

The Silver Key

***The Astrological Significance of Each Egyptian Tarot Card Part XXII,
 The Adept***

Elbert Benjamine

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 October 1938

As it is the apparent movement of the Sun which is responsible for the seasons, and as it is the field of force of the Sun in its relation to the field of force of the earth which determines the signs of the zodiac and which give to each its peculiar vibratory quality, it was to have been expected that in explaining the significance of the Sun, the ancient Masters should indicate signs and seasons in their design. Thus the upper part of Major Arcanum XXI portrays a circle of twelve flowers, each representing one sign of the zodiac, and outside this zodiacal circle are to be seen the emblems of the quadrants of heaven which designate the yearly seasons. The Sun also throughout the ages has been the emblem of spirit. It represents the Ego of man, which furnishes the impetus that causes him to struggle to survive, which endows him with ambition, and which gives him the aspiration to climb to ever greater heights



of attainment. It represents that power which is back of the evolution of the soul. And thus in the tarot design which portrays the significance of the Sun, within the circle of zodiacal flowers we see the linga, indicating united male and female souls, endowed with wings and soaring upward into higher realms.

As the Sun is the dominant power within our solar system, and as those on earth who exercise authority over others, such as bosses and politicians, always have the Sun prominent in their birth charts, the Wise Ones who gave instructions in the language of symbolical pictograph, deemed it appropriate to explain Master-ship and its attainment on the tarot card devoted to the Sun. The function of Adeptship and the principal steps that must be taken to reach that exalted state, are the subjects' chiefly pictured on tarot Major Arcanum XXI.

A young girl is shown to signify that one who aspires to

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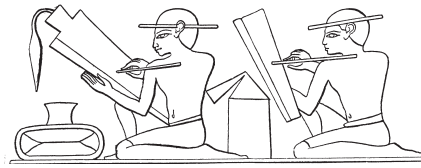
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Christopher Gibson

A goal without a plan is just a wish.

—Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Winter is a time of reflection and in many places inclement weather forces to spend time indoors. Our attention shifts from being externally focused to being internally focused. We reflect on the past and anticipate the future. For the ancient Romans the month of January was named in honor of the two-faced god Janus. Janus rules all transitions in time and space; beginnings and endings, doorways and entrances. He governs the beginnings of every day, month, and the New Year where we are able to reflect back on the past as well as look forward to what is yet to come. The Romans would inaugurate the New Year with a clean slate by forgiving their enemies and the giving of gifts.

As ruler of doorways with the ability to look forward and backward the two-faced god symbolically instructs us that the past is always with us, conditioned by the present to bring the future into being. In the words of the Nigerian drummer Babatunde Olatunji “Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That’s why we call it the present.” The greatest gift we can give ourselves during the holiday season is to use the present moment to choose those thoughts, feelings, and actions that conform to our resolutions to attract greater good for ourselves and others.

As we reflect upon the past we often discover things we would like to change or do differently if given the chance. This reflection often prompts us to follow the time-honored tradition of making resolutions for the upcoming year. Frequently our New Year resolutions encourage better financial habits, self-improvement, dietary restrictions, or promises of exercise. Since many modern resolutions focus on health and fitness it may come as no surprise that gym

and weight-loss organizations experience huge spikes in registrations during the month of January.

The Tarot Arcanum pictured on the cover of this Quarterly is called The Adept. The Sacred Tarot teaches us that the most important skill on our road to adeptship or self-mastery is the development of the will. Making a resolution is a form of directed thinking and is one way by which we can develop our will if we follow through to the realization of our goal. Many people make resolutions, but have trouble

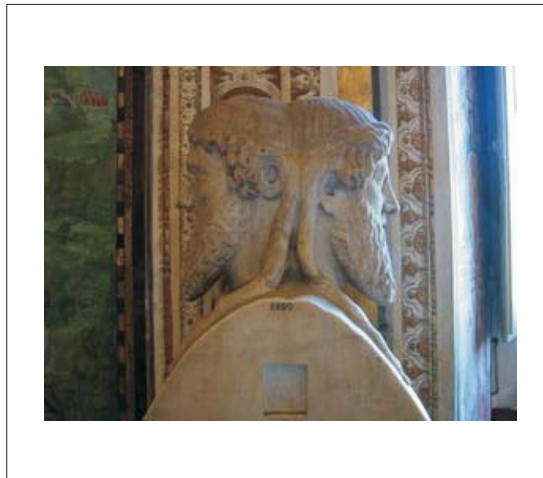
keeping them. This is because replacing our habitual trends of thinking, feeling, and acting is one of the most difficult things we can do.

