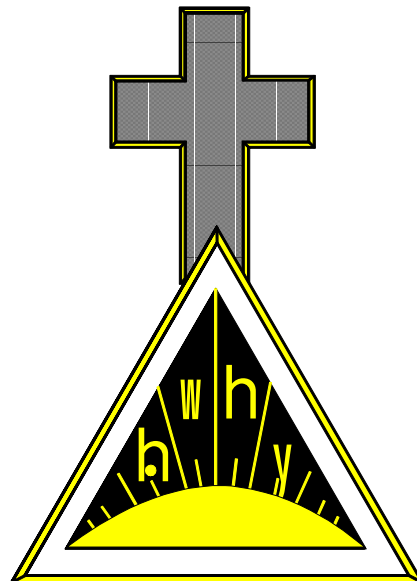


The Hermetic Order Of The  
**GOLDEN DAWN** Intl.

**MAJOR ARCANA SERIES**

**SUN / PATH OF r**

**The Guide for Understanding  
The Major Arcana**



**PRACTICUS 3 = 8**

*(The following description of the Sun Card is taken from the Practicus Initiation):*

"The 19th Key of the Tarot symbolically resumes these ideas. The Sun has twelve principle rays which represent the twelve signs of the zodiac. They are alternatively waved and salient, as symbolizing the alternation of the masculine and feminine nature. These are again subdivided into thirty-six rays representing the thirty-six Decanates, or sets of ten degrees, in the zodiac, and these again into seventy-two typifying the seventy-two Quinaries, or sets of five degrees, and the seventy-two fold name Schemhamporesch.

Thus, the Sun itself embraced the whole creation in its rays. The seven Hebrew Yods on each side falling through the air refer to the Solar influence descending. The wall is the circle of the zodiac and the stones are its various degrees and divisions. The two children standing respectively on Water and Earth represent the generating influence of both brought into action by the rays of the Sun. They are the two inferior and passive elements, as the Sun and the Air above them are the superior and active elements of Fire and Air. Furthermore, these two children resemble the sign Gemini, which unites the earthly sign of Taurus with the watery sign of Cancer. This sign was by the Greeks and Romans referred to Apollo, or the Sun."

## **Esoteric Information**

The Sun card is the path of r. The path color is orange, the planet is Sol, and the meaning of r is head. The esoteric title of this card is "The Lord of the Fire of the World." The path of r, the Sun card, connects dīw (Splendor) with dīwš (Foundation) and it is the first path of the personality triad to be encountered. The Sun is described in the Thirty-two Paths of Wisdom as the collecting intelligence. This means that it controls a number of various components. Those components refer to the signs of the zodiac, which are symbolized by the twelve rays of the Sun. You might want to consider the twelve rays as the twelve guideposts of the personality and receptacles of planetary influence. Moreover, the Sun has a primary influence of the birth and life course of each incarnation. When astrologers deduct a natal horoscope, the very first and most important sign of the astrological natal chart is the Sun sign. The sign you were born under means where that sign was in relationship to the Sun at the time of your birth. Thus, we can conclude the Sun is vital to the incarnation at hand, but also acts as a link between personalities which have been experienced in other incarnations.

The path of r, the path of the Sun, symbolized by the head, is an intellectual path. To be more succinct about it, the path of r is of the highest level of human intellect, just as the Star card is of the highest emotional level. These two cards are balanced by the path of p, referring to the Blasted Tower. The Tower card is really a combination of these two paths. MacGregor Mathers calls the path of the Sun and r "The Splendor of the Material World". If you consider that the Sun is really the head of

our solar system, and that the solar system, particularly the planet Earth, is the body, then this particular passage will make more sense to you.

It is not uncommon on the path of  $r$ , the Sun card, to find the four elements and the signs of the zodiac and all the planets being involved under the influence of Sol. This is symbolized by the hexagram. The hexagram is a symbol that means perfect integration of the personality and the Higher Self. Let us not confuse the personality or the soul (Ruach) with the Higher Self. The Tree of Life shows this as the interaction of the Astral and Ethical Triangles.

