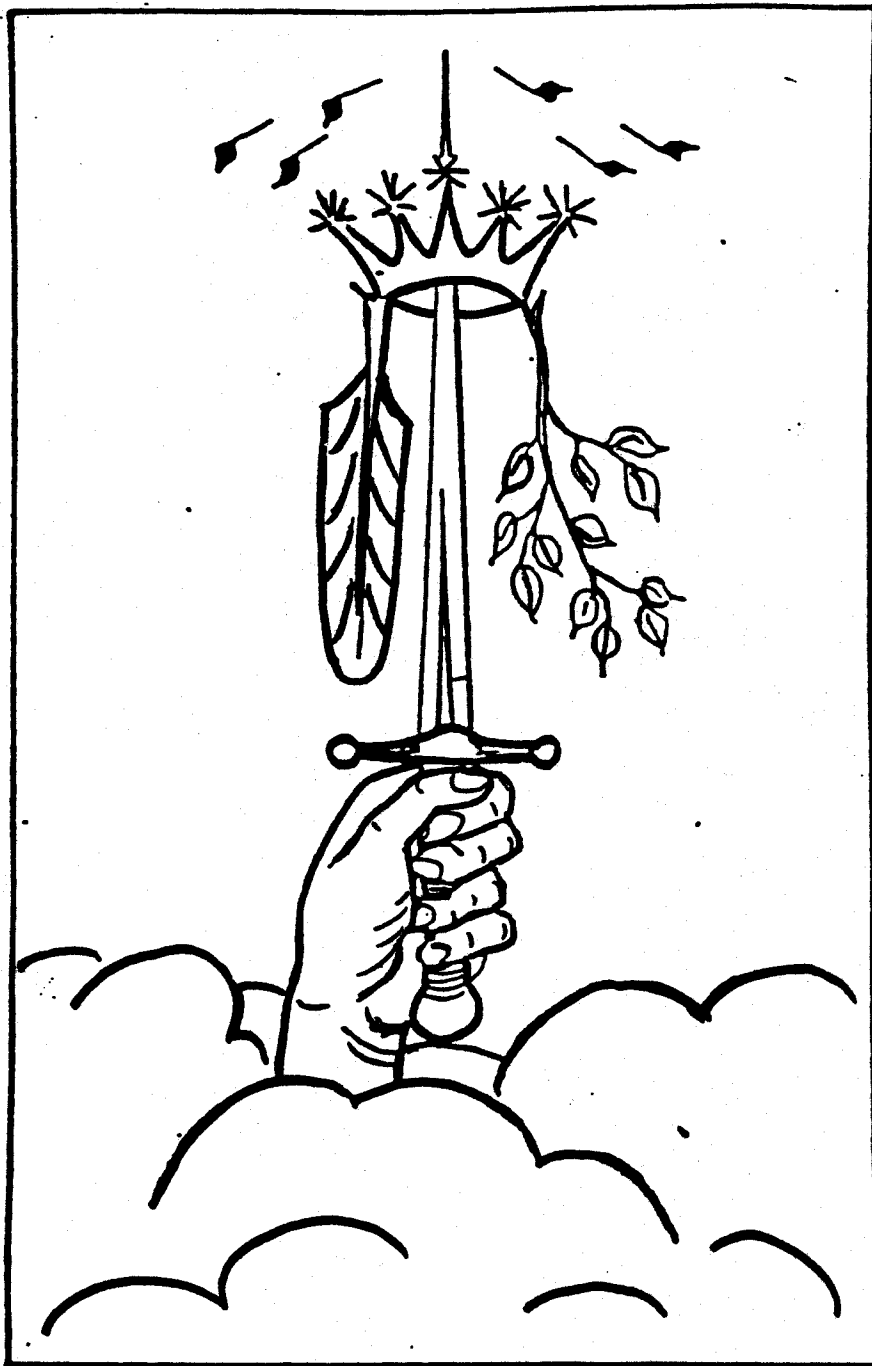


LESSON 72

ACE OF SWORDS



## LESSON 72

## ACE OF SWORDS

## "Root of the Powers of the Air"

A white radiating angelic hand, issuing from the clouds, and grasping the hilt of a sword, which supports a white radiant celestial crown; from which depend, on the right, the olive branch of Peace, and on the left the palm branch of suffering. Six Vau's fall from it's point - for it is the invocation sword.

