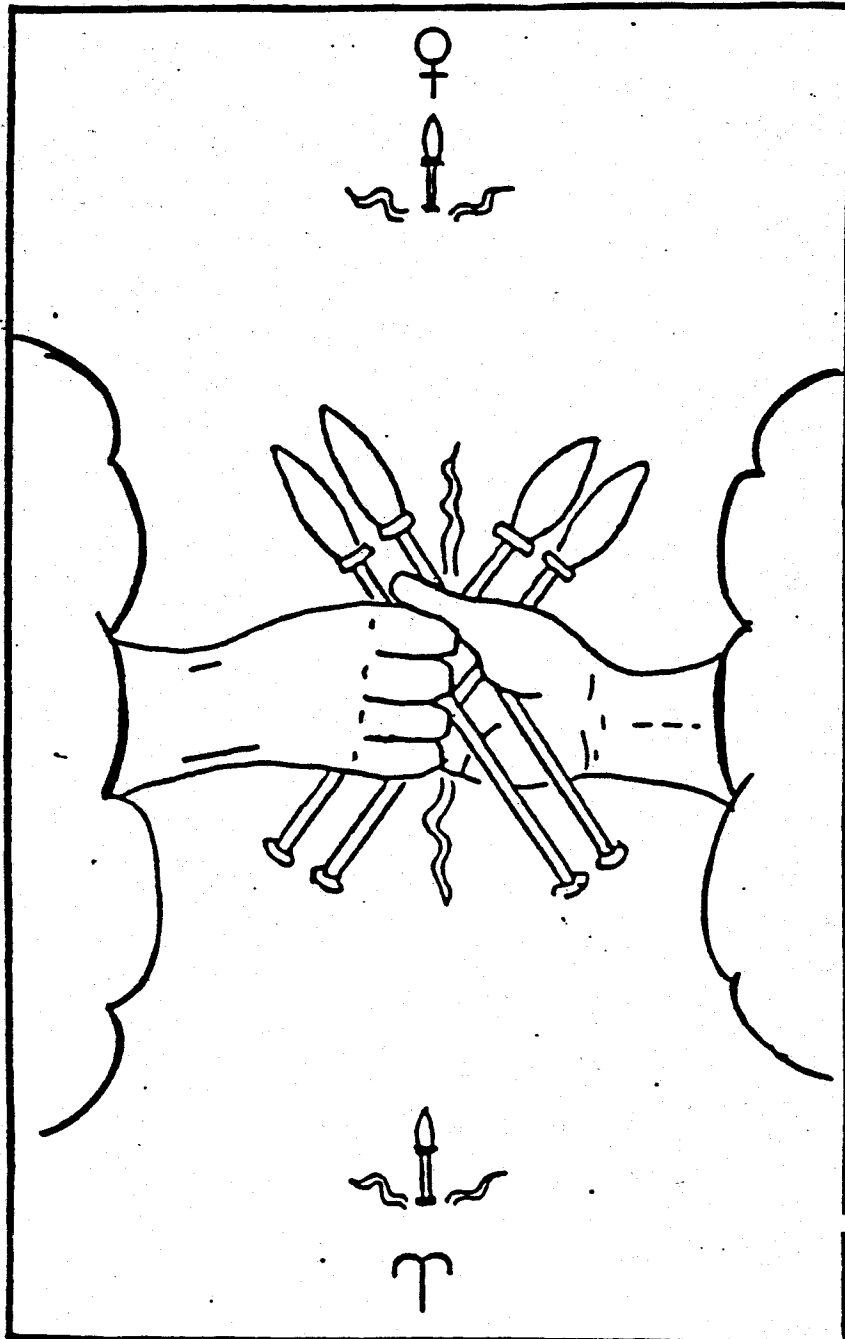


LESSON 55

4 OF WANDS



LESSON 55

4 OF WANDS

"Lord of Perfected Work"

20 to 30 degrees Aries

♀ in ♈

Two white radiating angelic hands, as before, issuing from clouds right and left of the card and clasped in the centre with the grip of the First Order holding four batons crossed. Flames issue from the point of junction - as they do above and below.

While one hand can hold only a maximum of three batons, two hands can comfortably hold four. This shows the peaceful and harmonious marriage of opposites, the two hands, showing the completion of the merging of two interfacing forces into a common unit which is perfection of the work (at this level) - thus, the fourth principle has now been born out of the 3 of Wands.

The four batons complete a cross, or an 'X' as it is sometimes referred to as. This cross makes four divisions alluding to the four points of the universe. On earth these are shown as the four elements and in this case, as this card is in the fire element, the commencement of the four elements in their primordial form. As it continues to say in the "Emerald Tablet":

"Its Father is the Sun and its Mother the Moon. The Wind has borne in its body. Its nurse is the Earth."

and the name "Lord of Perfected Work" seems the most appropriate

title for the 4 of Wands.

