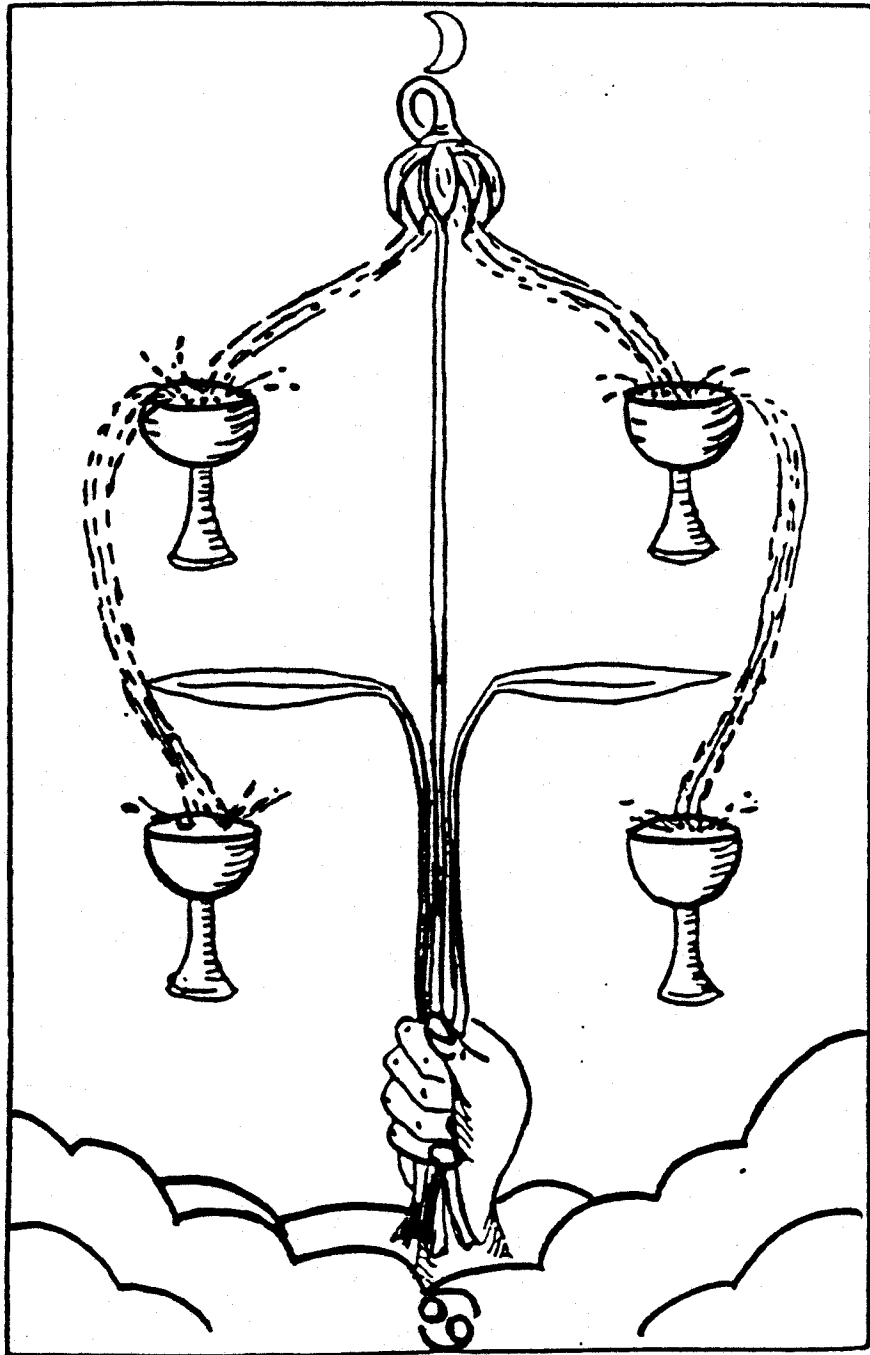


LESSON 65

FOUR OF CUPS

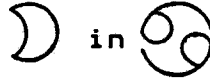


LESSON 65

4 OF CUPS

"Lord of Blended Pleasure"

20 to 30 degrees Cancer



Four cups, the upper two flowing into the lower two which do not overflow. An angelic hand grasps a branch of lotus which ascends a stem bearing one flower at the top of the card from which the white water flows into the two upper cups. From the centre two leaves pass right and left, making as it were a cross between four cups.

The huge stem has grown from the waters of previous the card falling into the sea, they have mixed their purity to produce a powerful lotus that outshines the rest. The lotus stem and leaves not only form the cross of the four elements (in balanced disposition) but a triangle. The cups form a square - the triangle is giving birth to the square. This also shows the first step into the world of Briah or formation, the blueprint is formed in perfection and balance.

To explain this further the cross is a symbol of perfection of the manifesting force. This force is masculine and feminine, shown by the vertical (electrical/phallic) and horizontal (deep and productive connotations) which is shown further by the cross penetrating through the upward pointing triangle (heat) and

giving forth the Sperma Aqua Fortis from the mouth of the lotus. The triangle is the trinity from which the 3 giveth balance forming the diety. The three points are the positive and negative forces and the neuter. The latter is the balancing force and is situated at the apex of the triangle where the egg is fertilized.

