

## LESSON 119

## WHEEL OF FORTUNE

The Golden Dawn format of the Wheel of Fortune is extremely simplistic when compared to that of other decks. The very name of the card itself is a little misleading, for the Wheel of Fortune is not specifically good fortune but more a cyclic reoccurrence of both positive and negative events. It stands for both good and bad luck which occur to a pattern of cycles, much allied with the ancient Taoist theory in Chinese metaphysics. Overall it shows an incline and decline of a full cycle of development. In many of the early European versions of this trump the additional figure of Typhon (Typhon-Set) was included (which is omitted by the Golden Dawn). He was the monster who would appear at certain times when the wheel was turned. This indicates that one would sooner or later meet him and have a very terrible fate or temptation occur which would determine the balance of good or evil in our lives. The reason for this omission from the Golden Dawn version is illustrated in the words of Dr. R. Felkin who said of this card: 'Man standeth between Spirit and Matter, betwixt Angel and Animal, at the summit of his ascent. We behold in a glass darkly, that perfected Being whom our Father strove to represent in the Sphinx, compound of the four elements in balanced disposition.'

The wheel represented in this card has many meanings attached to it for example the twelve spokes represent the 12 phases of human existence, shown by the astrological houses. The Wheel also relates to the cycle of mans karmic evolution. Felkin says of this: 'The Wheel of destiny - of birth and rebirth.' Going further into the Macrocosm it relates to the Solar power of the Sun. Perpetual harmony is shown as the Sun, as the central hub of the wheel directs warmth and nourishment through the spokes to the outer edge of the Zodiac (the rim) which represents the Sun's journey along the Ecliptic. In many respects this also equates with the Sphinx, seated on the top of the card.

The Sphinx has many meanings, for example it is a combination of the elements under which every part of the wheel rim must pass. It is also a symbol of the Spirit of man, his Higher Self, which is formed from an accumulation of life's experiences. In the Theoricus ritual it is said of the Sphinx: 'I am the synthesis of the elemental forces. I am also a symbol of man. I am life, I am death. I am the child of the night of time'.

To understand the concept of the Wheel and Sphinx even further one will have to go to the Enochian studies of the Order. The 4 Elemental tablets when placed side by side across the Sphere of the heavens constitute the macrocosm with three Holy names on each tablet also representing a Zodiac sign. These are the Linea Spiritus Sancti of each tablet. The Concourse of Forces says that the Man relates to the Holy Name of ORO and Aquarius, the Eagle is MPH and Scorpio, the Bull is MOR and Taurus and the Lion is OIP and Leo. These are of course the fixed signs and represent the synthetic makeup of the sphinx itself on the Macrocosm, with the Sun, portrayed by the wheel rim, passing through them.

The Ape at the bottom of the card is called the Cynocephalus which also has many dual meanings. The first is that he is the simple animal, as elaborated by Felkin. Another deeper meaning relates to his position to the judgement scene in the Book of the Dead, where he is seated upon the scales of balance (Karmic patterns that are weighed) and his function was to tell Thoth when the pointer marker reached or passed the middle of the beam of the scales. In this trump his meaning is something similar for he, in Kabbalistic terms, is the Nephesch, the Animal Soul, which functions instinctively. This function is to send and receive messages to and from the Wheel, just as the component parts of the Ruach which relates to the Sphinx are to the Neshamah, and its component parts.

The title of this card is 'Lord of the Forces of Life'. This means the forces that govern the destiny of man, the fates or as the Eastern philosophies state, the karmic patterns that rule the universe and govern a mans life cycles on this planet.

The background colour of this card is made up of the 4 colours. These are in the form of spiral with the centre of the Card being the Vivid Violet of the King Scale, then the Ultra-Marine Blue of the Queen Scale, the Deep Blue of the Prince Scale and the Violet Blue rayed Yellow Gold of the Princess Scale. The whole effect being like that of an outward spiral which shows the effect of the movement of the wheel. The Wheel is the complementary colour of the Queen Scale though the dot and circle on the central hub is in the colour of the Queen Scale. The Sphinx is the complementary of the King Scale. The Ape is the complementary colour to the Prince Scale.

