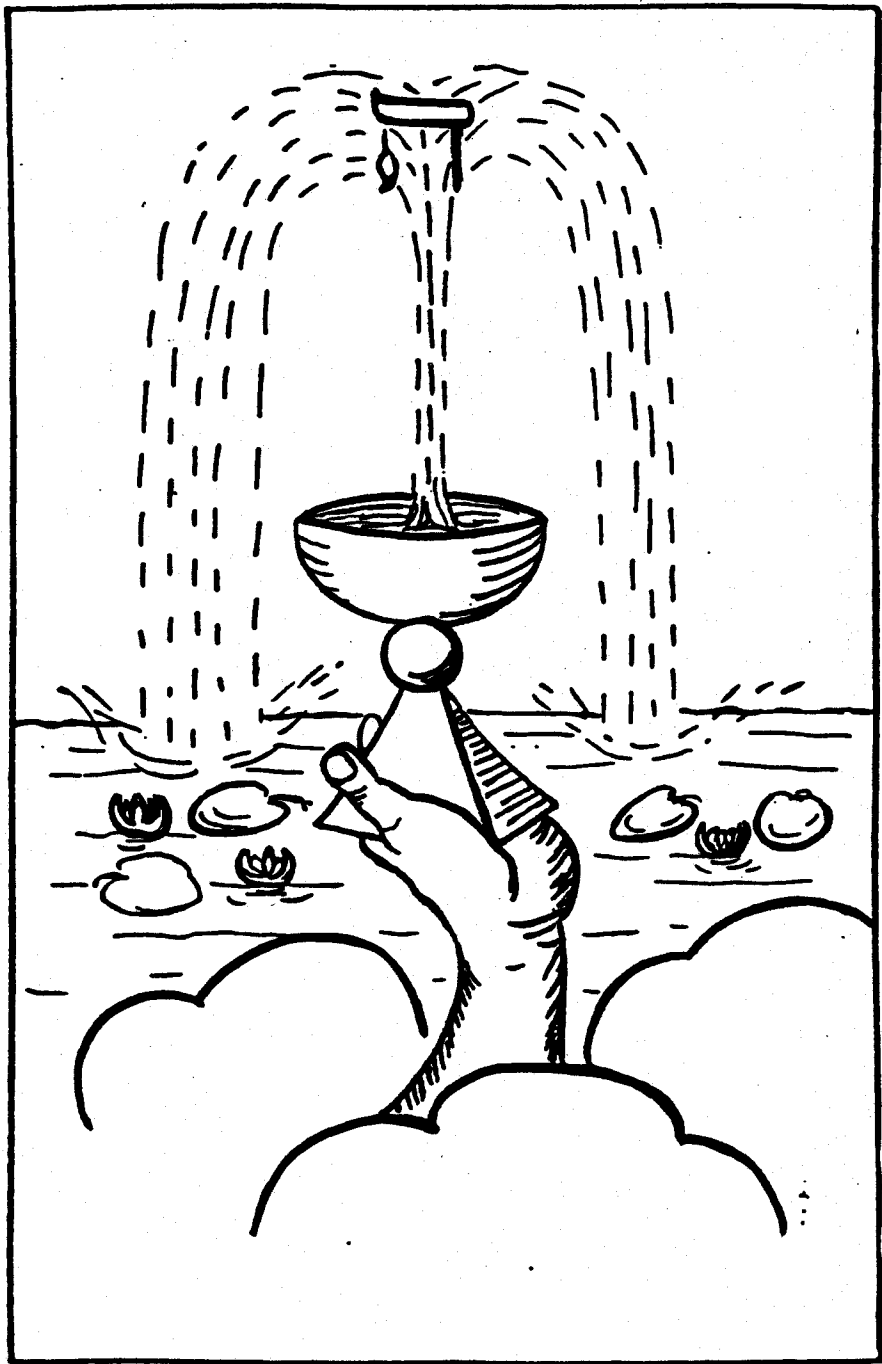


LESSON 62

ACE OF CUPS



LESSON 62

ACE OF CUPS

"Root of the Powers of Water"

A white angelic hand, issuing from the clouds and supporting on the palm thereof a cup, resembling that of Stolistes.

From it rises a fountain of clear glistening waters and sprays falling on all sides into clear calm water below, in which grow Lotuses and Water Lilies. The great letter of the Supernal Mother is traced in the spray of the fountain. There is a strong influence from Binah and the Great Mother which is associated to cups.

