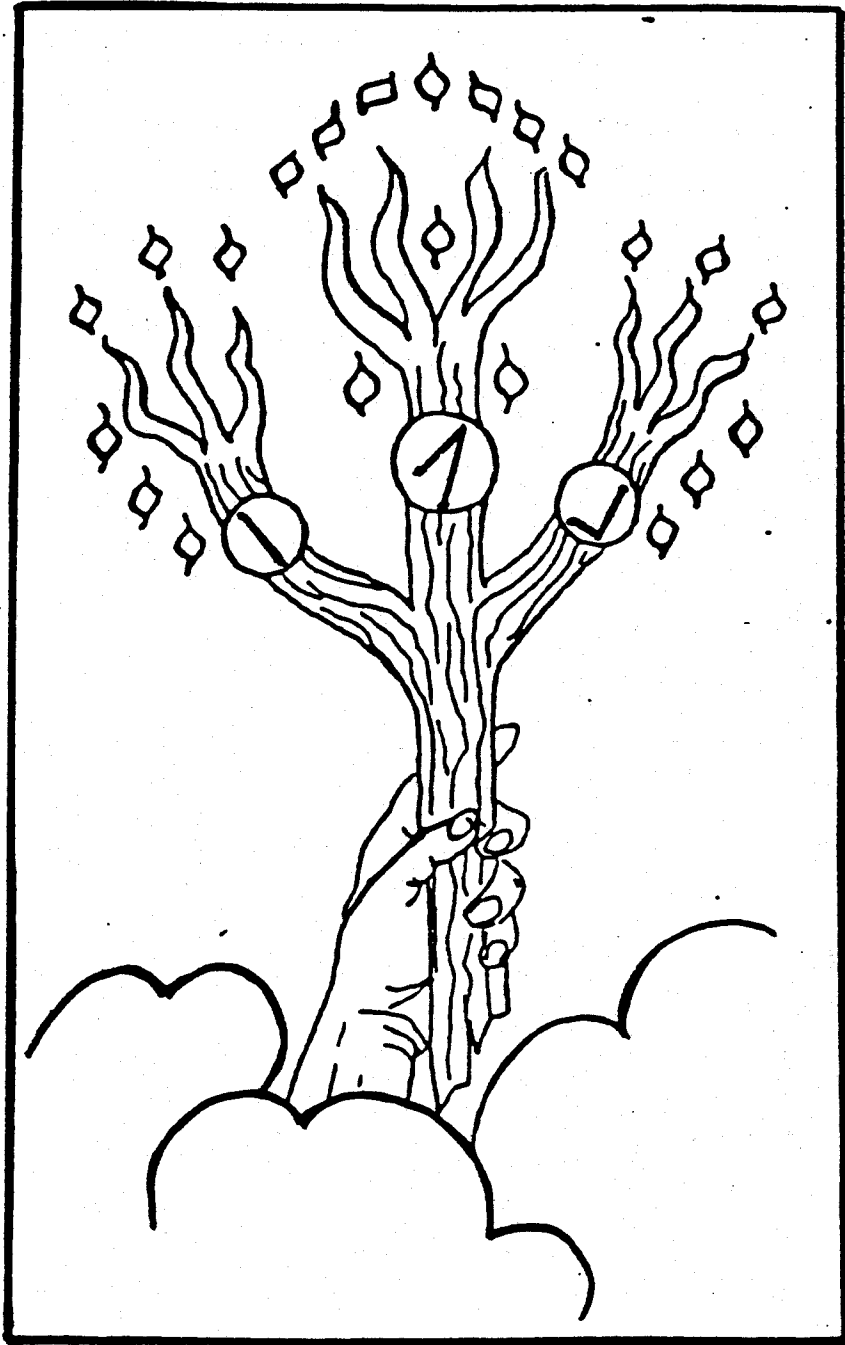


LESSON 52

ACE OF WANDS



## LESSON 52

## ACE OF WANDS

## "Root of the Powers of Fire"

A white radiating angelic hand, issuing from the clouds, and grasping a branch with three forks, in the colour and with the sigils of the scales. The right and left hand branches end respectively in three flames and the centre one in four flames, thus yielding 10 - the number of the Sephiroth. 22 leaping flames or Yods surround it, answering to the paths; of these, three fall below the right branch for Aleph, Mem and Shin; seven above the central branch for the double letters, and between that and it on the right are 12, 6 above, and six below, about the left hand branch.

