

LESSON 127

MOON

The Golden Dawn version of this card is very much in line with the traditional Marseilles version. One theory considered by some tarot theologians is that the card represents some of the beliefs of the Cathari whose philosophies incorporate the view that the perfected souls are drawn up to celestial bliss while the imperfect ones are reincarnated as animals—a point of view that should not be taken lightly.

Mathers says: 'The 18th Key of the TAROT...represents the MOON with four Hebrew YODS like drops of dew falling, two dogs, two Towers, a winding Path leading to the Horizon, and, in the fore-ground, Water with a Crayfish crawling through it to the land.'

'The Moon is in its increase on the side of Mercy, Gedulah, and from it proceed sixteen secondary principal and sixteen secondary rays, which makes 32, the number of the Paths of Yetzirah. She is the Moon at the feet of the Woman of Revelations, ruling equally over the cold and moist natures and the passive elements of the Earth and Water. It is to be noted that the symbol of the Sign is formed of two lunar crescents bound together. It thus shows the lunar nature of the Sign. The dogs are the Jackals of the Egyptian ANUBIS, guarding the Gates of the East and of the West, shown by the two Towers between which lies the Path of all heavenly bodies ever rising in the East and setting in the West. The Cray-fish is the Sign Cancer and was anciently the Scarabeus or Khephera, the emblem of the Sun below the Horizon as he ever is when the Moon is increasing above. Also, when the Sun is in the Sign Pisces the Moon will be well in her increase in Cancer as shown by the Cray-fish emblem.'

With the 4=7 ritual of the Golden Dawn there are also further indications of the actions of the card for Mathers says: 'The traveller through the gates of Anubis is my Name. I am Water, pure and limpid ever flowing on towards the sea. I am the Ever passing Present that stands in the place of the Past. I am the Fertilised land. Hail unto thee Dwellers of the wings of the morning'. The reference to the fertilised land is the area between the the pool and the high ground where the Watch Towers stand. If we examine the speech of the Hierophant in the ritual of the 29th Path further: 'I arise in the place of the gathering of the Waters, through the rolled back Cloud of Night. From the Father of the Waters went forth the Spirit, rendering asunder the

veils of darkness...and the Countenance of darkness half formed arose.' This in fact relates to the Cray-fish as man, leaving the waters to travel on the Path which is lighted by the Crescent Shaped Moon. 'And the Chaos cried aloud for the Unity of Form and the Face of the ETERNAL arose....in the Waters beneath was that face reflected, the Formless abyss of the-Void.' This also is self-explanatory and it would pay the student to study the entire ritual of the 29th path which should be read and re-read for all these ideas are contained in the Moon - in Mathers own words.

Further investigations show that the pool from which the Cray-fish emerges relates to Life, the Cray-fish being the first stirrings of Life in its early state. The two Towers on each side of the path are Watch Towers showing that the progress of the Cray-fish, as man, is being watched and the alarm will be given if he strays from the Path. These Towers also represent the Gates of Hades, Kingdom of the Underworld and a symbol of diverse forces. The two jackals are also in the employ of those who guard the Watch Towers and are ready to devour the Cray-fish if he leaves his natural habitat, the Path. The Holy name YHVH separates the towers and allows a narrow passage for all those who wish to make their own way out of the Night. The four Yods are ready to fall both on the path and into the pool of Life to nurture them both under His Divine protection within the 32 paths of the Tree of Life that man must traverse. The entire concept relates to man having the freedom of choice to walk the correct path of his own destiny. Any deviation from it takes us back to the Pool where we must begin again - lifes karmic pattern. In many respects the beliefs of the Cathari are still relevant in the meaning of this card today. There is also a strong menstrual symbolism here as well that is contained in the ritual of the 29th Path which also must not be overlooked.

The Waters of the Star have given forth new life. The Moon is central to the forces of night creating shadows for diverse forces as deception reigns supreme. The light of the Moon being entirely subjective as opposed to the overall light of the Sun. The baying jackals at the Moon show that they have no control over it and cannot influence it in any way. Its course shows the futility of their actions.