In some of the more recent versions of the Wheel of Fortune there are four Kerubs on each corner of the wheel (which is the Lopus) which makes a very early stage of Lopus development. In the alchemical terminology of medieval Europe, the wheel represents the hieroglyph of time necessary for the concoction of the philosophical Matter, and subsequently of the concoction itself.

The sustained constant and equal fire which the Adept maintains night and day in the course of his operation is for this reason called the Fire of the Wheel. Moreover, in addition to the heat necessary for the liquefaction of the Philosophus Stone a second agent is needed as well, this is called the Secret of the Philosophers Fire. In this latter fire sustained by ordinary heat, is what makes the wheel turn and produce the various phenomena which the Adept observes in his vessel. The spokes are the twelve alchemic stages in this process. The Sphinx is the guardian and balancer of the Wheel and has much the same meaning as placing a Kerub in each corner.

The psychological concept of the Wheel of Fortune shows a growing psyche that relates in terms of the Microcosm. It shows a constant striving for success and improvement in ones present environment, which depicts a strong attachment complex to a greater cause. This consistent striving for success is actually brought about by a hidden interplay. Outwardly success is at the doorstep with all its social graces but inwardly the constant striving for better things is ever present. What this card does display is a vital sense of purpose which leads to the completion of a lifes cycle. The wheel itself shows the element of time in ones life which according to karmic actions and interactions, there are many of. The Wheel of life turns continually, showing that life is eternal, therefore one lifetime is but a small part of a larger whole.

The number associated to this card is 10, the Decad which stands for a full cycle. Westcott says that this number shows a completion or something fully accomplished which when reached cannot be surpassed. 'The Pythagoreans were entranced with its virtues and called it Diety, Heaven, Eternity and the Sun', all these factors being incorporated in the Wheel of Fortune.

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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 Wheel of Fortune in this position, shows that one receives on a conscious level, or unconscious one, higher inspirations as to where one is at and where one is going. On a personal (or international) scale, expansion is sought and far reaching goals envisaged. New experiences are encountered, interests are aroused in new and old projects. An inspired atti-

tude gives new life to others. Changes and improvements are made on the self and ones daily affairs flow smoothly. A desire to free oneself from all restrictions leads to an over exaggeration of a situation, or way of life.

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 Wheel of Fortune here shows that one seeks to expand resources through self-endeavour or through any form of manipulatable structure. On one extreme this card shows money and possessions and gives a sense of self worth and inspiration, an insatiable appetite, and strong motivation to succeed in the material world. Depending on the surrounding cards the querent will find a successful completion of affairs under the above matters, or through wastefulness of finances comes a turn for the worst. For some, wealth is an expression of how their values are gauged in others, material possessions. Whatever their belief, those receiving this card here must be free to make their own choice in life, in times of change. A turn of fortune can be expected.

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

Healthy communication inspires expansion of ones mind, broadening ones horizons with abundance of thought and ideas that may enrich or change lives are represented by the Wheel of fortune in this position. There is strong concern with finding greater fulfilment which leads to frequent travel and changes in lifes direction. This card is fortunate in affairs under the above matters, unless badly aspected by surrounding cards. The Wheel of Fortune shows that a complete cycle has taken place, leaving one with a greater awareness and able to fit the pieces together in lifes jigsaw puzzle - the Wheel of Life slowly revealing its patterns. There are changing trends in social thought expressed through forms of writing and speech.

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 Wheel of Fortune depicts optimism, faith in life, progressiveness towards better times. Family and international relationships are congenial though if afflicted, can be oppressive. The archetypal father image is made noble, being a source of inspiration. On a higher scale this card shows the looking for a spiritual home - devotion towards inner growth of the soul. Something has gone its full cycle, is now completed and new steps are being formed on an unconscious level towards a new future. The Wheel is fortunate for divination, and shifts in lifes direction but unfortunate for matters of emotion as it does not nuture. There may be a shift to a new home or country.

