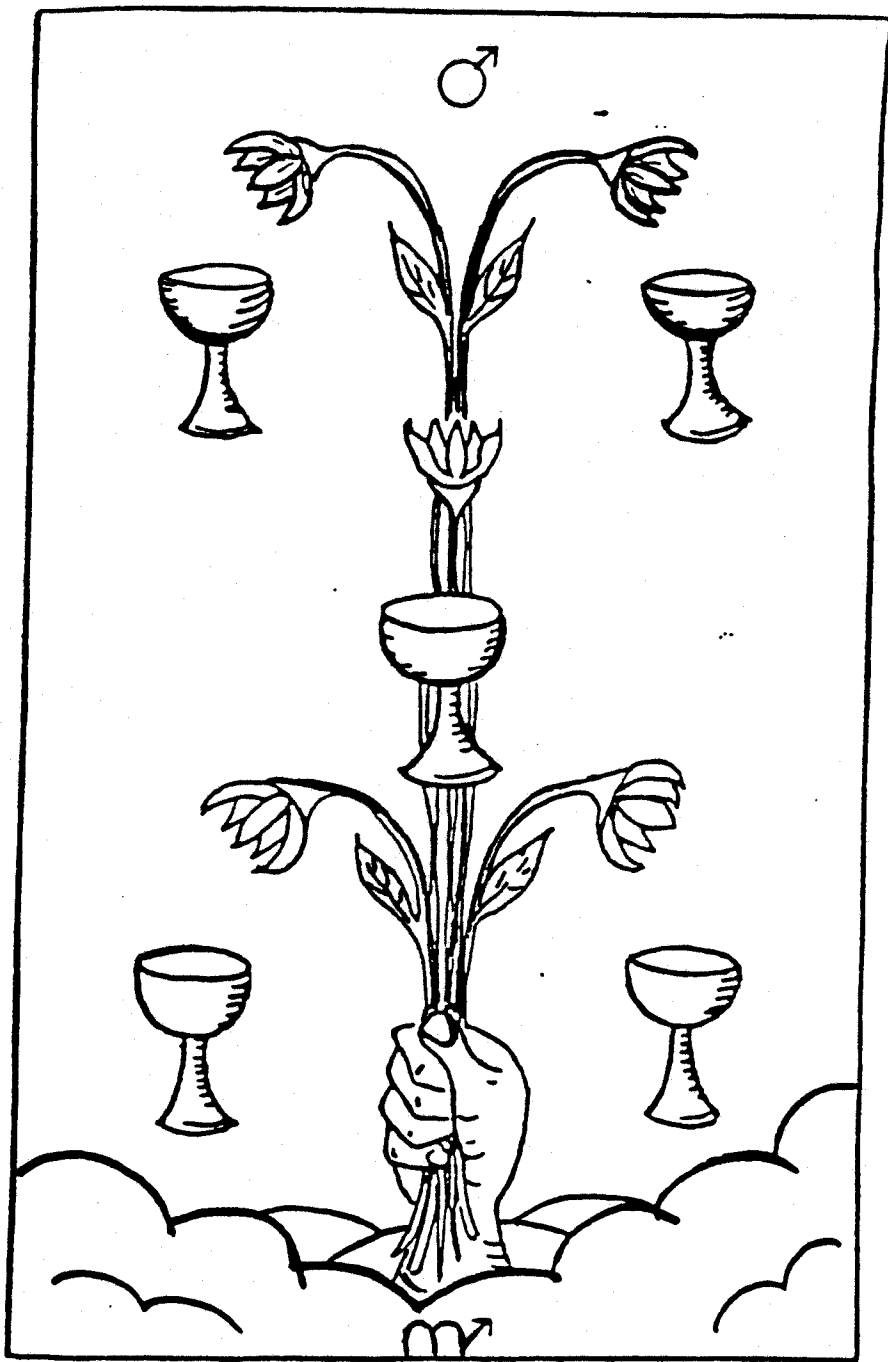


LESSON 66

FIVE OF CUPS



LESSON 66

5 OF CUPS

"Lord of Loss in Pleasure"

0 to 10 degrees Scorpio

♂ in ♍

A white radiating angelic hand, holding lotuses or water lilies of which the flowers are falling right and left. Leaves only, no buds surmount them. These lotus stems ascend between the cups in the manner of a fountain, but no water flows therefrom; neither is there water in any of the cups, which are somewhat of the shape of the water cup of the ZAM.

The picture here is one of exhaustion or over indulgence, one has partaken so much of a good thing that it has been exhausted - hence no water comes from the centre of the lotuses. The lack of water show that the lotuses have grown but not pollinated, which gives rise to superficial growth, and the sea from which they grow has not been nourished so that any growth in it to which the roots of the lotus reach is doomed to be barren and infertile due to all the nutrients of the sea being utilised in the previous card.

The five cups form the symbol of the North - the Apexes of two triangles meeting in the centre. Esoterically the North represents darkness, coldness and the barren, but this symbol gives forth concentrated energy to the central point, which is

necessary to sustain what life that is left. This concentration draws inward giving the appearance of a central pillar which must eventually generate enough heat for growth, but not here as this card alludes to the winter months of dormancy. This time of assumed stillness is necessary for a chemical change to take place during putrefaction.

