

LESSON 30

TWENTY-FIRST PATH

'The Twenty-First Path is the Intelligence of Conciliation and reward, and is so called because it receives the divine influence which flows into it from its benediction upon all and each existence.'

The 21st Path joins Chesed and Netzach and is titled 'the Intelligence of Conciliation and Reward' because it receives divine emanations which flow through from the Higher Self. The term 'conciliation' in this instance means that the physical body and the dictates of the Higher Self act in agreement. The body cannot exist without the divine spark of creation which is sustained under the direction of the Higher Self while the Higher Self cannot exist without the energies needed to be worked out on the physical plane. It is a cyclic concept with each needing the other, resulting in harmony and growth, hence the use of the term 'reward'.

The Hebrew letter of this Path is Kaph which means 'hand'. It has a numerical value of twenty which relates to other words of the same value, such as ChZH meaning "to settle", this in turn can be linked with the concept of a hand shake to settle a bargain. Kaph as a word has a value of 100 which can relate to KLKL meaning 'to nourish' which shows the hand as a tool of nourishment. Also LAa meaning to 'absorb' or 'swallow' relates

here as well for it shows the ability of the hand to encompass an object. The word AaL meaning 'high' or 'exalted' is yet another application which shows the hand as a pointer of direction which in this case is pointed upward.

de O'Livet observed that Kaph represents a hollowed object or a cupped hand. As a grammatical sign it is assimilative in the sense that it reflects transient life. As a letter this was said to have been derived from the letter Cheth which in turn comes from Heh which is one of the images of life which in turn relates to Gimel which is its backup or reinforcement.

The Tarot association to this Path is the Wheel of Fortune which depicts a 12 spoked wheel with a sphinx above and an ape below. The entire concept here is to explore the cyclic nature of existence and its effect through the four elements. It in fact shows a complete cycle of development and the successful completion of a project. The sphinx above the wheel shows that the turning of the wheel is well balanced while the ape below shows that the actual turning of the wheel is continuous which both contribute to the concept of perpetual motion, a power source that can be tapped if applied correctly.

The Egyptian myth associated here is that of Atum or Temu as he is sometimes called He was a god that in some areas upstaged Amen-Ra as 'Father of the Gods'. Atum is usually depicted as bearded man with a double crown, and seated on a throne. The name Atum is said to be from the root 'not to be'. He was said to

be the closer of the day and held many varying titles such as 'maker of men' and 'maker of gods'. Atum was in fact a very early Egyptian God form and in later periods was identified with the sun god but his main area of worship was in and around Heliopolis. In the Book of the Dead it says: "I am Atum when he was alone in Nun, I am Ra when he dawned, when he began to rule that which he had made". This clearly shows this god as a force that was considered to be there before creation.

In Greek mythology there are a number of godforms that could be associated to this Path. The first is of course Zeus and his attributions have already been described in previous lessons. To a lesser extent some of his attributions are also apparent in his father, Cronus, who is often associated to time. Cronus was one of the Titans and son of Uranus and Ge. Legend has it that Cronus was responsible for creation as we know it by releasing his brothers who procreated where ever they went, eventually laying the basic foundation of civilisation for man to inherit. An oracle however had predicted that Cronus would be overthrown by one of his children, so in order to prevent this he swallowed each one at birth. When his wife Rhea gave birth to Zeus she felt such affection for the child that she gave Cronus a stone (disguised as her baby son) to swallow which thereby saved her son who eventually fulfilled the prophecy.

The Roman myths of this Path are all a variation of the Jupiter theme. One of the most appropriate is Jupiter of Estruscanny who was called Tinia. He was the typical personifi-

cation of the father image, both stern and vengeful at the same time. In fact he was a typical rendition of the god of the Old Testament, who hurled thunderbolts at those who earned his displeasure and comforted those who obeyed and worshipped him.

The magical weapon of this Path is the sceptre, which is often confused with the wand. First of all a sceptre is used both as a symbol of authority and also as a magical weapon. While the former needs no explanation the latter does. In ancient kingdoms, and in some churches, the sceptre of the priest or king was used in consecration (mainly with holy water) rituals and in coronations. The mystical theory behind this symbol of power is that when raised and waved above the head of the assembly it was said to bestow benefits upon the people; generally this was the only time it was used on a practical basis. The idea behind this was that the king represented divine power and that by waving it over the people they in fact were a recipient of that power in much the same manner as the touch of the king was said to heal the sick. This of course can only be done from authority and the lineage behind it.

The virtue of this Path is compassionate generosity. Here the individual is one who is in a position to help, and uses his power and wealth in turn to help others. It is a simple lesson but it can only really be learnt from a position of wealth (whether of spiritual or material) for the person must come down from a completely different level to help those who need it. Those who are at this level and give out what little they own to

others are on another karmic level with a different lesson to learn. The whole concept here is to disperse accumulations so that one is reminded of their mortality.

The vice associated here is that of indifference to the wants of others. Here the individual has deliberately shut him or herself off from feelings other than the wants and the desires of the self. To a certain extent we must all be indifferent at times for our own development, but here the ego has completely taken over by showing only the immediate world around us and forgetting that others to have rights and wants. In archetypal terms we have the empire builder so often shown in big business today, who has little conscience or concern and will build and win at any cost. It goes past the stage of want or accumulation and eventually becomes an obsession that is infinite in its pressures and desires on individuals like these.

One of the mineral drugs of this Path is Chromic Sulphate and relates to breaking down the glucose into vital energy. It takes energy from the circulatory system and gives protein to the body part that needs it. Also it helps against high blood pressure and is a good deterrent for diabetes. A deficiency in Chromium is said to leave way for diseases like diabetes and arteriosclerosis to form. In its natural form the best sources of Chromium are Brewers yeast, shell fish and mushrooms.

