

LESSON 33

TWENTY-FOURTH PATH

'The Twenty-fourth Path is the Imaginative Intelligence and it is so called because it gives likeness to similitudes which are created in like manner similar to its harmonious elegancies'

This twenty fourth Path connects Tiphareth and Netzach and is called 'Imaginative Intelligence' because it is the prototype for those energies of like manner who come after it, for the outward form always follows the hidden law. Thus from chaos is produced harmony, just as a beautiful flower is produced from decaying matter. This adequately describes the esoteric concepts of death. All things that die in this plane of existence are really not decayed matter but transmuted energy. Using the words ascribed to Hermes Trismegistos 'Whatever is below is like that which is above', one can conceive that the spiritual level in which the soul resides also undergoes a transformation of sorts during the physical death.

The Hebrew letter associated to this Path is Nun which means fish. Nun has a value of 50 and relates to other words of the same value such as BMCh meaning "to be high or elevated", MTA meaning "reach unto" or "come to", TMA "pollute" and kL "comprehend". All of these easily relate to death and the state of both the soul and the body during this period of adjustment. The word Nun has a value of 106 and equates to words such as BDQ meaning

'breach', DBQ meaning 'close to or attained' and QV meaning 'thread or line'. All of these show varying aspects of the transition period.

According to de O'Livet, Nun is symbolic of the image of the son of man. The original Hebrew glyph actually represented seed or fruit (Nun is also the verb 'to sprout') and from this its esoteric significance has developed even further so that in many respects it has hidden associations to both Yod and Vau. As a grammatical sign it relates to being brought into existence while in its final form it is augmentative.

The Tarot card associated here is 'Death' and is amply named as it describes beautifully the whole concept of this Path's energies. This trump depicted a skeleton brandishing a reaper and is a typical archetype concept for the "grim reaper", which to a certain extent is latent in us all. The scattered body parts in the card relate to the fact that he makes no distinctions between kings and commoners. The eagle depicted in the card shows the transmigration of the soul departing from the bodies and soaring to newer heights of existence.

The Egyptian myth related to this Path is that of Apepi who is usually depicted as a serpent. It was he who attacked Ra and was beaten each day. Apepi was in fact a symbol of the darkest hour of the night. The fight each day with Ra was to try and prevent the sun god from spreading his warmth and goodness over the land. Since Ra was everything good and light, Apepi was

everything dark and vile and was the personification of evil.

One of the Greek myths associated to this Path is the torture of Prometheus on Mount Caucasus by the eagle sent by Zeus, as punishment for his thefts and tricks played upon the gods. The legend states that the eagle would feed upon on the liver of Prometheus by day, which would then regenerate and grow back to its normal size at night. This whole episode was to be repeated day after day on the Titan who never wavered in his hate for Zeus and his desire to overthrow him. The suffering was said to have lasted for 30 years when Prometheus was rescued by Heracles (with the consent of Zeus).

The Roman myth of this Path relates to Vertumnus who was known as the 'Changling'. He was an agriculture diety who wanted to seduce Pomana but in order to surprise her he had to become different forms, from a labourer to an old woman. The transformations that Vertumnus underwent is the main point of consideration here as it shows victory or attainment after a succession of changes. Vertumnus is usually shown as a young man crowned with flowers and covered up to the waist, holding fruit in his right hand and the horn of plenty in his left.

Those individuals born under the Sun sign of this Path, Scorpio, are what one would call natures investigators. They are individuals who do things at a very deep level and as such have very strong intellectual traits. Because of this depth of feeling they do things in extremes. They have a strong sense of emotion

and rarely forgive an ill done to them; if an opportunity arrives they will try and seek revenge and pay back the ill done to them multifold. On the whole Scorpions are secretive but imaginative individuals who can be quick tempered if put to the test.