Paracelsus says: "Place it" (Mercury) "in the Philosophic Egg, and seal it closely so that nothing may evaporate. Stand it in Athanor until, without any addition, it begins of itself to be resolved from above, so that it, looks like an island in the midst of that sea, gradually decreasing every day, and at last being changed into the resemblance of blackening. This black substance is the bird which flies by night without wings, which the first dew from heaven, with its constant influence, its ascent and descent, has changed into the blackness of a crow's head."

This is where all have turned sour in nature, but as yet too active to stagnate, as there is an element of disturbance from the fifth cup, the central cup. Nevertheless putrefaction is taking place changing the nature of all matter, therefore what is lost cannot be recovered. The empty cups show unfulfilment of emotions and desires, and represent what has not yet been attained. This lack of fulfilment encourages a state of continual trying. The Spirit is constantly pushing to get through and be expressed in Matter. This pushing is endless hence the image of exhaustion in the 5 of Cups.

The 5 of Cups is the 1st stage of Sublimation. Putrefaction takes place in seven ways, and one of the seven is Sublimation, as Spirit, and can be described as "to make the body spiritual".

The 5 of Cups is coloured in the Queen Scale. The backdrop is the colour of the Sign, Jasper Red (Soft Orangy Red Brown), and the cups are the colour of the Planet, Poppy Red (Soft Orange Red). The lotus stems and leaves are the complementary to the backdrop, Paris green. The lotus flowers are the complementary to the cups, Brilliant Green. The edges of the cups give off a green aura to identify the cups against the backdrop. The hand and clouds are Brilliant White.

With the colours of the fire element expressed through the water element comes very intense emotion with strong desires. Energy takes a new form, which if regulated can transform everything around it. These colours represent the evolutionary process of expansion of consciousness, leading eventually to the creation of perfection. The main source of drive shown by these colours is sexual. Those who want to survive under the influence of these energies must be resourceful, guiding energy into channels where it can be used constructively.

The Planet and Sign associated to the 5 of Cups is Mars in Scorpio. Mars in Scorpio works on two extremes; a dynamic, powerful will, or a devastating destructive personality delving to the depths of sensationalism and negative emotion. Such extremes produce people of great resourcefulness, people of

uncompromising defense methods and beliefs and those with a powerful sex drive can accomplish high goals or lead them into degradation. Self destruction arises from harboured grudges or feelings of dissatisfaction which turn stagnant below the surface. When trapped in a corner, the Mars in Scorpio person would turn on the self and destroy rather than be caught or remain cornered, just like the Scorpion which stings itself to death. Jealousy is an indulgence of the Mars in Scorpio person, who welcomes healthy rivalry to test his own strength. Self sacrifice in what is believed gives the Mars in Scorpio person a sense of rebirth, or cleansing. This sacrifice is a self invoked state giving relief from the normal which is fixed and unchanging. The later state is also self invoked as a form of security.

Geburah of Heh (disappointment in love, marriage broken off, kindness of a friend, loss of friendship, moral degradation).

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 5 of Cups represents one who has maladjusted to normal life. Strength of desire overrules discrimination, encouraging a pattern of overdoing ones projection of ideas and beliefs, especially expression of the emotions,

for example, reaction to defeat gives deep disappointment and to success is overjoy. The pleasures of life are indulged in to the fullest till one is made sick by them. And, even then there are those that never learn. This card represents the fanatic. It also represents overbearing external forces which some work at to overcome while others crumble under the pressure. These forces cause a depletion of energies and at times give a feeling of hopelessness. Nevertheless, against all odds one should keep trying. If you can't go through the brick wall, go around it. The Key word is becoming "Distraught".

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 5 of Cups depicts a loss of income and misfortune in a business venture; personal resources do not come up to expectation, managerial matters misfire; principles and feelings sink into degradation unless surrounding cards depict otherwise when it will imply temporary loss. There are those around you that seem to have the Midas touch and you will benefit by pooling your resources with them, although they may continue to benefit and you to lose. Don't despair, only growth can take place now, as continuum of evolution is in progress. "Despair".

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships;

brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education; books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

Communication through the expression of desires and moods is quite evident when the 5 of Cups turns up in this position. This card shows a sensitivity that can tune into the moods and needs of those one comes into contact. This makes good counsellors. Interpretation of others in this way can become distorted and taken personally leaving feelings of hurt, disappointment and at times emotional imbalance. The 5 of Cups warns against travel as there may be an accident due to recklessness. Education is generally along the lines of a trade and working with machinery. There is often bad feeling between family or neighbours. The safest action is silence. "Sensitivity".

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 5 of Cups in this position shows preoccupation with financial security. It shows confidence in business affairs and a feeling of financial security in the home, but the home environment is generally unsettled with emotional upsets that lead to accidents. The lesson here is to learn self control so that the domestic scene is put in harmony. There may be trouble over land and buildings and possible disputes. Loss may occur through theft or damage of property. Water pipe and drainage

problems are very likely. The 5 of Cups shows a difficult time, but this is a necessary time to install enough dissatisfaction within the self to encourage one to fight, and the get up and go needed to make changes for the better. "Loss".

