

LESSON 93

KNIGHT OF WANDS

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"The Lord of the flame and lightning;
The King of the spirits of Fire".

Rules 20 Degrees of Scorpio to 20 Degrees Sagittarius

A winged warrior riding a black horse with a flaming mane and tail. The horse itself is not winged. The rider wears a winged helmet with a rayed crown, a corslet of scale mail and buskins of the same, and a flowing scarlet mantle. Above his helmet, upon his curass, and on the shoulder pieces and buskins, he wears as a crest a winged black horse's head. He grasps a club with flaming ends, somewhat similar to the symbol of the Ace of Wands, but not so heavy, and also the sigil of the scale is shown; beneath the rushing feet of his steed are waving flames and fire.

The Knight mounted on the horse is spirit of fire. As a Knight he vanquishes enemies but since he possesses the office of King shows that he holds and acts towards the highest ideals of fire. He is in control of the steed and is its directing force. The steed in this instance is matter. Modern psychologists consider that the steed is a symbol of the magical nature of man because it relates to the intuitive aspects of the psyche, in empathy with the great mother concept.

The mane of the steed shows blind force while its red colour has a fiery empathy, and as part of the steed, it relates to the intuitive aspect of nature in relation to a fiery development which is much in keeping with the every-day concept of the steed. The red winged Helmet represents not only protection but hidden thought and meaning showing that the Knight, through manipulating the blind force, does have a hidden motive, though this is sanctioned by the higher powers, as portrayed by the rayed crown. The trident shaped wand he holds has the same meaning as the Ace of Wands but in this instance it is being manipulated as a weapon. The sigil on the club is ASH = FIRE and is one of the sigils from the Ace of Wands.

The red cloak he wears streams behind him depicting a higher force outstripping the physical and the red reins are the instruments by which the force is held in check. The emblem of the winged steed (black head and gold wings) on his helmet, chest and leggings show that his instinctive desires all act quickly and in unison, i.e. the head, heart and feet. The Knight is transcendence of the spirit when he leaps over the red gold flames. His

eyes are hazel and his light red features represent the fact that he is a Salamander, as does his red armour (with green scale outlines) and his red gold hair relates to the pinnacle or essence of universal fire being not only heat but light; hence the illumination aspect of this card must come under consideration. The background of this card is the translucent colour of Fire, just slightly darker than the skin tone of the Knight.

The Knight of Wands in fact shows too much emphasis on the fire element, and is rarely felt to be a problem for anyone until it is too late to do anything about it. This could manifest as burning oneself out, leaving an exhausted shell of a person, especially where alcohol or drugs are abused. Fire people, like the Knight, tend to be overly active and restless and over-concerned with making things happen. Too much fire can also lead to problems in dealing with others, for the impulsiveness, self-centredness and unrestrained desire to act directly at all costs can give rise to an extremely sensitive and crude way of approaching other people. Carter sums up this situation as follows: "Under affliction this force becomes uncontrolled and causes its influences to be wild and turbulent, given to extravagance and exaggeration, passionateness and recklessness, overconfident and self-indulgent. We get primitive traits and marked tendency to ego exaltation, self-importance, vanity and love of pomp and grandeur."

At best those attuned strongly to fire are self-motivated go-getters and often successfully start and promote new enterprises, projects and idealistic ventures that demand tremendous dedication, courage and energy.

On the celestial sphere he rules 20 degrees Scorpio to 20 degrees Sagittarius. This shows the penetrating aspects of Scorpio on the decline as the lack of restriction of Sagittarius takes over.

The I'Ching association to this card is number 30 which is 'Li' meaning fire. This has two fire Trigrams over one another. The Great Symbolism (an ancient Chinese commentary on the Hexagrams) says of this Hexagram: 'The symbol of brightness, repeated, form Li. The Great Man, in accordance with this, cultivates more and more his brilliant virtue and diffuses its brightness over the four quarters of the land'.

The Alchemical action of this card shows the initial part of the Reddening. The black horse initially shows the prima materia over the flames while the rider is the spirit guiding the experiment, and the extremely volatile Mercury arising from the prima materia. The prima materia under a constant heat then produces the Sulphur which the black horse portrays.

The Knight is associated to the Yod of Yod which shows that he is the pinnacle of essence in its initial stages. The state is also a very powerful one because it is still in its birth state, part of that tremendous driving force that is in all living creatures which enables them to establish an existence on this planet. This is of course a masculine force due to its aggressive assertiveness, but it is also a force that is materialistic yet is still only initial in its impetus.

