

LESSON 31

TWENTY-SECOND PATH

'The Twenty-second Path is the Faithful Intelligence and is so called because by it spiritual virtues are increased, and all dwellers on earth are nearly under its shadow.'

This Path connects Geburah and Tiphareth and is called 'Faithful Intelligence'. This shows spiritual virtues being increased (in the faithful). Overall, the concepts of this Path show those that follow the divine plan being augmented, while those that do not, apparently receive nothing (by assumption). The reference to the 'Faithful' refers to those groups and individuals that obey their own various laws and teaching. Also within the statement of the Yetziratic Text 'and all dwellers on the earth are nearly under its shadow' there appears to be something of a warning in relation to all beings on earth being subject to certain laws.

Lamed is the Hebrew letter of this Path, it means ox-goad and has a numerical value of 30. Other words of the same value are BChK meaning "nauseate", KHH meaning "constriction" and KY meaning "restriction". All these concepts refer to something restricted and unwell. The word Lamed has a value of 74 which relates to other words such as YSD "to create the foundation of", AaD meaning "being beyond" and NKD meaning "posterity". All of these show us further insights into the meaning of this letter which gives us

additional concepts of enlightenment and things getting better but only after initial hardship.

de O'livet observes that the image of Lamed is that of the arm of a man, wing of a bird or any other animal that has an appendage that unfolds, extends or raises itself out from the main body. When used as a consonant it is a vocal sound and as a grammatical sign it gives the basic idea of elevation, expansion and possession. It also expresses any form of harmonious movement or union that helps or propels a desired object.

Justice is the title of the Tarot card associated to this Path. It shows a seated figure between two pillars, holding an upraised sword in one hand and a set of scales in the other. Beneath the feet of this figure is a fox. This is to symbolise the action of cause and effect; what we sow we reap. The entire concept of this card is one of balancing up, to get rid of the unwanted and augment the needed. If this is not done, the upraised sword will then be put to good use as there is no escape.

The Egyptian myth of this Path is that of Maat, the goddess of truth and justice. She is usually depicted either standing or sitting with a huge plume as a headdress. This was in fact the feather used in the Hall of Truth which was placed on the scales to test the deceased when presented to Osiris. If the good deeds outweighed the bad the scales would tilt in favour of the deceased. Budge considered Maaat as a personification of both physical and moral law and in fact represent order in its highest

form. In the Egyptian Book of the Dead, Maat still would not let the deceased enter the abode of the blessed (even though they passed the test of weighing of the heart) unless they knew the magical names to open the door. This shows that while Maat expected fairness in the life of the individual it was still not enough. She also expected that lessons were to be learnt, which represented having the knowledge to know the magical names on the door to the next region.

Themis is one of the Greek goddesses associated here. She was the daughter of Coelus and Tera and wife of Zeus (against her will). As a goddess she was held in great acclaim in regions such as Attica where she directed the Oracle; she was renowned for her accuracy. Deucalion actually consulted this Oracle and was instructed in repairing the loss to mankind. Themis was usually associated to the seasons, the cyclic law of change. She presided over the vetting of the petitions men made to the gods and only asked for what was just and in return also made sure that the gods fulfilled their promises in return.

The Roman association to this Path is that of the Fates (sometimes called daughters of the night), the three sisters who determined the course of life by weaving and interweaving the destinies of mankind. The Romans also called them the Parcae. In more eastern terms they would be the weavers of karmic destinies.

Libra is the sun sign of this Path. As a rule those born

under, this sign are persuasive but tactful individuals who are sometimes referred to as the beautiful people. By nature they are materialistic and somewhat superficial. Librans are also romantics and their confidence is easily upsurged. They are flighty by instinct and try to be all things to all people. By profession they tend to gravitate towards positions of power and also act as mediators such as judges and diplomats.

The constellation of Libra contains over 51 stars. The Hebrew name for this constellation is Mozanaim meaning the scales or something in the act of weighing. Its Arabic counterpart is called Al Zubena meaning redemption or purchase. The Latin name is Libra (meaning weighing) which has stuck as the general name throughout the ages in describing this star cluster. Some of the stars in this constellation are Zuben al Genubi (meaning the price which is deficient), Zuben al Chemali (meaning the price which covers) and Zubben Akrahi (meaning the price of the conflict). Ptolemy observes that the stars in the claws of Scorpio (the old name for Libra) operate like Jupiter and Mercury and those in the middle of the claws like Saturn and in some degree like Mars.

The magical weapon of this Path is the scales of balance. Here everything must be weighed and measured by the adept before it is acceptable for use. They are mainly used in alchemical works that the adept should study as part of his or her occult training, but they also stand for the amount of force to be used by an adept in solving a problem or rectifying a situation. In

short the scales represent the judgement of the adept in making magical decisions based on his observations.

The magical virtue of this Path is rebirth. Here the individual has evolved from a minor state of awareness into a completely new level of understanding and as such his previous views and outlooks will now have to be discarded and he will have to reorientate towards new levels of growth and endurance. To a certain extent he has emerged at this level with a child-like attitude and now must experience growth pains as he restructures all his old concepts into new outlets. The key phrase of this virtue is "to know ones place" and that is experienced at this level with great effect.

