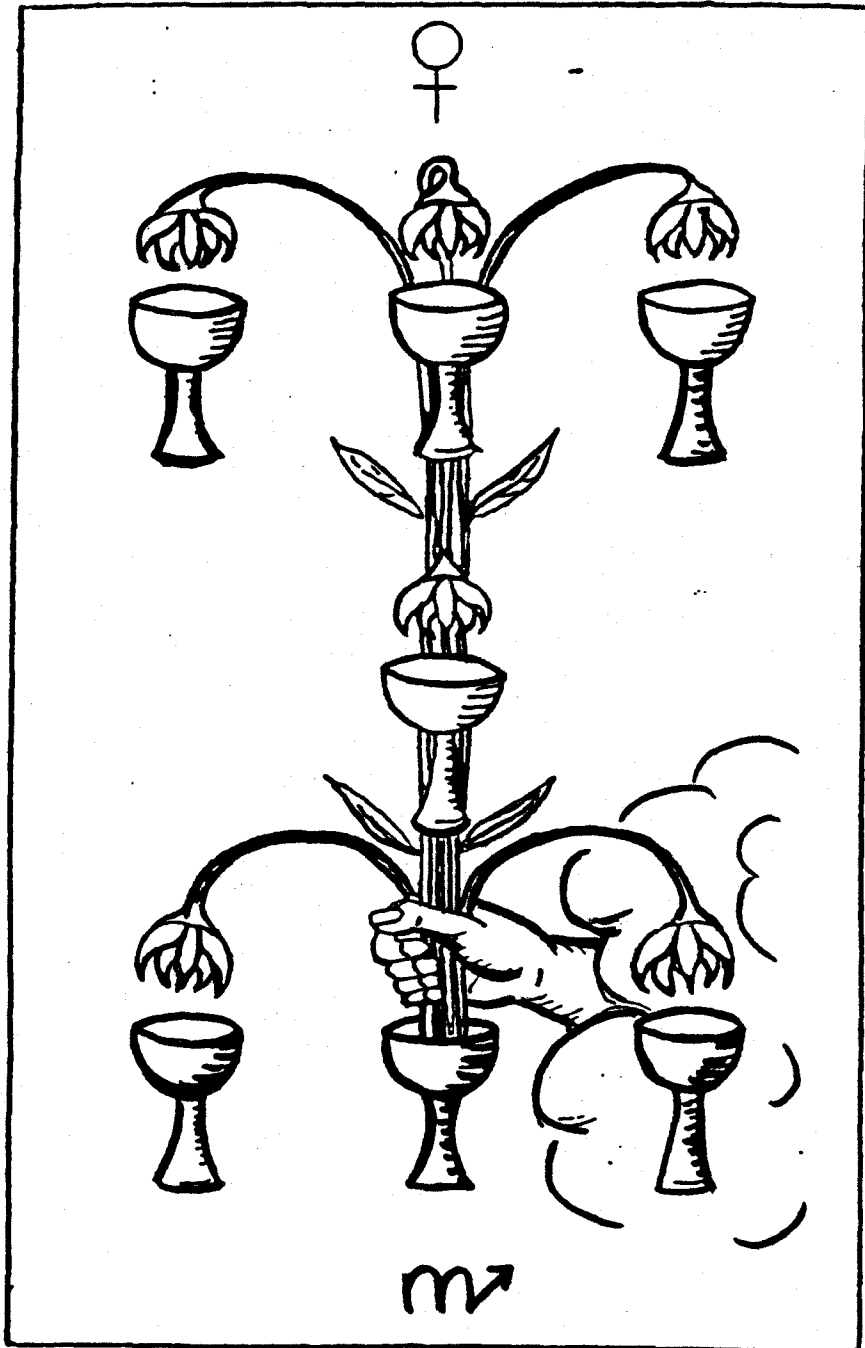


LESSON 68

SEVEN OF CUPS



LESSON 68

7 OF CUPS

"Lord of Illusionary Success"

20 to 30 degrees Scorpio

♀ in ♏

The seven cups are arranged as two descending triangles above a point. A hand, as usual, holds lotus stems which arise from the central lower cup. The hand is above this cup and below the middle one. With the exception of the central lower cup, each is over-hung by a lotus flower, but no water falls from these into any cups, which are all quite empty.

