

LESSON 124

DEVIL

The Golden Dawn version of this trump is very much in the traditional mode of the figure with a few minor exceptions. The title 'Devil' is a corruption of the Latin 'diabolus', meaning adversary. Where in the previous card of Temperance we have the angel helping to prepare one and put things in order, the Devil is the exact opposite as it is his duty to break that order down so that the individual counts above the masses. In essence he entices self gratification of the physical pleasures. To him all men and women are bonded, all those, that is, that seek his way.

Of this card Mathers says: 'The 15th Key of the Tarot represents a goat-headed, satyr-like Demon whose legs are hairy-his feet and claws standing upon the Cubical Altar. He has heavy bat-like wings. In his left hand, which he points downwards, he holds a lighted torch, and in his right, which is elevated, a horn of water. The left hand points downwards to show that it is the infernal and burning, not the celestial and life giving flame which is kindled in his torch - just as when the Sun is in Capricornus, to which cold and earthy Sign this key corresponds, Solar light is at its weakest and the natures of cold and moisture triumph over heat and dryness. The Cubical Altar represents the Universe - right and left of it, bound thereto by a cord attached to a circle which typifies the centre of the Earth, are two smaller demons, one male and one female. They hold a cord in their hands.'

The whole figure shows the gross generative powers of nature on the material plane, and is analogous to the Pan of the Greeks and the Egyptian Goat of Mendes (the symbol of Khem). In certain aspects, the Key represents the brutal forces of nature, which to the unbelieving man only obscure and do not reflect the luminous Countenance of God. It also alludes to the sexual powers of natural generation. Thus therefore the Key fitly balances the symbol of Death on the other side of the Tree of Life. Of the smaller demons, one points downwards and one upwards, answering to the positions of the hands of the central figure. Beneath his feet are pentagrams on which he tramples (whence comes the title Wizard's foot) and his head is covered with the evil and reversed Pentagram. As his hands bear the torch and the horn - the symbols of Fire and Water, so does his form unite the Earth in his hairy and bestial aspect, and the air in his bat-like wings. Thus he represents the gross and the materialised Elemental Forces of nature; and the whole would be an evil symbol, were it not for

the Pentagram of Light above his head which regulates and guides his movements. He is the eternal renewer of all the changing forms of Creation in conformity with the Law of the All-Powerful One (Blessed be He) which controlling law is typified by the controlling Pentagram of Light surmounting the whole. This key is an emblem of tremendous force; many and universal are its mysteries.'

The Bat-like wings refer to the Dark Powers. His head is that of a goat which relates to the God Pan (satyrs have the legs, horns and beard of a goat). Overall the figure also relates to Baphomet. Levi says: 'He is the guardian of the key to the temple. Baphomet is analogous to the dark God of Rabbi Simeon. he is the dark side of the divine face. This is why during initiation ceremonies, the member elect must kiss the hind-face of Baphomet or to give him a more vulgar name, the Devil. Now, in the symbolism of the two faces, the hind face of God is the Devil and the Devil is the hieroglyphic face of God.' The face in the inverted pentagram relates to the divine energy being sent downward into matter rather than trying to rise above it through the invocation to YHVH.

The flame he holds is inverted and this relates to the warmth and comfort he gives in darkness, but it is a comfort that tends to get one deeper into the material rather than above it. The horn he holds in his right hand shows virility and drink, the wine of the gods used for drunkenness and other debased purposes. The claws on his feet are that of an Eagle and which show his swiftness in gripping his prey. The cube he is on is the sacred altar which shows his contempt for the righteous. The two figures chained to him are man and woman who are trapped in the world of their own senses.

The bat wings in this card are the Deep Indigo of the King Scale while the background is in its translucent colour of Olive Brown of the Queen Scale, as to give the effect of a dull haze of light. The Altar is coloured in the Deep Violet Brown of the Prince Scale and the ground on which it rests is the Very Deep Olive Brown of the Princess Scale. The head and upper body of the Devil is coloured in the complementary translucent colour to the King Scale, as is the fire, horn, skin and hair of the two smaller figures. The hairy lower body on all three figures is the complementary colour to the Princess Scale.

