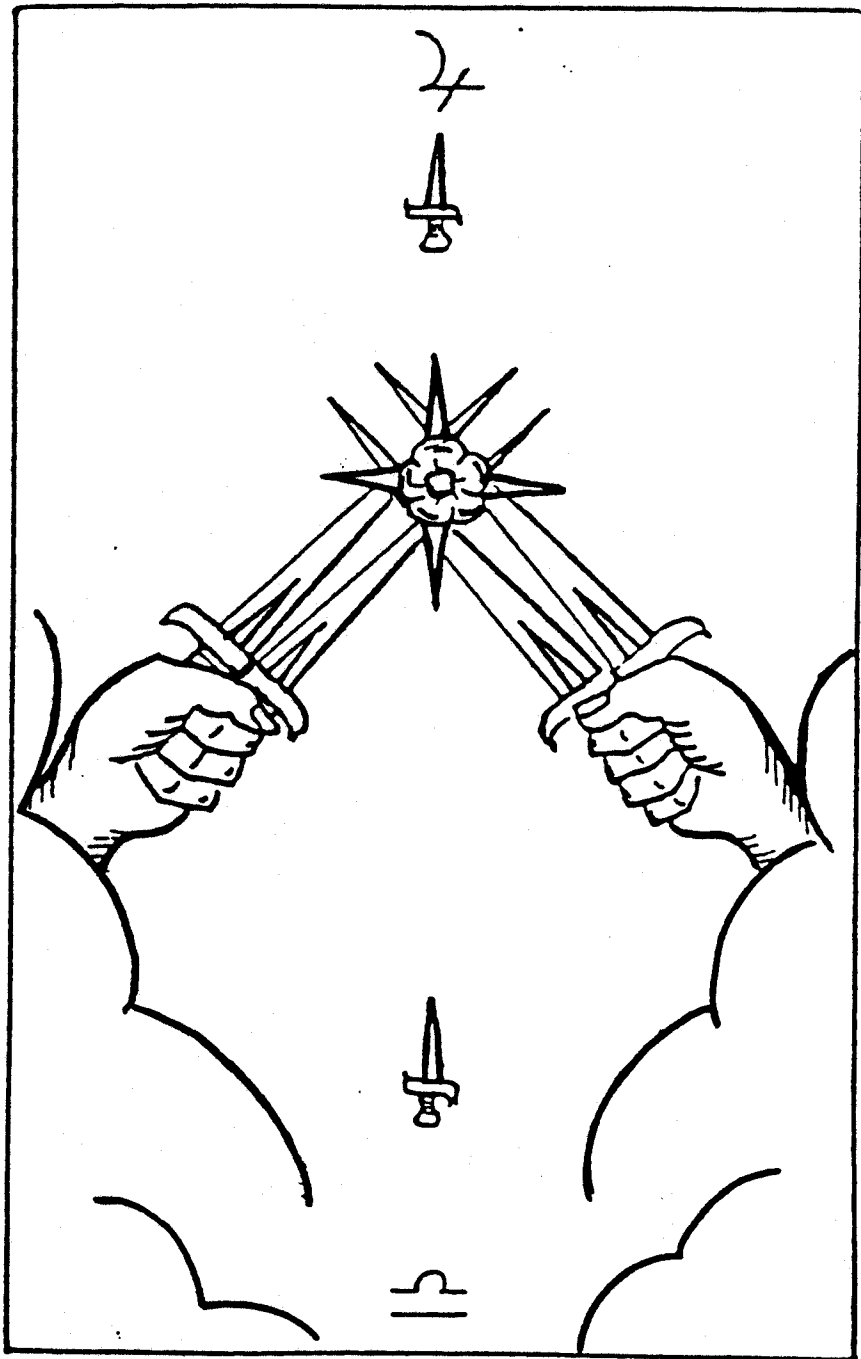


LESSON 75

FOUR OF SWORDS



LESSON 75

4 OF SWORDS

"Lord of Rest from Strife"

20 to 30 Degrees Libra

4 in n

Two white angelic hands, each holding the swords, which four cross in the centre. The rose of five petals with white radiations is reinstated on the point of their intersection.

Here the rose remains untouched by the four swords which surround but do not pierce it. The swords on each side are well balanced showing that the forces in each hand are equal with none gaining the advantage, in other words a stalemate. The esoteric title of "Rest from Strife" refers to this point of no advantage or disadvantage hence no movement or rest as compared to the previous card, it is a state of truce and a neutral zone has been formed. Although the symbol of the double cross, like in the 4 of Wands, alludes to cinders, the presence of the rose suspended in the centre of the cross alludes to the resurrection from the cinders, the restoration. The visual image the card the 4 of Swords depicts is a gate, just as sentries bar the way into the palace.

