

Tarot & Kabbalah in the Gnostic Tradition – Notes 15

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Arcanum 12 – Lamed 𐤋

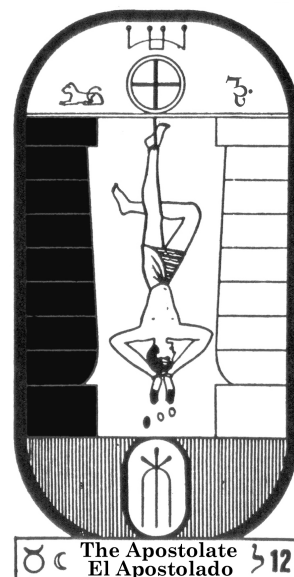
English: *The Hanged Man, The Apostolate.*

Spanish: *El Colgado*, meaning “hanging, dangling, suspended”. *El Apostolado*, meaning “apostleship, role of missionary or disciple”.

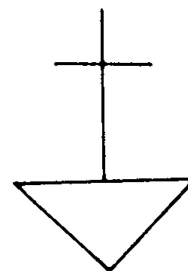
French: *Le Pendu*, meaning “hung or hanged [one]”.

Meaning: Much suffering and many struggles. SACRIFICE. Tests and pain. The Arcanum A.Z.F takes us out of the pain.

Transcendental Axiom: “ALTHOUGH THE SUN TIRES YOU BY DAY AND THE MOON SADDENS YOU BY NIGHT, DO NOT LET YOUR FEET SLIDE, NOR SLEEP WHEN YOU ARE ON GUARD.”

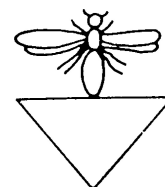


Explanation of the Card: In the Waters of Life is the PENTACLE OF SOLOMON, a variant on the Star of Six Points. The three upper points represent the Three Traitors of Hiram Abiff (the Internal Christ), JUDAS, PILATE AND CAIAPHAS (Desire, Mind and Ill-Will). In the middle are 2 columns each with 9 RUNGS - this is the Ninth Sphere (Sex); we should remember that there are 9 Heavens (the White Column) and 9 Infernal Regions (the Black Column). We have to descend a rung in order to ascend one. Between the 2 columns there is a man hanging by one foot with his hands tied together. With his feet he forms a cross, and with his arms, the INVERTED TRIANGLE. This figure represents that Sex dominates Reason; it is necessary to invert the symbol.



Related Explanation: The number 12 is the number of movement and of life: it is Perfect Movement. In heaven, 12 represents God and the science of God or his verb. God is 3, his verb is 9. In nature, 12 is 4 multiplied by 3, that is to say the form which is created and put into movement by the spirit. Twelve is the finished work, the work of Hercules accomplished, the consumption by the cross or sacrifice. It is the hieroglyphic sign of the elixir of life imprinted in the Tarot under the figure of the Hanged Man or Apostolate.

One often finds this sign in the priestly hieroglyphics of Egypt represented in the following manner [shown on the right]. This bee that comes out of its alveolus¹ is the soul which is born to the celestial life after having done its work upon the earth. It is the mystery of regeneration through death: the Great Work!



The Great Work is the creation of man by himself, that is to say: the complete and entire conquest of his faculties and his future. It is especially the perfect emancipation of his willpower, which assures him complete power over the universal magical agent. This magical agent (that the ancient philosophers called the "first matter") determines the forms of the modifiable substance. There are, then, two hermetic operations: one spiritual, the other material; and they dependent upon each other (“that which is above is like that which is below”).

¹ An ‘alveolus’ is a little cavity, pit, or cell, like the cell of a honeycomb

Practice 1

NON-IDENTIFICATION

The human being is a dormant machine: his consciousness is in dreams. If you want to awaken from the profound dream in which you live, then DO NOT identify yourself with pleasures, desires, emotions, dramas, and any of the scenes of your life, etc. Call yourself into vigilance in each step. Remember, good disciple, that people are dreaming: observe people and their dreams, analyze all of those dreams in which humanity lives, but do not identify yourself with those dreams in order for you to awaken.

People believe they are awake because they are not laying down, but they have their consciousness profoundly asleep and dreaming: everything that you see among the people is simply dreams. Remember that not identifying oneself with one's dreams does not mean to abandon your duties as a Father, a Mother or a Son/Daughter, etc. However, do not get identified. This is how you will awaken from the profound dream in which you live.

Practice 2

SELF-REALIZATION

You who seek INITIATION! You who read so much! You who live always seeking, always yearning, always longing: be sincere with yourself. Place your hand on your heart and answer these questions with sincerity: Have you realized yourself? What have you achieved? What have you attained with all your theories? **Whoever wants to Self-Realize needs the Revolution of Consciousness: Death-Birth-Sacrifice.** This is when we decapitate the "I", create the Solar Bodies, and incarnate the Being. Until we do this: we do not have a Real existence. Remember this phrase: "Gnosis lives in deeds, withers away in abstractions, and is difficult to find even in the noblest of thoughts."

They asked the master Bokujo: "Do we have to dress and eat daily? How could we escape from this?"

The master replied: "We eat, we get dressed."

"I do not comprehend," said the disciple.

"Then get dressed and eat," said the master.

Why think of other things while we are eating and getting dressed? **If you are eating, eat; if you are getting dressed, get dressed; and if you are walking down the street, walk, walk, walk, but do not think of something else, do only what you are doing,** do not run away from facts, do not fill them with so many meanings, symbols, sermons and warnings. Live them without allegories, live them with a receptive mind from instant to instant. Change your character, beloved brethren, change it through intelligent action, free from the battle of the opposites. When the doors are closed to fantasy, then the organ of intuition is awakened. Intuitive action, free of the battle of the opposites, leads us to the awakening of consciousness.