DIVINATION

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

The Knight of Wands shows the Fire element in a Fire house. Here the individual is flexing his muscles and is starting to exert his power. From a divinatory viewpoint we will encounter this individual as one who will tend to want everything yesterday and rush you off your feet. How they effect you, shows how to deal with them. Since this force is strong but limited you could easily tire these people or wait them out. Another alternative is to channel this energy into another area until its resources are widespread, which then makes it easier to handle.

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 Fire element in this Earth House is extremely creative and productive. It bodes good fortune and little or no obstacles in business and personal affairs. A steady gain in financial affairs is guided by the Knight of Wands. Taking the advice of the Knight in this instance will be very beneficial and things will happen quickly. The Knight in this house shows that he will provide for ones future against leaner times and as such cautions us not to be frivolous with the material success one will have. His duration or influence will not last long and hesitation will cause an opportunity to pass.

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

The Fire element in this Air house shows one who has high ideals and aspirations but tends to be naive in the ways of the world. It also shows the intellectual stage where planning is done, often unaware of the practical consequences. The Knight in this position shows the thinker and talker, not the doer. It is good for short journeys which shows speed in arriving at ones destination. Though it also shows study it does not show duration. If any type of study course is taken over a period of short duration it will be beneficial, but if it is extensive and long lasting then it will not be completed. Correspondence can be expected from nearby areas only.

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:

The Fire element in this Water house shows opposition and antagonism. In family matters, arguments and separation are indicated as the Knight of Wands tries to run roughshod over his family and finds opposition to his demands. The main cause for this appears to be work pressures brought into the home. This also shows a shift or change in ones location due to the Knight of Wands and as such could relate to a break with some family members. Apart from this, a complete change in attitude is also brought about through this upheaval in ones personal life.

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

The Fire element in this Fire house shows harmony and love of family with a deep sense of family loyalty. The Knight of Wands in this position expresses emotionally his feelings which in some instances can sweep members of his family away with the lengths he will go to help them. More importantly, this type of effort to help his family comes from a very deep sense of duty, something he holds in high esteem as one of the more important values of life. Races, competitive sports, fast living, and compulsive gamblers is also shown here.

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:

The Fire element in this Earth house shows that the Knight of Wands has a healthy outlook, but it cautions against overwork. Though health wise the Knight of Wands is in good condition, the continuous drive and pressures he subjects himself to will eventually cause sickness if this pressure is continued. While the Knight of Wands in this position is not bad it does caution in continuing with the present line of action, which is potentially harmful to the mind as well as the body.

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 Knight of Wands in this Air house shows enthusiasm and the type of personality that tends to bowl one over. The Knight of Wands will rush his partner off her feet but will still have with her a special intellectual rapport. His unpredictable outlook will always keep his partner (whether business or marriage) off balance. In the business world, the Knight of Wands (in this instance) works swiftly in forming the blueprint of a project but has not as yet gone ahead with it. Negatively aspected it shows someone unreliable and unpredictable.

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 Knight of Wands in this Water house is not fortunate. In matters of emotion one finds that one will fume, bubble and brood with intensity then explode untimely. These people hold grudges. With the Knight in this house a resurgence of activity eventuates, though this is limited and can be classified as false hopes. There is a strong degree of sexual passion here but like the other aspects of this house it will be short lived. In matters of health this also refers to feverish conditions that can cause death, depending on the basic health of the individual concerned.

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 Knight of Wands in this Fire house shows that the path or framework of beliefs one has will propel one to be totally

immersed in religious and philosophical matters. In many ways the Knight of Wands here shows the religious fanatic, not so much because of their beliefs but because of belief in a cause (for the cause's sake). They cannot help themselves in their attitude to beliefs and religious structures. Here the individual will take a one-eyed viewpoint and show little or no tolerance towards those who disagree with him.

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

The Knight of Wands in this Earth house shows someone who has quickly arrived on the scene and has reached the top of his profession. It is the symbol of power and ambition coming together and giving forth material gain. If you encounter the Knight in this house he can be a powerful ally or a bad enemy, the surrounding cards will determine which applies.

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:

The Knight of Wands in this Air house shows one coming into contact with him, possibly through a group activity. We tend to find ourselves aligning to the stronger personality of the Knight so that our own assertions will not have to take place. By cleaving to his thoughts and ideas we do not have to decide on our own. In instances like this we must put our foot down and stand up, to be counted as individuals who have a free choice.

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 Knight of Wands in this Water house shows a desperate need to quickly try and sort out what karmic debts are owed and how to repay them. It is here that one is usually payed back any ingratitude he or she has delivered to others. The Knight of Wands in this position shows that hardship is coming our way and we try and do too much all at once, which plays havoc with our health and mental state. It is a situation where we can do nothing but our best in trying to handle these energies which tend to swamp us.

MEDITATION ON THE KNIGHT OF WANDS:

Let the Student first study the overall picture of the card, then study each detail: Each symbol and image. 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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