

LESSON 126

STAR

The Star, in its Golden Dawn format appears to have altered little from the early European designs apart from some added astrological and Kabbalistic symbolism. It was considered a card of Hope and Perfection.

Mathers says of this card: 'The large Star in the centre of the Heavens has seven principle and fourteen secondary rays and this represents the Heptad multiplied by the triad. This yields 21 - the number of the Divine name EHEIEH which, as you already know, is attached to KETHER. In the Egyptian sense it is SIRIUS the Dog-Star, the Star of Isis-Sothis. Around it are the stars of the 7 planets, each with its sevenfold counterchanged operation. The nude female figure with the Star of the Heptagram on her brow is the synthesis of Isis, Nephthys and Athor. She also represents the planet VENUS through whose sphere the influence of Chased descends. She is Aima, Binah, Tebunah, the Great Supernal Mother - Aima Elohim, pouring upon the Earth of the Waters of Creation which unite and form a River at her feet, the River going forth from the Supernal Eden which floweth and faileth not.'

Note well, that in this Key she is completely unveiled while in the 21st Key she is only partially so. The two Urns contain the influences from Chokmah and Binah. On the right springs the Tree of Life, and on the left the Tree of Knowledge of Good and of Evil whereon the Bird of Hermes alights, and therefore does this Key represent the restored World, after the formless and the Void and the Darkness, the New ADAM, the Countenance of the Man which falls in the Sign AQUARIUS. And therefore doth the astronomical ripple of this sign represent, as it were, Waves of Water - the ripples of that River going forth out of Eden - but, therefore also, is it justly attributed to Air and not unto Water because it is the Firmament dividing and containing the Water.'

To understand some of the Mathers descriptions one must go to the ritual of the 28th path of the Philosophus Grade of 4=7 which relates to Netzach and the associations attached to it. Mathers says (during the ritual). 'Before you upon the Altar is the 17th Key of the TAROT which symbolically resumes these ideas'. The first point of consideration is the figure in the card and its composite form representing of the three Goddesses. Of Isis: 'I am the Rain of Heaven descending upon the Earth, bearing with it the fructifying and germinating power. I am the

plenteous yielder of Harvest. I am the Cherisher of Life'. Of Nephthys: 'I am the Dew descending viewless and silent, gemming the Earth with countless diamonds of Dew, bearing down the influence from above in the solemn darkness of Night.' Of Athor: 'I am the ruler of Mist and Cloud wrapping the Earth, in a Garment, floating and hovering between Earth and Heaven. I am the Giver of the Dew-clad Night.' This entire concept is the action of the AIMA ELOHIM - The Mother Supernal, whose actions guide all things. The Tree on the left is a symbol that which is found in Eden before the Fall. Note that the upper part of the Tree of Knowledge equally counterbalances the lower part of the Tree of Evil, for they are one unified force, shown by the planetary symbolism in the two parts.

The Tree of Life, on the right-hand side of the card symbolises a complete cycle that one must go through before he or she gains access to the Tree of Knowledge, shown on the left-hand side of the card. The bird of Hermes above the Tree of Knowledge is the Bennu Bird of the Egyptians which symbolises the Ka or spirit of man that leaves the body after death. In this instance we have the spirit of man transcended from a lower to a higher nature where all will be revealed to him. It is a complete evolutionary step. The seven pointed Star directly above the head of the figure relates to the energies of the Sephirah of Hod and its association to Venus. The seven smaller stars with the planetary markings represent the biblical phrase at the introduction of the Golden Dawn Tarot. These are the seven seals described in revelations. They relate not only to seven Endocrine centers of man but also to the seven stages of mans civilisation that he must endure before the time of peace. The Star shows the end result of this with all centres functioning in harmony and the physical being controlled by the spirit and mind. In the previous card, the Blasted Tower showed what happened when the final seal was opened but now is a time of harmony and hope. The waters from the urns also represent the mixing of mind and body in a harmonious relationship. The stream she is mixing the waters into is life itself and represents the perfected waters being introduced to the Stream of Life in order that the purity of the waters will be maintained where ever it flows.

