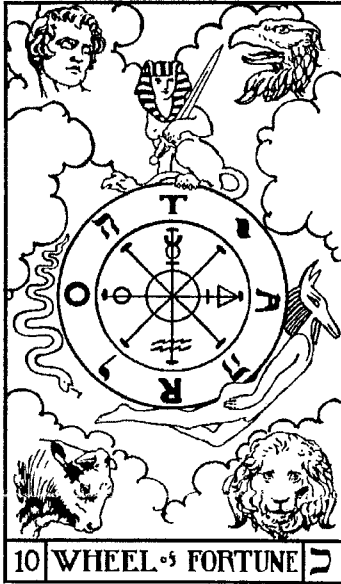


TAROT FUNDAMENTALS

Lesson Twenty-three

ROTATION



This version of Key 10 is a reproduction of the correct esoteric design. From it Eliphas Levi adapted the illustration in his *Ritual of the Sanctum Regnum*, which he drew to represent the Wheel of Ezekiel. Of this he wrote:

“The Wheel of Ezekiel is the type on which all the Pentacles of the Higher Magic are designed.

“When the adept is in the blessed possession of a full knowledge of the powers of the Seal of Solomon and of the virtues of the Wheel of Ezekiel, which is indeed correspondent in its entire symbolism with that of Pythagoras, he has sufficient experience to design talismans and Pentacles for any magical purpose.”

“The Wheel of Ezekiel contains the solution of the quadrature of the circle, and demonstrates the correspondence between

words and figures, letters and emblems; it exhibits the tetragram of characters analogous to that of the elements and elemental forms. It is a glyph of perpetual motion. The triple ternary is shown; the central point is the first Unity; three circles are added, each with four attributions, and the dodekad is thus seen. The state of universal equilibrium is suggested by the counterpoised emblems and the pairs of opposites. The flying Eagle balances the Man; the roaring Lion counterpoises the laborious Bull.”

In the Cube of Space, the letter Kaph and Key 10 correspond to the direction West. This is the face of the cube nearest the observer in diagrams like those in Lesson 18. Because nearest to us, this western face of the cube represents those events and circumstances which, at any given moment, **are in the immediate present.**

What surrounds us now, however, is the culmination of a stream of events coming out of the past. Thus the present situation represents the **end** of a cycle of preceding activities. For this reason the present moment is symbolized by the direction West, the place of sunset corresponding to the end of a day. In occultism generally, as in the first chapter of Genesis, the word “day” stands for any time-period.

By its space attribution, Key 10 is in contrast to Key 3, the Empress. The latter is the Tarot symbol of the direction East, the place of sunrise or dawn. It represents the first stages of a cycle of manifestation. Key 10 represents the culmination of a stream of events having their origin in what is pictured by the Empress.

Because there is a sense in which a whole series of events is continuous with its origin or cause, we may say that Key 10 is another aspect of the Empress. Thus we find that one of the names for Malkuth in Qabalah is Kallah, the Bride, while another is Malkah, the Queen. It is obvious that both these titles are applicable to the Empress.

The connecting link between East and West, in the cube symbolism, is a horizontal line joining the center of the eastern face to the center of the western face. To this line is attributed Mem, the second of the three Mother letters associated with the element of water and with Key 12. "Water" is the root matter, and the root matter is what links the origins represented by East to the consequences corresponding to West. Of this, more when we come to Key 12.

In the symbols of Key 10, the bull, eagle, lion and man are supported by clouds to remind us that Jove and Jupiter are gods of rain and lightning and thunder. The four animals are the ones mentioned in Ezekiel and in Revelation.

The lion corresponds to Yod (י) the first letter of יהוה, Jehovah. The eagle is the second letter of that name, Heh (ה). The man stands for the third letter, Vav (ו). The bull is the last letter, final Heh (ה).

These living creatures are related also to the four fixed signs of the zodiac. The lion is Leo, the eagle Scorpio, the man Aquarius, and the bull Taurus. These are the fifth, eighth, eleventh and second signs. Their numbers in the zodiacal series add to 26, which is the sum of the numeral values of the letters in the name יהוה, Jehovah.

