

LESSON 129

LAST JUDGEMENT .

The Golden Dawn version is much in the traditional mode of the Marseilles although there have been certain alterations to suit the Order's teachings. As a trump, the Last Judgement is firmly rooted in the beliefs from Revelations, especially Chapter 20, vs 12-14: 'And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God; and the other books were opened: and another book was opened: which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of these things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.' The angel sounding the trumpet also relates to revelations and was the manner in which the herald of the Last Judgement would come.

Of this card Mathers said: 'The last Judgement with an angel blowing a trumpet and the Dead rising from their tombs - but its meaning is far more occult and recondite than this for it is a glyph of the powers of Fire. The Angel encircled by the rainbow, whence leap coruscations of Fire, and crowned with the Sun, represents MICHAEL, the Great Archangel, the ruler of Solar Fire. The Serpents which leap in the rainbows are symbols of the Fiery Seraphim. The Trumpet represents the influence of the Spirit descending from BINAH, while the Banner with the Cross refers to the Four Rivers of Paradise and the letters of the Holy Name.'

'He is also AXIEROS, the first Samothracian Kabri, as well as Zeus and Osiris. The left hand figure below rising from the Earth is Samael, the ruler of Volanic Fire. He is also AXIOKERSOS, the Second Kabir, Pluto and Typhon. The right hand figure below is ANAEL, the ruler of the Astral Light. She is also AXIOKERSA, the Third Kabri, Ceres and Persephone, Isis and Nephthys. She is, therefore, represented in duplicate form, and rising from the waters. Around both these figures dart flashes of Lightning. These three principle figures form the Fire Triangle, and further represent the Fire operating in the other Three Elements of Earth, Air, and Water.'

'The central lower figure with his back turned, and his arms in the Sign of the Two equals Nine, is AREAL, the ruler of latent heat. He is rising from the Earth as if to receive the properties

of the other three. He is also KASMILLOS, the candidate in the Samothracian Mysteries, and the Horus of Egypt. He rises from the rock-hewn cubical Tomb and he also alludes to the Candidate who traverses the Path of Fire. The three lower figures represent the Hebrew letter SHIN, to which Fire is especially referred. The seven Hebrew Yods allude to the Sephiroth operating in each of the Planets and to the Schemphamporesch'.

In the 3=8 Theoricus Ritual, of the 31st Path of Shin more information is given as to the actions of this card through the speeches given to the candidate, this should be studied to gain further meanings to this trump. Mathers built the central triangle in the card around the actions of the Kabiri. The First Kabir equates to Will and Intellect, he forces Fire forward into Fire and relates to the actions of the apex of the Fire triangle. The Second Kabir represents Fire both Volcanic and Terrestrial, he relates to Fire raging and whirling and this equates with the Left Basel Angle of the Triangle. The Third Kabir relates to the Right Basel Angel of the Triangle and Astral Fire - the Fire of Life itself. Combined, these represent the power of the Intellect, Mind and Soul which are said to unite in the symbolic form of a Lion. The triangle in the card is in fact a solid triangular pyramid and is formed of 4 triangles (from a birds-eye view) 3 visible and one concealed. Three have already been named but the fourth and invisible one, has its three angles representing Latent Heat - AUD, active - AUB, passive - AUR respectively.

Westcott gives us the answer as to who these mysterious Kabir were: 'Kaberia: A very ancient system of Mysteries existed among the Islands of the Aegean sea, and chiefly at Samothrace. This district was inhabited by the Pelasgians, a race of Indio Germanic type which preceded the Greeks. The Samothracians performed the mysteries called the Kabeiria, in honour of a group of Dieties - the Kabeiri - consisting of Axieros, Axiokersos, Axiokersa and the novice was called Kasmillos. The ceremony took place yearly and lasted 9 days. Personal virtuous conduct was demanded, and a form of absolution of sins was granted. The Initiated wore a purple ribborn around their necks as a talisman...Macrobius tells us that these festivals were performed at the Vernal Equinox, and that the symbolism referred to the Sun in Autumn and Spring-time.'

When these rituals were written the Golden Dawn had not heard of Pluto but after its discovery the rituals of the Stella Matutina and the Alpha et Omega included the dual association of Fire and Pluto to this card, with the former being dropped in favour of the latter (The Court cards taking over their original elemental roles). The association to Pluto here is a very exact one and hardly differs at all from the main meaning of the card when its esoteric meaning is considered, for Pluto is the planet

of both Death and Rebirth.