The colouring of the card has the sky in the Greyish Violet of the Princess Scale with the seven minor and one major star being in the complementary Straw Yellow as is the Two Trees and the planetary symbols above and below them. The Star above the figure, Bennu bird and the Sephiroth on the Tree of Life are all white. The ground is the Light Amaranth of the Prince Scale. The water from the jugs and river are Violet Grey of the Queen Scale. The figure herself is the translucent Amethyst of the King Scale while her hair and darker shadings are the normal King Scale colour. She has a faint Yellow hue surrounding her (in the com-

plementary colour of the King Scale). The jugs are the complementary Pastel Yellow of the Prince Scale. The planetary symbols on the smaller stars are the Greyish Violet of the Princess Scale.

The title of this card is 'Daughter of the Firmament, Dweller between the Waters'. This is really self-explanatory and clearly needs no elaboration on.

The psychological aspect of this card shows the perfectionist. A person who builds his or her principles from direct experience and is heavily involved with large scale social and humanitarian goals. This individual has evolved through a period of change and has now reached a plateau of his or her own brand of elitism. This person searches for the 'new' of things and in many ways this has related to his or her previous perfected work for the old is finished and the new order is beginning. Now is a time of realisation, a person for whom destiny waits to come of age. The direct relationship to the urns in the card show an outpouring of new ideas for humanity as a greater whole. This person will not do things for him/herself but for humanity at large and will leave mans seed roots that will be carried on long after they are gone.

In the alchemical theme of this trump the woman is the Animus Mundi which regenerates and restores the pool and the land around it, hence the fertile trees of growth. The bird brings down the spirit of the planets or the seven alchemical steps in which all stages of the Mercurial growth are shown. It is the man showing the highest revelation of the alchemical tree for development, a continuing cycle of growth and prosperity through study of the macrocosmic/microcosmic principles. It is the condensation of the Universal Spirit in whose reflection the chemical Sun and Moon must bathe, change their nature and become rejuvenative. Here the Universal Spirit is present in the metals of the 7 planets. It is the soul of all things capable of penetrating subliminary mixtures and making them grow. In the early ages this was done at night under the protection of the darkness with a clear sky and calm air, thus heavily related to spring on earth. Light comes out of darkness as it did from Chaos. That light was extended and radiation assembled. On the day of creation, the divine spirit could not be distinguished from the waters and was confused with it.

The numerical association to this card is number 17. Of this, Levi says: 'Seventeen is the number of the star; it is that of intelligence and love...Love!Love! Sublime redeemer and sublime restorer; thou who makest so much happiness, with so many tortures, thou didst sacrifice blood and tears, thou who art virtue itself, and the reward of virtue, force of resignation,

belief of obedience, joy of sorrow, life of death, hail! salutation and glory to thee!"

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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 main impetus of the Star in this position is the need to change ones nature, however this is not the beginning of change but the evolving of it where change is so natural that it is hardly recognized. One does what destiny demands without question and functions in accordance with the Universal Will, where one must determine ones own truth. This is the beginning of change in circumstances and it is also a successful culmination of experiences. Your own path must be taken and you must have personal and psychological freedom to find yourself. Then there will be the beginning of new insights and an upward spiral of your personal energy to join with the downward spiral of cosmic energy until you discover that there is no up or down.

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:

Effort must be given for any success, if one receives the Star here, for you reap as you sow. Developing new talents brings good fortune; material comfort is foretold. Economic influences bring many matters to a head and ones affairs and self application are greatly influenced by current trends. General optimism holds one in good stead. Although there may not be any danger in ones life this card advises discreetness. Being determined and inventive leaves little room for failure - any failure occurs through lack of application. If badly aspected there is disappointment, and there will be a need to re-establish the self.

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

Here we have a person (country or town) detached from its neighbours (sisters, brothers, friends) in the general pattern of thinking, however, relationships are friendly, unassuming, and generally will run smoothly. The Star also represents the original intuitive thinker; someone/thing with a direct but intellectual approach to matters. For some, a step-sister will play a strong role in their lives, for others a female friend. The Star shows the need for adjustment to ever-changing systems under the above matters; renewed energy and inexhaustible possibilities for ones field of activity. You can anticipate opportunities to come by. The option to take them up is yours.