These four creatures are shown in the arms of Freemasonry. On Key 10 they are placed in the corners of the design to illustrate the statement (quoted in Acts 17:28 from a hymn to Jupiter, written by the Greek poet, Cleanthes): "In him we live and move and have our being." The same thought is in these lines from THE KAIVALYA UPANISHAD:

"Within me the universe came into being;
Within me the universe is established;
Within me the universe passes away;
This Brahman, without a second,
I myself am It."

The number 10 is a combination of 0 and 1. In Lesson 2 is a statement that 10 symbolizes the eternal creativeness of the Life-power, the incessant whirling forth of the self-expression of

the Primal Will, the ever-turning Wheel of Manifestation. Let us consider the meaning of this.

0 is a symbol for the One Force. 1 stands for the POINT wherein that One Force concentrates itself. Concerning this, review the instruction in Lessons 3, 4 and 5. At the Central Point within itself, the One Force becomes active. This, consequently, is the Point where motion begins.

What we are thinking of now is prior to all physical manifestation. It precedes the production of forms. It is the concentration of energy in free space. The free space, furthermore, is **mental** space. There is nothing but consciousness of **itself** at this Point where the One Spirit wakens into activity.

Because there can be no other mode of activity at this awakening of consciousness, the activity we are now considering must be, as Judge Troward has pointed out, activity which is wholly self-sustained. He goes on to say:

“The law of reciprocity, therefore, demands a similar self-sustained motion in the material correspondence, and mathematical consideration shows that the only sort of motion which can sustain a self-supporting body **in vacuo** is a rotary motion, bringing the body itself into a spherical form.”

“Now this is exactly what we find at both extremes of the material world. At the big end the spheres of the planets rotating on their axes and revolving round the sun; and at the little end the spheres of the atoms consisting of particles which, modern science tells us, in like manner rotate around a common center at distances which are astronomical compared with their own size. Thus the two ultimate units of physical manifestation, the atom and the planet, both follow the same law of self-sustained motion which we have found that, on **a priori** grounds, they ought in order to express the primary activity of Spirit. And we may note in passing that this rotary, or **absolute**, motion is a combination of the only two possible modes of relative motion, that is to say, centrifugal and centripetal motion; so that in rotary or absolute motion we find that both **polarities** of motion are included, thus repeating on the purely mechanical side the primordial principle of the Unity including the Duality in itself.”

This quotation from THE CREATIVE PROCESS IN THE INDIVIDUAL, pages 29-30, deserves careful study. It is full of meat. Build up in your mind an image of the initial whirling motion in the vast expanse of the limitless Light.

The doctrine of **rotation** is one of the most important in occultism, for it is concerned with the principles of growth, involution and evolution, action and reaction, and the reciprocal relation between the members of every pair of opposites throughout the universe. This doctrine, you should remember, has to do with things in manifestation. Do not confuse absolute motion

with the Absolute. Absolute motion is so called because it is self-derived and self-sustained, without being dependent on, nor conditioned by, other motives of activity.

The Hebrew letter Kaph (כ) printed on Key 10 represents a hand in the act of grasping, or a closed fist. Close your fist and turn it with the thumb toward you. See how the forefinger and thumb form a spiral.

The activity of the One Force is not simply circular in form. It is spiral. Thus, and only thus, is growth possible, does evolution come about. The motion appears to return to its starting-point, but at each revolution it begins at a higher level. Review what was said about spiral activity in Lesson 19.

The basic idea suggested by Kaph is comprehension or grasp. As stated above, we deal in this lesson with a law of finite manifestation. This law is within our mental grasp.

It is a law operative through unimaginable immensities. Yet it is finite and we can comprehend it. The principle of rotation at work through the entire series of cosmic manifestations is an **intelligible** principle. We can understand and apply it. It has been symbolized from time immemorial by a turning wheel.

To Kaph, and thus to Key 10, the planet Jupiter is attributed. Astrology calls it the Greater Fortune. Myth makes Jupiter ruler of the gods, and, through their agency, master of the destinies of man. Linking the idea of comprehension implied by Kaph, the grasping hand, to these ideas associated with Jupiter, we have the thought that it is possible to comprehend the underlying law which governs human destiny.

