

LESSON 114

HIEROPHANT

LESSON 114

HIEROPHANT

The Hierophant is archetypal figure of the Father Confessor. He is the institutionalised rock of spiritual teaching that has extended its framework into the very seeds of government. In the Order, the Hierophant 'being a member of the Second Order and therefore initiated into the secret knowledge of the symbolism'. The old title of this card was the "Pope", by changing the title a very subtle shift in meaning then occurs. The original meaning of "Pope" was "Father" where the Hierophant means "revealer of sacred things". The actual drawing of the figure in the card is in fact an amalgamation of the two. While under the old meaning one is an open institution, the new meaning is that it is more hidden in context. The old meaning represented the old dogma of the church, unchanged for many centuries while the Hierophant now brings about hidden changes within the system by revealing things to the initiated. This in fact opens the door to newer more flexible teachings which are to a certain extent more personalised in the latter than the former. Blind obedience has fallen way to personal illumination under the guidance of the Inner Sanctum of the self. The old meaning of Pontiff was also called "bridgemaker", from the Latin "pontifex" which in many respects is identical to that of the Hierophant, so in some ways the Hierophant does overlap with the "Pope".

The bulls' heads on the throne show a masculine force, strength and power, as "bull" in Hebrew means Johveh or YHVH, a balanced spectrum of ideals without change. The crook in the hand of the Hierophant not only shows the aspect of power associated to the supernatural (Magus etc) and the Christian aspect of the Crook of the shepherd of the flock but is also shaped like the Hebrew letter Vau, which is associated to this card. The triple crown shows the divine trinity (the three persons in the one God). The crown in fact radiates its energies through the four elements (both corporeal and incorporeal) shown on each side of the face (the tassles of the crown). The scroll he holds is the temple warrant, his sign or communica of the doctrine beyond the veil. The ring he wears has on it the seal of the R.R. et A.C., the Second Order of the Golden Dawn. His broach or clasp is shaped like and represents the astrological sign of the Sun. This shows the life giving warmth and power that brings light (illumination) and comfort to the darkness. The curtain behind the throne has nine clasps which represent Yesod the Sephira of which the Moon is associated, and the moon exalted in Taurus, the astrological sign associated to this card.

The colouring of the robe of the Hierophant, the background behind the veil, the crook and triple crown are the Flame Red of the King Scale which shows the Atziluth nature of the power source. The edge of the robe and the support and crosses of the crown are in the complementary blue of the King Scale. This shows the receptive nature of his powers which are essentially pure and spiritual. The Porcelain Blue of the Queen Scale is the colour of the Hierophant's under-robe which relates to the creativity of his power. The colour of his skin is a translucent Porcelain Blue as is the rod supporting the curtain. The colouring of the curtain itself and that of the floor in front of the throne is the Sepia Brown of the Prince Scale. The curtain actually incorporates the translucent aspect of Sepia Brown with the darker colour being the shadows of the folds in the curtain. This shows the nature of the veil which fluctuates according to the nature of those trying to pierce its mysteries. The throne of the Hierophant is the Deep Grey Green of the Princess Scale with translucent shading emphasized on the skulls of the bulls, and they portray the foundation on which the throne is built. The Temple Warrant is White, showing the divine nature of its power. The ring on the Hierophant's finger is gold and relates to power from the Tiphareth centre.

The hidden geometric symbol in this card is the square within the triangle. The square being the temple warrant and the base of the triangle being formed by the triangle of the two bulls heads, with the solar broach being its apex. This shows the intellect or will confining matter. It implies restraint and thinking before acting and the limitation of earthly desires.

The psychological approach this card represents is the conservative side of things. Here, a great many things are hidden beneath the surface which take a great deal of time to digest, hence the attribution of slowness associated here as well. During this gestation period nothing on the surface appears to change, hence its fixed association. The Hierophant derives his power from beyond the veil so the details of his communications with the hidden guardians are unknown to us. The Hierophant in many ways represents the establishment, on the outer level and will only communicate to us what he thinks we should know. Any movement or change incorporated by the Hierophant is done with a great deal of thought and reason. He is the typical slow growth factor but this is always done from a very powerful base. On the negative side of things he is stubborn and self possessive. To himself and to many who follow him (in the extreme) he is the pseudo Messiah of his beliefs and he expects others to follow him in his infallibility.

The title of this card is 'Magus of the Eternal Gods'. This

relates to the Hiero being an instrument of the Gods, the hidden powers beyond the veil. He is their representative for good or evil, depending on the circumstances.

The alchemical meaning of this card shows that the Bulls' heads on the throne are analogous to Taurus the second month which also represents the second stage of the Great Work. Since the Bull is sacred to the Sun it represents sulphur, the male principle which is ascribed by Hermes as the originator and Father of the Stone. Since this is still a primitive aspect of the work, the whole card shows sulphur in its secondary state, before the conjunction.

