

**LESSON 115**

**LOVERS**

## LESSON 115

## THE LOVERS

The key words represented by this card are 'unification' and 'opposites'. The Golden Dawn version of this trump is a radical departure from the standard European designs, the main point of difference not being the union itself but the way in which the union was attained. The other versions of this trump show only the end result, giving no indication of what one has to face to attain this result. The Golden Dawn version goes a step further by drawing the trump to the myth of Andromeda. The legend has many variations but the essence is that Andromeda, daughter of Cepheus, King of Ethiopia and Cassiopeia was so beautiful that Neptune sent Cetus, the sea monster to destroy the kingdom of Cepheus unless he offered up his daughter as a sacrifice. Andromeda was chained to the rock but just before Cetus was able to devour her she was released by Perseus who was flying through the air. He slew the monster by turning it into stone (with Medusa's head) and carried off Andromeda as his bride. One could say that all the trials and tribulations of love won in the end were for far greater rewards than originally bargained for.

The emblem of the Sun on Perseus's shield depicts higher spiritual principles and relates to the 12 lettered name of God (according to Mathers from an unpublished lecture on the subject) Hih-Hvvh-Vihih which means 'He was, is, will be'. In many ways this is analogous to the brightness of Kether for the shield of Perseus was the one that reflected the image of the Medusa, whom he killed in a previous battle. The shield also relates to the immortality of Perseus and of the karmic pattern of destiny. He is one who uses this power for the benefit of others, his love for Andromeda being his driving force. The sea below shows the tides of advancement and withdrawal as well as the state of chaos, the unrevealed, and it is from here the monster/dragon emerges from its depths.

The sword held here by Perseus is highly significant, for it relates very closely with the Hebrew letter associated to this card, Zain (the sword), for the object of Perseus is penetration resulting in the release of Andromeda. The maiden chained to the rock shows the struggle for freedom - obtained only after considerable anguish and effort before the nightmare is finished. The rock which she is chained to represents the prison that has held her which in turn also represents her lifestyle which was very limited to her royal duties.

The background colour of the sky is the Persian Orange of the King Scale as is Andromeda (the colour applied here is translucent) and the dragon. Andromeda represents the virginal aspect while the dragon is in fact a dual aspect of her own nature. The Emblem of the shield is also in the colour of the King Scale for it shows the divine presence. The skin of Perseus is translucent blue (complementary of the translucent Persian Orange) and represents the emotional nature of the impending battle. The shield and clouds from which Perseus emerges are the complementary blue of the King Scale. The armour, sword and helmet are the Cinnamon Brown of the Prince Scale showing the airy part of his nature. The sea is coloured in the Greyish Red of the Queen Scale which relates to its watery nature. The rock on which Andromeda is chained is Mahogany Brown of the Princess Scale and relates to the deep earthy nature of her captivity.

The title given to this card is 'Children of the Voice; the oracles of the Mighty Gods'. This relates to both Perseus and Andromeda being under the divine guidance of the gods, who through their actions become established as constellations resulting in being the 'oracles' in question.

The psychological aspect of this card shows the perceptive insight of how to connect or link the opposite sides of ones nature into a firm bonding. In many respects there is also an immature quality here as impetuosity is indicated as part of ones character traits. It shows the Lovers as being a card that represents creativity and continually striving for par excellence. The Lovers also represents a multifaceted character that may be more than a little schizophrenic when the negative tendencies are brought to bear. Other aspects such as hebephrenia, paranoia, catatonia and paraphrenia can occur here as well but only at the far end of the negative side of things. In many respects while there is a disassociation complex linked to this card there is also a cathexis state as well. The individual here is the preparer of the way for the others to take over from. In many ways this person is the pioneer builder, the grower. Here we have the androgeny, as a concept of personality which shows balance and stability.

In alchemical terms Andromeda is the Primea Materia of water - the Aqua Materia. She is chained to the rock which in reality is the Stone, which has its base in water. Actually Andromeda is part of the Stone, the hidden pure essence that is a prisoner. Perseus, who is about to rescue her, is in fact Fire, shown by the emblem on his shield. The alchemical text the 'Rosarium' says, when describing this alchemical concept: 'This is the fiery form of the true water'. Ripley also says: 'The ariel soul is the secret fire of our philosophy, our oil, our mystic water,' a sentence that can easily be applied to this card and its contents.

The Stone is about to yield its most precious soul, the Anima, which is Andromeda. A number of alchemical texts written over the centuries have often stated that though fire and water are antagonists they are in essence still the same, this can only be understood correctly from a thorough grounding in the work. Here, Andromeda is about to be devoured by the dragon, a symbol of Simple Water (Philosophers Mercury). In short, this card shows the self fertilization aspect of the union of the Fire and the Aqua Materia - the Mercurial Dragon.

The number associated to the card is 6. Of this Nichomachus says: 'The form of form, the only number adapted to the Soul, the instinctual union of the parts of the universe, the fabricator of the Soul, also a Harmony'. Westcott also says of the Hexad: 'As to a "Marriage," it is a number equal to its parts, and marriage is a ceremony to sanction the production of offspring similar to the parent.' Levi possibly has the best quote of all that relates directly to this card: 'The Senary(6) is the number by ordeal; it is the number of equilibrium, it is the hieroglyph of the knowledge of Good and Evil.'

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#### DIVINATION

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

In this position the Lovers shows a person or persons heavily committed to a project or some form of life due to another's influence. This commitment gives these types of people a sense of imprisonment, a drowning feeling with no way out. Hence they yearn for something or someone to come along and release them from their bondage, which in fact is exactly what will happen, just in time. So don't despair, someone or something will come by and save you from your ordeal. On an internal level the intellect takes hold of one's emotions and brings clarity into a situation. This card shows obstruction to new beginnings.