The title of this card is 'The Lord of the Gates of Matter: the child of the Forces of Time.' For to study the path of Ayin, which this card represents, one must experience the pull of the Devil as he guards this path. He is a product not so much of the celestial but our own making, we as humans give him the added strength he needs but the choice must be ours to decide. He in

many respects is a child borne of the forces of time, an archetypal energy that gains its strength from the collective unconscious, created by time and man.

The psychological aspect of this card shows an individual who never lets up on trying to attain his goals. He has an acute awareness of his material surroundings. His mind is such that his grasp of understanding goes from the the smallest detail to the largest. He is the typical opportunist, with each step taken being an advantage. Here we have the struggle against regimentation where the personality rebels against the whole. What we have here is an entire way of life, civilisation being manipulated by the sexual energy (through power intoxication) which has its origin in the Collective Unconscious, which in turn pushes this energy into the personal ego. This can cause ones power play to derive from lust, which becomes not only a sin but a driving force of existence. Once the personal ego surrenders itself to the whole it becomes a puppet for the whole. Here the individual must fight against the tide to establish the identity of the 'I' against all odds.

The alchemical concept of this card shows the Devil being the cornerstone of the Great Work, because his name is Lucifer, the Morning Star. His claws are on the corner stone of the Work with the male and female chained within it. It is only through the stage of the blackening (the Melanosis) that this goal can be attained, the release of the prisoners within the stone. This could be considered also as an aspect of the Nigrido prior to the release of the Spirit, shown by the card Death.

The number fifteen, according to Levi is: "the number of antagonism, and of catholicity." This relates to the Devil and God being but two halves of the same whole. This duality both makes and breaks us for it is in all of us.

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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 Devil shows pre-occupation with the self, and the key impetus behind the energy (for individuals) that this card refers to is that they stand apart from the masses. One feels as a separate entity who has a need to develop into something recognised by others as different, better or worse, and there is a

quest for power. This striving for personal independence tends to tread on and use others that get in ones way. Every conceivable thing can be turned into ones advantage. There is a determination which is obstructed only by ones negative, or inhibitory thoughts. This card shows an inner power not seen in many - or perhaps it's a life situation that has power and direction beyond ones control. Great concern over ones personal affairs.

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 Devil represents self-gratification of material pleasures, the need for material comfort with property and wealth as a means to have material power. However the forces of nature and effects of time strongly influence any matter under the above. There is obsessiveness with material gain and security thereby leading to a bondage to ones possessions. Any gain financially occurs according to ones own endeavours, and again is a victim of time - fate. Generally however the Devil represents on a personal or macrocosmic vein something or someone of a 'well to do' nature. He shows development of practical skills, latent talents and planning; patience and tact is suggested, for the forces of mankind are at work here and one must learn to beat others at their own games to get anywhere.

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

Try not to be contemptuous towards relationships and family members, and avoid being anti-intellectual as this will cause many relationship problems. This card shows someone who has (or should) develop articulate communicative skills, but a danger here is a sense of false security, feeling better than others and holding the self aloof. Although freedom of expression and movement is restricted a person desires accomplishment to set him or herself above others; this sometimes acts as a challenge to better the self. However temptations and diversions usually leave one short of the mark. This card shows possible deprivation or isolation in early life and one may have not felt safe. In travel there are obstacles and affairs which must be tidied up before departure.

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:

Material and emotional bondage (commitments) to home, family (and or country) generally leads one to remain close to them revolving all purpose and action (ones work, earnings and values) on and for these things, hence a restriction is indicated to home and cultural environment. Real estate is bought and accumulated or desired to be owned. Matters are not ended but growth is restricted to material concerns. There may have been coldness by an emotionally upset parent in ones early environment. The Devil also represents practical occult matters - divine energy being drawn down. There is poverty and struggling for some of those getting the Devil in this position, however this depends entirely on surrounding cards. Damage to property may be caused by the elemental forces of nature - take extra care.

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

The playful nature of Pan comes out in this position for the Devil. There is self-gratification through recreational pleasures, romance and sexual activities indulged in for the sheer pleasure of what they bring and sexual power being the end result. There is a reluctance to have children, but invariably they become the product of romantic exploits. For women, a man in their life causes strong temptation. The Devil also shows under the above matters, over concern about what other people think and how well you are going to do. There is difficulty in expressing ones individuality and creativity freely, one becomes a trapped creative spirit therefore actions are awkward and loud.

