

TAROT INTERPRETATION

Lesson Fourteen

THE SECRET OF POWER

THE TABLEAU for this week is:

4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12

In this arrangement, Key 8 is the pivot around which the tableau revolves. The same Keys may be so arranged as to form a magic square in which the sum of the horizontal, vertical and diagonal rows will be the same. In this magic square, Key 8 remains at the center, but the order of the other Keys is changed, as follows:

7	12	5
6	8	10
11	4	9

Similar treatment of the tableaux given in Lessons 10 to 13 produces the following magic squares:

3	8	1	4	9	2	5	10	3	6	11	4
2	4	6	3	5	7	4	6	8	5	7	9
7	0	5	8	1	6	9	2	7	10	3	8

Eliphas Levi says: "The Tarot alone interprets the magic squares of Agrippa and Paracelsus, as we may satisfy ourselves by forming these same squares with the Keys of the Tarot, and reading off the hieroglyphs thus collected.

“By adding each of the columns of these squares, you will obtain invariably the characteristic number of the planet, and, finding the explanation of this number by the hieroglyphs of the Tarot, you proceed to seek the sense of all the figures . . . The result of this operation will be a complete and profound acquaintance with all the allegories and mysteries concealed by the ancients under the symbol of each planet, or rather of each personification of the influences, celestial or terrestrial, upon all the events of life.” (Ritual of Transcendental Magic, CHAPTER 2.)

As usual, Levi wrote one thing here for the instructed and another for the uninitiated. What he left out of his explanation is that only two planets have magic squares which can be represented by Tarot Keys. These are the planets Saturn and Jupiter.

A magic square of Saturn contains nine numbers, and a magic square of Jupiter has sixteen numbers. In a square of Mars there are twenty-five numbers; a square of the Sun includes thirty-six; a square of Venus has forty-nine; a square of Mercury numbers sixty-four; and a square of the Moon includes eighty-one.

Since there are only twenty-two Tarot Keys, no magic square containing more than sixteen numbers can be formed with these Keys.

You will get next to nothing from this information unless you put the Keys before you in the positions indicated. Then, instead of trying consciously to puzzle out what they mean, simply let your eyes take in what they see.

When you get the knack of this, you will find your mind has a tendency toward a state resembling a brown study, or reverie. All at once, while you sit looking at the Keys there will be an uprush of perception. Not always a perception of what the Tarot combination, as a group of symbols signifies, or anything of that sort, but often you will find that your mind seems to come alive in some particular way. An idea flashes out. Record it immediately in your notebook. This prevents loss of many treasures.

Following the regular course of this instruction, the groups of Keys selected for this lesson are: 4, 8, 12; 5, 8, 11; 6, 8, 10; 7, 8, 9; 4, 5, 6; and 10, 11, 12. These will be used in connection with the daily meditations.

The fact that subhuman forces of nature are at all times under the full domination of human subconsciousness is the great secret of practical occultism represented by Key 8. Remember, this control is a present reality no matter what appearances may be. Even though subhuman forces appear to act adversely, their reaction is an automatic response to states of your subconsciousness. Change the latter and the reactions change also.

This law of subconsciousness . . . that everything below the level of human life expression reacts automatically to human subconscious states . . . is the secret of our power over

conditions. The character of our human subconscious states is determined by the quality of our reasoning. When we reason correctly, so that our estimates of external conditions and of our relation to them, conform to the universal Constituting Intelligence symbolized by the Emperor, then forces which have seemed inimical are transformed into allies.

This perception does not lead to our giving up action or the responsibility to act. It does not result in quietism. It involves no loss of interest in life. It does not make us withdraw from active participation in human affairs. On the contrary, it makes our days more interesting than before, and we find ourselves accomplishing far more with less effort than we did when we supposed we had it all to do ourselves.

No matter how long you have been trying to do things the wrong way, the whole course of nature begins to work in your favor as soon as you begin **letting** things be done the right way. It stays in your favor, just as long as you retain the right mental attitude. (Keys 4, 8, 12).

To maintain the right attitude becomes much easier when you have accustomed yourself to listen regularly to the Inner Voice. The more often you take your problems to the Hierophant, the sooner will you become vividly aware of his guidance. Take the little problems as well as the big ones. Build up in your mind, by repeated practice, a confident expectation of being guided aright in all things.

Instead of running to human beings for advice, seek the counsel of the Great Teacher. You will be delighted to find how quickly the response comes.

“In quietness and confidence shall be your strength,” is absolutely true. Invariably obey what the Inner Voice suggests, and even the most threatening appearances of antagonism will be transformed into actual aids to your progress and to the realization of your desires.