The corrosiveness of the Aqua Fortis is depicted by the cross in which it travels, and the Fierce Fire in which the Aqua fortis is distilled is represented by the upward triangle. The Aqua Fortis carefully mixed, giveth colour to matter, and it pours into the four cups which form the square - the hermetic tetrad, the 4 fold man, whose nature is salt. This water pours into the top two cups which overflow into the two bottom cups. The two bottom cups fill but do not overflow to return the waters to the great sea. This shows that separation has begun.

The 4 of Cups represents the perfecting of matter. Its name is "Lord of Blended Pleasure" which is quite apt when considering the blending of the masculine and feminine principles, but do not overlook the meaning behind the word "blended", for Aqua Fortis must be increased with care of ingredients to be of any value, and it colours nothing permanently without cohibition.

The 4 of Cups is coloured in the Queen Scale. The backdrop is the colour of the Sign, Oxide Red, and the cups are the colour of the Planet, Silver White. The lotus flower is the complementary colour to the cups, Gold White, and the lotus stem and

leaves are the complementary to the backdrop, Deep Green. The hands and clouds are Brilliant White showing the presence of spirit. The water is coloured White representing its purity.

White tinted Silver and Gold shows the beginning of purity being transformed into power. The White water (pure essence) is drawn up from the deep waters beneath the mists through the Green steams of the lotus representing growth, then it pours from the Gold White lotus, which is the action of Spirit through Wisdom, to the Silver white Cups showing the workings of spiritual law onto the higher mind. The Oxide Red in this card represents hopeless resistance to the omnipresence of spirit described above and acts as the Gateway of Life.

Overall, the colours of the 4 of Cups generate religious and spiritual values which seek to cultivate peace and spiritual awareness in an environment of growth and healing. They can open up the psychic to new realms and spur the imagination.

The planet and sign associated to the 4 of Cups is Moon in Cancer. The full Moon in Cancer gives forth the magic power of Love. The characteristics of the Moon in Cancer are dominated by sensitivity and emotion. There is a strong tendency to withdraw or retreat to a refuge, either within the self or within an environment. There is fondness of comfort and ease in life; self indulgence is essential, not a luxury for general happiness; there is changeability. Direction can be given purpose through the guidance or influence of another. It is reflectiveness of

others characteristics where ones own character is hidden behind a false persona. There is dealings with water, land and housing. Security is of uppermost importance next to family. The Moon in Cancer gives a psychic ability and an innate understanding of the workings of karma. It is universal in its love and an individual will go to great lengths to live in peace and harmony with all that come into contact. Dreaminess and stillness can loose opportunities. Those with Moon in Cancer can receive the fruits of life if they but open their eyes and behold of them.

The 4 of cups represents success and pleasure approaching its end as it has reached a stage of perfection. It is a stationary period of happiness and enjoyment but too passive in nature to reach perfection; there is an element of corrosion. It is Chesed of Heh (receiving pleasure or kindness from others, but some discomfort therewith; satisfaction has not been achieved so one tries again and again to partake in nourishment.)

DIVINATION

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

A sense of commitment may be so strong that ones selfhood is denied. This obligation is not loyalty but slavery; you must free yourself from it. Inertia leads to weakness and one must first encounter stimuli to continue to develop. The querent has

potential to manifest his own perfection, but leaving ones energies to idleness brings nothing. Being orientated in self-indulgence attracts destructive activities. On the more positive side there can be an element of calm and stability - almost serenity - in the querent, or the situation of concern. The 4 of Cups points out that the querent may already have, or will have, formed or received an understanding of what their outcome will be. "Inertia".

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:

In this position the 4 of Cups tells that you have had (or will have) help along the way, so do not forget those that help you. There is a need for more financial security, one that is never quite satisfied and well being is valued on how much comfort one can be in. Business ability is good although there is a tendency to inaction and then miss opportunities. If though, one remains alert, a great many situations are turned your way providing fortune and happiness. This is a position of plenty for the 4 of Cups, therefore its Key word is "Luxury".

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

The 4 of Cups in this position advises that you have all it takes to build your own life of independence. Inquisitiveness, a retentive memory and self determination are attributes for those receiving this card here. There is a pull between personal obligations to family and neighbours and the need for freedom. This can encourage excessive behaviour towards "enjoying oneself" while still within the confines of obligations, with an over generous attitude towards those one feels obligated, but this will not free you from your commitments, for it is your own sense of guilt that must be resolved. On the surface one appears to be in the land of plenty; underneath the surface there is conflict and restriction. "Obligations".

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:

This is a fortunate position for the 4 of Cups. A position of stability, content and of plenty. Life is enjoyed to a fullness. With this there is clarity and foresight with a divinitive quality but having dependence on security, and at times parents, underdevelops self confidence which inhibits ones talents. One identifies emotionally with home and family. Real estate concerns come into importance resulting in fortunate outcomes. The 4 of Cups also advises that this is a time of rest, recuperation and stabilization before shifting on to the next

stage of your life. "Emotional Comfort".