In the legend of King Arthur, the Lady of the Lake held her hand up from the waters holding a magical sword of power. Merlin bidden King Arthur to go out onto the mist covered lake to take the sword if the Lady allows him. This Arthur did, and the Lady of the Lake gave up the sword from the waters, just as vapour rises and becomes air. This alludes to the Ace of Swords, as the white angelic hand issues not from the clouds, but from the mists over the great waters, holding the sword which represents the Powers of Air: And thus we see the birth of air from water (swords from cups).

The Ace of Swords is symbolic of invoked force in contrast with natural force - for it is the invocation of the Word. The sword is a two edged sword giving it a dual nature: Raised up it invokes the divine crown of spiritual brightness, but reversed it is the invocation of demonic forces and becomes an evil symbol. It represents therefore, a very great power of good or evil, but

a power that is invoked, and it also represents the whirling force and strength through trouble. It is the affirmation of justice upholding divine authority, and may become the sword of wrath, punishment, affliction, or elimination.

The body and soul are separated and divided by the Sword as the flaming sword separates man from paradise. The Sword is the penetrating spirit which acts as purifying fire. This is symbolised by the tip of the Sword piercing through the centre of the Crown dispelling ignorance and invoking the spiritual energy from within Kether bringing forth spiritual enlightenment, which gives supremacy over mans' lower nature in which the divine expression of Truth is manifested. "The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." (EPH. vi.17.)

Therefore the Sword represents the higher mind and as an instrument it is the vehicle for the Will.

Vau relates to the airy part of Tetragramaton and the six Vaus show the release, through invocation, of mans' higher nature in Tiphareth, surging upwards seeking unification with Kether which is typified as the Crown. The Tiphareth/Kether link in this instance is through the central pillar which is airy in nature showing that Tiphareth in fact is the reflection of Kether (shown by the five points of the Crown) which bathes directly under its brilliance. Once the spirit is released in Tiphareth it surges upward seeking unification in Kether, hence the analogy of the sword held in an upright position piercing the crown.

The Palm on the left of the Crown has a double meaning of divine truth and also suffering. The seven leaves on each side of the Palm relate to the Sephirah of Geburah, which is the framework from which the Sword operates. One side shows wrath and punishment, while the other side shows the passive nature of prayer and invocation equating at balance. Together the leaves are 14,  $1+4=5$  (Spirit). On the other side of the Crown the Olive Branch relates to peace and love. The twelve leaves relate to a complete cycle of evolution to attain higher consciousness.

The suit of Swords represents the element of air with the Ace of Swords being the root of the powers of air. Air is an all encompassing element and is a part of everything within our world. Paracelsus says: "Moreover the air is breath, from which all draw their life, This is truly air itself, and puts forth the air which nourishes the four elements, and at the same time sustains the life of man. Without it none would live. Without this no element could advance, no wind could blow, no rain or snow could fall, no sun could shine, no summer could flourish, no water could flow, no earth could sustain. All this force proceeds from the air, and is attracted by the four elements. For as the lungs every moment inhale air, so does the earth, while the water and fire each do the very same thing."

In Alchemy the Suit of Swords represents the stage of Xanthosis - the yellowing. But, it is also the First Stage, just as the son becomes the father and Vau becomes Yod. Mercury,

Sulphur and Salt are within the air and this is explained in the following by Paracelsus:

"Now, as to the philosophy of the three prime elements, it must be seen how these flourish in the element of air. Mercury, Sulphur, and Salt are so prepared as the element of air that they constitute the air, and make up that element. Originally the sky is nothing but white Sulphur coagulated with the spirit of Salt and clarified by Mercury, and the hardness of this element is in this pellicle and shell thus formed from it. Then, secondly, from the three primal parts it is changed into two - one part being air and the other chaos - in the following way. The Sulphur resolves itself by the Spirit of Salt in the liquor of Mercury, which of itself is a liquid distributed from heaven to earth, and is the albumen of the heaven, and the mid space. It is clear, a chaos, subtle, and diaphanous. All density, dryness, and all its subtle nature, are resolved, nor is it any longer the same as it was before. Such is the air. The third remnant of the three primals has passed into air, thus: If wood is burnt it passes into smoke. So this passes into air, remains in its air to the end of its elements, and becomes Sulphur, Mercury, and Salt, which are substantially consumed and turned into air, just as the wood which becomes smoke. It is in fact, nothing but the smoke of the three primal elements of the air. So, then, nothing further arises from the element of air beyond what has been mentioned."