In its entire concept, the branch is also the secret of fire that Prometheus stole from Zeus to benefit and protect mankind. The play 'Prometheus unbound' by Aeschylus has the following lines which typifies the general meaning of this card.

"For I am he who sought the stolen fount of fire, stored in a stalk, which proved to be the teacher of all kind of craft to mortals and their great resource."

The Golden Chain of Homer (an alchemical manuscript) states:

"Thus God created first this invisible fire and endowed it

with an unerring Instinct and a Capacity to manifest itself into three principles".

The main branch of the Ace of Wands has three flaming forks, this also alludes to the Holy Trinity.

The first principle:

"In its Original most Universal State it is perfectly invisible, immaterial, cold and occupies no space, in this tranquil state it is of no use to us, yet in this unmoved state it is omnipresent."

The right hand branch.

The second principle:

"In its second state it is manifested by Motion or Agitation into Light. In this state it was separated out of the Chaos, when God said 'Let there be Light.' Yet it is still cold. When gently moved or agitated it manifests warmth and Heat, as is the case in all Frictions and in Fermentation of Moist Things."

The left hand branch.

The third principle:

"When collected in a sufficient quantity and Violently agitated it is manifested into burning fire. this continues burning as long as it is agitated and has a fit subject to act upon; when that fails, it returns to its first stage of tranquil Universality."

Middle branch. From this you can see the Universal Spirit in its three powers.

The sigils of the scales (taken from the Rose Cross) shown on the branches are explained as follows: On the right hand branch governs MLK. MLK = 570 which is "to reign", or "the King"; on the left hand branch governs ASH. ASH = 301 which is "Fire, smouldering wrath"; on the middle branch governs MQL. MQL = 170 which is "light, rod or stick"; hence: the Wand, the potential of the main branch, the third principle as shown above. What is being said is that "the King reigns with discernment directing his will power through the Wand" - the Wand being representative of the positive masculine forces.

The branch representeth the raw material of the as yet unshaped and unengraved wand of the magician, it giveth a glimpse of higher attainment and aspiration just as the magician's wand invokes and directs. A tool of Will which eventually becomes 'Will'; it is fertility unmanifested, and dares to enter into the realm of manifestation through divine will from the realm of creation as it can do nothing else but, for that is its nature and no power can prevent this for as a branch, it is cut from the tree of life. This branch links the two worlds, a transmitter from each to the other as the *F n Soph Aur* is for Kether of one world and Malkuth of another and it is this realm of nothingness that the wielder of the Ace of Wands traverses. It is likened to the legend of the Golden Bough, for due to the Golden Bough, a Trojan prince called Aeneas was able to survive when passing

through the underworld.

Primary Red and its complementary, Vivid Green, are the main colours used in the Ace of Wands. This red is the fire element of which this Ace represents, the element in its pure essence, its raw energy. The Ace is the incorporeal form of its element shown here by the vivid green which is the elemental womb of fire, the gestation place of this element. The branch is coloured primary red, otherwise known as vivid red, representing the Secret Fire. The colour then graduates into a more flame red as it moves out on the three forks towards the flames, which portray a flame red (orange red) on their very tips. The 22 Yods are of the primary red. The backdrop of this card is of the green which emerges from the clouds in its depth of pigmentation which then graduate into a translucent green (of the same colour) to the top of the card analogous to heat rising in a desert. The whole impression of heat should emanate from the card if coloured in this manner. Just looking at it should give the auto-suggestion of the feeling of being exposed to tremendous amounts of heat, but without burning, which is called celestial heat. On each of the three branches is a disk shaped layman coloured the white of Kether, the sigil in each layman is coloured red. The hand protruding from the clouds is white alluding to the brilliance of Kether and exhibits the qualities of manifestation. The clouds are brilliant white representing the place of manifestation. The red reflects off the clouds and hands as if there is a reflection from the eternal fire of creation.

