

LESSON 125

BLASTED TOWER

The Golden Dawn version of the Tower is very much in line with the traditional meaning of this trump. The Tower of course should be viewed as an extension of the Devil for the two figures chained to the altar are now blasted out of the Tower through divine intervention. The archetypal meaning of this trump has its roots in the biblical Tower of Babel and the Postdiluvian Kings. Of this the Zohar says: "The beginning of his (Nimrod) Kingdom was Babel", from which we gather, it was he who first seduced the Postdiluvians from the worship and service of the true god, and introducing confusion and disunion amongst them, he eventually in usurping rule and sovereignty over them and led them to a plain in the land of Shinar, by which is meant, that from that time men forsook the worship of the Divine and began to live in defiance of his law, then degenerated and gave themselves wholly up to the pursuit of worldly pleasures and enjoyments, worshipping the creature rather than their creator who is blessed forever. It is further related "And they said, go to, let us build us a city and a tower whose head may reach unto the heaven and let us make a name..." observe the words "And they said, go to, let us build us a city and tower whose top shall reach heaven." The term 'Habbah' (go to) whenever used in scripture is always found in connection with something or a project unrealized by those who conceived it. Their blind impulse to build a city and tower arose only from wicked and foolish desire that animated and prompted them to live in open revolt against the Holy One."

In the ritual of the 27th Path of Peh (related to Mars) the candidate is told: "Ere the Eternal instituted the Formation, Beginning and the End existed not. Therefore, before Him, he expanded a certain Veil, and therein he instituted the primal Kings and these are the kings who reigned in Edom before there reigned a King of Israel. But they subsisted not. When the Earth was formless and void - behold this is the reign of EDOM. And when creation was established. Lo, this is the reign of Israel. And the Wars of Titanic forces in the Chaos of creation, Lo, these are the wars between them. From a Light-bearer of unsupportable brightness, proceeded a radiating flame, hurling forth, like a vast and mighty Hammer, those sparks which were the Primal worlds. And these sparks flamed and scintillated awhile, but being unbalanced, they were extinguished. Since lo, the Kings assembled, they passed away together, they themselves beheld so they were astonished. They feared. They hasted away. And these

be the Kings of Edom who reigned before the reign of a King over Israel.'

'The Dukes of Edom were amazed, trembling they took hold of the Mighty Moab. Lord, when thou wentest out of SEIR, when thou marchedst out of the field of Edom, the Earth trembled and heavens dropped - the Clouds also dropped Water. Curse ye MERCI, said the Angel of the Lord - curse ye bitterly, the inhabitants therefore, because they came not to the help of the Lord - to the help of the Lord against the Mighty....he bowed the Heavens, also and came down and the darkness was under His Feet. At the brightest that was before Him, the thick clouds passed - Hail-stones and flashings of Fire. The lord thundered through the Heavens and the Highest gave forth His Voice-Hail-stones and flashings of Fire. He sent his arrows and scattered them: he hurled forth his lightnings and destroyed them.'

This gives an indication of the background the Golden Dawn associated to this trump. Though a somewhat subjective viewpoint when taken in context with the Zohar it does show the same meaning. The further descriptions from the 27th path of Qabalah, contained in the Philosophus Ritual in the "Complete Golden Dawn" also add additional information on the cards meaning. Of the card itself, Mathers says: 'It represents a Tower struck by a Lightning Flash proceeding from a rayed circle and terminating in a triangle. It is the Tower of Babel struck by Fire from Heaven. It is to be noted that the triangle at the end of the lightning Flash, issuing from a circle, forms exactly the astronomical symbol of Mars. It is the power of the triad rushing down destroying the Columns of Darkness. Three holes are rent in the walls, symbolising the establishment of the Triad therein and the Crown at the summit of the Tower is falling, as the Crowns in the Kings of Edom fell, who are also symbolised by the men falling headlong. On the righthand side of the Tower is LIGHT and the representation of the Tree of LIFE by the ten circles thus disposed. On the left-hand side of the Tree is DARKNESS and eleven circles symbolising the QLIPPOTH.'

