

Tarot & Kabbalah in the Gnostic Tradition – Notes 27

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The Verbs, the Motto, and the Conditions for the Magician

« SAVOIR, OSER, VOULOIR, SE TAIRE, voilà les quatre verbes du mage... »

TO KNOW, TO DARE, TO WILL, TO KEEP QUIET, here are the four verbs of the magus, inscribed upon the four symbolic forms of the sphinx. These four verbs can be combined together in four ways and explain each other four times (see the Tarot).

– from Ch. 1 of *Dogma of High Magic* (1854) by Eliphas Levi

“Querer – Poder – Osar y Callar es la divisa del Mago.”

To Want (or Will) - To Be Able (or Capable) - To Dare and To Keep Quiet is the motto of the Magician.

– from Lesson 7 in *Course of Kabbalah* (1936) by Huiracocha

“Las cuatro condiciones que se necesitan para ser mago son las siguientes: Saber SUFRIR, Saber CALLAR, Saber ABSTENERSE y Saber MORIR”

The four conditions needed in order to be a magician are the following: To Know How TO SUFFER, To Know How TO BE QUIET, To Know How TO ABSTAIN and To Know How TO DIE.

– from Ch. 1 of *Manual of Practical Magic* (1954) by Samael Aun Weor

The Symbolic Forms and the Minor Arcana According to Eliphas Levi

From the kabalistic point of view, the Tarot is a hieroglyphic book composed of a kabalistic alphabet [22] and a wheel (or circle) of 4 decades [4 x 10], specified by 4 symbolic and typical figures, each having (for its ray) a ladder of 4 progressive figures [4 x 4, this refers to the “Court Cards”] representing Humanity: man, woman, youth and child; or master, mistress, soldier and page/valet...

The figures of the 4 suits (the Clubs, Cups, Swords, and Pentacles) are the hieroglyphs of the tetragram יהוה : the Club is the Egyptian phallus or Hebrew Yod ך ; the Cup is the cteis or primitive Heh ה ; the Sword is the conjunction of both (or the lingam) represented in Hebrew before the captivity by Vau ך ; and the Pentacle, image of the world, is the final Heh ה .

The 22 letters and 10 numbers give the 32 paths of the *Sepher Yetzirah*: 4 gives the Merkabah (מרכבה or chariot of Ezekiel). The 4 elementary and astronomical signs are the 4 forms of the sphinx and the 4 animals of Ezekiel and of saint John... As for the numbers from 1-10, you will find their explanation repeated 4 times with the symbols of the Club (or scepter of the father), the Cup (or delights of the mother), the Sword (or battle of love), and the Pentacles (or fecundity).

	Clubs/Wands	Cups	Swords	Pentacles/Coins
Element & Animal	Earth/Bull	Water/Man	Fire/Lion	Air/Eagle
Figures of Humanity	Man or Master	Woman or Mistress	Youth or Soldier	Child or Page/Valet
Tetragrammaton	Phallus or Yod ך	Cteis or Heh ה	Lingam or Vau ך	the World or final Heh ה
Explanation	Father's Scepter	Mother's Delights	Battle of Love	Fecundity

Each number, multiplied by a key, gives another number, which (explained in turn by the keys) completes the philosophical and religious revelation contained in each sign. Thus, Arcanum 1 (the key of unities) explains the 4 Aces with their quadruple progressive signification in the three worlds and in the first principle. Therefore, the Ace of Pentacles is “the soul of the world”; the Ace of Swords is “militant intelligence”; the Ace of Cups is “magnetizing intelligence”; the Ace of Clubs is “creative intelligence”; they are further the principles of movement, progress, fecundity and power.

The Motto and the Minor Arcana According to Huiracocha

The Clubs, green sticks, or Spears/Lances, represent the vegetative life or the first years of life, wherein resides the volitional agent. In the Cup resides the power (the capacity or ability to do) and with it we receive the soul, through spiritual nourishment (this is the second time that we educate ourselves). Our body is a Cup or Grail that must always be ready and open to receive what the higher worlds want to put into it. Therefore, we need to take care of our body in order to be clean & pure and in order to receive superior influences, streams or teachings.

In this way, we are able to continue on with the daring of the Sword. The disciple of Magic must have daring, but not be reckless; always facing the danger, but not going into battle unarmed. The Sword is for defense. We should never be alone in the fight, but rather always evoking the help of the superior planes. Now that we are secure in life and armed with instruction, we can conquer with the Sword in hand: in order to finally attain victory, acquiring the prize, the Spiritual Gold represented by the Pentacles. These Golden Pentacles are related with the Sun and with the Eucharistic Host (which demands respect, silence: KEEPING QUIET). The Pentacles teach us that the intellect must convert itself into Wisdom.

Summary: 1. Clubs – Volition: the Initiative or Beginning of life; 2. Cups – Power/Capacity: Reception from the higher worlds; 3. Swords – Daring: to Fight by evoking the help of the superior planes; 4. Pentacles – Keeping Quiet (Respect): Spiritual Gold, converting the intellect into Wisdom

The 4 Elements and the Minor Arcana According to Samael Aun Weor

We have arrived at the conclusion that: all Kabalah is reduced to the 22 Major Arcana of the Tarot and 4 Aces, which represent the 4 Elements of Nature. The Tarot is a book as ancient as the ages, and is intimately related with the Wisdom of the Planetary Gods. The 4 Aces signify the Elements of Nature:

THE ACE OF CLUBS SYMBOLIZES EARTH. THE ACE OF SWORDS SYMBOLIZES FIRE.
THE ACE OF CUPS SYMBOLIZES WATER. THE ACE OF PENTACLES SYMBOLIZES AIR.

The cards of the Tarot are the language of the Superior Worlds of Light. The cards of the Tarot are the Occult Wisdom of the Sidereal Gods. Many times the Sidereal Gods answer us by showing us a Tarot card; then we should intuitively comprehend the answer we have been given.

There are two kinds of Kabalists: Intellectual and Intuitive. The Intellectual Kabalists are Black Magicians; the Intuitive Kabalists are White Magicians. The Intuitive Kabalists understand everything with the Heart. The Intellectual Kabalists want to resolve everything with the Animal Mind. The Intuitive Kabalists are only guided by the Voice of Silence, the Intimus (the Being). By merely looking at a card of the Tarot, the Intuitive Kabalists comprehend what destiny reserves for them. The White Magician prays to the Gods, throws their cards on the table with eyes closed, and (beseeching their God) picks up a card, observes it, and makes the forecast with their intuition.

The 78 plates of the Tarot are like 78 ineffable Hieroglyphs shining in this pyramid of five angles called man $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$; the entire progress of the student is based on these numbers. The book of the Tarot is divided into 22 Major Arcana, and 56 Minor Arcana. **All the 56 plates of the Minor Arcana are based on the 4 Aces and on the 10 numbers of our decimal system.** In the 22 Major Arcana, for example, a 4 of Clubs is none other than Arcanum “4” (the Emperor) and the symbol of the Ace of Clubs repeated 4 times; the same thing happens with the rest of the 56 plates of the Minor Arcana. Intuitively interpret these cards combining the Natural Element with the Major Arcana and the problem is resolved. For example: a 6 of Pentacles would be interpreted by combining Arcanum 6 (Indecision or the Lovers) with the Element Air (or “Soul”), symbolized by the Pentacles; this would say: “A Love Affair”, and so on successively.