The double cross is also the symbol for Ashes or Cinders. Many are aware of the symbology of the Phoenix rising out of the Ashes. The same principle applies here, but when looking in the direction of descension it is the preparation of the indwelling Self to be born into the Soul's lower nature, and in time will eventually arise out of the ashes, as the Phoenix did. Of course when looking at this card with the concept of ascension one sees the Phoenix arise as the birth of the Higher Self. Ashes also representeth the sign of death which is rather appropriate due to the death of one part of the self for the sake of another, and in this there is sorrow and loss. Used in ritual, ashes were not only used to purify, but in a sense used to show respect for the departed.

From pure expression in the previous cards the 4 of Wands begins the cycle of tangible achievement alluding to the divine Spark within man. The cross within a square is the symbol of perfection in Matter: "I am the Manifester in Matter of those whose abode is the Invisible. I am purified. I stand Upon the Universe. I am the reconciler with the Eternal Gods. I am perfection in Matter, and without me the Universe is not."

The 4 of Wands is coloured in the King Scale. The wands are the colour of the planet, Paris Green and the backdrop of the card is coloured the colour of the zodiac sign, Blood Red. The Clouds and hands are in brilliant white outlined and shaped with

the red of the fire element showing the presence of spirit manifesting through fire. The flames coming from the wands and hands are the complementary colour to the backdrop, Vivid Green.

The rays of Paris Green stabilise the volatile Blood Red of Aries which giveth an end product of order, thereby social order is infiltrated into the sphere of activity of those subjected to this combined ray. Cultural values are initiated and religious beliefs formed, for into the volatile red impregnates aestheticism. The gestation is now complete in the womb and all the past actions and experiences of mankind have become a part of all cellular structure.

The 4 of Wands has Venus in Aries attributed. Venus in Aries shows a projection of one that demands attention, has active creativity in artistic pursuits and stimulates enthusiasm, or excitement in social gatherings. It pursues social events and congenial company, and loves the idea of love giving freely of emotions, at times appearing aggressive in approach. Popularity and extravagance comes easy to Venus in Aries, but favours and appreciation fluctuates as the grass is always greener on the other side.

This all sounds quite a contrast to the essential meaning of the 4 of Wands, but when you look at the 4 of Wands as it is in the fire element, you can see how all the above basic representations are of Venus in Aries. For example, the demanding of attention becomes authority and the wielding of power - "I will

speak and you will listen"; the effects it has on social gatherings becomes catalytic, spurring others on to new heights; the emotions when working through Atziluth become that of Love for all creation which loves with a selfless passion, but has no pity or compassion. Venus acting in the fire element is drawn away from material, personalized values, giving it a more universal and harmonizing tune.

Chesed of Yod (settlement, arrangement, completion).

DIVINATION

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

The 4 of Wands in this position represents the expression of "what is" and not "what will be", as all one is, is what one expresses. This in itself is fine when working within a confined structure but the element of creation is very limited. This expression is its own completeness, is harmonic, values beauty and fine things and can work within its own confined structures creatively. Therefore one must not underestimate this card when it turns up under the above matters. Just realize that there are limits, its energies are not boundless. Within this position are the seeds for decadence and elitism. The 4 of Wands warns that one must use what one has then open oneself to ideas; this is not all there is. The Key word is "Limitation".

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 4 of Wands under the above matters tells that all is under control. To possess is of great importance - look out anyone trying to take anything away. One judges others by what they possess, physically, mentally and spiritually, and at the most, materially. The time is favourable to attend to personal business and financial affairs. The 4 of Wands represents a time of satisfaction in activities past, present and with whats to come, but this satisfaction can lead to so much comfort that one forgets to concentrate on growth, wasting energy on trivialities and indulgences. "To Possess".

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

Alot of energy is applied in travelling to social engagements and pleasure taken thereof. There will be ease in relationships and general happiness in relationships with brothers, sisters, relations and neighbours. Concerning education and writings this is not ones forte' as the 4 of Wands represents a state of being. Being content in what one is, what one knows,

and through this shrugs off education opportunities. It also represents the manifestation of artistic literary skills, an outlet of which must be provided. The key word for the 4 of Wands under the above matters is "Contentment".

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:

On the above matters the 4 of Wands represents a very close tie to the family even to the point of clannish behaviour, domestic tranquility and the home being a place of gathering of many social activities. Matters of the occult verge on the unconscious ready to burst forth just before the Phoenix rises from the ashes. In this position the querent is advised that it is time to act as all is made ready, and is in order; it is time to initiate for the candidate is ready; it is time for illumination and stirrings have already commenced.

The Keyword is "Readiness".

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

The 4 of Wands under these matters shows a combination of recklessness and compromise. Behaviour can sway either way. It is up to the querent to combine these natures which then can

become quite a virtue providing tangible achievement. This achievement is seen through the above matters expressed through creativity. Administration in sport and other forms of recreation, acting and drama, a premeditated gamble will be taken. It represents the reaching out to others and the free giving of the self in love and to love. From the above we can understand that the 4 of Wands advises that ones future success will be, if the correct act is made not too soon and not too late. "Timing".