Jupiter is the planet exalted in Cancer, the sign connected with Key 7. The wheels of the chariot represent the law of Rotation.

Review Key 7 and you will see some of the practical applications of the Law of Rotation to your own life. Try to comprehend the idea that even the least of your personal activities is a particular expression of some more extensive cycle of cosmic activity. Then you will begin to understand how it is that every detail of your personal life expression is adjusted to the sweep of currents of universal energy.

Carried to completion, such comprehension enables man to free himself from every disease, every misfortune, every semblance of bondage. The power of Jupiter, the sky-father, is **man's** power.

Yet this must be comprehended truly. The grasp of this principle is more than mere intellectual apprehension of the meaning of the words which say that whatever we do is part of the cosmic ebb and flow. We must realize it. The Tarot Keys **will help us do so**. By their

aid we plant the seed-idea in subconsciousness where it will grow and bear fruit in the comprehension we seek.

As the sky-father (which is the literal meaning of his name), Jupiter is god of cloud, rain, thunder and lightning. This is close to what science says concerning the nature of the physical world. Every physical form is some special shape assumed by the electrical energy which pervades the atmosphere.

The circulation of this energy produces whatever there is. A physical form may be thought of as being a condensation of the electro-magnetic “rain” which is the root-matter pervading all space and veiling the fiery energy of the One Force. This root-matter, with its interior fire, is the “water” of which occultists speak so often.

The mode of consciousness associated with the letter Kaph is named “The Rewarding Intelligence of Those Who Seek”, or, “The Intelligence of Desirous Quest”. What this means is that to comprehend the Law of Rotation is to secure the satisfaction of every desire. This comprehension comes to real **seekers**, and to nobody else. Lazy minds cannot grasp truth. He who has no definite idea of what he wants never perceives the inner significance of the Law of Rotation.

In some respects, this law is one of the most obvious in nature. We see it in operation everywhere. Yet few persons understand even part of what it means.

One plain meaning is that what we send out comes back to us. The present state of the world is evidence that most persons do not see the truth of this. If humanity would realize that its future—not that of its children, but its very own future—depends entirely on its present actions, wars, strife and selfishness would come to an end. The idea of separate existence, of good to be obtained at the expense of others, would be wiped out. Do all you can to perfect your own grasp of this law.

Make your exercise this week an endeavor to **see** the Law of Rotation at work. Begin by calling to mind every instance of cyclic or spiral activity you can identify. Then examine yourself. Look back over your past, and see how your experiences have run in cycles. Watch your moods, and you will find the same alternation of ebb and flow. Think of your present activities and try to picture what logical results you may expect from them in future experience.

COLORING INSTRUCTIONS

KEY 10. THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Yellow:	Serpent, eagle's eye, lion's eyes.
Blue:	Background, sphinx (not the sphinx's headdress.)
Orange:	Entire body of the wheel.
Brown:	Animals. Lion should be tawny, a mixture of brown and yellow.
Gold:	Sword hilt.
Steel:	Sword blade.
Gray:	Clouds, but they are gray and white storm-clouds.
Blonde:	Man's hair, eagle's beak (upper and lower).
White:	In headdress of sphinx, clouds as stated above, bull's horns, eye of Hermanubis, the rising figure.
Red:	Hermanubis (jackal-headed figure, except eye), eagle's tongue.

In my grasp are all things
Held in perfect equilibrium.
I bind all opposites together,
Each to its complement.
One by another do I mitigate,
So that nowhere in the universe
Is there any real want or failure.
Neither is there anywhere injustice,
For the semblance of it
Is one of the manifold aspects
Of the delusion of separateness.

Forms are as vases into which I pour
The precious perfume of mine inmost essence,
And where I am,
There must truth and right abide.
Take heed lest thou despise
The forms thou understandest not.
Every vessel of life is an aspect of me, the Most High

From THE BOOK OF TOKENS by Paul Foster Case