The primary red portrays the seed of Universal energy - pure force - blind force - the Yod of Yods being spontaneous in nature it must give birth and giving birth is what it does to the cyclic chain of nature. It is a generative and life giving power hence the use of the word energy as shown above which relates to heat, friction and fire. As each branch becomes a flame it manifests as fire in its pure form - spiritual power.

Alchemically red is positive energy and masculine force, and the green is life, the nourishment of life. Together they illustrate the nature of creation. They are the all transmuting elixir. The ace of wands shows transmutation, the second stage being the Two of Wands.

The vivid green shows immortality - green is growth and activated in the fire element is growth of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit becomes in the Ace of Wands a reflection of Kether; the Spirit manifesting in its material form first through creative energy.

## DIVINATORY MEANINGS

ON MATTERS OF the Physical Body; Selfhood; Self Projection; new ideas; new beginnings; reactions to outside stimuli; the life force; first encounters:

In these circumstances the Ace of Wands represents potential creation and the inevitable submerging of latent qualities. It denotes a new birth of a child or project. It shows a person of divine purpose although unconscious of the fact; the action is spontaneous, and is a pure force, but this pure force has as yet no controlling principle; its sole purpose is but to manifest. A stabilizing factor must be introduced so that it does not become a blind force. It can portray a person dominant and overbearing in character, or a person with that 'charisma', 'ever burning life force'. When representing matters of health the Ace shows high and intermittent fevers brought on by psychological interferences, or the general act of 'over expending'. But in general it is boundless energy and all things of concern to an individual can be penetrated to their root. Most of all, with the turn of this card, one speaks from the soul. "Divine Purpose".

ON MATTERS OF possessions and personal attitude towards such; personal estate and resources both physical and material; principles and feelings; management and projection; commerce, personal, commercial, governmental and national financial affairs directly relating to the self:



The Key word actioned by the Ace of Wands under the above matters is obscurity. Little value is placed on material possessions for great value is placed on the spiritual and mental resources of the self. Concerning material dealings in the above matters, absolute honesty, integrity and although unusual with the latter - subtlety. In whatever role one plays lies little games although the actor believes in the purity and 'intent' as well as 'content' of his/her act. Concerning business affairs the Ace of Wands is favourable for commencement providing the cards turned up on either side are favourable, for where there is the potential there must be an instigator and a director of the force. On the negative side the Ace shows wrath, outbursts, excessive loss due to impulsiveness. "Obscurity".

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

Intense motion is the key word for the above matters. The Ace of Wands gives motivation for undertakings; plans get underway and on the drawing board, but as yet unformulated. Energy and desire compels action, so we see stirrings of undertakings such as journeys, the writing of neglected correspondence or the Ace will forewarn receipt of letters or communication in some other form. A member of the family may travel 'to' or 'from' unexpectedly or announce a new goal or project. The Ace also shows the desire for one to find oneself. It advises by its presence that this can be worked towards through reading (inspir-

ational philosophical or esoteric literature). It must be remembered that the Ace only shows the first stirrings, the seed of an idea and the energy (impetus) to inspire it. When enquiring on concerns that are already underway the Ace then depicts the a driving force behind activities. Its action is generally favourable but if there are problems it will advise that fuel is being added to the fire. "Intense Motion".

ON MATTERS OF the end of one stage and the commencement of another; the home and private life; buildings; land; parents; security; emotions; significant shifts in lifes directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

The Key words for the Ace of wands on the above are "After Completion". It shows strong emphasis that one cycle is ended and another preparing to commence. The Ace shows what concerns the querent in the unconscious, what drives this is the fact that the querent is shown that he or the subject of his question will be propelled into another cycle before conscious realisation comes to pass. It shows that the results of a cycle are completed, no more can be achieved, so much so that it has returned to its source. In this position it can show the passing over of a soul from this world to the next. This may not necessarily be a death but an initiation, or ones transforming from Kether of one world to Malkuth of another. On material matters there is restlessness and as yet undecided plans. Parents appear to be omnipresent in the persons psychological make up - possible psychosis. Security can only be found deep within oneself and with

the knowledge that all beginnings must end and all endings are beginnings. Emotions can be violent when one is out of touch with ones soul. "After Completion".

