

LESSON 123

TEMPERANCE

The Oxford dictionary describes the word 'Temperance' to mean moderation and self restraint. The whole meaning showing what could be construed as the middle way of things. Temperance is a tarot trump that within the Golden Dawn is quite unique, for in the ritual of the Portal, two cards (before and after versions) are shown to the candidate. The object of this was to show how the esoteric meaning of the first card was too wide in scope and the second was more restricted and deeper in meaning.

Mathers' description of the first version of Temperance is as follows: 'This drawing represents the more ancient form of the 14th Key of the tarot, for which the later and more usual form of temperance was soon substituted, as better representing the natural symbolism of the path of Sagittarius. The earlier figure was considered not so much a representation of this Path alone, as the synthesis of that and the others conjoined. The later figure, therefore, is better adapted to the more restricted meaning. The more ancient form shows a female figure crowned with a crown of five rays, symbolising the Five Principles of Nature, the concealed Spirit and the Four Elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water. About her head is a halo of light. On her breast is the Sun in Tiphareth. The Five-rayed Crown further alludes to the five Sephiroth of Kether, Chokmah, Binah, Chesed and Geburah. Chained to her waist are a Lion and an Eagle, between which is a large cauldron whence arise steam and smoke. The Lion represents the Fire in Netzach - the Blood of the Lion - and the Eagle represents the Water in Hod, the Gluten of the Eagle - whose reconciliation is made by the Air in Yesod, uniting with volatised Water arising from the cauldron through the influence of the Fire beneath it. The chains which link the Lion and the Eagle to her waist are symbolic of the Paths of Scorpio and Capricornus as shown by the Scorpion and the Goat in the background. In her right hand she bears the Torch of Solar Fire elevating and volatising the Water in Hod by the fiery influence of Geburah, with her left hand, she pours from a vase the Waters of Chesed to temperate and calm the Fires of Netzach.'

The later form of Temperance was clearly from the Biblical Chapter Ten of Revelations, with a slightly modified format. Mathers says of this: 'This later form of Temperance is the usual figure of Temperance, symbolising in a more restricted form than the preceding, the peculiar properties of this Path. It repre-

sents an Angel with the Solar emblem of Tiphareth on her brow, and wings of the aerial and volatising nature, pouring together the fluidic Fire and the Fiery Water - thus combining, harmonising and temperating those opposing elements.'

'One foot rests on dry and volcanic land in the background of which is a volcano whence issue an eruption. The other foot is in the water by whose boarder springs fresh vegetation, contrasting strongly with the arid dry nature of the distant land. On her breast is a square, the emblem of rectitude. The whole figure is a representation of that straight and narrow way of which it is said "few there be that find it" which alone leads to a higher and glorified life. For to pursue that steady and tranquil mean between the two opposing forces is indeed difficult, and many are the temptations to turn aside either to the right or the left - wherein, remember, are but to be found the menacing symbols of Death and the Devil.'

To fully understand this card one tends to remember the meaning of Justice, for much of its meaning is of the balancing of forces with either extreme being denied to the individual. In the Portal ritual Mathers says: 'For thus thou will cleave upwards by the Path of Sagittarius, through the Six Sephirah into the path of Teth answering to Leo, the Lion - the reconciling path between Mercy and Severity, Chesed and Geburah, beneath whose centre hangs the glorious Sun of Tiphareth. Therefore by the straight and narrow Path of Sagittarius, let the philosophus advance, like the arrow from the centre of Qesheth, the Bow. And this sign of Sagittarius lieth between the Sign of Scorpio - Death, and Capricornus - the Devil, so had Jesus to pass through the Wilderness, tempted by Satan.'

The sea and volcanic activity shows the chemical action of providing vapour - air. The two jugs relate to the Sephiroth of Hod and Netzach, Fire and Water (for these two Sephiroth are the base on which the angel stands) showing both extremes of temperament that the path must pass between. The Solar hexagram above her head relates to Tiphareth, to which this path leads.

The colouring of this card has the water coloured in the Water Blue of the Princess Scale. The Sky above is the translucent Oriental Blue of the Prince Scale, and the left hand jug she pours is the full colour of the Prince Scale. The right jug is the complementary Red Orange to the Princess Scale as is the fire from the Volcano. The land is the complementary Brown Orange to the Prince Scale. Her belt is the complementary yellow-gold of the King Scale, and the Sun above her head, Angels wings (which has complementary Lavender outlines for the feathers) and square on her chest are the Light Yellow of the Queen Scale. Her hair and skin is the translucent complementary lavender of the Queen

Scale.

