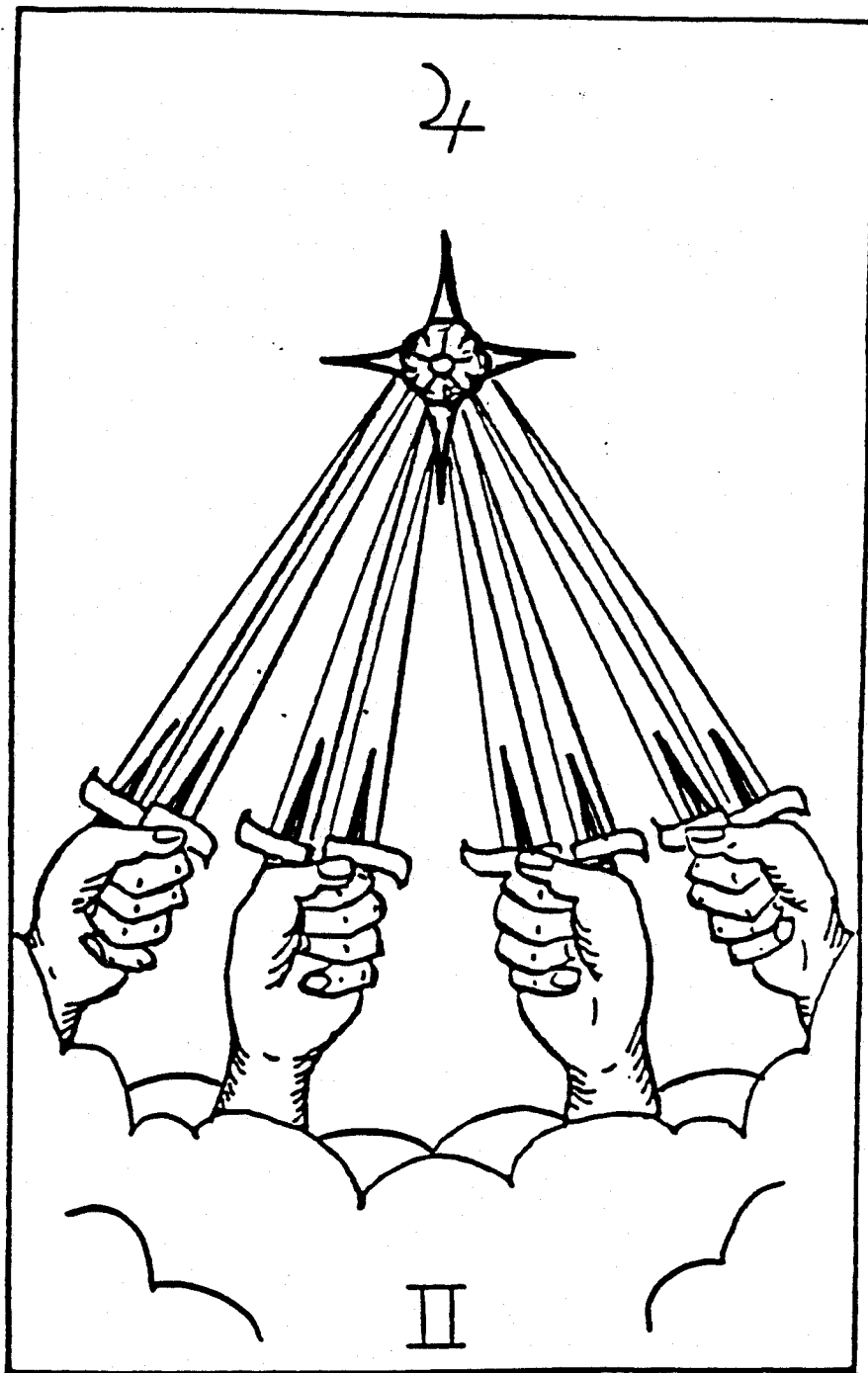


LESSON 79

EIGHT OF SWORDS



LESSON 79

8 OF SWORDS

"Lord of Shortened Force"

0 to 10 degrees Gemini

4 in II

Four white radiant angelic hands issuing from the clouds, each holding two swords, points upwards: all points touch near the top of the cards. Hands issue, two at each bottom of the card. The pose of the other sword symbols is re-established in the centre.

The concept of this card shows too much force applied in too small an area, with the effect that the desired result or object will be reached but only just. There is not sufficient leverage to carry it through. As "Lord of Shortened Force" the 8 of Swords depicts a barrier or bonds which restrict movement, and which can also imprison. The rose held at a point by the eight swords depicts two things: that either something is being held out of reach or something or someone is being prevented from making any movement in a particular direction.