The magical attainment of this Path is the power to transform and control the masses. This is a gift often seen in poli-

ticians and entertainers as well as spiritual leaders. It is the ability to activate what is called in some occult circles the orange band of the aura. To the sight of a clairvoyant anyone with this gift literally glows orange. The aura in these instances acts like a magnet to any collective and undirected energy which often appears in crowds, and absorbs it, which in turn strengthens the aura which in turn creates more attraction so that the higher energies in general are focalised into a single unit. At this point control is then asserted and the crowd is under the spell of the individual who is the focal point of attention.

One of the vegetable world's associations to this Path is the Oak Tree. Called in ancient times the sacred Oak (as it was known by more than one civilisation) it was the tree of both Zeus and Jupiter. It represented security, strength and shelter (usually from storms) and also longevity. An Oak grove used to be the sacred groves where Druid priests taught and held their ceremonies. Many ancient cults offered sacrifices to the spirit of the Oak tree because it was often the mightiest tree in the forest. The Oak is also a tree that is noted to attract lightning and draws a parallel with both Zeus and Jupiter as gods who hurled thunderbolts.

Cocaine is the vegetable drug of this Path and is obtained from the leaves of the Coco plant. The medieval history of this drug is that the South American Indians used it by sucking the Coco leaves (with ash) which acted as a cerebral stimulant and let

them perform a number of amazing feats of physical strength and endurance. Originally the Spanish forbid the use of this plant but when they saw its benefits to field hands on plantations in producing more than a satisfactory days work they turned a blind eye to its uses. Its effect depends entirely on the doses and length of time one uses it.

The Hindu diety here is Indra, who is the god of thunder and rain. He is often depicted in a chariot and armed with a bow that shoots thunderbolts at his enemies. His title is lord of the heaven and appears to be a god who was there at the beginning of creation, though he is by far the most human of all the Indian gods. There are numerous exploits associated to this god who is possibly mentioned more than any other god in the Veda. He was the typical soldier who got drunk for the simplicity of it and was always travelling and getting into scrapes in which he was nearly alway victorious. To many he was the essence of nature itself, good when good and bad when bad but an extremely popular diety who always brought bounty.

The gemstone of this Path is Lapis Lazuli (from 'lapis' meaning stone and 'azul' meaning blue) which is a deep blue stone with both gold and white flecks through it (iron pyrites). The medical properties of this stone include a cure for depression and fevers, when worn against the skin it can tone up the whole system. Other effects of this gem are curing eye problems and epilepsy. Its psychic effect is said to keep away negative influences and bring good luck and wealth to the wearer. Lapis

Lazuli was also a special symbol of the priesthood in ancient Egypt (as an image of Maat, goddess of Truth) and was generally associated to positions of power.

Saffron, as an aromatic, is also linked to this Path, and is a very old spice and perfume dating back to pre-biblical times. Its effects, when inhaled, is that of a calmative. In ancient times saffron was used in fertility rites and religious ceremonies (mainly in taking office) in both Egyptian and Hebrew religions. The saffron aroma is said to enhance and strengthen the aura of the individual. Its magnetic qualities, overall, are an extremely useful tool in magical ceremonies and are said to help the individual link up and control the astral influences around him.

An incubus is the spirit who is associated here and is defined in the Oxford dictionary as an evil spirit who descends on sleeping persons, giving nightmares. In recent years however, some occultists have used this term in connection with the masculine counterpart of the succubi. This is the male spirit who has sexual relations with human females. The incubus can infect the aura of a woman to such an extent that she can be totally subservient to them. These spirits are parasitic by nature and take a great deal of dislodging as they act like an astral shell and attach themselves to the aura of their victim.

The Olympic Planetary Spirit of this Path is Bethor, whose name is derived from the root BHR which means crystal or marble

(that throws out bright sparks). This spirit rules 32 provinces and governs all things related to Jupiter. He is noted for his generosity in showing people how to obtain wealth and is able to command some of the lesser ariel spirits to give truthful answers. Bethor is also able to make the healing powers of precious stones work as well as prolonging life. He has 42 kings, 35 princes, 28 dukes, 21 councillors, 14 ministers, 7 messengers and commands 29,000 legions of spirits under his control. This spirit is usually depicted as a king with a drawn sword while riding on the back of a stag. Other descriptions of him vary but he is also often shown dressed in regal garments.

The animal of this Path is a Stag which shows royalty and regeneration (due to its antlers resembling bushes and branches). It is one of the few animals that forge the link with the spiritual plane of existence and the earth. The stag always had a tremendous power to heal attached to its presence and was said to be able to lead a herbalist to the medicinal herb he is seeking.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	INTELLIGENCE OF CONCILIATION AND REWARD
HEBREW LETTER:	KAPH
TAROT:	WHEEL OF FORTUNE
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	ATUM/TEMU
GREEK DIETY:	ZEUS, CRONUS
ROMAN DIETY:	JUPITER
PLANET:	JUPITER
MAGICAL WEAPON:	SCEPTRE
VIRTUE:	COMPASSIONATE GENEROSITY
VICE:	INDIFFERENCE TO THE WANTS OF OTHERS
MAGICAL POWER:	TO TRANSFORM AND CONTROL THE MASSES
MINERAL DRUG:	CHROMIC SULPHATE
VEGETABLE DRUG:	COCAINE
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	INDRA
GEMSTONE:	LAPIS LAZULI
PLANT:	OAK TREE
AROMATIC:	SAFFRON
ORDER OF BEINGS:	INCUBUS
ANIMAL:	STAG
OLYMPIC PLANETARY SPIRIT:	BETHOR