The title of this card is 'Daughter of the Reconcilers: the bringer Forth of Life.' This relates to the position of the path on the Tree, the middle path and the revitalising of the waters of life, as shown in the card.

The alchemical meaning of this card shows that the waters of Azoth, in the Priestess above it, now undergo a change after passing through Tiphareth, here the stage is distillation. "Thou art the First Matter, the seed of the divine benediction in whose body there is heat and rain. Tincture the eagle till she weeps and the lion being weakened bleeds to death. The blood of this lion is incorporated with the tears of the eagle, and is the treasure of the whole earth. These creatures used (in their circulatory course) to devour one another." This quote from an old alchemical text describes the first version of Temperance before its modification though it equally relates to the new symbolism.

The mixing process so described is circulatory in nature and similar to distillation. In this card there are five stages of the distillation process.

1. Knowledge of the matter symbolised by the divine angel.
2. Preparation in which one obtains the blood and tears (contents of the two jugs).
3. Fire which gives maturity to the elixer (shown by the volcano)
4. The multiplication and augmentation (mixing of the waters of and measuring them.
5. This gate is projection and in this instance is only used for metals though all five stages relate.

The psychological aspect of this card shows an individual who isolates himself from the pressures that try to sway him from obtaining his goal. As he goes about this task he is constantly rectifying the situation so that things are more orderly placed. As an individual, he brings a wealth of cultural experience to those areas he goes to. He is very much the philosopher and is a stimulating person who by his creative genius finds the synthesis of his energies and directs it through the appropriate channels. He rationalises his energies based on his own type of ethics. In many respects we have a type of person who could be described in modern terms as a 'Mister Fix-it' as he is forever building, tinkering or fixing things. He is both a dreamer and a rationalist, the acknowledged Minister of religion, the philosopher, the idealist and the planner.

The number associated to this Trump is 14. Levi says:

'Fourteen is the number of fusion, of association, and of universal unity, and it is the name of what it represents that we shall here make an appeal to the nations, beginning with the most ancient and most holy.'

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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 Temperance shows an honest personality, one who loves freedom of mind and body, who if restricted in any way becomes unbalanced, behaviour patterns go to extremes. However, if left to ones own devices, this personality creates his or her own structure and laws which walk a just and middle path. If negatively aspected this card shows little discipline and concentration. Nevertheless this card is optimistic and shows a strong influential aspect which influences affairs under the above matters to be taken forward. Careful analysis of all the positive and negative influences is given and a middle and safe path chosen, which is strengthened by awareness. The key impetus here is 'I see'.

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:

Temperance represents here the establishing of a workable order among disorder. To do this one must find new dimensions of thinking and expand ones resources, bringing together talents which compliment each other. The key impetus is to make secure and develop. If negatively aspected, when the going gets tough the easy way out will be looked for. Concerning money, this card shows a responsible attitude and one will receive what one is due, no more or no less. You should be frugal under the above matters then there will be no future regrets. Through dexterity and acting when the time is right one will have reasonable success. Something good can be made out of a bad situation.

ON MATTERS OF short journeys; communications; relationships; brothers, sisters, neighbours; humour; identity; early education;

books; correspondence; enlarging ones field of activity:

Temperance shows someone going to new mental horizons, awareness and intellect sharpen, hence this card is deemed fortunate on matters of education, study, writing and communication. Temperance advises you to advance beyond current thinking, broaden your subjects of reading, experiment. Ideas are put into practical applications which are progressive and functional. Associations with friends, family or neighbours are spasmodic but congenial when in contact. Journeys are frequent, but short (within the neighbourhood or city). A certain amount of wit and humour is evident here, and one will identify success with result. A diary is kept and lengthy correspondence received/sent (depending on surrounding cards). An inspirational book may be received or found. Temperance advises you to enlarge your field of activity to make room for growth. A sensible decision is made.

