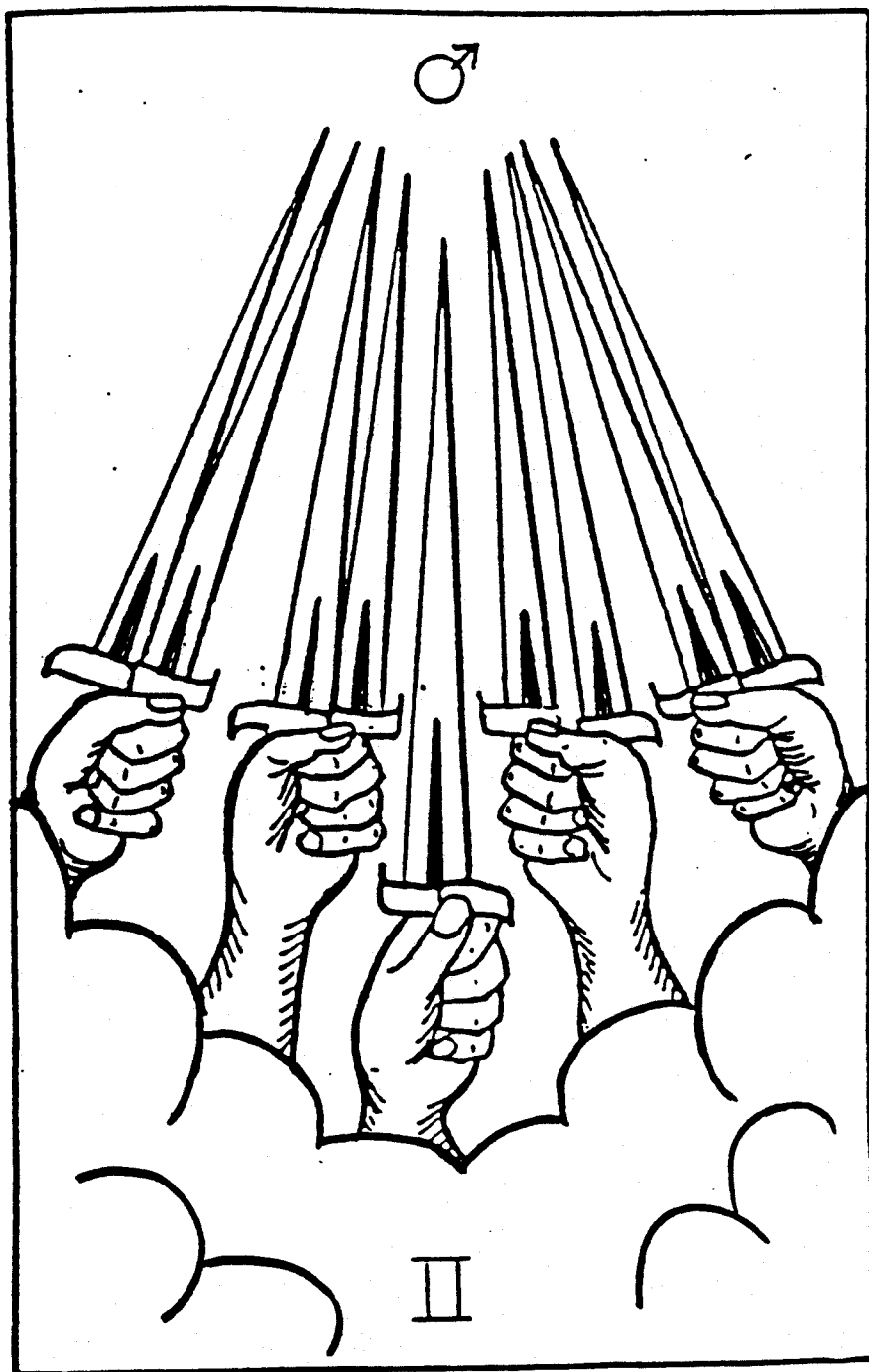


LESSON 80

NINE OF SWORDS



LESSON 80

9 OF SWORDS

"Lord of Despair & Cruelty"

10 - 20 Degrees Gemini

♂ in II

Four hands, as in the preceding figure, holding 8 swords nearly upright, but with the points falling away from each other, a fifth hand holds a ninth sword upright in the centre, as if it had struck them asunder and no rose at all is shown, as if it was not merely cut asunder but utterly destroyed.

This card shows a powerful force that does not have any direction to be channelled to (the absent rose), and this results in this force going in all directions. This much force applied without direction shows no restraint and becomes very disruptive.