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

This is a most powerful position for the Ace of Wands. Its effects are far reaching, lasting much longer than in any other position. It represents universal creativity, procreation. Although representing pure speculation, there are results therefrom, once the cycle commences. On matters of love given the Ace shows purity and is of more of a universal level rather than for selfish reasons. External expression shines brilliance but excessiveness can quickly overcome the brilliance. If cards depicting a masculine sign turn up with the Ace, or in the 11th house, boys are generally referred to - birth of a boy child - but on the most part the Ace refers to conception rather than actual birth in this position. Fertility is the emphasis. Entertainment and recreation are of no consequence with this Ace for its prime concern is creativity; its force is catabolic. For actual creative arts this card is fortunate and shows superior talent. The key word of this position is "Procreation".

ON MATTERS OF sickness (generally due to work problems); employment: employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of

skills; psychology:

The Ace of Wands tends to be a malefic under these matters unless favourable cards turn up with it depicting otherwise. The pure root force of the Ace cannot handle day to day conflicts which the modern man is confronted with in the working environment. Such living has taken man too far away from the spiritual source. So the Ace shows a reaction to this way of life, which manifests in sickness: rashes, fevers, influenza, headaches, bad tempers, viruses, neuralgia and nervous or stress conditions. The inner psyche revolts surfacing as one or more of the many modern day ailments. The life force becomes blocked and run down. The Ace shows the life force fighting back, constant through its creativity. It also portrays an over emphasis of loyalty in ones sense of service. This can cause some people to work to exhaustion. Relationships can become heated but shortlived with many an angry word said. If the central essence of the Ace of Wands can be reached within the individual while subject to these conditions then great strength and understanding is achieved - not forgetting the abovementioned problems overcome. This is the lesson taught and the goal to which one must strive. On a personal note a burning desire for self improvement is evident. The Key words for this position are "To Surmount".

ON MATTERS OF marriage and divorce; contracts; the other party; competitors, adversaries, and known enemies; partnerships; public relationships; social interaction; the law of compensation; what is lacking; the workings of karma:

The Ace of Wands shows something where there was nothing - hope. It lends life to relationships, fire to life and rekindles the embers of relationships. Therefore in questions of marriage and personal affairs this card is favourable. On questions of termination of associations it again says 'yes', for remember the Ace of Wands is a blind force and where there is fire more wood will be added and the flames will leap higher. This is the precedent for matters concerning contracts and partnerships, public activity etc. Others react with zeal and known enemies act with vehemence, often blindly, but the Ace of Wands turned up shows a secret weapon - truth. Karmically you couldn't have had it better; it shows devotion and the will to face truth and to reach for the knowledge of the Universal Spirit. You cannot compensate when this Ace appears. On the other hand the Ace can show you what is lacking if the latter is not an actuality in your life. This is what must be realised. The key word for the Ace of Wands in this position is "Devotion".

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of others; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

The creative powers of the Ace of Wands can be almost drowned out in this position. If this can be avoided then we have creativity rebirthing through others. Birth is the main essence given from this card whereas this position shows rebirth.

Are they not one and the same! More importantly the Ace shows that a seed has been planted, but this is the period of gestation. Again, as shown in the above matters, we come across a situation where material concerns must be dealt with. The "blind force" provides initial impetus but to have any other influence the Ace must concede defeat. It is good with good and bad with bad - if the wheel is in motion it will continue, if not it will start. It does not concern itself with spiritualism and mysticism as they are but diversions from the source and truth. Transformation is its potential and transform it will. The key word for this position is "Transformation".