The Watch Towers and upper part of the land which they are on is the Dark Magneta of the Prince Scale. The Sky background is the Signal Green of the Queen Scale. The Lower portion of the land on which the jackals stand is Dull Green of the Princess Scale while the jackals are in the complementary translucent Red. The path to the stream is the Ruby Red of the King Scale and the waters of the stream are the translucent Ruby Red, with the cray-fish being the complementary Green. The four Yods are the comple-

mentary red to the Signal Green of the Queen Scale. The Moon and its points are Brilliant White. (Note: 'White is an acceptable introduction to the four colours of the scales and their complementaries because white contains all the colours of the spectrum and hence maintains a vibrational pitch that will not interfere with the other colours on the card'. A quote of Mathers, taken from a lecture he gave on the subject of colour of the cards - from the papers of Felkin).

The psychological aspect of this card shows individuals who are highly impressionable by nature. Being aware of this fact only makes them withdraw into themselves. They become the perfect non-entities who have insulated themselves from the major negative forces of life. By this is meant that escapism, for want of a better word, is sought from different areas of ones unconscious. Generally, these individuals are loners and must realise their full potential state of awareness. For without it and no path to follow they fall victim to their lower selves petty desires. The individual is the cray-fish in the pool of the unconscious. Awareness of the Path shows the individual a way out of the stream which gave him birth and all the comforts of the womb.

The alchemical explanation of this card is conception - part of the conjunction. This is represented at the top of the card by the Moon joined with the Sun (this is a new concept in the dimension of this card stemming from the later comments of Mathers in 1910 to Brodie Innes who passed this information on to Felkin), in fact the Moon has eaten the Sun. The falling Yods are the Succus Lunarae (sap of the Moon plant), showing the nocturnal origin of the water from the sky as it mixes with the stream below (Mercurius Vivos), resulting in a dissolving process of all created things back to the Lapis or the Divine Seed. The towers are Sulphur and Mercury which when joined produce the child of their union as the cray-fish, one of the first signs of primal life. The card in fact teaches that through the conjunction one can produce the first stage of life itself (the water of which contains the cray-fish is in fact the Bath of the Philosophers in which life is created). The dogs are the alchemical Corserene Hound and the Armenian Bitch - Sulphur and Mercury.

The Moon is number 18. This number is considered protection against thieves, though its theosophic deduction, the ennead ($1+8=9$), has more of a tale, alluding to the gestation of the human foetus, being an emblem of Matter, a number always reproducing itself (called the perfect number) thus inferring again to the foetus which is born at the end of the ninth month, which in turns reproduces itself at maturity.

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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 Moon here represents the highly impressionable individual who, when aware of this fact, will withdraw and insulate themselves from outside influence of both negative and positive energies. It is important that full awareness is developed, otherwise a limited view is formed. Awareness is your key. The temperament depicted here has phases of outward and withdrawn expression, there is difficulty in concentration as the mind is easily influenced. This card shows the imaginative, but with a tendency to be uncontrolled. There is a strong life force if all channels are clear.

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 Moon in this position shows a time of struggle - to effectuate the final move, or to just make ends meet; however although fluctuatory, there is progress and needs will be catered to, providing they are not extreme, illusionary and unrealistic. If one errs there will be deviation from purpose which will take you back to start (over old ground) again, hindering progress. For some, this means spending hard earned money. Although the Moon shows you will have to rely on your basic senses to 'get along', if you can learn to contemplate the face of cause, it will be easier to master life under the above matters.

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

On a positive note, the Moon shows a power to meet difficulties with courage and faith. Although personalities will clash, your mind will act instinctively to do and say the right thing. Brothers and sisters, or cousins, may be numerous and there is a premature estrangement with one or more of them. A lack of confidence inhibits education, together with many distractions. There will be growth if one is single of purpose. Intellectually there is limitation to a persons own sphere of existence (thought).

There may be lies and deceit under the above matters.