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 4 of wands shows that through work the querent will find completeness, and through ones working environment the meeting of others and development of fruitful relationships are achieved. If the querent is not in a situation where this can be achieved then the 4 of Wands advises that you change jobs - move from the debri and make yourself new. Health is good providing the individual doesn't overdo things. Remain calm in temperament otherwise uncontrolled temperamental outbursts can lead to mental and emotional problems. The Thymus gland and areas around the face are also affected. Being conciliatory is the sense of service but this in itself, if not mastered, leads to weakness and abuse. If mastered it can be a virtue when working amongst other people. The 4 of Wands masters this trait through the energies of the fire element. "Conciliation".

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:

In essence this position for the 4 of Wands is quite strong. In all of the above matters the expression is positive and represents the aspiration to uplift, to raise the conscious level, thus in peace there is union with fellow humans bridging on an intellectual level, although the main consensus is through the mass consciousness. Through unity the hardest of tasks is achieved. This all comes about if the querent has a clear uncluttered mind looking only towards the 'Light'. On concerns of contracts, partnerships etc., there is a very convincing and inspiring element involved. This makes such affairs hard to turn down. Tread carefully. The Key word is "Fellowship".

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 4 of Wands is in its fall in this position, but this is considered fortunate for this card here as its main concentration is on manifestation on the material plane. Thus the weakness of its fall holds all its strength under control. This is done by virtue of becoming. There is no desire or lust or intellectual

calculation, it is just "to be". There is compulsiveness in action in all matters enquired about. Under matters of finance the 4 of Wands states that fortunate results will come, only if that is the direction they are going in the first place. Crime is committed through ignorance of what one is doing, and likely to be unnoticed. It is favourable to pool your resources and there may be income from wills and legacies, but this does not necessarily mean on a material base. "Continuance".

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:

In attainment there is honesty but in attaining there is misconception or avoidance of the truth, for the ultimate is to attain no matter what the cost; so be aware of your motives and actions when receiving the 4 of Wands under the above matters. Here the 4 of Wands represents purely spiritual aspirations and all pursuits of philosophy, religion, art, etc.; journies into the astral and an attachment to the ideals of other worlds. Application on the physical in study or by physical participation is not indicated, leaving the idealist and dreamer. The querent is advised to apply Will to intention, and not get carried away on unapplied enthusiasm; utilize this energy to create - don't stagnate. The Key word is "enthusiasm".

ON MATTERS OF public honour; status; ambitions and goals reached;

achievements; profession; the other parent; causes for disgrace; recognition; identity:

The 4 of Wands alludes to a grand happening, the completion of the preparation of a venture, the pinnacle of ones profession; one can go no further at this point. Success. Ambition then leans towards recreation, the arts, retirement. But, it also means the commencement of a new career with honour. One steps in with a composite of past experiences and training fully qualified to meet the new goals. One stage is fulfilled satisfactorily as another commences, but the resources are carried over. The position is transitory neither good nor bad, but influenced by whatever Will directs it. "Carry Over".

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:

In extending loyalty and friendship one reaps loyalty; harmonize with Society's needs and create a sense of purpose saith the 4 of Wands under the above matters. Emotional and intellectual security is found in holistic concepts but concepts that can be neatly slotted into a structure. This card alludes to the healer, the naturopathist or homeopathist. It represents participation in the whole as a "part" will not be accepted and that composite is put into play in service to humanity through counselling, group activities, social functions as a means to an

end. In governmental matters thought must be applied in arming against disorder, and with careful preparation the desired result will be achieved. The Key word is "Purpose".

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:

In this position the 4 of Wands represents a magnetic alluring force. This force constantly places stress on one to strive to improve a situation. You can use these energies to enrich others or yourself from others. Health afflictions are lymphatic and loosening of muscles. The 4 of Wands shows that this is a time for solitude to build strength. The unconscious is on the threshold and it is time to tune in. This is a time for preparation of what is to come so tone up, tune in and learn, for you must be in readiness to pass on to your next life cycle. The secret enemies here are from within as you are your own worst enemy. Concentrate and don't let your mind wander, limit the force and let it build. "Allure".

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4 of Wands: "Lord of Perfected Work"
 (Third Stage Calcination - Reddening)

In 1st position: "Limitation"
 In 2nd position: "To Possess"
 In 3rd position: "Contentment"
 In 4th position: "Readiness"
 In 5th position: "Timing"
 In 6th position: "Conciliation"
 In 7th position: "Fellowship"
 In 8th position: "Continuance"
 In 9th position: "Enthusiasm"
 In 10th position: "Carry Over"
 In 11th position: "Purpose"
 In 12th position: "Allure"

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MEDITATION ON THE FOUR 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.