The path of  $r$  is initiatory. We can conclude that the Sun is very profound and has a deep strong influence on the personality, particularly in pathworking, for it is an introduction to the inner Sun which is the light of the personality just as the physical Sun is the light of the material world. We must also realize that the Sun, though it provides warmth and light, also provides the opposite as attributed by the *Sepher Yetzirah*, "The Book of Formation." Fertility and barrenness reminds us that the same Sun illuminates and can help aid in growth which can also burn us to a crisp. Thus, it is very important in working this particular path and in meditating on the Sun card to understand that this path is a path of intellectual light in life, but it can also be a path of severe destruction.

One of the most serious and common mistakes which can be made is to divorce our physical body from the power which created it and functions through it. Of course the Sun, as we say in many of the Golden Dawn rituals, is the "Visible Dispenser of Light to the Earth." Without it we have no physical body; we therefore cannot survive. This is a crucible of the Alchemist, and the Sun is a symbol of the alchemical process of turning inner lead into gold. It is not uncommon in this process to find people who have seriously worked the path of  $r$  and the Sun card to literally have new skin, new eyes, new hair, a new personality, concepts, etc., all in one body. This is an integration of the Higher Spirit with the personality coming into being as one unit, found through the intellectual path of  $r$  and the Sun.

As we have mentioned many times, each person through his own perceptions essentially creates his own Qabalah. Seventy percent of the Qabalah is an inward experience that cannot be written on paper as a standard form. The Sun card is a critical path in the development of the individual Qabalah. More important, it is on this path that we receive acceptance and imprint from those beings who direct the inner learning, growth and experience of the aspirant of the path. Working the path of  $r$ , regarding the alchemical change that takes place on this particular path of turning lead into gold, is a prerequisite for Adept hood and for a major change that takes place in Tiphareth. This is also a path where inner guides or teachers point out the way to us and guide us in the physical plane and the material world, simply because this path is connected to  $dwh$  as well. In addition, this path is an awakening path, a realization path, realization of the use of the tremendous sexual power of  $dwsy$ . It is on this path that we can discover in our pathworking, and our meditations, the great sexuality and the great secret power or force manipulated by the initiates of the Mysteries.

We know that  $\text{dwsy}$  is represented by the Moon. It is also represented by sexuality (Nephesch). It is the producer of Ruach Elohim energy, the ebbing and flowing Astral light beneath our material existence. On the other hand we have  $\text{dwh}$ , which is Mercurial in nature and refers to intellect. Thus, we have strong intellect connected with strong sexual currents from  $\text{dwsy}$ . The path of the Sun is considered developmental from the point of childhood of the emerging personality as it builds towards a new incarnation. As we travel upwards from the base of the Tree of Life, into the 30th path of  $r$ , we discover a new innocence; we are literally innocent again. It is almost as if we are growing younger, a process of backwards birth, until we can reach a point where there is a reconciliation of the source from which we emerge. The Golden Dawn, basically follows the Marseilles version and shows nude children in a garden enclosed by a wall; one is standing on earth, while the other is standing on water. These are the purest expressions of positive male and female principles in incarnation, interwoven as in the Chinese Yin and Yang.

We can also see the relationship of Sol to the zodiac and its importance as indicated by the twelve rays of the Golden Dawn Tarot deck. The zodiac relates to Chokmah from which it ultimately derives. Even in the rays, with a sort of wavy appearance they take on the alternating female and male currents. We also see in the G.H. Frater S.R.M.D. version of the Golden Dawn card ten flowers to represent the totality of the Tree of Life. In a divinatory reading, the Sun card is symbolized by glory, gain, by riches. However, it may also symbolize arrogance and a display of vanity, but only when negative cards surrounds it or when it is inverted.