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:

Emotions are easy to erupt, moods swing. There is a tendency to jealousy, possessiveness and morbidness. You have not had an easy road to walk during your upbringing whether it be emotionally or physically. For some, they struggle for survival, for others they take advantage of the unsuspecting. Property/estates have indirect taxes - this is not a good time to sell or buy, wait for awhile to see which way the 'wind will blow'. The Moon represents sorcery and forbidden places, witchcraft and malicious deeds, beware. It is also representative of the hazards along the path of the Soul's journey.

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

The Moon in this position shows passion and energy controlled by the lower nature of man rather than the higher mind. It shows birth or conception - a child of union is produced. Concerning self-hood there is an exhibition of natural expression, and artistic or sporting talents lie latent. In speculation or gambling one comforts bewilderment and illusion, there are many traps. You are warned against too much recreation and pleasure seeking as it turns you from the path of the higher mind. The Moon shows potential will be fulfilled providing you do not stray from your purpose, but it has to be brought from the deeper most recesses of the mind.

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

If the essential details are attended to, work will be thorough, however know your limitations. In this position the Moon may show a need for a time for psychological repair. Behaviour patterns here are reactions from the subconscious; there may be crime and deceit. There is melancholy, depressions, physiological changes. Lymphatics, sexual organs or fluid retention may be involved. There is cellular growth to injuries. In your working environment, tread carefully as there are those who will take advantage of your mistakes. Do not gossip for there

are those who will twist your words. Slander.

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 meaning of the Moon in this position is rather mixed. In some cases it shows a second marriage, infidelity; in others—someone is drawn irresistably to another's magnetism. There is possible treachery by a friend or partner — tread carefully. Irrational thinking creates images and phantoms of the mind, thereby causing obstacles. In some relationships it shows two cleaved together against all conflicting interests and outside interference. Misfortune may come to your loved one, depending on the surrounding cards.

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:

Do not expect to be enriched in any way and beware of deceit and treachery. This is not a good time to go into partnership or business deals. There is a negative effect on others and petty little accidents occur. The Moon alludes to the passing over of the soul, mediumship. The developing individual will have to do battle with the phantoms of the material world. This card shows that an indirect but natural path to spiritual attainment is taken. There is gradual perception and many phases of what is considered reality. Life is cyclic and the Moon shows the pushing forth of life and energy just as life must burst from the womb. It is a dualistic universe through which the spirit functions and this must always be taken into consideration.

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:

A crisis of faith, morals and ethics lost, purpose has lost its meaning. There are religious disputes and the mental attitude is easily unbalanced. There is a difficult but stimulating adventure; for some, long water and land journeys. Much will be gained through travel, but many difficulties may arise along the way if you deviate from your course. The Moon shows a challenge to rise above pride and war to bring co-operation and peace to

life. Concerning higher study and writing, this card tells of progress providing one item (subject) is dealt with at a time.

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

There is a compulsion to step off the Path and resort to emotion, greed and selfishness. There is much frustration in ones career with many things beyond your control. You must lift yourself by your own merits for nothing comes easy. This is a time when one is on the brink of an important change and there arise promises of victory over the material world, however, beware for the power of material forces can be deceptive. The Moon advises one step at a time in any given direction. Goals are generally materialistic, but for some, spiritual power. However, goals will not be reached yet.

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 this card depicts the lunatic, but who is to judge what madness is; could it be we are all mad. There is a strong influence by the surrounding environment and repression from Society or groups is indicated; war-like behaviour among factions and limitation of boundaries is indicated. Nevertheless under the above matters an end is near, where human or other faculties have reached their uttermost limit and one must discard all senses, offering themselves completely to a non-rational influence of an inward guiding light. There are problems of not being able to see the wood for the trees.

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 Moon alludes to those who are secretive, who do not reveal anything of themselves, reflecting the images of others. It represents the bondage of the psycho-physiological consciousness of the animal man. There is secretiveness under the above matters and friends may become enemies. It is purely a matter of survival with the strongest and most cunning surviving. Health wise, it shows the activity of natural forces

on the body. Karmically one meets many who are working out their karma; the danger is getting entangled up in their karma which would have not necessarily effect you. Try to remain neutral and focus on your own light.

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MEDITATION ON THE MOON:

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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