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:

A tranquil mean is kept in this position by Temperance. there is little activity as this energy operates on an internal level. Generally life should be just fine for the querent under the above matters, however, if negatively aspected one experiences anxiety and depression. Nevertheless a framework is being built (or should be built) through which one can work to express oneself in the outside world. As a child you may have travelled a lot, and learnt that home security comes from within and is not an external object. If this was not realised then this card points this out. Temperance represents the diviner, one who can see or gets insights into the future. Good advice will be given which, if taken, will influence ones future for the better. It also shows retreat to the privacy of ones own home or provided housing.

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

Here Temperance shows a balancing of the forces where either extreme is denied. One is energetic, outgoing and sporty. It represents international sport for the purpose of international relations - this also applies within ones country or community. There is a strong creative urge and alot can be achieved if one's or a nation's creative energies are not expended - care and moderation are the keys as there is a time for movement with a

time for rest. With children there may be domination, therefore this card advises one to moderate ones expectations there as well. Potentiality will be filled in time. In areas of romance things will knit together in a subtle way - identification, although it is not necessarily permanent.

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

The key impetus for Temperance in this position is efficiency. On matters of employment there is harmony; if applying for a job and the presentation is good and not over or underdone there will be success. Generally what happens under the above matters is a result of ones past and present thinking and motivation - if any. Providing there is no extreme in a situation your health should be stable. If ill, you will be revitalised. Temperance represents the alchemist and profit gained through effort and through careful application.

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:

Enemies reap what they sow, there is no mercy. The same applies to relationships, partnerships etc. Temperance advises the querent to take all factors into consideration before making any decision that will affect your future. The middle path is advised, for you will not get everything you want, therefore you must accept what you can get and make the most of it. You will find that matters will turn out far more acceptable than initially realised. To be happy, you must close your mind from temptations and look straight ahead. This card shows a charming, agreeable companion and suggests moderation in social activities.

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 card Temperance represents the art of alchemy and its every day life workings of nature, of relationships and in the deepest recesses of the mind. Everything operates according to the laws of nature, of man and karma, hence you can only expect what is in the natural order of things under the above matters. However temperance shows that larger and

greater things can be affected though the application of ones Will, providing it adheres to the letter of the law. In matters of business etc., there is safety in moderation, concerning sex there is a unification of positive and negative energies. This card also shows gradual growth and renewal, freedom from conscious and subconscious desires.

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:

Although adventurous and explorative, care and logic prevail. Under the above matters Temperance says something likened unto Ecclesiastes 12:13b '...Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man'. This is not necessarily a card that implies religion, but represents the alchemical law of the cosmos and those who stray from the path have an arduous task of it. However for those walking the path there is progressive enlightenment. To those receiving Temperance here ethics are very important. There may be long distance travel which should prove beneficial. There is attendance to an institute of learning and a tuning-in to a collective understanding, hence the adherence to the ways of ones society. There may be a visit to or from a minister of religion.

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

Being particular about your public image restricts your activities giving moderation to your character. In a professional role one or must be circumspect and particular, very little if any mistakes are made. This card depicts a profession that serves and although reputable there is no great recognition in the public eye. However goals are achieved, or some, and through career, meaning is found. One parent serves as an inspiration, this can even be through negative deeds which spurs one on to be what you are today. Re identity, a great deal of change is taking place, though there is stability during the change.

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:

Temperance shows that help comes when needed, but will be



withheld while there is still a spark in you of being able to help yourself. Inspiration and help is received through groups or organisations, who give guidance or protection. It shows a large circle of friends and concern with their well being. There is stability under the above matters and prosperity. The philosopher, idealist and planner is represented here. Such a person may come into your life and instigate considerable changes. Spiritual aspirations are lofty but one keeps ones feet on the ground - common sense prevails. If you have no spiritual inclinations perhaps you should aspire a little and meditate on Oneness.

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:

On one level this card shows a Universal Unity and one being pregnant with the divinity; and on another level too much restriction and narrowness blindfolds you blocking out the light. However moderation generally prevails and a channeling of energies turns experience into profit. The direction this card shows depends entirely on the nature of ones soul, for positive can become negative and negative becomes positive, for a time of transmutation is here, and if one adheres to a middle way success will stay; one grows stronger through institutions or societies. Hidden enemies cannot touch you and problems become no more. Ones self-undoing is to step off the middle path and overestimate your capabilities.

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MEDITATION ON TEMPERANCE:

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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