Here we have the "Fountain of Life" with the four rivers of paradise about to issue forth. It is the Azoth - the perfect spirit or essence of all things called the Lapis Exilis. The Ace of Cups represents the "Second Stage". In his "Coelum Terrae" Thomas Vaughan explains the Second Stage:

".... For in the first preparation the Chaos is blood red, because the Central Sulphur is stirred up and discovered by the Philosophical Fire. In the second it is exceedingly white and transparent like the heavens. It is in truth somewhat like common quicksilver, but of a celestial transcendent brightness, for there is nothing upon earth like it." - The Fountain of Life as described above - "This fine substance is the child of the

elements and it is a most pure sweet virgin, for nothing yet hath been generated out of her. But if at any time she breeds it is by the fire of Nature, for that is her husband. She is no animal, no vegetable, no mineral, neither is she extracted out of them all, for she is the mother of them." - shown by the letter Heh within the fountain of water. He goes on to say: "....She yields to nothing but love for her end is generation and that was never yet performed by violence." (giving her nature) He also describes her favours as the Virgin's Milk, the giving of blood from her heart and presenting the secret crystal.

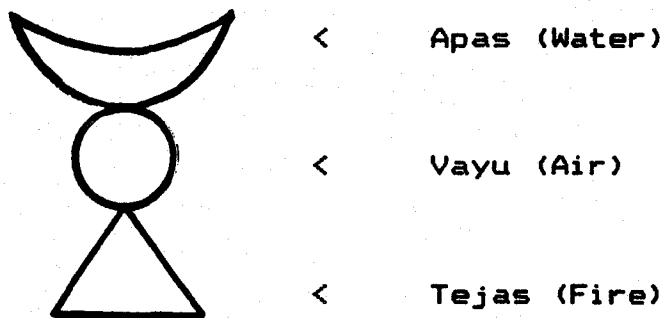
Vaughan describes her appearance as:

"In the shape or figure she resembles a stone and yet is no stone, for they call her the White Gum and Water of the Sea, Water of Life, Most Pure and Blessed Water;..." - the clear calm waters of the fountain from the cup flow into the sea - ".... They call her also their twofold Mercury and Azoth, begotten by the influences of two globes, celestial and terrestrial. Moreover, they affirm her to be of that nature that no fire can destroy her, which of all other descriptions is most true, for she is fire herself, having in her a portion of the Universal Fire of Nature and a secret Celestial Spirit, which Spirit is animated and quickened by God Himself, ..."

Thus the Ace of Cups represents the Universal Magnet, the cup being the ultimate goal of man to return to his pure state and to attain the knowledge by finding the 'Grail' or 'Fountain of Life'. The relationship of the cup in the Ace of Cups to the

Holy Grail is quite significant. Amongst the many myths and legends of the Grail the overall concensus is "attainment" and "earthly perfection", symbolising Divine Life, Wisdom and Love (Understanding). It alludes to the release of ones higher powers. With such glory is the drama and suffering, successes and failures of the journey of the Soul to such an attainment. It is the eternal search of mankind, for example the Knights of King Arthur in search of the Grail. The Grail is represented by the cauldron, the cup and the chalice - any bowl like object that can contain some form of nourishment (or poison) but more importantly a receptacle of spiritual forces.

The shape of the cup is broken up into three forms. The crescent, circle and triangle:



These are the liquid, gaseous and temperature states minus the terra firma. Water and fire flow towards each other giving birth in the middle to air (steam, gases). This symbolises "Her end" as "generation".

We then have The Great Mother symbolized by the letter Heh in the fountain, giving forth her "Milk" into the Waters of Creation shown by the still water in the middle of the card. Below the waters are the clouds of manifestation and above, the Heavens of Creation. The fountain forms the shape of a window which is the letter Heh.

The three Lotuses and the four Lotus Pods bring forth the number 7 ($3+4=7$). 7 is the holiest of numbers, and also stands for desire and change. 7 is the value of DG which is 'to multiply'. The Lotuses are the immortal spiritual nature of mankind. The flowering Lotuses resting on the waters signify perfection and the unfolding of the spirit while the seed pods are of creation, and are referred to as the "mover on the waters" - from them bursts life.

The Ace of Cups is coloured in the colours of the element of Water. Primary (Vivid) Blue, its complementary Chrome Orange (Vivid) and Silvery Glistening White are the main colours emanating from the Ace of Cups. The backdrop of the card has been coloured Chrome Orange. Where this colour meets the water it is in depth of colour, and as it moves to the top of the card it becomes translucent. This is the gestating womb of the waters, Divine Love. This also alludes to dominance over matter and the awakening to the values of true Wisdom. Out of the Clouds of Manifestation is held the Blue Cup within the womb, alluding to the Great Mother, infinite space which can contain

all and nothing and out of the cup flows the Silver White fountain of cosmic reality, emotion in its most purified form, which flows into the Silver Blue Waters of Creation. The Blue letter Heh at the top of the fountain shows the descent of Spirit into the waters - the Abyss of Creation. The Lotuses and Lotus Pods are Chrome Orange shaded Blue. These show that the waters are fertile. The clouds and hand are Brilliant White alluding to the reflection of Kether and around the edges is a shading of blue reflecting eternity.