You will find yourself gaining continually in poise as your faith in the Intelligence behind all manifestation deepens through your daily contact with it. Don't wait for great occasions. Don't wait until you are in serious difficulties. Seek guidance always, even when you think you know what to do. When you think you know, it is always better to ask the Inner Voice whether or not your own view is correct. You will be surprised at first to find that this procedure often gives you a second thought far better than your first opinion.

One of the commonest reasons for apparent failure to demonstrate is that we try to “go it alone.” By so doing we slip back into the old error that we are living of and by ourselves. Thus the habit of seeking confirmation or correction from the Inner Teacher, the habit of asking simply, “Am I right about this?” and then acting in accord with the decision of the Inner Voice, even when it says “No,” is a habit which makes for success in all sorts of demonstration. (Keys 5, 8, 11).

When, by the establishment of such habits as have been outlined, the two modes or facets of personal consciousness . . . i.e. the conscious and the subconscious . . . are balanced in relation to each other and also in relation to superconsciousness, the automatic response of the subhuman levels of the Life-power's activity produce the results pictured by the sphinx in Key 10. The ever changing flow of circumstances which seem to pass through one's field of experience no longer sweep one away by this or that condition. This is difficult to describe. Though the wheel turns, one does not turn with it. And we become aware that its turning works out for good. (Keys 6, 8, 10).

Similarly, our vivid awareness that human personality is but a vehicle for the cosmic life has a tremendous transforming power at subconscious levels. For what is shown in Key 7 is, in one respect, the idea that the true Self **is even now** all that our hearts desire. It therefore has now, and does now, all that we desire to have and do.

When this idea takes full possession of us, it becomes evident that nothing whatever in nature can be inimical to us. Note that when this idea becomes evident to us at the conscious level of our thought and speech, it is automatically transmitted to subconsciousness by way of the memory record. (Keys 7, 8, 9).

Right reasoning concerning the place of personality in its relation to the superconscious life results in the awakening of the inner hearing which puts us in touch with the Hierophant. When we measure correctly our place in the cosmic order, the right reasoning is transmitted to subconsciousness. The latter responds to it with changes in the organism which enable us to become aware of higher levels of our inner being. Then we hear internally. When we obey what we thus hear, we establish a balance and harmony between the conscious and subconscious on the one hand, and the superconscious on the other. The superconscious state, as we know, is a level of life and expression above that which is enjoyed by the human personality. This is shown by the Lovers. (Keys 4, 5, 6).

Our awareness of the true relation of personality to the cosmic order enables us to realize that these personal activities are all really phases or aspects of a universal process. As we deepen our awareness of this truth, our faith grows and we become ever more confident that Divine Justice is at work in the utter self-surrender pictured by the Hanged Man. (Keys 10, 11, 12).

MEDITATIONS

FIRST DAY: Keys 4, 8, 12. The Divine Order is established in my life today. All forces of subconsciousness work together for my good. I yield myself completely to the universal life, of which I am a reflection. The Power that frames the universe is my strength, and on that Power I place my sole dependence.

SECOND DAY: Keys 5, 8, 11. Every moment of my life is under guidance from above. Under this guidance, even those forces which appear to be my adversaries are really working

for me. I am calm and confident this day in the steadfast assurance that perfect justice is established in all the circumstances of my life. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is a recognition of Eternal Justice.

THIRD DAY: Keys 6, 8, 10. Through reflective power of my subconscious mind, my whole life is filled with light from above. The mighty forces of subconsciousness are at work to fulfill my heart's desire. For I desire nothing but to reflect the perfect manifestation of the universal order through my life. I am free from delusions of false knowledge, strong through the perfect coordination of all the forces of my subconsciousness, successful because my life is a conscious expression of the universal life which cannot fail.

FOURTH DAY: Keys 7, 8, 9. The Master of the universe directs my thoughts and words to deeds of victory. I have dominion over every force in nature. For I am essentially one with the Single Identity which governs all. The Presence of the Most High dwells within me. The Power of the Almighty works through me. I rejoice that even now I have my heart's desire.

FIFTH DAY: Keys 4, 5, 6. I open myself to the influx of the Divine Reason which sets all things in right relationships. I listen always for the Inner Voice that teaches me the secrets of liberation. My subconsciousness is filled with the light of spiritual understanding. The heavenly vision is mine, the instruction of Divine Wisdom guides my thoughts and words. The illumination of Pure Spirit shows me the glory of the Perfect Law, this day.

SIXTH DAY: Keys 10, 11, 12. Not the least act, or word, or thought of mine but has its cosmic significance. Every detail of my experience is an adjustment of my personality for the more perfect expression of the power of the One Life. On that Life I depend utterly. The One Spirit works through me to establish perfect justice and to release me from every form of bondage.