The Air element plays a large role in Alchemy in that it

lives and works in every stage, but the one stage that is the most visible is the stage of the White Eagle. In the 'Praxis Spagyrica Philosophica' it says:

"The white eagle is nothing else but the slowly rising mercury/sulphur (vapor), at the top of the digestion flask, from the calx of gold". Look again at the card the Ace of Swords; the Crown alludes to the elevated White Eagle and the Sword the calx of gold. The Eagle in symbology represents the soaring, or rising Spirit.

The Ace of Swords is coloured in the colours of the element of Air. The Sword and six Vaus are painted Yellow Gold. The hand and clouds are painted Brilliant White outlined with Yellow Gold showing Spirit manifesting through the Air element. The Crown is coloured Brilliant White and shows the rulership over the intellect. Here we have the Yellow Gold of the Sword showing Tiphareth thrusting up through the Brilliant White Crown of Kether, spraying six Yellow Gold Vaus out of the top showing the glorification of Tiphareth in Kether. The backdrop of the card is coloured the complementary colour to the Sword, which is a clear Vivid Violet. This Vivid Violet is painted in rays of depth and translucency giving the card the feeling of being in space, with rays of the backdrop colour appearing to be coming out or pouring into the Crown. The Palm and Olive branches are painted in the colour of Green which is a combination of the Vivid Violet and the Yellow Gold, relating to the binding factor from which the Sword operates.

## DIVINATION

The general divinative meaning of the Ace of Swords is Thy 'Will' be done. It is invoked power that can be used for good or evil; it is power of the thought rather than the actual use of weapons; against all odds there will be success for it represents an irresistible force; it is justice, authority and retribution; the higher intellect piercing planes of understanding and wisdom; fertility; triumph and conquest. If adversely aspected the Ace of Swords shows destruction; violence, and misuse of power; restriction imposed by force or fear; misuse of authority; hinderance and hopeless love.

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

The Ace of Swords in this position shows the stimuli for new ideas and concepts through an abstract concept. It is the merging of an idea from the emotional plane to the mental plane. In the Ace of Cups the idea was from an emotive stimuli, but in this instance the emotive response has generated into a conscious level of planning. Here the individual has accepted the deep response of the idea and now creates the form in which the idea is to take shape. The general life force, selfhood of an individual depicted by the Ace of Swords is one who mentally considers all patterns of possibility in life, who absorbs all lessons that



are presented in an intelligent ordered fashion, and everything is solved according to logic. Self projection is one of pure intelligence. All can be obtained through the power of ones Will. The Key word for the Ace of Swords here is "Mental Stimuli".

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:

Possessions, physical and material, are obtained through mental agility. Activities with governmental and national financial affairs, and/or ones personal and commercial financial affairs are handled with clever manipulation of the minds of those directly involved. This is done through the power of the Will, which in turn gives power of personality. Principles and feelings are ruled by logic and reasoning. If this is not the querent's nature, the querent is advised that this is what he/she must learn, to overcome any current problems. In a position of management the Ace of Swords shows two extremes: one of authority and wisdom, or one of conquest and possible violence.

"Logic".

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

On matters of family and neighbours the Ace of Swords shows where there was a severance: there is now a change of attitude after an act of severity. A binding force is thus formed between people, and justice performed. New ideas and thought forms are shown to be invoked when the Ace turns up here. Once broken links of communication are reconnected and fields of activity are enlarged. New learning and realisations come to pass, and at the most, identification is made with the Higher Will. What is communicated is understood loud and clear, and relationships reunite for a common cause. Strength through trouble. Education is provided for the dispelling of ignorance. "Binding Force".

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:

With the Ace of Swords in this position there is bound to be some form of practical magic being performed; or someone is applying the power of their Will to effect something. It signifies the division between the body and soul and the power to attain a union, but with this power there is also the power to invoke the demonic forces where ones environment (home or body) becomes a battleground between light and dark. This position shows a dominant parent who through his/her Will creates an almost unbreakable bond. It also shows the destruction of old buildings and the drafting of plans for building of the new. The

Ace of Swords depicts very significant swings in the direction of ones life which are not necessarily physical changes, but changes in ones mental attitude. "Domination".

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

Thought patterns concentrated on over a long period of time stage a play in many a mind. These plays eventually become an actualization of creation on a very broad level which can touch the lives of many people. This is the sort of power the Ace of Swords depicts in this position. It shows the master of entertainment, he who has such powers to actualize ideas. This area belongs to the movie and play writers, and all those that actualize their ideas for the entertainment of all. In matters of love, there is a detachment of the self from everyday feelings giving an objective and rational approach. The Ace of Swords represents fertility, and its potentiality shows no known ends. "Actualization".