The colours of this card should exude a softness, and the overall vibration coming from the Ace of Cups coloured as described above should be very soothing, installing the feeling of Love and Happiness.

The Ace of Cups is the "Root of the Powers of Water". As an element Water symbolises the nourishing factor of life, the sustainer. It has the feminine, passive and Luna principle. As a psychological nature it shows deep emotion and feelings of love, the unconscious mind, the clairvoyant, the psychic, the dreamer and illusion. Water also represents the gaining of consciousness and realization, and it is instinct, reflection, subtlety and perception. Water is the Mother, as where there is water all things grow. In Alchemy it comes in many shapes and sizes and under many symbols, but no matter how diverse its composition, it is always of one thing and of one nature which acts upon itself. This one nature then transforms itself.

Water is the Sages Vehicle and Preceptor, for the nature of water is yielding, yet all-conquering. For example, water extinguishes fire, but if fire is more than water at the time, water is not defeated but escapes through steam, and then reforms, and when it confronts a rock it finds a way around. From this you will see how deceptively humble it is; it may give way to obstacles but there is no power that can prevent it flowing around, under or over, towards its eternal quest which is the Sea, known as the Great Mother. It can saturate the air and the wind will die. Water never attacks but always wins the last battle as it conquers by yielding: Passive Resistance.

In divination the Ace of Cups is hardly very informative on a conscious level, for it shows the workings of firstly the deepest yearnings of the Soul; secondly, the gaining of consciousness to let go of residue, emotional waste, and purge exhausted behaviour patterns so the Soul can express fluently, and thirdly it shows areas where there is need for emotional peace.

Heh of Kether (receiving light and understanding)

DIVINATION

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

In this position the Ace of Cups suggests an outward expression of pure happiness. One's reactions are instinctive and give way to intuition with the psychic nature becomes more active. It advises one should trust one's instincts for the time being and just enjoy life with all its idiosyncrasies. On a lower level it shows one attached to personality, and on a higher level it shows love and understanding. Wherever the Ace of Cups is it is a mirror of the Soul, a karmic bowl. All one has to do is dip one's hand into the bowl to become conscious of a little more. Thus the appearance of the Ace of Cups may not show much influence in everyday life, but it will show a slip in time where one is given the opportunity to tear away another "karmic liability". The key phrase here is "The Essence".

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:

To receive the Ace of Cups in this position you may immediately think it is fortunate, but the querent is in for a disappointment. This does not mean a loss, it means no change, as the appearance of the Ace shows that what one desires (monetarily) is not necessary. It is a reminder that the Spirit and Divine Love is all that is necessary for us to possess. It is saying "sorry dear, you won't get that money but it doesn't matter, rejoice". In matters national and governmental this Ace portrays harmony,

and no action as yet, but foretells success. Concerning ones personal management, there is too much dreaminess and far-fetched fantasies and desires. Ground yourself for a bit. "Fantasies".

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

Communication and relationships with those close to you will be of happiness and will flow with ease. Good cheer in all interactions. Under the above matters the main consensus is an unconscious level of communication and learning. This level is sometimes described as learning by psychic osmosis. In this way a great deal of knowledge can be absorbed into the conscious being, then placed into the depths of ones being where it remains to be called on when needed. An example of this is where you react automatically then reflect "How did I know this?" The Ace in this position shows psychic communication, rather than oral communication, and this is an area the Ace of Cups shows that one can develop. Travel is safe and enjoyable. "Psychic".

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:

In this position the Ace of Cups shows an environment of peace and tranquility, a very private life style and a detachment

from emotional turbulence. It shows a spiritual retreat and deep meditation to reach ones center. If this is not so in the querent's life at the time of the question the Ace then shows the deep unconscious yearning of the above and at the most, a necessity for this, so that the querent can get in touch with himself. The Ace of Cups advises that you must come to terms with feelings about your parents, and it also represents a focus of attention on the Soul. The key word for this position is "Meditation".

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

In this position the Ace stands for Divine Love. It is not love of the flesh, but of the Spirit. Such a state does not manifest on a conscious level unless motivated by outside stimuli. In matters of entertainment, sports and arts there is joy - many happy times. On a higher vibratory level the Ace of Cups depicts a separation from the need to indulge in such things, turning ones energies to an activity of observation, an all encompassing approach, looking on others as Children of the Earth. As regards children the Ace again shows a twofold concept. The first is future motherhood, or the child in the womb. The second is the Universe as your child just as you are its child. "Divine Love".