The numerological association to this card is number 5. Levi says: 'The Quinary is the number of religion, for it is the number of god united to that of woman...Let us pray in silence; let us raise towards our unknown Father a look of confidence and of love; let us accept with faith and resignation the part which He assigns to us the toils of life, and every throb of our hearts will be a word of prayer.'

~~~~~

#### DIVINATION

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

The key impetus here for the Hierophant is expression of power potential. This is generally done through structuring ones surroundings, ones material resources. The Hierophant shows a character projection of mercy, patience, goodness and stubbornness. He represents a personage or structure that is inspirational to others - a person will receive inspiration. You may, however, have recourse to a man, or organisation if you receive this card here, or, you may feel others expect you to be infallible. However, the Hierophant also shows that one is given a warrant, or permission to go ahead with some project. A personal need for material power is evident.

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 key impetus for the Hierophant here is originality. Money is earned through the originality of ideas and the practical application of such ideas. Financial outlets may be many (large organisations). What is forming is slow but sure growth. The Hierophant in this position shows an individual who is very determined towards affairs in the above matters, is possessive and stubborn. Once a goal is set there is little or no deviation from it - it in fact becomes a whole way of life. A strong sense of loyalty is applied to all personal dealings although one may become burdened with obligations.

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

The key impetus for the Hierophant here is to teach. Help is given by superiors, opinions and feelings are shared. There is aesthetic communication. Travel is not depicted here by the Hierophant in this house position. He shows an individual who is set in his ways and is not easy to communicate with unless you work along his own mode of thinking. As a teacher he may not necessarily be one from an educational institution but can be a brother, neighbour or husband etc. His lessons are ones of mastery over physical matter.

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 key impetus for the Hierophant here is to voluntarily invoke. He depicts voluntary invocation of occult forces and a connection to guiding forces. He advises caution under the above matter and suggests conservatism. A strong desire to build a foundation to ones life portrays a need for security. He shows one very territorial and protective of ones home. When enquiring whether a situation will change, this card shows that matters will remain the same. This is a time for assimilation of experiences; a stable and solid home life (background) and advises one to spend more time with nature which will strengthen (heal) one. Dedication to family.

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

The key impetus for the Hierophant in this position is

endurance. He shows that a creative outlet has been provided. There is alertness to opportunities but cautiousness in speculations is advised. The Hierophant shows endurance in physical activities but a disposition towards self indulgence in matters of pleasure. He shows an analytical thinker and a perfectionist. There is a close scrutiny of a person or object regarding its quality. Also there appears to be a fondness towards luxury and power with a determination in affairs under the above matters and an overpowering influence in love affairs. On a higher note the Hierophant shows an inner peace as if one has found what one is searching for.

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:

Loyal, methodical workers and experts in their respective fields are shown here by the Hierophant, and relates to people who are able to work in harmony with others. Through ones employment there is financial success. The Hierophant represents the working institution; the corporation or a large body within which one works best. In many respects the Hierophant indicates the steady long term job prospect as well as an individual who finds that he has extreme loyalties to the company he works for. On the negative side of the coin there are also indications of overwork which could result in problems with health and home, but this of course depends on the surrounding cards. On the whole the Hierophant in this position shows steady employment and job prospects in a good working environment.

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:

In this position, the Hierophant shows a stubborn partner who is very fixed in attitude and ideals. He indicates marriage and stability, and on a large scale an alliance - harmony through mutual respect. It is a situation where one enters an establishment. Long term goals over lengthy periods of time are indicated here. The fixed aspect shows that things do not come easy as hard work is indicated here. A certain amount of sacrifice is indicated for the sake of harmony. The key impetus here is sacrifice of ones individuality. He also depicts inner contentment. Karmically one must work on internal harmony.

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 key impetus for the Hierophant in this position is spiritual truth. Those that strive for spiritual truth apply their energies practically, either in material matters or in devotion to the Great Work. The Hierophant represents the comfort, or light into that which appears to be darkness. However he also shows captivity and confinement to structure and form. This sort of confinement is necessary in order to develop, and without which ones energies scatter and become of little use. Through restriction one is forced to face one point at a time. Gain is shown through a partner's resources although affairs will take a little time to actualise.

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:

Here the Hierophant represents an institutionalised rock of spiritual teaching that has extended its framework into the very seeds of government. He is associated with a spiritual figure that may have some influence on ones life. Religious and Kabalistic studies are depicted here. He also shows dogma, set views, defined limitations under the above matters and the values of society play a large role in ones thinking. On the negative side of things, one becomes obsessive with occult, religious or hermetic experiences. There is also slow but steady advancement of the Great Work on all levels of society. Instead of this type of work taking a back seat to other events one finds with the Hierophant that the exact opposite occurs.

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

The Hierophant in this position shows divine wisdom. He represents the builders of all forms both materially and mentally as well as creative expression and status power. There is a clinging to old structures and protectiveness towards ones position in life. The Hierophant shows one in a pursuit of a growing career, adeptness in administration and organisation. Also under the above matters ones affairs are set in order. The negative aspects here show the autocrat who rules with absolute authority based on the concept of divine motivation for he feels he cannot

err. Problems could occur through being too harsh on those under you and this must be carefully watched. On matters of the home it shows the father ruling with an iron hand which could give rise to problems in the home or the developing psyche.

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:

Ridgid ideals, conventions and traditions are shown by the Hierophant in this position. Wealthy friends may influence your direction in life through their support. The Hierophant here shows a stable income and realistic goals being set which are within ones reach. All forms of groups or organisations are shown to have a solid backing (foundation), and to have set rules and regulations. It also may show you entering some form of occult, hermetic or religious activity as a leader or potential leader. There may be the forming of a strong occult group. There also appears to be some sort of a stand indicated with the moral aspects of the law whether for good or evil, depending on the surrounding cards.

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 key impetus here for the Hierophant is prayer and he represents the secret doctrines and the hidden knowledge - work towards unveiling the secret mysteries. On a more personal note one may institutionalize oneself. There is a tendency to accept matters with faith and resign to the toil of life. Illnesses are shown to be in the throat area. The thyroid, thymus, parathyroids etc. How this card could effect one under the above matters depends entirely on how one approached life in the past - materialistically or otherwise. The Hierophant here shows the helping and taking charge of helping others who are in dire need, from an individuals viewpoint, that of some welfare organisation. This card also shows the gathering together or helping of people through organisations.

~~~~~

MEDITATION ON THE HIEROPHANT:

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.

~~~~~

exercise

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

~~~~~