The rainbow from which Michael emerges is based on the diagram of the 7 heavens of Assiah (shown in the 3-8 grade) and this part of the Ritual should be studied carefully in relation to this card for like this diagram, it has a lot of hidden depth. The seven Yods emitted from the Trumpet represents not only the heralding of the Last Judgement but also the 7 basic spirits. The modern viewpoint is that they stand for the 7 tone vibrations that open all levels of development and when applied to the body of man relates to the 7 main spinal chakras. (For a western perspective on how these relate with the Sephiroth applied to the body of man see 'Beyond the Middle Pillar' by Regardie).

The triangle, 7 Yods, and circular eye from which the angel emerges are coloured in the Paprika Red of the King Scale and the sky background is the complementary translucent green. The sea is coloured Copper Red of the Queen Scale, in its translucent colour. The bodies are coloured in the translucent Venetian Red of the Prince Scale and the earth is in the Russet Red rayed Green of the Princess Scale. The letter Shin is in the King Scale with a translucent border around it to distinguish it clearly from the background. The angels wings and tunic and hair are also coloured in the King Scale with his wings having flashes of complementary Green through them for the feather outlines. His skin is the translucent complementary Green of the King Scale while his trumpet is the translucent Paprika Red of the King Scale as is the cross on the white banner. The aura emanating from the bodies is translucent white. The main coffin from which the central lower figure emerges is in the complementary Green to the King Scale as are the snakes in the upper eye of the heavens.

The title of this card 'Spirit of Primal Fire' and this relates to the basic essence of fire itself taken on a variety of levels as outlined in the card.

The psychological mode of consciousness that this card represents is that of an individual who has completely changed or repolarised his whole essence towards spirituality. The levels of consciousness applied here has really passed the individual stage as it is part of a mass movement or goal towards spirituality which the individual is caught up in. This brings more self awareness of man and his place in the cosmos. The main thing is that the individual must face his or her weaknesses and try to win over them for there can be no running away from things, it is confrontation time with the self. Because of this fact a complete transformation in character then occurs.

The alchemical meaning of this card is 'Multiplication' which is well described in relationship to this card from an

alchemical text: 'The waters when they come, awake bodies and the spirits that are imprisoned and weak. For they again undergo oppression and are enclosed in Hades and yet in a little while they grow and rise up and rejoice in the spring and baptism of the waters. For I tell you who are wise when you take plants, elements and stones in their places they appear to you to be nature. But they are not nature until Fire has treated them. When they are clad in their glory from the Fire and the shining colour of it being transformed to the divine state of fusion. For things are nourished in the fire and the embryo grows little by little, nourished as in its Mothers womb and when the appointed month comes near is not held back from coming out. The waves and surges, one after another is Hades wound them in the tomb where they lie. When the tomb is open, they come out of Hades like a babe from the womb'. This is a description of the alchemical rebirth. The cross on the trumpet of the angel is that of the rectified four elements. This rectification is when spirit has been impregnated into the elements (usually termed minerals in this instance).

This card is numbered 20 and is double the decad, which relates to perfection twice over or the rebirth of things. The first cycle of ten is the initial stage while the second shows the perfection of the work through trial and error.

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### DIVINATION

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

If you receive the card Judgement in this position a definite decision or step must be taken in your life. This is a time when ones sense of self will be totally changed - even to the extent of changing ones external appearance. There is a tendency to feel alienated hence one is defensive, perhaps secretive and protective. This card shows an intensive person with strong powers of concentration. A trauma is experienced which will cause a change of values. Room is made (must be made) for new growth, that will radically destroy obstacles.

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:

Economic issues affect daily life, however, life will not be uncomplicated or ordinary. In this position, Judgement shows that equilibrium is destroyed under the above matters. It alludes to extremes (wealth or poverty), and loss of what is important in your life (if it be materialistic). You must find an inner worth instead of external security. Judgement also shows that a government or country has a strong influence in shaping the world - the non-essential is cut out - what is of little value becomes of worth and what is of worth loses its value. Its energy is compulsiveness.

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

In this position Judgement shows that there is no mistake in communication of a matter, the situation is clear; thorough communication. There is an aim to penetrate the ordinary limits of mind, body and relationship. One must get to the heart of a matter. For some, tormenting secrets from childhood, or anger with family comes to the surface and is resolved. Having a powerful mind leads to the danger of obsessiveness. You must keep things in perspective. Judgement refers to one being sent away, or leaving the neighbourhood, which gives one a feeling of banishment; the opinions and love of others is important. The imagination is overactive.

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:

The emotional depths of psychological life is deeply affected by battles, upheavals etc., in the home. There is a wilfulness and obstinacy, the home atmosphere is strict, a father ominous. A total reorientation of the self is needed (takes place) in feelings about self. There are unresolved matters which hang below the level of consciousness and these must be faced, otherwise you (or a country) will suppress feelings and urges, becoming a walking timebomb. After breakage (breakdown) there is re-valuation, hidden resources give strength and the self (or buildings etc) are rebuilt. Endings are final, and dramatic, but once all is over there is a great sense of relief.