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 Wheel of Fortune shows matters have come to an excess due to a refusal to release from the the old (habit patterns) to take up the new. Excessiveness in play and games is shown, also in areas of speculation. Counsellors or spiritual advisors may help with long needed changes. Through creative expression ideas can be expanded and elaborated on while internal changes are made. There is a rapport with children and encouragement to broaden their horizons. Offspring may achieve distinction, creativity expressed while life goes on.

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

In this position the Wheel of Fortune advises that an adjustment of necessity will have to be made. It is also a time when one should concentrate on healing of the mind and body, to make each moment of ones life something significant, seeking to experience life and its meaning. In matters of employment, pride is taken in ones work, a lot of energy is applied and there is good relationship with co-workers. Work friends change jobs, new ones arrive on the scene. Work may involve travel, sales promotion etc. Intentionally and personally the power to overcome any illness is through a lifestyle in philosophic adjustment. Badly aspected, this card shows that problems occur under the above matters at the most inappropriate times.

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:

Karmically one yearns to be free of commitments under the above matters but one still needs matter to express the self, and the karmic pattern in motion must be worked through to a completion. Social and communal interactions act as a means for you to expand your horizons. One goes out alot and looks externally for the means of ones entertainment and growth experience. With marriage partners each have separate interests. beneficial endeavours within marital relationships takes place together with dynamic occurrences. There is a good choice of business associates, honesty and fairness in all dealings under the above matters together with trust and friendship.

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 this position the Wheel of Fortune tells of a change or flux in financial patterns. One expands (as in countries) personal resources through using others resources. Partnerships are beneficial and some will receive success through inheritance. Those receiving this card here should try the stockmarket using intuition. On a spiritual note one seeks a greater meaning in life through the mystical or occult studies. Sexual expression is seen or used to transcend ones boundaries through intimacy. Have faith and optimism, if one finds oneself in a defeated situation do not worry for this is temporary. In matters of death and rebirth there is a peaceful (natural) transition. Everything will happen at the appropriate time, not before or after.

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 Wheel of Fortune in this position shows that ones search for a deeper meaning in life is through religion, science and forms of higher study. New knowledge, realisations, wisdom, are constantly given birth to, however if negatively aspected this card shows that a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Nevertheless, no matter what one encounters in life there is meaning and significance. This card represents teachers, lawyers, writers - any one thing that may influence lifes direction. There is a love for education and travel to foreign countries. A person (or a nation) is inspired by a vision. The Wheel of Fortune is an ever moving card of changing values, actions and reactions.

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

Here the Wheel of Fortune represents international business connections, a change in ones success and is favourable in matters of politics. There is an acquisition of wealth, however if afflicted a reversal of fortune takes place. This is all of course in accordance with the law of cause and effect. Through career, recognition is sought, for there is a need to be in the limelight to confirm to the self that success has been achieved. New energy and enthusiasm is given to a situation and someone rises to a good position in their career. A parent is a source of support, goals are reached and ambitions fulfilled. A phase under the above matters has been completed but how successfully depends entirely on previous actions and choice of direction.

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:

This is a good position for the Wheel of Fortune to be in. Inspiration and support is given by friends and groups. There is expansion through social interaction and in extension of awareness beyond self-concern. Concerns for humanity and promotion of egalitarian causes, encouraging the forming of groups or organisations, cultures and nationalities come together in friendship. This card shows the constant forming of goals and objectives, there is a strong faith in succeeding. Advice is given that is of help, however, if negatively aspected will not be sound. In governments etc, there are organisational changes. The Wheel of Fortune generally works here macrocosmically, where its effect is felt overall and not just by the individual.

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 Wheel of fortune teaches here that the significance of life comes from within which can be understood through contemplation. However, more importantly there must be movement, nothing must be left to stagnate; there must be growth at all times. Those who have not found the means to the answer there is a tendency to indulge in drink or drugs in an attempt to find

fulfilment. Under matters of health your own healing powers and belief should be brought into play. If incarcerated or restricted in any way you should turn your experience into a beneficial one, freedom will come soon, but there is a tendency to escape into fantasy. Friends can be made of enemies and sorrow changed into happiness. Charities will receive donations, and any unresolved problems will be finally solved.

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**MEDITATION ON THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE:**

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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