The vice of this Path is superficiality. Here the individual cannot break through the important barrier to where growth or rebirth can occur. At this point drive is lacking as well as depth and one finds oneself at the mercies of manipulative fates if true Will is ignored and the Higher Self is not listened to. Depth cannot be reached unless one realises that one is part of a whole and not the other way around. This is the greatest obstacle that the vice of this Path throws up in front of us, for it appeases our ego and tells us only what we want to hear. In this instance one knocks at the door demanding entrance as a right and not something that must be earned.

The magical attainment of this Path is when the individual become sufficiently balanced enough to be able to handle both the

negative and positive aspects of the energy of this Path, for this is the path of equilibrium and balance. If one sways to either extreme the energies will pick you up and literally destroy you. To attain the essence of what this Path represents one must be also confronted or tempted with the negative energies and drawn on so that one can be tempted with the righteous indignation when it is taken to an extreme. The power given to those on this Path is the ability to discern what is correct and what is not in relation to their specific karmic duties.

The mineral drug of this Path is Naturum Phosphate and it works mainly on intestinal disorders, assimilation and water retention so that the kidneys can function more efficiently. One of the vegetable drugs related here as well is any extract of apple, whether it be alcoholic beverage or not. Also any infusion of parsley or cucumber will help as they work on the purification of the blood stream and the elimination of waste products.

An Indian godform who is related here is Yama the judge of men. He was the son of Tvashtar and Vivasvat and was married to his sister Yami and between them they were the creators of mankind. Yama is said to be but a reflection of his father the Sun and Yami is the passive side of his nature. Between them they hold the balance of power over mortals giving both warmth and protection as well as flood and famine. There are numerous titles applied to Yama such as judge, king of virtue, punisher, god of the weather and god of death but he is noted as a fair god who reunites loved ones after death in the invisible world beyond

the eyes of men.

One of the gemstones of this Path is the Carnelian which was considered a stone that gave to the individual where there was a lack in stature or spirit. Those who wore it claimed it made them taller while those with weak voices claimed it made them more resonant. The colours of this stone vary from pale pink to light orange and it is said to keep the wearer safe from any form of psychic illusions or astral interference. This was a stone said to have been worn by the prophet Mohammed himself (set in silver and used as a ring/seal combination). The stone was widely acclaimed as a symbol of virtue and as such was usually worn by the pious of various religious denominations.

The Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllum*) as a perfume is the aromatic associated to this Path. Its magical effect in ritual is an aid to raise one spiritual aspirations and to seek out higher powers to be guided by (if the flower is white). On the other hand if the flower is red it tends to make things larger than life and produce a greater awareness around one. The aroma of the white Carnation is ideal for any type of invocation work and is said to be a good balancer in any magical ceremony and helps to keep ones perspective.

One of the plants associated to this Path is the Aloe (*Aloe vera*) and is not to confused with Aloe the wood (*Aquilaria agallocha*) which has been used as aromatic since biblical times. Its magical effects are varied but are to a certain extent very

much like those of Garlic. Its most fundamental task is to clear the air of any negative vibrations and to keep away sickness and promote good health. The plant is said to have the characteristics of retaining the "status quo" in a household by draining away all the bad vibrations and harmonising all things around it.

The Harpies are the legendary order of beings of this Path and are said to be the daughters of the sea (Neptune). They are regarded as beings who have the duality of both positive and negative aspects to their natures. On one hand they help the oppressed and on the other they are merciless with those who have wronged others. They are the balancers of the elemental worlds in an effort to try and help the fates of men as they work out their destinies.

The Archangel here is Zuriel (Zuryal=254) which means "my rock is god". Legend has also associated this Archangel as a curer of stupidity by making man see his spiritual lessons more clearly. The name Zuriel is from the root ZU which relates back to its Arabic meaning of "shining light". The root RY means 'being drenched' which when added to the previous root relates to being drenched in a shining light. By gematria, other meanings such as NDR "a vow", RUMCh "Spear" and RUCHUM "Merciful" also equate here and shows that Zuriel is under an obligation to uphold the illumination of man (the shining light) with martial aggressiveness (the spear) tempered with mercy.

The animal of this Path is the spider and its power is its beautiful web. Though there is a strong lunar association to the spider the link to this Path is through its association to the great mother symbol who weaves the destiny of the world and as such is linked to the fates. The perfection of the web shows the interaction of the sticky karmic patterns of men with each other.

ASSOCIATIONS

YETZIRATIC TEXT:	FAITHFUL INTELLIGENCE
HEBREW LETTER:	LAMED
TAROT:	JUSTICE
EGYPTIAN DIETY:	MAAT
GREEK DIETY:	THEMIS
ROMAN DIETY:	FATES
SIGN:	LIBRA
MAGICAL WEAPON:	SCALES OF JUSTICE
VIRTUE:	REBIRTH
VICE:	SUPERFICIALITY
MAGICAL POWER:	BALANCE
MINERAL DRUG:	NATURUM PHOSPHATE
VEGETABLE DRUG:	APPLE, PARSLEY, CUCUMBER
INDIAN ASSOCIATION:	YAMA
GEMSTONE:	CARNELIAN
PLANT:	ALOE (VERA)
AROMATIC:	CARNATION
ORDER OF BEINGS:	HARPIES
ANGEL - ARCH:	ZURIEL

ANIMAL:

SPIDER