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:

Under the above matters the Lovers shows that one may be in

a precarious situation financially, and may tend to loose ones assets through neglect to provide for a way out of a possible situation. You may have the Inland Revenue Department in hot pursuit, or through vanity and attempting to 'do it alone' put oneself in debt to another, a finance company or organisation who are now applying the pressure. On a personal note this card shows it is ones own greed (negativity) that is putting the pressure on one. However the lovers shows that another person or company, or even a change of attitude will bail you out. If you join forces with that element you will not look back.

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

The Lovers in this position shows help and guidance given by brothers, sisters, relatives or neighbours, or perhaps it is you who helps them. Whoever it is there is always someone who will help during the bad times. In areas of education one will achieve what there is to be achieved with external help although there is a threat of failure or an area of temptation to diverse. In matters of travel, for women there will be restriction, but for men there will be forced short trips with unexpected diversions due to the misfortunes or mishandling of others. Women will find commitments (responsibilities) both mental and external that will prevent them from enlarging their field of activity; men will be diverted from their tasks to aid another, who may become or be a lasting friend.

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 Lovers in this position shows that one must release ones emotions into a conscious level, then draw from ones intellect and rationalize. Only then will you be free from emotional turmoil and anxiety, but only after anguish and effort. Women will find themselves in bondage (in modern times this is generally considered a state of mind rather than physical circumstances) or in a suffocating situation where circumstances prevent them from expressing themselves as individuals, that they cannot escape from. For some, their release from daily monotony is through their partner's activities. For others, release comes through learning by example, and freedom comes through state of mind. This card shows that a way is being prepared for you to act on your karmic destiny. It also shows a lasting union between body and soul; man and woman; purpose and

direction (destiny).

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

In this position the Lovers shows that one has been, or is in danger through misadventure, and you have no way out of paying your dues. However, someone or thing may bail you out, just in time, nevertheless this is no excuse to put yourself in a precarious situation. On another note this card shows greater awards than originally bargained for. The lesson here is to obtain the knowledge of what is right and wrong (when to move and when not to move), but an ordeal may be faced before this lesson is learned. On matters of children this card does not imply fertility, but does imply a union of opposites. If one has children you may have to bail one out of strife - possibly a girl. On sport or the arts, teamwork proves to be successful, going it alone does not.

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:

There is success in teaming up with another, for on your own you may have strife ending up with more than you can handle. Do not be afraid to ask for help, this will readily come. In questions of sickness the Lovers shows recovery, however if negatively aspected there may be psychological problems. There is a need for mobility in ones work environment and a chance to use ones mental ability. You must make your ideas effective in a practical way otherwise ones life remains unchanged. The Lovers here advises that it is of benefit to work where you can use your mind. Health can be a state of mind.

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:

Here the Lovers represents a lasting union even into or from Karmic realms. You may feel that your chosen partner is a soul mate. For women, a marital situation or partnership may have heavy responsibility, feel the burden and threat of chains to fit the bills or pay the dues materially and mentally where the man flies high and free in mind assuming all is well, only helping his

partner when she is in danger. This card also shows a spiritual mirage to a "way" but at the same time one must learn to share and compensate for another's faults within one's own character. Material needs must be left by the wayside if you are to advance.

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 spiritual matters the Lovers shows divine blessings. This card also shows a person who is well suited to working in areas under the above matters, they are able to remain cool, and detached towards subjects or circumstances that arouse emotions in others. Curiosity is the main impetus here which leads to expectations in both minor and large scale projects. You are advised to protect yourself by buying some sort of insurance. If expecting an inheritance or dividend you can expect some delay. Success through partnerships although you will have to put your share of work into them.

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 Lovers here shows a progressive, freer thinker who has little patience for those who do not communicate on the same level. Short term travel is depicted with a tendency to seek out the unusual. Journeys happen unexpectedly, you can expect a visitor who may consciously or unconsciously shed some light onto a problem. Exploration takes place more in the mind and astral than the physical; into distant cultures, philosophies, sciences or any subject that wets one's appetite. The key impetus here is a thirst for knowledge. On a larger scale, communication will be received that will shine light into a difficult situation.

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

The Lovers in this position operates in a dual role. Honour is achieved but not publicly. One's status is one's state of mind and the individual is usually the only one recognising their position. How others see you may be entirely different. Professional affairs have, or may, be in a threatened situation which will need an outside element to help. Any restriction felt, in

many instances, is only a state of mind - it is your own mind that can free you, just let go of your emotions. On a larger scale this card shows some group, organisation or nation, visionary in their concepts, and open to inspiration.

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:

The Lovers here shows good fortune for groups; there is no blame if one goes it alone for you can rectify your situation. New and lasting friends are made, old friends return. Groups are reorganised and energetic in their endeavours. The Lovers depicts fraternities, spiritual teaching and chosen paths. This is a time to walk your path and go towards your goal and act out your ideal with another. There is a third factor, however, that will continually challenge you to sway from your destiny. Additionally, there is difficulty in choosing your path or goal, and once chosen, the mind frequently questions the choice. If you remain steadfast, keeping to a higher spiritual principal your direction should run true for you.

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 Lovers in this position shows that unconscious emotional complexes interfere with clear thinking. The lesson to learn is simply to learn to use your mind and rationalize, for your emotions could be your self undoing. On a larger scale the heavens show a process of redemption: analysis, approach and contact, then the giving forth of knowledge. On a more material note the Lovers shows a person clinging to the past, thereby preventing development to the extent that they can swallow themselves whole by their own psyche, lost forever in the depths of their subconscious unless the rational mind, someone or some element intervenes before it is too late.

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#### MEDITATION ON THE LOVERS:

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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