The Azoth in the six cups in the previous card has provided enough nourishment for an additional flower to grow (by emptying back into the sea). Though it is enough for a new pod to grow it is not enough for the lotus to replenish its vital essence which has been exhausted in the previous card. The additional pod shows barren growth. The 7th sphere relates to Venus, love, but love on a superficial level or without essence. Relates to sexual pleasure gratifying the animal instincts only - as shown by growth of the additional lotus pod.

To truly understand the 7 of Cups we must note the separation of the clouds from the bottom of the card and the separation of the three lower cups from the other four cups by the hand which holds the lotus stem, depicting a separation from

the spiritual source which itself does not flow from the great sea, as shown by the clouds coming from the side of the card forming the nature of clouds rather than mists over the waters, and by the open lotuses which giveth forth naught.

Alchemically this shows a stage where corroded bodies are separated to the lower levels (precipitation), and the liquid becomes forced into the upper levels by way of subtle powder, where it is made of quality and virtue. The Luna becomes Sol, and herein lies the secret of the 7 of Cups - the cups are not empty but contain a powder; the liquid has now become powder. This represents a crystallization of a matter - an aspect of solidification.

The separation of the 3 from the 4 gives $3+4=7$ which alludes to the seven planets, and $3 \times 4=12$ alludes to the zodiac, and further $12=1+2=3$ which signify the three greater outer planets. So behind this seemingly barren card is our solar system at work - quite a potent force. Yet with all this, the 7 of Cups is infertile, and represents impotence and menstruation, and with the separation of the Spirit, it brings forth the element of superficiality. Corrosion is within, because with crystallization the concentration is on the material and not on the spiritual. However, you must not underestimate the strength of the 7 of Cups. Observe the perfect balance of the right and left cups and lotuses, and the solidity of the central stem with its added cups and lotus flower. The separation by the hand here is shown as being one of necessity.

The 7 of Cups is painted in the Queen Scale. The backdrop is Jasper Red, the colour of the Sign. The cups are Sky blue, the colour of the Planet. The lotus stems are the complementary colour to the backdrop, Brilliant Green. The lotus flowers are the complementary colour to the cups, Soft Persian Orange (Light Orange). The hand and clouds are Brilliant White alluding to the ever presence of Kether.

The heat and catalytic strength derived from the Jasper Red is semi neutralized by the cool passive state of the Sky Blue. The presence of the Brilliant Green prevents any complete neutralizing for the green is growth. The Soft Persian Orange gives the ever subtle presence of gentle life giving warmth alluding to a devotional but passionate vibration. A necessary duality to prevent extremes in either direction.

The Planet and Sign for the 7 of Cups is Venus in Scorpio. Venus in Scorpio generates strong emotions which invariably become directed sexually and selfishly. The intensity of the Venus in Scorpio aspect often lacks reason or tact, applying all intents very seriously. Its an all or nothing situation where relationships are very demanding with nothing less than total dedication expected. If this is not fulfilled there is resentment and jealousy. If Venus in Scorpio is able to act on a higher level of development its vibration effectuates idealism and sacrifice for beliefs. Venus in Scorpio attracts occult interests and a desire for a deeper understanding. This can lead

to heights of sensitivity and development, or in the unevolved, debauchive activities and sex being used to gain power over others. There is an air of intrigue about the Venus in Scorpio person with a measure of reserve. This is usually projected as a cover-up for pride, but, it is by no means modest. With Venus in Scorpio there are usually troubles in love, marriage and other forms of relationships; delays are incurred when receiving legacies etc. Its nature is extravagant and nothing is done by half measure.