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

The Devil in this position alludes to the forces of nature, which can be taken literally or understood as the natural course of events in ones life. For some, time is running out and action must be taken on decisions. Concerning employment, the material security and monetary value binds people to their current positions, and if applying for a job, attracts them to it. However a job will be burdensome and take its toll on your health. The Devil shows an organisational ability, attention to detail, created structures and routines. It alludes to everyday life's mundane material affairs which one must attend to - pure exis-

tence on this earth. Health problems (if any) limit freedom until some radical change is made.

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:

The Devil here shows alot of socialising, over indulgence in drink and unfaithfulness in thought or deed. There is more than one relationship, however, relationships challenge one to grow. Intimacy is avoided as one feels vulnerable. There is physical union but not necessarily marriage, more like brief encounters caused by magnetic attraction. One is also bound to responsibilities however, and partners limit freedom of expression. Attraction is purely physical. Social interaction is used for diversionary purposes, there may be a divorce or separation in the making. Adversaries are many - beware of snide remarks and subtle behaviour to throw you off guard. This card shows the power to cope with and handle any problems that may occur, so do not despair. If a contract is made it is binding.

ON MATTERS OF death and rebirth; accidents; effects of illness; crime and retribution; legacies; wills; others estates and finances; joint resources; moods; sex; spiritualism; rejuvenation; mysticism; transformation; psychotherapy:

Self-gratification of physical/sexual pleasures, greed, hate, lust and crime are all represented here by the Devil. Apprehension and rejection of sharing material/financial resources does not bode well for partnerships, however partnerships are bound together by a common bond - money. Difficulties with taxes brings on anxiety. The Devil represents the occult in its base form, elemental and naturalistic. The generative force is very strong here. It is good in matters of spiritual concerns, for movements are regulated/guided by a higher source. 'He is the eternal renewer of all the changing forms of Creation in conformity with the Law of the All-Powerful One..'

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:

Trapped in a world of physical senses the Devil does not show success in the above matters. There is a restriction of potentials, religious bigotry, loss of faith and contempt for

people whom we consider righteous; and who is more righteous than a born again. Those involved in religion twist its meaning and values to suit their own desires, a strong definition is made between good and evil. In matters dealing with the public propaganda and slander, however, this card is a powerful key if one needs to influence the public in any way. In higher education a lust for more knowledge is a driving force for the slowest learners. Although there is restriction here, limitations are usually ones own making through not having the will-power to overcome any restricting internal or external force. Once a force is overcome, progress ensues. Success is subject to time and patience. Many throw in the towel and quit too soon. The Devil shows that one has the power to succeed.

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

Success is the subject of ones own making when the Devil turns up under the above matters and one will be consolidated in a chosen career, although no matter how well you could have done you feel that it is not enough. Ruthless and persistent pursuit towards goals are shown, the ego expands and experiences power. Shortcuts are made - cutting through red tape whether one is a builder, scientist, politician or bureaucrat. The Devil also represents the master of greater life or in the role of a passive partaker of the greater whole - each in their own success, possess (or experience) great power. There is also cleverness and cunning under the above.

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 Devil represents segregation in all forms, this separation between political systems, races, cultures etc, which is influential to ones decisions and behaviour under the above matters. There may be difficulty in working in groups due to the differences they stand for. Friendships break off and possible infidelity with friends spouses occur. In unstable empires and states rulers are killed by those who hunger for power. Destruction and breaking down the order of things occur. There is triumph over the weak and a desire for monetary gain at the expense of the masses. Nevertheless there is one positive point here: although differences are recognized, there is always a common bond which chains people together.

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 Devil, for some, shows the philosophically orientated, the inspired thinker, and deep inner wisdom. However this card also shows there are those in pain through denial of their own inner self. This is due to fear of the unknown. There are self destructive qualities, deep psychological fears send one to seek forgetfulness in intoxication. It advises one to learn to recognise your physical limits and accept earthly responsibility. The fears described above are what each person must overcome before any wisdom is formed. There are many hidden enemies and most are internal - these must be faced. This card also shows restriction or commitments to an institution, way of life or belief.

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MEDITATION ON THE DEVIL:

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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