The constellation of Scorpio (Scorpion) in Hebrew is called Akrab meaning "conflict". In Arabic it is called Al Akrab "wounding the one who comes" and in Coptic is called Isidis "oppression or attack". There are over 45 stars in this constellation with the brightest being Cor Scorpii (heart of the scorpion) which is sometimes called Antares "The wound". The star in the tip of the tail is called Lesath "the perverted". Ptolemy says that the bright stars in front of the body of Scorpio have an effect similar to that of Mars, and also Saturn (in part). The three stars in the body of the Scorpion have much the same effect as Mars and a little like Jupiter. Those in the sections of the tail are like Saturn and a small influence of Venus. Those in the sting of the tail are like Mercury and Mars.

The magical weapon of this Path is the pain of the oath or obligation. Here one is bound to ones Higher Genius with the concept being that if the oath is broken the higher genius will punish the individual concerned in its own way. The obligation of the 5=6 ritual of the Adeptus minor grade of the R.R. et A.C. (which is what is referred to here) literally breaks through the various layers of the kabbalistic soul and anchors in the postulant a firm commitment. This commitment also supplies a vital link with the deepest aspects of the higher self, which is used

as a life line or beacon for the lower self to climb and merge with its upper counterpart for the higher in the lower (and vice versa) and must be acknowledged due to the obligation.

The virtue of this Path is transformation. Here individuals are literally transformed into a higher echelon. This type of transformation is in fact a fundamental urge to merge and communicate on levels other than the mundane. The spiritual value lying deep within us all makes us slowly transform to a higher code of ethics and ideals, and gradually merge into the area Jungians call the 'collective unconscious'. Here directions and guidance is seen and felt as a unified form or pattern working to a group plan. It is in this area in the building of new ideas and structures that is based on, 'in touch awareness', which can only be based on ones personal experiences.

The vice of this Path is introversion. While the virtue of the Path opens the individual up to a whole new level of experience the vice obstructs this by focusing and narrowing the scope of the individual. One then becomes aware of his own farseeing experiences in terms of lust, control and power, all of which stem from introversion of this Path's energies. As such these people not only cause misery for others but do irreparable damage to their own karmic existence. They get into a whirlpool of action and thought from which there is virtually no escape.

The magical attainment of this Path is necromancy, the ability to raise and converse with a spirit of a deceased

person. This is not to be confused with mediumship which is a somewhat passive state in which the vehicle of the medium is used as a receptacle for spiritual energies to come through. In necromancy one directs the spirit to perform the desired task and that is the difference, which can be summed up in one key word-control. This is not a very appealing magical power but it is still a power nevertheless and as such must be treated with a certain amount of respect. In necromancy one calls forth the Nephesch, Ruach, Chiah and Neshamah of the deceased and once again unites them into an organism. In ancient times the necromancer usually obtained a body part of the deceased and used it as a key or link to bring back the dead by making the soul retrace its steps towards unification. This linking, though, only appears in Assiah and can cause havoc for the spirit and necromancer. Though there is a fine line between this and evocation, there is definitely a line, and that is the use of a body part (usually obtained from a robbed grave in ancient times). Evocation uses one plane only while necromancy uses several with Assiah as its manifestation point. There are a number of other points of difference between necromancy and evocation which are not be pertinent to this lesson.

The mineral drug of this Path is Calcium sulphate (plaster of Paris). Fundamentally this is known as a healing cell salt which eliminates worn out blood cells by water extraction. Apart from this Calcium sulphate puts a lining on the stomach and other organs. This creates a form of protection from adverse body acidity. If there is a lack of this salt in the body system this

causes a disruption in the metabolic processes, resulting among other things in all types of skin eruptions. Also if there is a deficiency of this cell salt in the system it can cause impotency in males and barrenness in females.

One of the vegetable drugs associated here is an extract of Valerian. This is a composite of alkaloids such as velerine and chatine, which have a rejuvenation type effect on the cerebral spinal system.