From what you have read so far, for a supposedly negative card there are a lot of positive points about it. Then why is it read in divination on the negative side, you may ask yourself. The answer is simple. What is good in the 7 of Cups is only in virgin ground or something unmanifested. Not virginity in actuality, but potential and in essence - it is there waiting to be activated if you can. The card is like a blind force operating downwards. Its up to us to turn it upwards. It takes an evolved person to utilise the evolved aspects of the 7 of Cups and more often the average person acts out the negative and destructive aspects. It then becomes limited cyclic growth. The ground layed out is not tilled and eventually becomes sour, hence the concept of internal corruption.

DIVINATION

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

The 7 of Cups advises in this position to accept the path your destiny has chosen and begin to develop new patterns of inner potential within the confines your path dictates. It is important to harmonise with cosmic energies and the flow of life. Admiration goes out to people who get what they want, but this reminds you of your own shortcomings. You'll always help others in need, but tend to expect a great deal in return. Resolutions are made and not kept. Jealousy and pride encourage a lack of reasoning and delicacy in personal matters. Nothing stays pure as everything is corrupted through action or thought. The Key word for this position is "Jealousy".

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 7 of Cups depicts strong desires for wealth. Fantasies are created on how things could be, then when reality hits home a state of depressing disappointment is experienced. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence causing a state of

instability, for one never knows when you will get up and go or change your methods. In the above matters of commerce, business etc., there is gross disappointment in the state of your personal affairs, even if there are small successes nothing meets your expectations. The 7 of Cups also represents slight and transient success. But generally it shows one who will lie or obtain the desired by deceit, disappointing those close to you.

"Disappointment"

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

Concessions must be made for those in your direct sphere of influence because most people are motivated by self interest, and this must be understood. In the long run, by concession you will gain immeasurably. Relationships have become corrupt and are souring. It is time to move on. Short journies are depicted by the 7 of Cups. Brothers and sisters cannot meet your demands and your attitude towards them in response to this may alienate you. Letters to the Editor of your local newspaper or gossip columns in your favourite magazine take your interest. Writing to these outlets and speaking your views may purge a lot of what bothers you, freeing you of negativity that may in the long run endanger your health. Get to it and put pen to paper, even if it goes nowhere else but to your rubbish bin. "Concessions".

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 life's directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination:

This is not a good position for the 7 of Cups. Emotions can reach a depth of dryness that projects only negatively towards the world. You're not doing anyone any good if you go out and socialize and you're not doing yourself any good if you stay home. Compromise - go out alone to a place of beauty and take a look at yourself. Are you sure it's not your own shortcomings that make you so dissatisfied? And, don't you think taking a more positive approach to life and greeting it with a smile will then pave an easier path for you? Then just maybe, when free from muddled thoughts, you'll see a light glimmer at the end of the tunnel, or an answer to some of your problems. "Self Pity".

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

The 7 of Cups in this position represents fulfilling the needs of the public in the field of public relations. The power of imagination depicted by this card provides a reservoir for ideas and vision into areas that serve the public. Great fulfillment can be achieved by this and advancement of career through enjoyable pursuits. Something new must constantly be created as boredom quickly sets in festering the mind, turning clear ideas into unused negative pools. Your ideas will then turn in on each

other depriving fulfilment in expression - this only gives birth to suppression. As regards children and birth, there may be a difficulty with children or a birth. There may be a loss of a child that has not yet been fully mourned. In this position the 7 of Cups shows a lack of fertility. "Vision".

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:

Job situations will, on the outside, appear glamourish but on the inside they're not so good and cause more problems than good. You may experience frustration and anxiety through your job. Bright and prosperous propositions will be put to you, but these are from those that live in a world of illusion, and if you follow them through you'll be disappointed with the outcome. Such people can put you at a grave disadvantage in your career. The 7 of Cups shows a time of lack of recognition of your efforts. Romantic involvements through work will result in embarrassment and discomfort. Health is abused through alcohol, fast living and rich foods. "Misrepresentation".