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:

Harmony is restored, the damaged is mended, you can expect to be comfortable and not wanting. The Star represents a necessary change of lifestyle - perhaps shifting to a new home/country. If this change is not made a feeling of entrapment takes over and one can end up sitting in a glass dome looking out at, yearning for the outside world. For many, especially the young, they look for their identity outside the family unit, however, they will not be lonely in their quest. Concerning land etc., the Star represents agricultural land - vineyards and the like. Concerning the Soul there is renewed spiritual energy - a high level of intuition.

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

The Star advises here that everything must derive from direct experience. There is strong creative inspiration pouring out with an outlet needed additional to procreation for fulfillment. When easily bored, many turn to amusements such as computer games, preferring the intellectual games. Romances have unusual beginnings and this card shows someone to be lovestruck. Children may leave home at an early age or show strong independence. Women will have little desire to be mothers. This card does not represent conception in this position. If badly aspected there is an error in judgement; missing an opportunity, dreaminess, chasing fantasies.

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

service; the acquiring of skills; psychology:

A situation will be regenerated or equilibrium will be restored, and there is growth and fertility in all matters when the Star turns up here. A country strives for personal freedom, an individual creates commitments in order to buy freedom. The Star advises that you must become aware that you are your own master. In order to change your external environment you must also alter your internal environment. Concerning employment, work hours may be irregular. Employees prove to hard, tolerant workers and employers lenient. With regard to health, watch out for food poisoning or allergic reactions. There may be bad circulation and sports injuries. Health is affected by nervous tension (stress) learn to calm thyself.

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 Star in this position represents straight, direct and open relationships. Partners work as equals, contracts are amiable, legal matters provide satisfactory results. Success will be long in coming, however it will come. For some there is difficulty enduring marital relationships that have lost their spice. There is a strong need for a commitment, however, there is fear of submission. Socially the Star shows a comfortable balance between a private and social life. Cogentiality, pleasant gatherings. The influences here are more macrocosmic than microcosmic.

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:

You can expect help in financial situations, a slow increase of funds, secure investments. The Star in this position is likened to someone (or something) rising out of the depths of an enclosure. In business this card represents someone trustworthy although a little changeable and easily enthused. Stability in partnerships prevail, however there is a tendency to drift, or dream of greener pastures. Regarding sex, there is an indication towards celibacy or turning sexuality into a higher energy form. For some there are psychic and telepathic experiences, other try to discover the subtle laws of nature. The Star alludes to the eternal renewal of life.

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:

Expanding and reforming the self, cultures, groups or civilisations. Social values, universal principals and religious ideals are envisaged, the mind soars above genetical/racial and graphic realms. There is a search for understanding and flashes of spiritual insight. The Star represents philosophizing and a tendency to dream. It shows progressive education and slow but sure growth in such matters. A person does not gratify the Self but whose work/efforts are for humanity at large. There is elitism here and one tends to be separate from the public at large, if not in body, in mind.

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

Seeds of hope are implanted as the realization of possibilities form. One can be driven by the desire to attain perfection. The Star shows the culmination of political changes. For some, their profession loses its value or reasoning, and they may turn in another direction where creative potential can be fulfilled. The Star shows prosperity in new and innovative ventures, however growth will show before success is realized. There is a dedication to goals which will be reached after a hard struggle. Recognition for achievements will be small as one tends to be classed amongst the many.

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:

A well liked person with clearness of vision. There is unswerving loyalty of friends or to friends, however ones affections tend to be impersonal. There is a desire to link with others of like mind and to widen individual identity. Groups/organisations work to effect unity in humanity, others work towards causing equality. There has been constructive development of state/government/social order/country etc. Policies have been put into effect. Matters have crystalised revealing the direction to which the result is leading, hence blindness has been lifted from what was obscure.

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 there are feelings of loneliness and separatism. Instinct is to retreat rashly but this will attract illness, or accident. Effect your retreat in a planned sensible manner that will be beneficial to you. Observe lifes guiding patterns, follow and grow. There is a fear of strong personalities and too much responsibility. However many tend to loose themselves in societies or large institutions, thereby placing themselves under the rules of others. This card identifies with the cosmic whole and implies merging of individual consciousness into greater consciousness. The negative influence of the Star is to do the exact opposite. Karmic debts related to this card relate more to society as a whole than any one individual - How much do you give?

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MEDITATION ON THE STAR:

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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