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 4 of Cups shows that one gratifies emotional needs. There is a tendency to misuse energy. The lesson to be learned is a careful blending of pleasures and obligations so that responsibility to the self and to others is taken care of. There is fun and fortune in sports, arts and gambling; enjoy it while you can for it is limited. There are others in your life that you give your love to who may feel a bit smothered by you. Let go and love freely and not possessively otherwise obstacles will arise. Amongst your activities you will meet with strangers which may encourage unrest for the good or for the worse, its up to you, how you channel your energy "Self Gratification".

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:

Health is strongly influenced by emotions. State of health depends on dietary habits, because ones weight as well as a dropsical tendency may be a problem. Work situations are ones of service to others. How you can get on at work and in work

relationships again depends on your emotions. Nevertheless the 4 of Cups has an essence of stability in it and those with this card in this position are most likely to have a stable job situation - any frictions are minor. Advancement is hard because of personal reservations and lack of confidence, or maybe its just too much effort to unbalance your present situation, or, do you feel too secure to disrupt yourself! The Key word for this card here is "Hesitancy".

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 this position the 4 of Cups represents peace, equilibrium, and agreement. You have your little territory and others come and go to meet you. No loophole is left in a contract or partnership, as everything is made safe and secure. Family is influential in your marriage or relationships due to your oversensitivity to them. Emotional fulfilment can be acquired through relationships. Business affairs cannot be avoided and will require constant dealings with the public. Circumstances bring forth complexities which in the long run will offer a wider choice to the querent, so don't feel trapped for there is more to a situation than meets the eye. "Refuge".

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:

There is concern with finances, inheritance and insurance. Land taxes need to be dealt with and partnerships settled. Here there can be excessive indulgence in personal pleasures as the emotions are not stable. This brings forth involvements of a sexual nature, touched with the illusion of love and romance. Beware of accidents. The 4 of Cups represents psychic sensitivity to unknown forces, energies and earth vibrations. This is a position of awakening, of the mind and body, to new possibilities, and to sight of a different perspective where one finally sees themselves and those around in a clearer light. It is a synthesising of events followed by realization and contemplation. The grail has been handed to you, all you have to do is open your eyes. "Awakening".

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:

The 4 of Cups advises that the only limitations in your life are the ones you place on yourself through fear or family obligations. Your most urgent priority should be making your way in life, gaining an education and place in society. Nevertheless there is a tendency of stillness, of holding back until it is too late, then you lament for what you willingly lost. You attach

yourself to social or religious institutions where moral and spiritual values are brought to the fore. Fondness of travel causes relocation to an area far from the place of birth. A need to know leads one into many forms of study. Those receiving this card here have been known as hermits, for they retreat into their world of thought (or of particular interest like books).

"Research".

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

The 4 of Cups represents achievement of prominence and furthering of career. One reaches a plateau where harmony and stability prevail under the auspices of continued proliferation. You may run your business from the home - or more likely have your place of business like home. Such success brings the lure of indulgence in chosen pleasures. This is where one can meet a downfall. Too much play and not enough work does not maintain success. Degeneration quickly sets in if you relax too much. Continued success is in placing importance on creating a happy medium between work and leisures. Another aspect of this card here is unawareness of ones success. Too much discontent conjures up imaginary vexations driving one on and on in circles.

"Proliferation".

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love

received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfillment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

This position is fortunate for the 4 of Cups in all of the above matters. A strong emotional need for friendships draws one to group activities bringing forth numerous friendships, a lot of whom are women. This card shows the love of Mother Nature and the unconscious understanding of her secrets. Assimilation of the workings of life by osmosis when involving oneself in the above activities causes a gradual buildup of knowledge. This knowledge is then turned and directed back into ones personal projection to the world around and ones method of communication, benefiting all those around you. You must learn to give of yourself and not just take. "Osmosis".

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:

Flexibility and intuitiveness shown by the 4 of Cups in this position tend to out-balance stability. The karma one must learn is perseverance; to hold firm in the face of all adversity to change bad into good. This is extremely difficult, for you are the Chameleon quickly changing to fit all situations for the sake of peace. The hidden enemy is emotion which constantly brings unresolved problems to the surface until such time as you can

finally face them. Nevertheless this card depicts a powerful tenacious resource that invariably wins out in the long run. There is a deep love for all of humanity that may take one into areas or institutions of selfless service. "Chameleon".

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4 of Cups: "Lord of Blended Pleasure"

(Third Stage Conjunction - joining)

In 1st position:	"Inertia"
In 2nd position:	"Luxury"
In 3rd position:	"Obligations"
In 4th position:	"Emotional Comfort"
In 5th position:	"Self Gratification"
In 6th position:	"Hesitancy"
In 7th position:	"Refuge"
In 8th position:	"Awakening"
In 9th position:	"Research"
In 10th position:	"Proliferation"
In 11th position:	"Osmosis"
In 12th position:	"Chameleon"

---ooOoo---

MEDITATION ON THE FOUR 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.

---oo0oo---

exercise

Now paint this card with the above described colours. An outlined drawing is supplied with this lesson.

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