The clouds have now moved to the sides of the card but remain in the lower half and the rose within the swords gives the appearance of suspended animation. This aspect of the 4 of Swords

is explained in "Treatise on The Great Art" by Dom Antoine-Joseph Pernety:

'At all times bodies exhale a subtle vapor, which is manifested more clearly in summer. The warm air sublimates the waters into vapors, and attracts them to itself. When, after a rain, the rays of the sun beam upon the earth, one sees it smoke and exhale itself in vapor. These vapors hover in the air in the form of fogs, when they do not rise far above the surface of the earth: but when they mount to the middle region, one sees them float, here and there, in the form of clouds...', and alchemically this card alludes to the rising of the Crow's Head. Here this is represented by the Eagle which is volatile water that flies up in clouds, separating from the Green Lion (the body). But by the Green Lion the Eagle's wings are clipped so that she is fixed and may not fly away.

The 4 of Swords is coloured in the Prince Scale. The backdrop is coloured Chrome Green, the colour of the Sign, and the swords are coloured the colour of the Planet; Deep Blue. The rose, hands and clouds are Brilliant White, and the star shining from the rose is complementary to the backdrop, Brick Red.

Here the Deep Blue looses itself in the Chrome Green which typifies balance and rest, emanating a very passifying vibration from the 4 of Swords. The growth aspect of the Chrome Green and the religious contemplations of the Deep Blue allude the card's emanation to a rejuvenation of the Spirit (shown by the reformed White Rose). I use the word 'rejuvenation' for the Brick Red

impregnates the only positive emanation into the card acting as a small catalyst to an upward movement. The overall vibratory influence of this card is then one of rest to recuperate, contemplation of matters, and one of no desire to move any further while there is lack of reason (a strong catalyst), and a lack of resources (the eagle's wings), but no desire to give way.

The Planet in Sign associated to the 4 of Swords is Jupiter in Libra. The expansive qualities of Jupiter are held in balance by Libra. The Jupiter in Libra character is very optimistic, and these people are able to see all sides to any matter. Logic over-rides all other forms of perception making them very good equilibrators. Law, order, convention and discipline is generally comfortably merged into a sense of freedom and expansion, allowing life to be enjoyed in depth. Association with partnerships and social gatherings plays a predominant part in this type of character's life, yet there is a tendency to get lost in the identity of ones affiliations. Marriage is likely to be fortunate and it is favourable for travel. On the negative side, Jupiter in Libra shows loss of fortune through the actions of another person, or opposition from other people to any cause one walks. Generally Jupiter in Libra shows an energy that encourages great external effort to create new values, to perfect all avenues of ones life and mental outlook to obtain more fulfilment in life.

The above paragraph shows a difference between the general meaning of the 4 of Swords and the astrological association of

Jupiter in Libra, but if you take the keen mental ability of Jupiter in Libra to weigh up a situation and its sense of justice which rules all actions, you will see how these energies mould into the meaning of this card, the card of truce. It is this sort of energy that rules when nations draw up treaties.

Chesed of Vau (convalescence, recovery from sickness, change for the better)

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 4 of Swords depicts a refined individual who has some unusual creative abilities. These abilities are however, channelled into a social structure, conforming to what is dictated for the times. One endeavours not to 'rock the boat', and uses society as a mirror for the expression of ones selfhood. When receiving this card here you are foretold of clear and logical evaluation of any situation that concerns you. Through this evaluation a middle path will be chosen to overcome any problem or in commencing any new concerns. You are advised to meet half way, or make a compromise if you are applying too much force. "Evaluate".

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:

An optimistic and constructive outlook on business affairs and possessions provides one with an abundance of ideas for future means of income. People are used as vehicles to improve situations under the above matters. In this event, though, the other party also benefits, giving any action a two-way effect. This is a time to arrest any undertaking so that your personal resources can gather strength. You must give investments a chance to mature before withdrawing them and converting into further investments. Impulsiveness will only lead to failure. Under the above matters one has, or will be able to reach an amicable agreement, or neutral ground to deal on. "Maturing".

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

A clear and keen mentality, concentrating on generalities, attempting to take all into consideration is characterized in this position. However, such generalizing omits practicality, leaving abstract thought. Nevertheless, abstract thought eventually leads to concrete plans, but this depends entirely on the surrounding cards. The 4 of Swords is favourable for study in this position and for any form of education, writing, or

teaching. Travel is favoured providing it does not unbalance the equilibrium of ones lifestyle. Your knowledge and ideas are used to benefit family and neighbours, and if opportunities arise, ideas are presented to those who can help concretize them. If expecting mail or some form of communication you may find that it does not come. "Abstract Thought".

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 4 of Swords shows a time of rest from strife. One is able to retire into the protection of ones home to recuperate to fight another day. The querent is warned that it is a time when life must be taken easy and there is safety in inaction on any matter directly, consciously or unconsciously affecting you. Hang up your teeth and claws and have a think about things. Sometimes, when one stands apart from a situation, thoughts become clearer and matters are seen in a clearer light. The 4 of Swords represents a just and fair homelife and parental influence. It also shows a rebalancing of ones soul, temporary release or rest from the daily conflicts we engage it in. "Rest".