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

Love is given in such excess that it becomes dominating and overbearing. Rejection is felt because others cannot return love in such velocity. This excessiveness turns stale very quickly leaving dissatisfaction in relationships, making a relationship short lived. This is a position of degradation for the 5 of Cups as everything is done in excess. A person can gamble his life away under this influence taking oneself to the gutters. On another side of the coin the 5 of Cups represents boredom and a loss of enjoyment in the normal form of entertainment which leads to either a more refined lifestyle or to more exotic forms of entertainment. Pleasure admitted in undue degree enslaves the Will, nor leaves judgement free. "Turning Point".

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:

Bound to serve the needs of others with reward only in

remembrance. In work relationships there is a loss of friendship. The essence needed for cooperation has been lost leaving nothing to hold relationships together. If querying about work it shows a possible loss of position, for a business it shows a loss in revenue. This is not a fortunate position for the 5 of Cups, leaving little to be hoped for. Psychologically one can take on the defeatist attitude which does little for the future. In addition to this very little energy is left to make a new start. Illness is very likely which even more hinders any progress. An adoption of self-centeredness evolves, or has evolved when the 5 of Cups turns up here. "Loss in Prosperity".

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 5 of Cups depicts that there is very little life, will, or energy left to continue what seemed to be a good situation. Something outweighs the situation forcing you away from the central pivot. With nothing to hold the centre together everything appears to fall apart. This happens more on the emotional level than any other level. A feeling of an empty pit is left from the above matters. The workings of Karma teach the mastery of aloneness; enthusiasm and emotional and physical drive is lacking. A great deal must be experienced before you see above the clouds. People have a vampirific affect on you. "Draining".

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:

Emotional intensity driven by strong desires predominates in this position until there is nothing more to give either to business, partnerships or relationships. Sex becomes an act without feeling or for self-gratification, finances peter out, inheritances become drained if any come your way at all, in any event there will be conflict with legacies, taxes etc. A death cannot be mourned as there is nothing left to give; joint finances become matters of contention. On the esoteric side the 5 of Cups represents sexual magic in its most basic self-gratified form, which only results in blockages of the aura causing spheres of stagnation and future disease. On a more positive side if well aspected, it represents psychic powers. This card also shows criminal tendencies and a violent, sudden death. "Emptiness".

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:

Concerning education and study the 5 of Cups shows someone going through the motions of learning but in essence not learning

at all. The mind just doesn't take any more or give any more. Travel is definitely not on, and if one ignores the advice not to travel, accidents or a loss may occur. Concerning religion, the path you are seeking does not have what you need - look elsewhere. Communications with the public are blocked in one way or another resulting in no contact. There is an overall superficiality with the 5 of Cups in this position. "Superficiality"

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

To travel a straight course through life you must learn and exercise self control maintaining a vigilance on discrimination of what is right and wrong. Be aware of your destructive tendencies and prevent them from hindering your development. The impersonal approach may pave a path but it makes no friends; don't be afraid to show a little compassion at times. Do not work such long hours as tiredness grows into staleness and one day you will wake up wondering what its all for, if you do not already feel that way. There is a tendency to undermine success and happiness. The 5 of Cups in this position also represents malpractice. The Key word is "Malpractice".

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:

The 5 of Cups in this position shows the misfiring of plans, goals unobtained and proposed gatherings cancelled. Professionally, sacrifices are willingly made to serve future interests. Reassessment and restructuring of concerns under the above matters is indicated. An air of melancholy is spread in group activities leaving a taste of disappointment. These groups eventually disperse. The 5 of Cups is not favourable for starting up new activities as something or someone always falls short of expectation to pull the task through. There are undoubtedly disputes. The Key word for the 5 of Cups in this position is "Reassess".

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 powers of evolution and transformation are greatly in demand in this position, which apply pressure from the unconscious, but are held back by the conscious as it doesn't want change. Then, in time one will reach a state of mental and emotional exhaustion. The 5 of Cups shows little to no contribution to others along with a rejection of responsibility. There are a great many problems unresolved which weigh heavier and heavier over time. Eventually something has to give way, forcing either a fight to overcome obstacles, or complete degradation.

Healthwise it represents haemorrhoids, venereal ulcers, urinary problems, ovaritis, urethritis, lymphatic obstructions. The key word is "Exhaustion".

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5 of Cups: "Lord of Loss of Pleasure"

(First Stage Sublimation - make body spiritual)

In 1st position:	"Distraught"
In 2nd position:	"Despair"
In 3rd position:	"Sensitivity"
In 4th position:	"Loss"
In 5th position:	"Turning Point"
In 6th position:	"Loss of Prosperity"
In 7th position:	"Draining"
In 8th position:	"Emptiness"
In 9th position:	"Superficiality"
In 10th position:	"Malpractice"
In 11th position:	"Reassessment"
In 12th position:	"Exhaustion"

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MEDITATION ON THE FIVE 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.

---ooOoo---

exercise

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

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