In the Christian religion dragons were considered evil and had to be conquered because of relationship with the serpent. In the east the dragon is a symbol of solar power and growth. Usually they are symbolic of the untamed areas of both nature and the psyche. The alchemical concepts of the dragon is the volatile nature. As beings and not symbols they can be tamed and directed or cause havoc, depending on the circumstance of who wishes to control them.

The angel of this Path is Verkiel who is one of the governors of the Sun. The root VR relates to the noise of the wind while CR is from the Arabic meaning burn. The concept relates to burning winds which is in empathy with the desert heat. By using gematria we find that Verkiel (VRKYAL) has a numerical value of 267 which equates with MRKBH meaning chariot, which in this instance relates to the Sun's journey through the heavens. Reducing 267 to a double digit gives 15 which relates to HVD meaning flashing light, YGB which is 'who turns the land' and YH 'He who is'. All of these show an aspect of angelic power related to the Sun.

The Lion Cherub of fire is associated here as the animal of this Path and through the fire element he directs the potencies of heat and warmth to the earth below. He in fact is a corner stone of the force of fire and links with the zodiac rays so that his duties are shared by the higher powers above him. Though he

is not the fire element itself he does control the forces of it and as such holds the balance of power, he is the one who restricts this element to designated areas. Without his control the element of fire would get out of hand.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF THE SECRET OF ALL ACTIVITIES
HEBREW LETTER:	TETH
TAROT:	STRENGTH
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	BAST
GREEK DIETY:	HERCULES (HERACLES)
ROMAN DIETY:	VENUS
SIGN:	LEO
MAGICAL WEAPON:	INTERNAL STRENGTH
VIRTUE:	INDIVIDUALISM
VICE:	DEPENDENCY
MAGICAL POWER:	POWER TO CONTROL WILD BEASTS
MINERAL DRUG:	MAGNESIUM PHOSPHORICUM
VEGETABLE DRUG:	CARMINATIVES
GEMSTONE:	ONYX
PLANT:	SUNFLOWER
AROMATIC:	ALMOND
ORDER OF BEINGS:	DRAGONS
ANGEL:	VERKIEL
ANIMAL:	LION CHERUB

