

LESSON 116

THE CHARIOT

The Golden Dawn version of the Chariot is yet another trump that differs from many previous designs in the sense that it shows movement, where versions such as Levis show a stationary chariot that takes up just about all the card, blotting out the heavens. This radical departure is highly significant for it shows movement across a background of the sky. With the clouds situated above and below the Chariot, we find that the driver has a clear passage. The whole inference of the Chariot is that it is internal. A combination of emotional/psychological/mystical aspirations that shows growth and advancement of ones inner self.

The driver in this instance, is the soul or spirit of man, shown in the heavens, its place of abode. He is a warrior, depicted by his attire and his function is to guard the physical body, while his wings keep the chariot aloft in the main stream of aerial currents. The horses are symbols of life and death, the driver is not affected by either. Here the spirit of man patrols across the boundaries of the heavens seeking both to visit new domains and extend his domain. The separation of the upper and lower heavens is also a function of the Chariot for here the driver becomes the bridge between the two areas. The Eagle's head, bull's horns on the helmet, face of the driver and the lion's head on the hub of the wheel relate specifically to the Merkavah aspect of Kabbalism (such as the ascent of Ezekiel who saw in his chariot of light four living creatures, the lion, man, ox and eagle. Also this applies to Elijah with his fiery horses who ascended into heaven). The sun painted on the chariot in fact represents the light, or brightness, on which the chariot riders start their ascent and descent into the 7 heavens, shown by the seven spokes on the wheel. The Golden Dawn Chariot shows movement and little stability or permanence. Where some other designs indicate a more stable and permanent situation the Order design does not, for it shows movement on a variety of levels.

The face, hands and wings of the driver are coloured in the translucent colour of the King Scale, Dark Amber. The reins and harness of the horses are coloured in the complementary dark blue. This shows the influence of the spirit in control. The clear sky, between the upper and lower clouds, is also coloured in the complementary translucent Blue of the King Scale which also relates to the background of spirit. The horses are coloured in the Oxide Red of the Queen Scale. The Eagle between them is in

the complementary translucent Green to the Queen Scale, which shows the regeneration and growth aspect, which in turn relates to rising through the planes. The chariot is coloured in the Mahogany Red of the Prince Scale which shows the aerial nature of his work. The Sun emblems on it are coloured in the complementary translucent Green, as are the wheel spokes. The wheel rim and lion's head on the hub are in the translucent Red Oxide. The armour of the driver is the colour of the Princess Scale, Caput Mortuum in both its full and translucent aspect (for the shadings). The dark clouds in the upper and lower areas of the card are coloured in the complementary Blue of the King Scale which show the various gates of density that the rider must progress through to ascend, and descend through to return. A simplistic but effective way of viewing the Chariot is that in spiritual matters it means exploring ones own depths, and in material matters it shows expansion, travel with possible good results indicated by going forward in a project.

The title of this card is 'The Child of the Powers of Waters; the Lord of the Triumph of Light'. The first part of this title refers to the astrological association, the sign of Cancer and its watery influence. The latter part refers to the Light of the Chariot which can only be utilised when one has mastered certain processes, hence the title 'Lord':

The lesson (given earlier on in this course) on the Path has catered for the mundane meaning of Cancer though it is well worth quoting a small passage from an excellent book "The Astrology of Transcendence" by Philip Sedgwick, who says: 'The Cancer nature (often represented as a maternal one) creates an environment in which another entity may be brought into light or experiences a growth pattern from the Cancer person's existence.'

The psychological concept of this card shows an instinctive protectiveness. Here the Chariot patrols the heavens and protects the boundaries of his realm. His actions are a direct result of his instincts and this causes the counter reaction of territorial rights. The Chariot driver shows a detailed sensitivity, of a reactionary nature. This of course is the defense mechanism that he triggers off when he feels threatened by outside interference. The type of nature that the Chariot represents causes a number of fluctuations and mood swings that are hard to fathom. The Chariot rider will in some extreme instances cut himself off from the outside and concentrate only on the world of his senses which he has fortified with his own laws and systems of beliefs. On the positive side of things this is not necessarily bad for it gives the individual time to recover from any outward attack. The negative part comes in when this goes on for an indefinite period, as the Charioteer needs also to grow and expand his boundaries.

The alchemical meaning of this card shows us that the Chariot is a vessel whose purpose is to utilise the driver (spirit) within so that it can in fact transform through the basic elemental functions represented by the wheel, showing a combination, a continuous but horizontal process, passing through incubation by heat. In fact it is a self heating process resulting in sublimation. The colour of the driver shows the pure substance of the Stone-Spirit. The Chariot in the sky alludes to the lack of weight of the Stone. Here one horse is transformed through evaporation (symbolised by the eagle between them) into the other.

The number associated to this card is 7. Of this Westcott says: '...there are three parts of the Soul, the intellectual, irascible, and epithymetic (desiring), and four most perfect virtues are produced. Just as of the three intervals, length, breadth, and depth, there are four boundaries in corporeal existence - point, line, superficies and solid.'

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#### DIVINATION

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

The Chariot in this position shows a person, society or nation with a natural inclination to creativity. There is eagerness to start new projects, though without external help there is little power to carry things through to the finish. The reason for this is not due to any weakness but due to a lack of understanding of inner resources and where the boundaries are which must, once discovered, be expanded. The whole idea of the Chariot in terms of the self, is that one continually analyses ones internal structure, delving into the psyche to find out about ones inner mechanisms. This causes energy to be continually expended on an internal level rather than external which brings about little response to external stimuli. The Chariot in this position also shows those who are emotionally volatile.