Alchemically this is stage where a particular state must be held. It represents a constant temperature and pressure so that all that is, remains where it is, until it matures enough to separate. In other terms of reference it can be likened to the myth of Hercules in "Gathering the Golden Apples of the

Hesperides" where Hercules was bound to an altar for the span of a year: 'Suddenly one day when struggling to be free, and slowly seeing Busiris for what he was, words spoken long ago by Nereus came to his mind: "Truth lies within yourself. There is a higher power and strength and wisdom in yourself. Turn inwards and there evoke a strength which is the power which is the heritage of all the sons of men who are the sons of God." Silent he lay a prisoner on the altar, bound to its corners four for one whole year. Then with the strength which is the strength of all the sons of God he broke his bonds, seized the false teacher (who had seemed so wise) and bound him to the altar in his place. He spoke no word but left him there to learn.' (Labours of Hercules by Alice Bailey).

And so having broken free he acknowledged contact with the soul, the occult knowledge of reality and stepped into the waking consciousness. This is the key to the imprisonment and restriction that the 8 of Swords represents.

The swords in this card, encompass 80 degrees of a circle which is a Bi-Novile - 9 Noviles make up a complete circle, or 4 Bi-Noviles and one Novile (Nonagon). The Bi-Novile leads to personal rebirth (initiation), giving an identification of the self within the harmony of the universal whole, thus we have here a form of fulfillment which is an end to being in one realm, and a beginning into a higher realm of being. To complete a circle we have 36 decans, or 9 Noviles! The 80 degrees of the swords representeth a part reflecting the harmonics of the whole.

The 8 of Swords is coloured in the Prince Scale. The swords are the colours of the planets, very Dark Deep Blue, and the background is the colour of the sign, Cinnamon Brown. The star emanating from the rose is the complementary colour to the background, China Blue. The clouds, rose, and hands are coloured Brilliant White alluding to the ever present influence of Kether.

The presence of the Deep Blue and the China Blue gives a vibration which summons the necessity for one to gather ones self inwardly, and combined with the Cinnamon Brown over the surface of the background, the vibration says "If I want to, I shall perceive". Something of a foreign nature arises with this colour showing that something foreign has entered a situation. The deep Blue rays (swords) towards the central rose shows that the soul inprints a part of the outer world into itself, yet from the rose pours the star in the shape of a cross showing that from the soul there is a stirring. However the Cinnamon Brown also means craftiness and low cunning, and shows the manifesting of materiality, earthiness and restriction. Finally the fire, water and air have formed to produce earth in its unstable muddy appearance. The Deep Blue gives forth lower religious emotion, which is inclined to fear, but from the brilliant white rose of purity shines the China Blue of devotion and nobility giving an answer to the confinement of the Cinnamon Brown.

The astrological planet and sign associated to the 8 of Swords is Jupiter in Gemini. Jupiter in Gemini is an extremely

versatile and expansive combination, yet it brings an emphasis on the lower mind, the concrete and objective, and alludes to superficiality as a result of widely spread interests and constant change. However Jupiter in Gemini gives diversity and changeability and it often indicates quickness of the mind and hands, travel and adventure. There is inquisitiveness into the unexplained and a love of knowledge and advancement of intellectual development, but most of the time this is unsupported by practical experience. Thus an armchair scholar is produced. Change is important to the Jupiter in Gemini character, who suffers when in confinement. Well aspected it is fortunate in relationships but badly aspected there is separation. This character possesses tact, commonsense, refinement, and is trustworthy in times of difficulty. The mind of the Jupiter in Gemini person is constantly restless and wanders into many fields of thought. Such agility gives success in areas of education and speculation.

Hod of Vau (narrow, restricted, petty, a prison)

DIVINATION

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

The dreamer and planner who hopes in later years to be free to devote all into making ones dreams and plans a reality. This

is a person who believes oneself bound to a particular pattern of life, with movements restricted to commitment and responsibility. Such a person is not weak but has a particularly strong will - hence such self inflicted discipline. One's Will can then be directed in freeing oneself from mental confines. Freedom and imprisonment are but states of mind. However, the 8 of Swords in this position depicts an optimistic future where opportunities will be made available to you, but effort must be made to take hold of these opportunities if you do not want them to slip away.

"Self-restrictive"

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:

Your ideas and plans must be kept within achievable limits. You may find that you do not achieve all you say or plan. This gives a feeling of restriction and limitation of personal resources, thereby creating a false impression of restriction. You have satisfactory personal resources - they only need to be realised, however under the above matters there is a great deal of hard work and little realised for one's efforts. You may have major financial difficulties and adverse circumstances, with your own power of control interfered with. If you confine your plans to what is realistically achievable you will meet with good fortune even when other concerns or people run interference.

"Shortened Force".

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

Although your understanding of a great many subjects is comprehensive you have difficulty choosing your career as your mind creates many obstacles in all directions - you don't know which way to move. You may involve yourself in study, writing and reading, through intellectual involvement with co-workers, neighbours, friends and family. Such involvement governs a great deal of ones time. A lot of energy is wasted on trivial details under the above matters and a relative will depart to other areas. Disconnected communications and breakdowns in transportation arise when the 8 of Swords appears here. Care must be taken in the above matters to avoid misunderstandings and making wrong decisions. "Trivialities".