The 9 of Swords alludes to a state of unconsciousness, shown also by the main sword shattering the others apart from the hidden depths beneath, and without the presence of the rose this card shows a material nature unilluminated by Spirit. With the absence of the higher mind you find an undisciplined warring blind energy, with no reason or motive which reacts to stimulæ in no defined direction; it is disruptive and repetitive, ruled only by the lower conscious and the law of survival. It represents the most basic root source of intellectuality governed by

instinct, hence its name "Lord of Despair and Cruelty".

Alchemically this card represents an extremely dry phase and is the "Fire of the Stone". It is a part of the reddening; - after the Sublimation of the Spirit (the eagles) the red lion is discovered terrestrial, and must drink its own blood. This is analogous to the Last Supper where Christ ate his own flesh and drank his own blood, which means that one must return to ones unconscious beginnings and thereby recognise and accept the other self. The single sword scattering the other 8 swords shows the necessary scattering of the vaporous colours to make room for the final and single colour of red, but first there is a yellowing, and the 9 of Swords represents this stage for as yet the colours have not fully merged. By the aid of the Vulcan you shall see what turns the colour of blood. The clouds have sunken, alluding to the fixing of matter and the drying out of the celestial dew.

The 9 of Swords are coloured in the Prince Scale. The swords are the colour of the planet, Madder Red. The background is the colour of the Sign, Cinnamon Brown. The hands and clouds are coloured Brilliant White. Shade the background of Cinnamon Brown from translucent to normal pigmentation giving the image of vapour.

Madder Red represents greed and cruelty and Cinnamon Brown is materialism and avarice. These combined colours show the dream state of the lower conscious. All movement is instigated on an unconscious level and easily influenced by whatever happens at

the moment. They allude to the seed state of matter.

The planet and sign associated to the 9 of Swords is Mars in Gemini. The expression of energy is on the mental plane with Mars in Gemini manifesting in nervous energy and changeability. It shows a smoothness and fluency in speech with a tendency to be argumentative and satirical at times. It shows skill in forms of communication as well as an assertiveness in writing - any form of journalism. Negatively aspected, one may encounter speech impediment, restlessness, an uncontrolled roving mind, wandering thoughts and lack of concentration. Energies in this instance will be scattered into many areas of activity and there may be trouble in areas of travel and communication. Mars in Gemini can border on anything from insanity to sheer genius - a mind that darts and flashes from one thought or impression to the other - a confused mind or one that is incredibly quick.

Yesod of Vau (illness, suffering, malice, suffering, want, loss, misery, burden, oppression, labour, subtlety and craft, dishonesty).

DIVINATION

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

The self invoked victim is depicted in this position by the

9 of Swords. This person is not necessarily a victim but thinks he/she is one and constantly goes around brooding about how unjustly he/she is treated, when in retrospect it is a misconception. The individual represented here is a highly strung individual who is extremely impatient with him/herself and those around. There is pride in ones intellectual abilities and any criticism sends one into brooding or sarcastic retort. Plans are interrupted by current interests and too many trivialities are magnified into large issues. This card advises that you should reflect on past mistakes and learn from them. In short one should use their mental energies effectively by getting what one wants out of life rather brooding about what people will say about you, you may then find greater achievement. "Retrospect".

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:

A form of financial chaos occurs in this position with the 9 of Swords. Misconceptions and arguments arise in business dealings and too much force is used to get results. A person tends to ruin matters before they can get underway through excessive verbosity. Here one does not know when to stop talking (to ones disadvantage). You may also have to face a loss due to over-clever manipulation of others. When you receive the 9 of Swords in this position the best route you could take is calculated

inaction. Under the above matters you will incur delay, deception or disappointment. Do not be too impatient when demands are not met. "Impatience"

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

Debate and frustration is depicted by the 9 of Swords in this position. There is a tendency to inflict mental cruelty onto others if matters do not go your way or a member of your family or neighbour repeatedly inflicts mental cruelty on you. This card also shows grief over the loss of someone or something close but not necessarily a loss through death. You, or the subject of your query, will go through a phase of feeling quite desolate, unable to see any further than ones sorrow or self pity. In matters of education and communication the 9 of Swords is unfortunate. There will be misunderstandings and a scattering of energy with possible abandonment. "Cruelty".

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 9 of Swords shows an environmental situation where very little is said between parties, if anything at all. People behave childishly and carry on disputes for days.

Where there is no trouble or discontent, they or you will invent it just to keep discord in the atmosphere. You will leave home, if you have not already, or, if you are parent, a member of the family or a relation will depart from the home or country. A lesson must be learnt the hard way. There may be violence or cruelty in the home. However, strength and new life can be obtained from suffering. This position also depicts the martyr and also cautions against danger in the occult field due to mental instability. "Discord".