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:

Power is expressed here through money, and money is used for the security of the self and loved ones (on a larger scale this relates to ones country and its people). The Chariot here shows an individual, society or nation who has a tremendous amount of self awareness, and as such has a strong sense of character, living in a world of their own, working on their own resources rather than others. There is an amount of accumulation, as regards wealth, due to constructive internal organisation. However there is a constant movement seeking out new means of income, new resources, even at the expense of discarding what has already been attained.

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

In this position the Chariot is favourable for matters of study and education - the continual quest for knowledge and expanding ones horizons - for the Charioteer applies himself to inner growth. Concerning relationships with family or neighbours there is an instinctive inclination to protect ones territory, to withdraw into ones own set boundaries when threatened. The main impetus of the Charioteer is to rely on the world of senses. In the area of communication the Charioteer operates through feelings, actions and auric vibrations more than speech. On a large scale he shows an ever constant movement to enlarging his knowledge. A message will be carried; a message will be received.

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 of the Chariot here is to make changes. There is constant activity in restructuring, changing and re-creating things in ones home environment, physical, mental and spiritual bodies. At every point of stabilisation there is another movement where one tries to expand ones boundaries for growth. However this state is not one of disorder for it is controlled and disciplined. The urge to find a better way, a more easier way, however, can lead one into making too many changes too quickly, for with each change there must be period of stabilisation. To function outside ones boundaries for any duration of time causes stress.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative

will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

The Chariot here shows someone who is quite clever and agile in areas of recreation, turning what would normally be a game into an opportunity to develop or sharpen ones senses or abilities. Children are subject to deep emotions, usually beyond the depths of their parents' understanding. They do not communicate their feelings and sink into fits of brooding. Romance borders on fantasy and generally is one sided. The Charioteer must turn the dream world off and look at life with a clear mind. When one is able to do this one is more able to control ones destiny and personal relations. This card shows an endless amount of creativity which is drawn from the soul.

ON MATTERS OF sickness; employment; employees; relationships within the work environment; conflicts; service; ones sense of service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

Those represented by the Chariot in this position would do much better psychologically and healthwise if self employed, even though they are excellent employees. This card depicts changing employment and professions which tends to keep one on the move. Employment holds little permanence. Here is the loner who is never completely satisfied through his work if working under others. In matters of health there are changeable conditions. If negatively aspected there may be etheric or astral congestion which is very likely if working under stress in air conditioned, fluorescent lighted offices. This card is favourable if one is attempting to acquire additional skills. In areas of psychology there is an ability to perceive workings of the subconscious.

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 Chariot represents the emotional and or mental, spiritual or astral union of two opposites. It does not mean a physical union although this may occur at a later stage. Caution is urged when forming partnerships or signing contracts. This card shows someone who avoids crowds and tends to go his or her own way alone. There is generally no room for a relationship unless the other person walks the same path, otherwise the Charioteer will dream or wander to greener pastures. If planning a marriage this card advises caution. One should rethink their situation and look at what they really want out of life, for the Charioteer must not become bored.

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 Chariot's key impetus here is to unite the lower self with its Higher genius. The Charioteer shows mediumistic tendencies, a bridge between two worlds. In either case there are strong spiritual connotations in ones life when the Chariot turns up here. This card is transformative, but only on a personal internal level. Unless one is very much aware the influence shown here goes unnoticed and drifts down to a subconscious level. There is retribution for those wronged in matters of finance, providence. Here he is the elusive psyche. Negatively aspected, possible litigation and defeat - positively aspected there will be victory and freedom.

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:

One could liken the Chariot, in this position, to the statement associated to the Starship Enterprise from T.V. and movie fame: "Boldly going where no man has gone before", for the Chariot represents the voyager, explorer who knows no boundaries except his own which change at his whim. He advises those querying their future to broaden and expand their horizons. Insight seems to come from a source that appears to solve any problems you might have. Mysterious or mystical literature is found appealing. The Chariot is favourable on matters of deeper and higher study, research and invention. Long journeys by sea are depicted, however, one is more likely to go on long journeys in the mind - fantasy or dreamworld - or in the astral. News will be received.

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

In any professional capacity, those with the Chariot here will have to work hard to achieve anything in their careers. The pressure or treatment one may receive from those in authority can cause a frequent change of employment. Positions held are those of a subordinate nature, secretary or deputy etc. It is best to take on a profession where one is self employed, or ones own

authority. This of course may be the case if you receive this card. On a more personal note, emotions play a strong role in ones profession, clouding many issues. This card, however, shows limited success, not necessarily due to failure, but due to moving on to more challenges after being the victorious over current challenges. There is an ever constant movement pattern.

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:

In this position the key impetus of the Chariot is to gather forces and prepare for battle. This impetus can be applied to any of the above areas of life or can be literal in its interpretation. In reference to crowds, this card can mean either riots or triumph over minds. The Chariot shows that although the querent inquires, the querent already presumes, therefore the tarot chooses not to answer but to say that the querent will acknowledge only what is within the boundaries of their own understanding. Concerning goals and aspirations, these are far reaching and for many out of reach. Try small goals only, which ultimately will lead to larger ones.

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:

Here the Chariot alludes to encourage the growth of mans consciousness. This is likened to the effect of some films and how they can change ones level of consciousness on a subtle level. Music can also be applied here as well. The Chariot works directly on the subconscious and patrols the gates of inner dimensions, hence those on a spiritual mission must find their own link with their internal thoughts and dimensions whether it be by music, films, meditation and the like. As William Blake said in his "Jerusalem": 'I rest not from any great task! To open the Eternal Worlds, to open the immortal Eyes of Man inwards into the Worlds of Thought.'

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MEDITATION ON THE CHARIOT:

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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