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

Through involvement in the above matters one is able to take ones mind off sorrow and release tension and anxiety. One has popularity with children, and creativity is aesthetic. Rather than enforce ones Will, a truce is formed. This position for the 4 of Swords is unfulfilment of potential. This is because of its compromising approach to all matters where the best of all worlds is aspired to. You won't give up one area of your life to devote your mental energies into another - you must have your cake and eat it too. In this way only a medium is formed and alludes to the old saying about some people 'He's a Jack of all trades but an expert at none'. "Multifarious".

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:

Recovery from sickness, recuperation and convalescence are represented by the 4 of Swords under the above matters. A change takes place in the blood circulation for the better. Work relationships are neither good nor bad, they remain neutral. Each knows his place and dares not step into the other's territory. You may find yourself off work to recover from a sickness. The 4 of Swords shows a time of retirement where no action is expected or will eventuate, though it is a period of some movement this is done beneath the surface in a very subtle manner and equates with the healing process. "Convalescence".

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:

You encounter a person, or are that person, of great understanding of the problems of others, and attract many people around you who seek your advice. You may be expected to make a judgment by which others will follow. There may be a visit to a marriage guidance counsellor and/or marital disputes reach an understanding, but the result of the understanding depends on the surrounding cards. You may find that you both agree to differ, neither party gives way. This is a rather unusual position for the 4 of Swords in relation to contracts, agreements and business relationships, for you or the other party may make and keep an agreement (in the sense of not breaking it), but at the same time remain inactive, or uncommunicative to fulfill the agreement. "Truce".

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 4 of Swords shows that financial and/or material resources, and confidences are held in trust by a single person, company or an organisation. Have no fear, for you will

not be betrayed. If one is tried and found guilty the sentence will be fair. Generally the 4 of Swords depicts a situation or a person of reliability. Any mystic or spiritualistic concepts are either ignored and considered foolish or analysed objectively. Nothing is accepted unless it proves factual. This card can also mean that one is at rest from a time of sorrow after experiencing the loss of one or more through tragedy. It also alludes to the regeneration of psychic powers after a possible psychic shock. "Recuperation".

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 Swords shows an idealized sense of justice in this position and involvement in matters of principle and law. Although fortunate for higher education it also shows that ones mental capacities have their limitations and you must allot a time to rest your mind, otherwise you are likely to burn out before your goals are achieved. There has been many a brilliant mind that has reached a state of frustration due to an inability to think. The result being that they experience a burning sensation in the centre of their forehead when they attempt to push on. These sensations are the signs warning you that you have just pushed too hard - its time to stop. The 4 of Swords also shows the arrival of the end of a journey. "Recess".

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

Here the 4 of Swords represents temporary rest after a struggle with a positive outlook of an eventual change for the better. A profession in law or in some judicial role is depicted here. There will be public recognition for your accomplishments in whatever walk of life you choose. The 4 of Swords advises that this is a time to cause a cessation in many activities until certain opposition falls away. Inaction is the best policy, nevertheless you must not back away, you must hold your ground. Your downfall will be caused if you continue to push an issue - a bit of humility will go a long way during this aspect. "Humility".

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:

The general meaning of the 4 of Swords in this position is a cease fire - the putting up of arms. Under the above there is no advantage or disadvantage, and neutral zones are formed. This mode of action can be very advantageous if one uses it right. It is a situation where you simply wait until events overtake themselves, eventually righting the situation without your doing anything at all. The 4 of Swords shows a visit to a counsellor

or a medium. In matters of friendships and love you only get what you give. Spiritual and intellectual aspirations are for harmony and balance: Parliamentary matters of dispute reach an impasse. The Key word for this position is "Impasse".

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:

Here the 4 of Swords alludes to rest homes and health resorts. Diseases represented are pleurisy, kidney tumours, blood circulatory changes and obstructions. This card shows an understanding of subconscious reactions and the help given to or by others in analysis. This also shows a situation where one cannot act in public, for ones hands have been tied by the status quo. The only satisfaction that can come from this is the fact that the waiting period is one of hope, as events work themselves out in secret, and the situation eventually resolves itself, but only after a considerable period of time during which on the surface it appears as if nothing is done. "Clandestine Activity".

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4 of Swords: "Lord of Rest from Strife"
 (Third Stage Cibation - the resuscitation)

In 1st position: "Evaluate"
 In 2nd position: "Maturing"
 In 3rd position: "Abstract Thought"
 In 4th position: "Rest"
 In 5th position: "Multifarious"
 In 6th position: "Convalescence"
 In 7th position: "Truce"
 In 8th position: "Recuperation"
 In 9th position: "Recess"
 In 10th position: "Humility"
 In 11th position: "Impasse"
 In 12th position: "Clandestine Activity"

---ooOoo---

MEDITATION ON THE FOUR 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.

---ooOoo---

exercise

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

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