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 the realm of archetypal ideas and theoretical relations where all thoughts are expounded, is the operation of the Ace of

Swords in the above matters. It represents the architects of society, its structure and destiny - the economists and advisers. There is no room for sickness, no room for doubt for Thy Will be Done. If mistakes are made you are severely punished, but if you have done well you will be exalted. To hold or better your position in your job you will have to invoke the power of your intellect, crystallize your ideas and bring them forth into manifestation. You must detach yourself emotionally from your immediate experiences, which will enable you to work on all levels effectively and with all types of people. "Orchestrator".

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:

The Ace of Swords shows that in the question of two people coming together for marriage, the answer is yes, showing a deep karmic tie. In matters of divorce or separation the Ace shows that an entirely new understanding of the situation comes about, and as a result of this the question may not be relevant any more. On a general note: for partnerships it shows that they will be bound together more firmly than they had previously envisaged, and in separations both parties rethink the situation after they have seen each other's view point. It also shows that one partner is praying hard for divine help, a prayer which will be answered. "Rethinking".

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 Swords represents rebirth: not rebirth as in one is born again, but rebirth as in hereditary and a karmic re-enactment through ascendants. Now this may not be so if one realises and attains enlightenment which gives supremacy over ones lower nature. It also represents a legacy that you may inherit. Not a legacy of monetary wealth but one of power and knowledge. In matters of crime there is retribution, for justice is swift. In relation to estates, resources and finance etc., you will come in contact with and will probably have dealings with a powerful personality. The Key word for this position is "Legacy".

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 Word of God is spread. The Ace of Swords shows a period when an individual has reached his innermost thoughts and is the equivalent to meeting with ones higher genius. It shows a tremendous effort of Will in the pursuit of both religious and philosophical ideals. The Ace in this position shows that one in fact is fulfilling a very vital role in the above ideals. How-

ever, this is only the start of what is to come now that realization has arrived and the Spirit reaches outward through a metaphysical framework, the main work is still yet to come. It shows one in touch with the collective mind and able to communicate on just about all levels within the boundaries of this house. In the field of communications it shows someone who gets straight to the heart of the matter and is able to inspire a similar concept in others, but only in this related field. "The Word".

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

Under the above matters the Ace of Swords represents invoked power to attain a public position and all that comes with it. But no matter what your profession or goals in life, through the powers of your own determination and knowledge, it is you who will invoke your destiny. When enquiring whether someone will do something for you, the answer is no - you must attain it through your own endeavours. The Ace shows professions of intellectual pursuit where the powers of the mind only are applied. If disgrace is caused, it will be due to merciless elimination of all that may get in ones way. Ambitions and goals generally evolve around the sense of mental power and control over the minds of others. Any competition is looked on as a healthy workout of ones mental faculties. "Invoked Power".

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 Ace of Swords represents the leader, the king, or the general, and the powerful influence applied over the minds of the people. It shows here that in the field of group activities and government, one controls from a secondary situation and is analogous to the catch phrase, power behind the throne. One in fact controls those who are the figureheads of power. It is a card in this position that shows hidden manipulations, whether for good or evil. You will be put in the position where you will have the choice of apparent power and real power, and you will opt for the real power, as in this instance one becomes a master manipulator and controller of key events. "The Manipulator".

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 relation to health the Ace of Swords shows that there will probably have to be an operation - something must be cut into. But it also shows a possible psychological problem. The individual who receives a card here is still only in the infancy stage of his karmic existence. Debts still have to be worked off and there is still a great deal of work to do. For an unsolved

problem it bodes no solution, and to a certain extent shows indecisiveness. Within the mystical aspect one finds oneself involved in secret orders or societies from a prominent position. One would say that one has become a controller in this area. It also shows that one has made a number of enemies, though for the present there does not appear to be any harm other than verbal abuse and possible scandle. "Controller".

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Ace of Swords: "Root of the Powers of Air"

(Xanthosis)

In 1st position:	"Mental Stimuli"
In 2nd position:	"Logic"
In 3rd position:	"Binding Force"
In 4th position:	"Domination"
In 5th position:	"Actualization"
In 6th position:	"Orchestrator"
In 7th position:	"Rethinking"
In 8th position:	"Legacy"
In 9th position:	"The Word"
In 10th position:	"Invoked Power"
In 11th position:	"The Manipulator"
In 12th position:	"Controller"

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MEDITATION ON THE ACE OF SWORDS:

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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