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

Under the above matters the 9 of Swords shows a miscarriage or abortion and the great mental and biological agony that follows. In the realm of entertainment it shows the cesspits of the city - the gambling casinos, bars and pornography establishments. There is a degeneration of values and morals. Women should beware of sexual molestation. There is aggressiveness in creative expression and violence is enjoyed. Children turn out to be hard to control. This position is however favourable for sporting activities of a mental and physical nature as adversaries are pushed aside. "Violence".

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:

Here the 9 of Swords shows difficulty in putting ideas together then pushing them forth. There is a constant striving to improve ones skills but this frequently leads to the confusion between what was the thought and what was the act. When this card is received here it advises that someone needs psychological help. Behaviour patterns need to be checked and structuralised. From a medical viewpoint one is likely to be in a lot of pain (if you have health problems) otherwise the 9 of Swords shows impending sickness, and sickness of a mental nature. There will be disruptions in the working environment. Your work situation may cause ailments associated with the shoulders, arms and upper back (Repetitive Strain Injury or neuralgia for example). "Pain".

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:

Lack of self control looses you support and dramatisation of ideas draws varied reactions in people. The 9 of Swords here shows a confused and rushed expression of thoughts and feelings in relationships which causes breakups and arguments. The person most felt for or emulated, is the one most verbally battered and is used as a scape goat for ones own shortfalls. Such aggressive behaviour breeds contempt, causes stress in relationships, respect is lost and marriage partners proceed to lawsuits and

divorce. The only way to deal with a person having these behaviour patterns is passive resistance. This card also shows karmic demands and realisations pressing to be faced, with ones ego fighting to resist and creating all forms of diversion. "Transference".

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 9 of Swords here shows dangers of spiritualism and mystic pursuits advising the querent against activities in these areas. Problems are usually due to auric or chakra blockages or holes that are open to manipulation by seen and unseen forces. In the handling of others affairs there is a great deal of boasting about what one can do, but the test is in the action. This card warns that such a person, full of self acclaimed ability, is about to cross your path and will not come to the party when action is required. In sexual matters there is a preoccupation with expression of ones desires. The 9 of Swords shows that one is undergoing psychotherapy or counselling and if not it advises that this is the course to take. "Fabrication".

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:

Failed exams through lack of application and concentration. This card shows someone who contradicts all existing literary formats, all methods of organisation and teaching. This is one who does not have a better idea to put forward, they only wish to break down all forms of tradition and established concepts. His mind is in a state of chaos, yet this is not really chaos itself but the chaos of the mental faculties, uncontrolled inflation of the ego. It represents those who desire to be God and those who even believe themselves to be God. Travel takes place only in the form of permanent departures. Social and educational institutions are scorned. "Contradictions".

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

In this position the 9 of Swords depicts a strong driving ambition to gain recognition which causes problems to all that cross ones path. Ones accomplishments are great but these cause envious reactions in others and you become the target of malice. A lot of mental energy is put into promotion of career plans, that manifests in great intensity and of which many people cannot handle, therefore one is likely to see a great many fall by the wayside. On whatever path you choose you will have to struggle for minor success; nevertheless ones desire to travel is insatiable. On the other side of the coin this card shows a personal overemphasis of ones importance when your achievements

may be no more than the next person. "Intensity".

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:

You would be wise to distrust friends, groups or organisations when the 9 of Swords appears in this position. Within groups or parliamentary situations, suspicion, fear and doubt arise; false information is given, plans and legislation miscarriage and deception occurs. It represents a person who causes disruption and mistrust in groups by telling tales to each person about the other, a classic case of running with the hares and hunting with the hounds. This card also shows debates, heated arguments and criticism. You may find yourself alone, as an outcast either by the doing of others or your own doing, and in this there is grief. "Trouble maker".

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:

Illness and suffering are shown here by the 9 of Swords: do not despair, for new life and new strength rises out of suffering. You will not receive help or comfort, so it is time to come

to the realisation that you must take the responsibility of your life into your own hands. Your physical and mental health depends entirely on you. The medical problems represented by this card are: Cuts, fractures, wounds to arms, hands and collarbones, disorder in the nervous system, bronchial complaints, inflammations of lungs, pneumonia, neuralgia and neuritis. This card represents persecution from the least expected, hidden enemies arise from those closest to you. However, the greatest hidden enemy is yourself, and not being aware of this will be your own self undoing. "Self-inflicting".

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2 of Swords: "Lord of Despair and Cruelty "

(2nd Stage Separation)

In 1st position:	"Retrospect"
In 2nd position:	"Impatience"
In 3rd position:	"Cruelty"
In 4th position:	"Discord"
In 5th position:	"Volence"
In 6th position:	"Pain"
In 7th position:	"Transference"
In 8th position:	"Fabrication"
In 9th position:	"Contradiction"
In 10th position:	"Intensity"
In 11th position:	"Troublemaker"
In 12th position:	"Self-inflicting"

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MEDITATION ON THE NINE 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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