

LESSON 121

HANGED MAN

The Hanged Man in its Golden Dawn concept appears at first glance to be the same as the traditional versions of this trump. However, looking closely at the card a great deal of hidden symbolism within it becomes apparent. Under the old scheme of associations the Hanged Man related to the water element. Now it is associated to the planet Neptune, ruler of the sea.

Both Felkin and Waite associated this card to the Drowned Giant (see my "Rosicrucian Rituals of the Golden Dawn" for the 6=5 explanation by Felkin and the "Complete Golden Dawn" for Waite's 6=5 version. P.Z.). The original Golden Dawn viewpoint of this card was more mixed. An example of this is in the geometrical shape hidden in the card. The first thing to notice is that the cave is in the shape of Mem, the Hebrew letter associated here. The legs of the figure represent a cross while his elbows form a water triangle. This is the symbol of the altar diagram in the 3=8 ritual of the water grade of Hod and shows the cross as the power of the spirit of life rising above the triangle of the Waters and reflecting the trine therein. The cross equates to the number four while the triangle equates to 3, multiplied they equal 12 and show the 12 phases of life (the astrological houses) that the psyche must journey through before experiencing liberation at Death. The whole concept of the cross and triangle working through the letter Mem shows enlightenment through the water element of the emotions.

The actual placing of the bound figure in the cave shows enforced sacrifice and suffering. The 8 rays of light that emanate from the figure relate to the Sephirah of Hod and represents enlightenment through the Divine White Brilliance (DWB) descending down into the triangle. This is accomplished by a further hidden geometrical formula of the figure which is the letters L.V.X., used to bring down the D.W.B. The whole figure actually represents this for the crossed legs form the 'L', the forearms the 'V' and the crossed wrists the 'X'. The longer he remains in this position the more enlightenment he receives. The figure wears a leopard skin which shows the cruelty he endures.

The Title of this card is 'Spirit of the Mighty Waters'. This relates to the association of Mem, Neptune and the water element.

The rock in this card is coloured in the Deep Blue of the

King Scale, while the skin colour of the figure is its translucent colour and his hair is coloured in the complementary Orange. The Sea is the Greyish Green of the Queen Scale while the sky above is its complementary translucent Red and relates to the new dawn. The Dark Turquoise of the Princess Scale shows the foreboding water in the cave (at the bottom of the card). The leopard skin robe worn by the figure is coloured in the Dull Green (with Cuba Red spots) of the Princess Scale. The 8 rays of light emanating from the head of the figure are in the translucent Red, complementary to the Queen Scale.

The psychological aspect of this card is a very powerful one and relates to ^{immersing} oneself in an entirely different level of consciousness. Boundaries as we know them are shattered and one faces an entirely new set of values. Also there will undoubtedly be a dissolution of ones character as we know it. Jung also considered that states like this were likened to dissolution from the chemical to the spiritual, corresponding to evaporation in which all the weaker ingredients that can be vaporised are expelled or purged. From a psychological point of view it can represent the Zen state of Satori or Gnosis - a linking with the archetypal point of contents of the unconscious. Its negative aspects in fact represent the basis causes of sickness, both somatic and psychic, bodily areas where the etiology remains always unknown and mysterious.

A tremendous upheaval is brought about by this card and it becomes a make or break situation. Disillusionment is in fact part of the very makeup the Hanged Man. It has to be experienced so that the newer reality can be accepted. The tearing down concept associated with this card does in fact become the building blocks for the future as bigger and better things are to follow. There is definitely a high sense of spirituality associated here and one may try to follow this path - to the exclusion of all else. When one enters the lofty spiritual plateau of the Hanged Man the mystical experience shakes us to our very core and nothing will ever be the same again. The emotions are the main force which the Hanged Man deals with for this is his guide into the deeper area of his psyche. All steps, stops and attunements will be with the emotional content first and foremost. The water shown in this card also relates to the emotion which one is immersed in, and becomes part of the whole sea - a frightening concept to unify with - but once done, and accepted, transcends other previous thoughts, ideas and desires.

This card is a good example where the alchemical explanation alone would suffice. The main thing to recognise here is that the water in this card is sea-water (saline). The point of view regarding the man upside down is a simple one of baptism, which in alchemy can only be done with water, blood and fire (the

aurora Consurgens). The alchemical viewpoint is that the imperfect body (man) is submersed in sea water (alchemical salt being its base which distinguishes it from plain water), where divine water is then perfected through being gestated in the womb of water. The Glori Mundi says: 'The mystery of everything is life, which is water: for water dissolves the body into spirit and summons the spirit from the dead.'

The number associated to this card is 13. Here we have the Decad and the Tetrad, a whole unit supporting something just structurally formed. This is a very powerful number for it takes us into new areas with tremendous resources of power. In terms of a modern day to day analogy we have a new company just starting up with access to almost limitless backing finance. Development and growth will come but the direction will depend on the internal structure of the company and its ability to handle its rapid growth.

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#### DIVINATION

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

On a large or personal scale the Hanged Man portrays devotion to a chosen path, an ideal way of life or state of mind, a desire to be one with the cosmos resulting in feeling restricted with anything less, where illumination arises from realising contentment, even in the most bound state. However, the average behaviour of a personality is discontent with where and what he/she is, thus taking on peculiarities and assuming a false identity - masquerade. Eventually the personality is forced to face reality causing an upheaval of such personality, thereby through self-destruction lies redemption. On a positive note this card shows the inspired who uses psychic forces positively. It also represents environmentalists.