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 shows that in matters of the spiritual, in the occult and any project connected with this individual, is short lived. A protected and confined home life is also shown here, depicting the martyr. Emotional obligations to a parent cause restriction

in ones life and loss of opportunity. In your private life you will be constantly encountering unexpected interference. The 8 of Swords shows a time where one feels totally drowned from all freedom of movement and thought; but don't despair, such oppressive feelings are necessary at times to make you free yourself and take your life into your own hands. This is a position of self inflicted isolation. "Isolation".

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

The 8 of swords positioned here shows that one must discipline ones mind to enable growth of talent. It is your indulgences that interfere with your growth. Children become a bondage: give them a bit of freedom and you too can have freedom. It shows here a person who does not have freedom of expression, whose every move is checked which causes great anguish and despair. There are problems in sexual relations and this card may represent an uncouth female and scandal, all due to or about a woman. The life of the querent is spent on superficial levels. "Anguish".

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:

Work relationships are narrow and restricted and are involved in a lot of pettiness. Under the heaviness of your burdens you'll find a chance to change your conditions. Seize this chance and all will be well. Employment provides little scope for personal creative input as you must work within the confines provided. There will be obstacles in all directions. If you doubt the value of your ideas, others will too, and not allow you to promote them. Don't waste time on trying to promote what can't be done - or is not allowed to be done, move on to something else immediately. Providing you take care of yourself you will enjoy good health, but watch your diet. Sickness is probable under restricted conditions and will have a psychologically genetic root. "External Restriction".

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:

An enemy triumphs over you but only partly. In the past there has been treachery which leaves you to 'heal your wounds'. In relationships in the social environment there is criticism and slander, take care around youths. Under the above matters you will have been encountering conflict, but this is drawing to an end and better times are to come. This card shows the necessity to call on the agility of your intellect to surpass conflicts as your hands and feet are bound (figuratively speaking), preventing any direct physical action. The 8 of Swords represents a two way

situation so be aware of the consequences on anything you say or decide. "Forebearance".

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:

Capture and enticement are pertained here. It takes a clever mind to escape conviction along with communication with the right sources. The 8 of Swords shows scientific interest in mystical beliefs about life after death. Litigation difficulties arise in financial affairs and assets are frozen due to legal disputes, settling of estates, wills etc. This card represents the stimulation of psychic faculties and the necessity to release the material bonds which link the astral and physical bodies. You may receive the blame for something you have not done, someone may betray you. The keyword is "Prosecution".

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:

In this position the 8 of Swords represents restlessness and the desire to travel, but your will is thwarted by constant interference. Travel will not be in the physical and only with great difficulty in the astral. You may receive bad news and be

in a position where you are powerless to act. Writings and media will be censored and unforeseen problems arise in involvements with higher study, philosophy etc. Breakdowns in public communication occur and the collective mind oppresses. Generally, under the above matters this card is unfortunate in influence.

"Thwarted".

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

What was bound will be undone, what was interference will be dispersed, and this will be done by calm, unobjective powers of the intellect. This card says the mind is a powerful weapon, use it! Your wealth of ideas need only be promoted, so invest your ideas into your profession, your public communication and personal relationships and they will pay off in the long run. One's ambition is to receive recognition and prestige - badly aspected this card shows abuse of such power. A parent's ideas and beliefs may imprison you in a network of psychological distortions - beware of this and work to change it. "Escape".

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; one's attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfilment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

There are constant unexpected interferences in the above

matters, however with perseverance and attention to detail this can be overcome. In group and organisational matters too much force is applied to a single subject until the force neutralizes itself. Here we have a situation where one cannot commit totally to friends or to anything else. The individual is completely involved in his own set of circumstances and cannot give his time and energies to other fields. It warns of a possible minor legal offence which could cause some embarrassment. In matters of income it shows an increase but only for a short period. This is an individual who has taken so much up of his time in his mental and spiritual pursuits that he can give no time to his family, or friends. "Unforthcoming".

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 this position the 8 of swords shows imprisonment in an institution, however this imprisonment is not always against ones will. This is a situation where one has personally committed oneself to such a way of life, for example a spiritual retreat, health farm, etc., for the betterment of ones health and growth. In these circumstances one undergoes trial and initiation. Your power of movement has been confined to limited areas for necessary development. You may experience solitary confinement. Nevertheless all this is temporary as this card shows self-invoked

change in circumstances. Diseases shown by this card are pleurisy, blood and lung disorders, liver problems and debilitating ailments. "Volition".

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8 of Swords: "Lord of Shortened Force"

(First Stage Separation)

In 1st position:	"Self Restrictive"
In 2nd position:	"Shortened Force"
In 3rd position:	"Trivialities"
In 4th position:	"Isolation"
In 5th position:	"Anguish"
In 6th position:	"External restriction"
In 7th position:	"Forebearance"
In 8th position:	"Prosecution"
In 9th position:	"Thwarted"
In 10th position:	"Escape"
In 11th position:	"Unforthcoming"
In 12th position:	"Volition"

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MEDITATION ON THE EIGHT 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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