The Tower is also a symbol of man himself with the light of destruction being brought down upon his own head as Kether. In fact the Tower is the Middle Pillar, like man, having the right to choose which side of the Tree it will lean to for its support. In this instance it has drawn from martial Geburah and such has been felt the tempest. The figures also show the temporary concept of power. The important thing to realise here is that the Tower is based on a philosophy that has no true weight or substance, in short, dreams that can never be. The twelve points contained in the three concentric circles also stand for the unification of the twelve tribes of Israel which forces the closure of the reign of the Kings of Edom. The three concentric

circles that they are enclosed in relate to the Air Seph. Aur, the Limitless Light from which all power must flow through. The Crown has five points and is analogous to the power of the Will issuing forth from Geburah which eventually becomes self-destructive.

The disk on the top right of the card has the points painted in the Scarlet of the King Scale, as is the lightning flash which issues from it to destroy the Tower. The background, within the circle, is Poppy Red of the Queen Scale. The background of the card is the complementary Green (to the King Scale), on the left-hand side of the Tower is in its depth while on the right-hand side of the tower the Green becomes translucent. The 11 Sephiroth are in the Madder Red of the Prince Scale while the 10 Sephiroth are Cherry Red with an Amber circle around each and represents the Princess Scale. The figures falling from the tower are the translucent colour of the King Scale with complementary green clothing. The earth on which the tower stands is the complementary Green to the Queen Scale. The Crown on the Tower is the Poppy Red of the Queen Scale. The tower itself is the Cherry Red of the Princess Scale with the bricks outlined in Amber. The three spaces in the tower are transparent and show the green background coming through.

The title of the Blasted Tower is 'Lord of the Hosts of the Mighty'. This relates to the Tower being the point of focus for housing of the Kings of Edom.

The psychological considerations of this card show an individual who has pushed too much energy into too confined an area with the result being disastrous. The Will in this instance is the area that has far exceeded the limitations of the body. It also shows no body-mind harmony and this has resulted in no reinforcement within the self or no self-defence mechanisms against any outward problems. It also shows the individual seeking the gratifications of the Lower Self with no wish to get out of this situation and try to better oneself. The animal nature has in fact taken over and all the passions and sensual desires that go with it are all fully activated and the individual goes out of control. Here we have the megalomaniac, the sensationalist, the person who devotes his or her tremendous energies for the lower appetites of human desires and who rides roughshod and will destroy anyone in their way. It becomes power out of control.

The alchemical aspect of this card is the Albedo. Here the Anchor is heated to the extreme until separation occurs, illustrated by the two bodies and the two aspects of the Tree on each side of the tower. The king (shown as the crown on the tower) has been transformed into these two melted bodies; when reduced to ashes are joined to the fire again as the fire gives freely of

its spirit to them. As they manifestly take it from the air 'It makes all things just as it makes man and all things thereof, given to them a vital spirit soul'.

DIVINATION

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

Energy that is containable must have an outlet. If no outlet is found the Tower represents blind action, rage, uncontrolled emotion and it even leads to fighting or you turn your own body into a battlefield of aggression and innermost anger which leads to health problems. Projects are not seen through to any form of conclusion as interest or enthusiasm is not sustained for long. There is opposition to any outward expression which causes an eventual eruption. Damage and violence may enter your life but whatever it is, you will be made to face reality. The Tower however can also show an evolutionary experience - you are your own creator.

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:

Oh so impulsive ye victim of circumstance; haven't you ever considered to stop and think before you act! In this position the Tower represents shattered dreams, plans, concepts and disillusionment. The bare facts stand before you. There can be downfall after excessive material gain, resulting in great loss. Confusion and disunion causes affairs to keep going wrong. It also shows that a decision must be acted on, one can delay no longer, which calls for aggressive, decisive action. Proposed ventures are abandoned and there is intervention by a third party - this force is usually destructive. Courage and initiative is required for this phase of operation.

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

The Tower shows a breakdown in communication. An accident happens, perhaps through recklessness during travel. Under relationships shown above, arguments break out and sarcasm is not spared. Shocking news is received and there is trouble with writings, education or publication. This card represents youth detention centres. People rise into action and assert their opinions, using a total lack of tact. Travel plans backfire, here are juvenile revolts and with an outside force created quite a destructive influence. This card advises that one must strive to develop self-control. A child may be expelled from school.

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 life's directions; concerning the soul; the occult in its practical terms; divination;

A position of fall for the Blasted Tower. Traumatic home breakups or early life experiences, parental conflict, and violence. This card shows a breaking of home ties after a period of emotional upset. Someone may be thrown out of the home. A time of Chaos, things can only get better. Concerning the soul, the Tower shows one acting in opposition to the dictates of the soul. In the fields of property and buildings etc., it shows heavy property taxes, demolition, and a loss, perhaps a breakup. A way of life has come abruptly to an end, leaving one no choice but to start fresh.