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:

An idealistic approach towards such material matters and a generous nature is depicted here by the Hanged Man. At the most, one can have everything one possibly needs but maybe you are

unable to recognise this. If a new perspective can be adopted, there will be little to bother one under the above matters. If not, then you may experience material difficulties. Money is earned through labour (mental, emotional or physical) and duress. Wantonness causes anguish, guard against deception and fraud and avoid fantastic schemes. Success will depend entirely on how well you can handle your own affairs. There is insight into personal spiritual needs - follow it, don't deny the self.

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

Seeing the world from a different perspective tends to estrange one from old friends and family, or the educational system for those still in school. It is not that one doesn't understand, it is just that such systems or trends of thought seem superfluous, or perhaps superficial. Journeys become a source of annoyance as little things go wrong, items go astray. There are many things, under the above matters, that one is forced to consider and make allowances for, to repeat lessons learnt causes mental anguish at such confinement and repetitiveness. The hanged man shows melancholia in childhood and the need for mental discipline.

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:

Although mastery of ones soul is not yet attained, certain internal emotional and psychological suffering occurs which forces one to make certain realisations - it is in fact a case of sink or swim. The Hanged man here represents difficult childhood and an eccentric parent, misfortune in matters of property and bulding, insomnia, and also warns against the use of drugs. There are mental ties with the home and early life associations (family). Influences by strangers taken into the home help understanding although it may cause duress. In old age one may find oneself lonely with an impaired memory.

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

When well aspected, the hanged man in this position shows intuitive insight and an understanding of love. However its

general meaning is unusual behaviour, although in this instance it is not harmful to the self. Unsatisfactory love affairs, loss through gambling, over-indulgence in alcohol or drugs, speculatively a loss or disappointment. On matters of children, they will need special help in education, and love. It shows infertility and suffering due to children. If very unfavourably aspected, possible infant death. However one must not take this card too seriously here unless badly aspected.

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

Mild insanity tends to be the overall influence here. There is unhappiness in ones employment, employees will be unpunctual and disobedient, bad advice is given and obstacles stand in ones way. Something may get lost. Beware of malpractice and avoid non certified medical practitioners. There tends to be a feeling that problems will be solved if one could 'only be there' or 'over there'. This is self delusion and the Hanged Man shows the way to clarity mind, initially through stillness and acceptance, so that one can get matters into perspective. With sickness there are obscure maladies and weakness of constitution.

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:

Restriction and tribulations are shown here by the Hanged Man in this position. Marital bliss is overshadowed by the sacrifices one must make for the sake of the marriage. Although these sacrifices may not be regretted, some are mournful when encountering further obstacles to happiness. All permanent relationships and contractual agreements must be considered carefully before entering into anything so binding, otherwise you may be looking for ways and means of breaking a link. The Hanged Man in this position shows eventful but disturbing times.

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 desire to be released from the material body is strong in the Hanged Man in this position and there are times when consciousness sits on the fine line between life and death, a

need to be out of this world and a seeker of the hidden mysteries. Be prepared for disappointments and delays under the above matters. Be careful of any advise given to you, professional or otherwise. If making a will then leave no loopholes. In financial affairs there are bad debts, usually incurred by a partner. On spiritual matters this card shows enhanced psychic abilities -someone who has tapped into the cosmic knowledge. There is illumination under such matters, however the Hanged Man is not fortunate in material mundane matters or in areas of litigation.

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:

Unless badly aspected the Hanged Man is a fortunate card in this position, however nothing is gained with ease. One must work hard for any form of success, so much so that it may not seem worthwhile in the end, but to outsiders your achievements are considerable. Through strong aspirations there is arduous research and study. The Hanged Man shows a guiding force (teacher, guru, political leader etc.), but the lesson it teaches is to know thyself as thine own guru. There is danger in long sea voyages and journies of false pretences. Eastern mysticism, yoga, attracts those seeking peace in their lives.

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

The Hanged Man shows in this position that success lies entirely on how much you apply yourself. You are warned against fraud and risks in business. Situations must be faced up to and handled directly. A persons reputation on a large or small scale may be well known, but it may not be the type of reputation that person had envisaged. A career is delayed or interrupted. Times are eventful under the above matters. In the evolved there is recognition or access to a powerfully creative force. This card also shows that a parent has had a strong influence on ones thoughts and emotional 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:

The Hanged Man here represents spiritual groups and mystical organizations. Spiritual guidance/wise counsel is received and goals realized. If negatively aspected one is unfortunate with acquaintances, aloneness, trivial troubles and treachery. There are strong needs, wishes and hopes which are far greater than what life can provide, hence one may feel very unfulfilled. The Hanged Man advises re-evaluation of your life and to set more obtainable goals. In matters of groups etc, there may be unsavoury connections in unusual group activities which you would be best rid of.

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:

In this position the Hanged Man represents someone deep in private thought, who retreats to inner contemplation. For some there is spiritual wisdom. On matters of health a person may experience difficulties and there may have been longterm suffering. In secret societies there is relative success however one tends to retreat and work alone. Past actions interfere with your general life's direction though the Hanged Man advises that this can be overcome.

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MEDITATION ON THE HANGED MAN:

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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