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:

Disappointment in relationships and social alliances is the main consensus of the 7 of Cups in this position. Alliances are made with those who may be able to give benefit, but there is little happiness in this. On a personal note others may attach themselves to you for what they can get. A lack of confidence and faith in a partner or proposed partner causes inaction and doubt. Hatchings of karmic tendencies show in ones conscious endeavours of developing new patterns. You have endured repeated mistakes and now see a way that must be right for you. There is a great deal of activity participating in social gatherings. Beware of alcoholism in these situations, over involvement with excessive pleasure seeking groups of people, and unfulfilled promises. "Debauchery".

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 7 of Cups is an active and powerful card in this position giving plenitude. It represents the commercial world of banking. You are surrounded by those who have plenty and you strive hard to get what you want by using what isn't yours. This may lead to success but very little satisfaction and your methods will disappoint many friends and business acquaintances. Inside there is an emptiness which is compelled to desire warm, sociable relationships. These temporarily fill the gap, but when you are alone, you are very much alone. A different face is shown to

others to win their friendship and favours. This position also depicts sexual indulgence. Women may encounter violence.

"Unscrupulous".

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:

Going along with the plans of others proves beneficial in the long run as your own intelligence produces a disharmony. An attitude of greed leads to a lack of conscience in methods by which one gains knowledge. Religious and sacred oaths are broken and sacraments profaned. It is not fortunate to receive the 7 of Cups in this position. It is dangerous to travel by water. If intending to travel by air you may not get off the ground. Metaphysical and religious concepts are tainted as one loses touch with the highest. Guilt overcomes what was pure and shame turns into obscenity. Profanity is spoken souring the minds of others.

"The Profane".

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

Here the 7 of Cups surrenders to the phrase "external splendour and internal corruption". This the nature of the result of all questions concerning the above matters. It is also

prostitution: prostitution of mind, body and soul, or career, ideas and principles. Externally the situation is very agreeable and amenable as one goes along with others ideas, avoiding alienation of the self to others if these people may be "useful" at a later stage. Those who are not useful are immediately discarded. This card shows self delusion in all matters and reliance on false hopes. One is never satisfied with what one has. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. The lesson is to turn internal corruption into internal splendour. "Prostitution".

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 7 of Cups shows misfortune in group activities; an outcast; or the loner. In the above matters there is lying and deceit; conditions are unstable; promises are false. There is a souring of old friendships and the commencement of new friendships on an insincere basis. Spiritual aspirations are of a self-centered, greedy nature, e.g. the desire for power through spiritual attainment, (one does not 'attain' if power and desire is all one has). Little is received in return for any efforts and little is given in return for anything received. Fulfilment is sought but not attained. Groups may look attractive on the outside but on the inside they are disorganised, there are jealousies and bitterness. "Self-Centeredness".

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 7 of Cups depicts a suppression of problems and sorrows, and a bold front is expresses. Illnesses are venereal diseases, bladder weakness, disorders of the womb, maladies of the ovaries and vagina, prolapse and leucorrhoea. Maladjustment is also a problem shown by the 7 of Cups in this position. There may be hospitalization. Ones responsibility is to the self first and foremost; internal resources have yet to be strengthened. Affairs concerning sewers and stagnant pools come into ones life; difficulties are generally self invoked; false mysticism and charlatanism; playing with the occult forces etc. "Maladjustment".

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Z of Cups: "Lord of Illusionary Success"

(Third Stage Sublimation - be cleansed and fatness diminished)

In 1st position:	"Jealousy"
In 2nd position:	"Disappointment"
In 3rd position:	"Concessions"
In 4th position:	"Self Pity"
In 5th position:	"Vision"
In 6th position:	"Misrepresentation"
In 7th position:	"Debauchery"
In 8th position:	"Unscrupulous"
In 9th position:	"The Profane"
In 10th position:	"Prostitution"
In 11th position:	"Self Centeredness"
In 12th position:	"Maladjustment"

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MEDITATION ON THE SEVEN 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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