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

Here a person acts from foolish desire through blind impulse, seeking gratification of the lower self. There is no wish to better the self. In love/romance there is impatience and quarrels leading to breakups. Unwanted pregnancy leads to abortion and for some a miscarriage is indicated. Children have accidents or if aspected with the Death card and the 10 of Swords, a death of a child. Everything is dramatically done. Stocks fall, investments show a poor return. Children will need to learn independence at an early age. Due to the effect of this card here on a positive note, one could say that one has never felt so alive.

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

A job is left under unhappy circumstances or there are labour disputes, general discord, ill-treatment, anger, arguments. Tolerance has run out here leaving a state of awareness that action must be taken to alter the situation and this of course happens. Health-wise there is an inner discord, exhaustion resulting therefrom. Injury, feverish sickness. Matters have drifted along in your structured life and now you are brought to an unavoidable awareness of your situation. Change is for the better and will take place by force if you resist it.

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 Blasted Tower represents discord in relationships, divorce, breaking of contracts and perhaps even war. Everything becomes personalised, self-centered. There is a lack of diplomacy, and microcosmically/macrocosmically, power games. It shows the megalomaniac, however this sort of person finds affairs hard as there is obstruction and opposition. Matters are finalised, thrown out, you cannot turn back. The condition is transitional and unpleasant. There is misery through deception and unforeseen calamities. When will it end you might ask; just as quick as it started, however without self-defence against the unforeseen the effects are felt long after.

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 Blasted Tower shows disruption to mind-body harmony. There is intervention in progress and if expected so, a violent death, or violent sexual experience. Conflict over joint resources, legacies, taxes etc cause major disruption, or perhaps revelations in ones life. Beware of rushing too fast into financial deals, bankruptcy, and involvement with people who have criminal tendencies. On a different level there is an astounding revelation which causes destruction to old beliefs. The Tower advises against spiritualism or mysticism as the results would be disastrous. It also shows that a crime is committed, moods are controlled and if there is any transformation, it is forced.

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:

Destruction in order to obtain perfection is the key impulse for the Blasted Tower in this position. Dreams and ideals are shattered, and others ideals are promoted through violence, anger and revolt. There is a loss of faith in religions or institutions of learning, resentment of other viewpoints, rules are broken. Consider the bloody battlefields in the name of religion, the mass murders, tortures and conquering of lands in the name of religious or sectarian beliefs. Students leave their studies and travel in search of themselves. The military, reactionaries and evangelists are represented by this card.

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

A reversal of fortune is depicted here by the Blasted Tower. There is a desire for power at any cost and a general disregard for humanity. Destruction of a reign or an overthrow of government is indicated. People getting the Tower in this position will have difficulty with those in authority - a take-over. Actions are sudden and if you push too much energy into a confined space the result will be disastrous. On another note, however, the Tower represents an active and exciting intelligence, a turbulent career and destruction of the old to build a new and better one. It will also show an identity crisis and disgrace through failure.

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:

Arguments with, or injury to friends, breakups and anger. The Tower also shows general revolts and destruction of systems or governments. Political parties loose elections and prevailing social orders are thrown out. Systems, governments, groups etc., impose their values on others. Autonomy is threatened and groups split. Ones beliefs and aspirations are shattered and the force of destiny is felt. The attitude shown here is very harsh, a do or die concept. Spiritual aspirations are changed and there is a lack of fulfilment. What is yielded is chaos, what is felt is defeat, anger, and for some violence. Overall if so aspected, an awakening and greater awareness occurs.

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 ones actions are influenced by the unconscious mind, with the conscious mind having little control over what happens. Too much pride is ones downfall and causes open opposition of enemies; secret sexual involvement is discovered; Those imprisoned will break out, however in all aspects freedom is gained only at a cost. There is a lot of internal rage, however, giving over your will to a higher cause acts as an outlet for that rage, but if you serve your own purpose this generally leads to disaster. Avoid employing your energies in the wrong direction. Illness can be severe and require special help, but on a lighter note for many an illness is caused through inner anger causing rheumatism, arthritis etc. For some the Tower shows the walls of the conscious breaking and the unconscious mind flooding from its hidden realm.

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#### MEDITATION ON THE TOWER:

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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