The Indian association to this Path is the Kundalini. This is considered by some as the ultimate force in the human body and has been called the "serpent power", a term coined by Sir John Woodroffe. Kundalini was in fact shown as a diety as well as a vast terrifying power within the self which can be raised to travel through the various chakra centers, thus unblocking and modifying each to work in harmony with each other so that illumination occurs. Raising the kundaline up through the spinal column can be a terrifying experience for an individual whether he or she is prepared for it or not, and during this transition period it can cause a lot of psychic and physical illnesses. Once there is union with the lotus chakra the kundaline then returns to its residence in the base of the spine, but it has left a clear path in the body for potential growth and spiritual development.

One of the gemstones here is Malachite which is derived from the Greek word "malackee" meaning "mallow". It has a soft green colour that resembles the malachite plant. Legend has it that

this stone protects children at night from evil influences and protects the wearer from any approaching calamity by breaking into various pieces and thus forewarning him. In Italy this stone was usually cut in a triangular shape and mounted in silver and worn as a protective amulet against the 'Evil Eye'. This gem was used extensively in Moslem mosques as a form of repelling negative influences and keeping the area that contained it pure.

The Cactus plant and flower (*Cactus grandiflorus*) is associated here because of its watery interior which is a life saving virtue in the desert, and for the poisonous spikes which can have the opposite effect. An infusion of the plant can help in kidney and bladder complaints as well as cardiac conditions. Generally the magical influence of this plant is a form of protection against theft and is often planted around the house (in a circle) with this in mind. It is a fiery masculine symbol that is said to be able to ward off negative influences.

Opapanax resin is the aromatic of this Path. The word Opapanax comes from the Greek meaning "Healing juice". This resin was used as a healing incense for bad cases of illness. It has not been used in any major cultural rituals as its effect was to cure the sick. Its magical properties is said to drive out the evil causing the illness.

The order of beings linked here are the Lamiae which were said to be a race of monsters (in Africa) who resemble women from the waist up but have the underbody of a serpent. Like sirens

they attracted strangers to them with their hypnotic beauty and the hissing-like sound they made (they did not have the power of speech) so that they could devour their prey. They were also known as devourers of children and were sometimes thought to be witches. Legend states that they were descended from the affair of Jupiter and Lamia and the children from this union were born deformed due to Juno's curse on them. Lamia became insane at this horror and in her grief devoured all children who came her way.

The archangel of this Path is Barkiel which is a name that has many variations but primarily means "Lightning of God", it is said to have power of this element and helps those who invoke him in any game of chance. Barkiel (BRKYAL=263) relates to other words of the same numerical value such as GRS meaning "break to pieces" and SGR meaning "shut or lock up". This shows Barkiel is able to shatter (like the lightning flash) and shut away those who displease him. The root BR means "to purify" while BRK(F) means to "lie down, rest on one knees" which shows the godliness of this angels nature.

The Scorpion is one of the animals of this Path and to a certain extent shows the destruction of the lower aspects of man so that the higher can develop. There are also certain self destruct ramifications in connection with the Scorpion, for it shows the mortality of the outer shell of man which can be ended at almost any time (shown by the sting in the Scorpions tail).

ASSOCIATIONS

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| YETZIRATIC TEXT: | IMAGINATIVE INTELLIGENCE |
| HEBREW LETTER: | NUN |
| TAROT: | DEATH |
| EGYPTIAN DIETY: | APEPI |
| GREEK DIETY: | PROMETHEUS |
| ROMAN DIETY: | VERTUMNUS |
| PLANET: | SCORPIO |
| MAGICAL WEAPON: | OATH OR OBLIGATION |
| VIRTUE: | TRANSFORMATION |
| VICE: | INTROVERSION |
| MAGICAL POWER: | NECROMANCY |
| MINERAL DRUG: | CALCIUM SULPHATE |
| VEGETABLE DRUG: | VALERIAN |
| INDIAN ASSOCIATION: | KUNDALINE |
| GEMSTONE: | MALACHITE |
| PLANT: | CACTUS |
| AROMATIC: | OPAPONAX RESIN |
| ORDER OF BEINGS: | LAMIAE |
| ANGEL - ARCH: | BARKIEL |
| ANIMAL: | SCORPION |