ON MATTERS OF religion; metaphysics; philosophy; higher study and education; legal systems; morals; institutions of learning; long distance travel; exploration; public communications; the collective mind:

What more disrupting is truth in its purest form, can there be in a world of erroneous enigma of surds through institutionalized culture of religion, metaphysics, politics and philosophy. The Ace of Wands is a mystery to the child of earth and as such a path to walk, any one of the many paths given by this position. It reflects aspiration, spiritual power and influence. Favourable in matters of religion, philosophy and all forms of spiritual teaching. It exhibits the purist with high morals. In questioning travel, the answer is yes, but as yet in the planning stage, or the initial movement in such an undertaking. Travel will be in haste therefore the fastest means will be chosen.

Fortunate are the affairs of learning and in legal matters. But what is wrong we ask? The answer is simple. The Ace is purely potential. It is up to us to bring "whatever" into manifestation. The omen is there, do we act on it? And what of the collective mind? "It is!" The key word for this position is "Truth".

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached; achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

"Master of human destinies am I...knocking once at every gate" saith the Ace of Wands "I giveth you opportunity ye talented sloth, get up and take your bow as ye hath not yet begun". The penultimate of achievement is shown by the position of this Ace. Do you lie down to die once your goal is attained - no! New goals are set, ambitions realised. This position is favourable for public honour and for advancements or honour in profession, for initiation of events in government. The energy is new and must be guided as a parent guides the energies of a growing child, so must a head of an organisation guide the wheels of commerce within his industry. Your downfall is not to take action, for action is shown by the Ace, and this action must be direct if not somewhat ruthless. But look deeper and you will see the secret is in the timing. There is a time for mercy, a time for severity and a time to walk the middle path. The master of this path is he who commands all action from the middle keeping a true and clear perception of the law of cause and effect.

"Opportunity".

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government; counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

Spiritual aspirations come to the fore when the Ace of Wands appears. It is the birth of gatherings, groups, organisations and the sitting of parliament. Beginnings are deemed fortunate by the Ace, and if querying outcomes, they too are fortunate if surrounding cards reinforce this. Friendships grow but as yet they are new and uncertain which prevent closeness. The Ace is the pre-natal state of a sleeping giant, the universal unconscious. Ideals are prominent and the inspired aspires carrying others along within the current. Meetings leave members invigorated spurring on action in those able to pick up the current; thus the Ace favours groups. On the other hand it also shows that aspirations and ideals are all that come out of such meetings, as the Ace is a blind force giving the impetus, but this impetus must be picked up and carried on. "Aspire".

ON MATTERS OF responsibility and contribution to others; humanistic concerns; karmic debts; unresolved problems; hidden resources; the unconscious; sorrow; health afflictions; secret enemies; hospitals; secret societies; self undoing; total identification:



Under these matters the Ace of Wands shows a form of transition but in the initial stages it shows completion. One has fulfilled all Karma, thus a complete new beginning with new Karma to be made is to take place. It shows release; release from hospitals, the hold of enemies, from health problems and imprisonment whether it be from mind or body. It identifies with the Holy Spirit in its creative form. There is no secrecy when the Ace turns up, secrets are known, not told, but known. Those inspired seek spiritual retreat if not in the physical in the mind. This also depicts astral travel. The need to be in touch with ones essence is of prime importance to those who receive this card. Ones self undoing comes when too much pride and overconfidence overcomes logic and ethics; gambles taken and lost. "Release".

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Ace of Wands - "Root of the Powers of Fire" - "Potentiality"

(The Furnace)

In the 1st position: "Divine Purpose"  
 In the 2nd position: "Obscurity"  
 In the 3rd position: "Intense Motion"  
 In the 4th position: "After Completion"  
 In the 5th position: "Procreation"  
 In the 6th position: "To Surmount"  
 In the 7th position: "Devotion"  
 In the 8th position: "Transformation"  
 In the 9th position: "Truth"  
 In the 10th position: "Opportunity"  
 In the 11th position: "Aspire"  
 In the 12th position: "Release"

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## MEDITATION ON THE ACE OF WANDS:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail. Study the colours.

Now let the Student look at the card and feel its vibrations.

Write down your overall impression.

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exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson. *THE TAROT FRONTPIECE, GIVEN IN THE PREVIOUS LESSON, IS TO BE PAINTED ON EACH TAROT CARD.*