ON MATTERS OF love given; creativity of selfhood; the creative

will; children; entertainment; recreation; speculation; sports; the arts; gambling; fulfilling potentiality:

Here Judgement shows someone (people or countries) standing up to be counted - the desire to be special, loved or just accepted. The ego is powerful. Under the above matters all deeds are evaluated and judgement is made on merit. Expression is given to creative works and new areas are pioneered. Children cause a life changing effect, realisation of ones age perhaps. If negatively aspected there is abortion issues, miscarriage, grieving. If positively aspected there is pregnancy and birth. Over-dominat- ion of a child might cause the child to radically break with a parent, however for some, Judgement shows a strong relationship between parent and child. Romances, love affairs end - reality prevails.

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

For some, health problems finally end; for others however, its time the root cause was located and treated. Judgement also refers to psychosomatic illness. It represents dedicated workers, completed jobs to full satisfaction and a feeling of an end where a phase in your life is over. Jobs will be assessed and effi- ciency or existing methods will be judged. You may be leaving your work or receiving redundancy. If negatively aspected there may be an accident or illness which will cause irrevocable damage. A compulsion to serve and help others is strong, but try to serve yourself as well for the sake of your health and growth. A health problem may be instrumental in changing your life.

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:

Through destruction and the trauma of letting go, a new life begins. Marriage and close relationships play a dominant role in ones life which can also help you in your personal transforma- tion. However, relationships never run smoothly, with strong emotional upheavals. For those separating or divorced, there will be no going back. For those married, marriage causes a complete change in ones life and you must be prepared to accept this if the marriage is to last. Some attract in a partner what they haven't resolved in themselves, thus they get a taste of their own medicine. If there is difficulty letting go under the above matters, lifes circumstances will force you to let go.

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:

On a personal level, Judgement shows a compulsion to influence others through whatever means available, however, it would be better to channel such energy into yourself for your own transformation. On a large scale it shows an external overpowering influencing force on the masses. Financially (businesswise), power is on hand, contracts are influential, and there are hidden resources (wealth); partnerships may have power struggles - all cards must be laid on the table. For some in this position there is a death wish (to break all limited boundaries). There may be a narrow escape with death which causes a reassessment of life. Judgement also shows raw sexual energy, for some a preoccupation with sex.

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:

When Judgement is in this position the will to find meaning in life must be invoked. It shows long journies and a journey from which one may not return. Religious and philosophical views are strong and serious; a search for the truth may lead one through profound experiences which will reorientate your philosophies, or, through an experience, beliefs will be torn apart, leaving despair and depression until a re-awakening. On a public note there are the few who try to convert the many to their beliefs. This card shows those who are very much involved in the here and now and many conflicts and challenges dominate current affairs.

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

On a large universal scale this card represents power at all cost. On a personal level Judgement shows someone who needs to be better than others, to have a position of authority. What one wants and what one gets, however, are two totally different things, fortunately for some. There is a reaction towards authority, and a time for evaluation of life's motives, values, goals. This evaluation however can be painful and cause some to

psychologically withdraw from facing facts, as the results tend to be a fate-compli. Fate must be faced or you will be forever repeating your lessons. If you can face fate you will arise out of the ashes like a phoenix. Countries are only as strong as their population and allies.

ON MATTERS OF friends; income; social alliances; legislation; ones attitude; group activities; government, counsellors; love received; spiritual and intellectual aspirations; ideals; fulfillment; what you yield and how you benefit others:

Reformation of outdated methods and institutions is depicted by Judgement here; it's time to rise from the dust of the past. Views are reformed, a direction is changed, goals examined for their usefulness. Concerning friends, you must examine your reasons for forming friendships - possible betrayal. The meaning of life is sought: this must be found in contribution to a greater whole such as a cause or group. Although you may feel difficult in group activities, it will benefit you to break down barriers for greater transformation. Psychology groups - group therapy. This card also represents here a day or time of judgement for one or all.

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 judgement shows hidden changes which are facilitated on on the level of the Collective Unconscious; the accumulated emotions and sins of a collective society bursting to the surface revealing an unguided energy. This energy must be given direction or diffused, for crises can be transformed into productivity. Those in prison are best to use their time for personal growth; avoid self-persecution and guilt complexes - this is a time to resolve all issues and stand up to be judged. Judgement also shows dream analysis, therapy etc., which can release trapped energy (unconscious complexes) which then should be converted to strengthening the whole self. Some suffer the death-anxiety complex, due to fear of change and suppressing their own inner powers.

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MEDITATION ON JUDGEMENT:

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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