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:

In this position the Ace of Cups tells of a deep inner resource. A resource that can heal all ailments within oneself but also one that can cause illness if you are denied freedom of expression. The Ace shows work within the unconscious. Very rarely will the querent see on a conscious level the answer to his or her questions under the above matters. Sense of service is total dedication to the extent that one lives and acts according to what is believed to be divine duty. The working environment is of happiness, harmony, and fulfilment, so the querent is advised of good fortune when enquiring about employment. The Ace of Cups also pertains to the power to see through to the roots of all reactions within the human psyche. "Divine Duty"

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:

Under the above matters the Ace of Cups predicts a Union, whether it be marriage, partnerships or contracts. It shows faithfulness, joy and abundance. The Ace of Cups advises that the area of life that must be experienced is in relationships. Through the eyes of others you can see yourself if you only but look. But, fulfilment can only come from an inward search, for emotional satisfaction cannot be achieved through everyday super-

ficial behaviour in relationships. Karmic patterns are coloured by social taboos and that is ones greatest adversary depicted by the Ace. Again the Ace works very much on the unconscious level, its whole message being to "get in touch with the source".
 "Emotional Satisfaction".

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:

In this position the Ace of Cups reveals privacy and intimacy, the desire for deep emotional peace. This desire is not lasting for where there is stillness, turbulence quickly follows. Those that turn the Ace of Cups up under the above matters are heavily influenced by the law of cause and effect. You can go through deep emotional trauma, then come out of it a renewed being shedding the rubbish of the past like an old coat. The Ace shows great sensitivity to spiritualism and mysticism and is a key to transformation if the querent would only but heed its messages. "Cause and Effect".

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:

Religious enthusiasm becomes a main emphasis in this posi-

tion for the Ace of Cups, but actual physical application is nonexistent, for it becomes an expression motivated through emotion. It is purity in design but has no effect or action and remains still, unless surrounding cards can provide a catalyst. Travel is not undertaken in the physical as only the plans and dreams of such take place. Exploration is the exploring of the soul and through the astral. of the physical. The Ace shows a tuning in to collect: . . . communications are auric and psychic; morals become merged into the Cosmic Law. The querent is advised to keep a definition between the worlds of reality, otherwise he/she is likely to be absorbed into states (worlds) of overlap - which is not very practical when functioning physically on earth and at times creating the insane. The Key word for the Ace of Cups in this position is "Faith".

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

On a spiritual level for the average person, the Ace of Cups has little to no conscious recognition under the above matters. In general you can expect success and happiness in your profession; honour and love from the public. Ambitions and goals though, can drift into the world of dream, aspiration and fantasy, divorcing from reality. The lesson the Ace of Cups gives is the prevention of this; turn dreams into realities through the Will. In this position the Ace can represent a parent - or an archetypal figure - that has, or will have, a very

significant effect on the querent. The querent is advised to listen to and observe this archetypal figure, follow its guidance for ones greater good. The Key word is "Guidance".

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 this position the Ace of Cups shows deep feelings for humanity and the devotion to the survival and growth of mankind. The Ace governs the deepest emotional motivation in the human that causes the world wide relief groups that feed and clothe the starving. It also governs local groups who sacrifice themselves to a service that will help the needy, no matter how much their intent is rejected, which so often happens. The lesson here is: you can't help those that won't help themselves. Differentiation of who wants help and who wants handouts is a difficult thing for some to learn. These people are deeply hurt by their fellow men, but this tests their understanding, and knowledge of their own intention. "Feeling".

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:

The querent is advised that he is responsible, only so far as he is able, for himself and for those in direct or indirect contact. This is what you must believe when under the influence of Universal Karmic responsibility - humanistic concerns encompass every part of your everyday life. The Ace of Cups represents here, astral contact (conscious or unconscious) with a secret society (those of spiritual teaching). It answers unconscious problems by showing a purity and a serenity - the source. It predicts that the answer is in the realm of the unconscious which can and will be tapped if you "Will" it. The Key word for the Ace of Cups here is "Belief".

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Ace of Cups: "Root of the Powers of Water"

(Great Mother - the menstrum)

In 1st position: "Essence"
 In 2nd position: "Fantasies"
 In 3rd position: "Psychic"
 In 4th position: "Meditation"
 In 5th position: "Divine Love"
 In 6th position: "Divine Duty"
 In 7th position: "Emotional Fulfilment"
 In 8th position: "Cause and Effect"
 In 9th position: "Faith"
 In 10th position: "Guidance"
 In 11th position: "Feeling"
 In 12th position: "Belief"

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MEDITATION ON THE ACE OF CUPS:

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.

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