The process of making and keeping New Year’s resolutions contributes to the development of the will. Bad habits can only be changed by substituting them with beneficial habits. Just as the Romans used the New Year as a time to forgive their enemies we must begin the year by forgiving our own faults and frailties and committing resolutely to change.

No doubt all of us could benefit from reducing our stress, getting healthier, spending more leisure time with family and friends, and cultivating positive financial habits. Here are some key ideas to help you with successful goal-setting and assist you in making and keeping your New Year’s resolutions.

Make resolutions that you know you can keep. If our goals are too lofty we can’t achieve them and we set ourselves up for failure reinforcing our negative feelings. Instead of resolving that you’ll save \$100 a month decide on an amount you know you can achieve.

Remember, pleasure attracts and pain repels. Make resolutions that add to the quality of your life and give you pleasure. If we are to achieve a goal it must be highly pleasurable to us. Perhaps if you resolve to take a dance



class you'll have a good time and get the added benefits of cardio exercise and lower your blood pressure.

State your resolutions as action plans with time lines. For example you might write "I add fifty dollars or more to my retirement fund on the 15th of every month."

You can't measure your success without asking the basic questions of How much? And When? Visualize the outcome. The subconscious mind responds to feelings and images. To enlist the aid of your subconscious you must cultivate pleasurable feelings with a clear picture of the outcome. Don't get stuck on the details of how you're going to get to your goal – visualize the outcome.

Commit to your goal. Work with determination towards its realization. Don't give up – even if it takes longer than the amount of time you have allotted for its realization. When you slip up, forgive yourself and return to your commitment to achieving your goal.

Write your goals down as positive statements. Instead of saying "I'm no longer sick" try "radiant, good health is now mine to enjoy!"

Make a list of enjoyable things that you would like to do. Schedule them into your calendar. New Year's Resolutions don't have to all be pragmatic. A walk in the park, attending a musical concert, visiting with friends, going to a museum exhibit, riding your bicycle, or learning a foreign language can all contribute to your well-being by filling your life with inspiration. What could be more valuable?

So as you call in 2007 think about the quality of life you would like to project into the year to come. Make a resolution and work positively towards its realization. Visualize a positive outcome. Picture yourself being happy and that happiness touching the lives of all whom you come in contact with. 🐾

In Memoriam

Dr. Howard W. Polk, D.C.

Dr. Howard Polk of Boulder Colorado passed from the physical plane on Saturday September 2, 2006.

Howard was born on the Polk family farm in Mansfield, Illinois where he spent the first eight years of his life. In his own words "...I was born in the same farm house on December 21, 1911. Mother, who was busy with other things, said I was born sometime after midnight and before dawn. Dad, who had to get up and milk the cows at 4:30 A.M. said I was born about 2: A.M., I have rectified the time to 2:09 A.M. CST. Farmer's wives (Mother) had very little spare time so I was practically raised by Granddad.

I remember Granddad would frequently hitch up his horse (named Boston) to the buggy and I would go with him to Mansfield. We would go to Kool's Drug Store and have ice cream and Granddad would buy me Horehound candy."

Howard had a rude awakening when his family moved to town and he had to attend grade school. On the farm his playmates were chickens, a turkey gobbler, and Touser the dog. "The kids in town didn't seem to know anything except how to fight but somehow I got through."

In 1919 the influenza pandemic struck killing millions. Both Howard and his older brother Dan were afflicted and from their sickbeds they would watch the hearse pass by delivering its tragic cargo to the local cemetery. Both children survived the epidemic, Dan with weakened lungs and Howard with kidney problems. By the summer of 1920 Dan



Howard Polk with his mother on the family farm

was experiencing full-blown tuberculosis and the specialists recommended that the Polks move to the dry air of the Southwest. They arrived in Boulder on August 12 1920 which coincided with his brother's 16th birthday.

In the beginning years of the Great Depression Howard attended Speer Chiropractic College in Denver, Colorado. When he was unable to pay for his tuition the Dean allowed him to continue his studies in exchange for painting the interior of the college. Howard worked as a chiropractor and naturopathic doctor for 52 years retiring in 1984.

1932 was a milestone year for Howard. This was the year he graduated from Chiropractic College, and married his first wife Elda Ruth. Together Elda Ruth and Howard had three children Nancy, Karen and Barney. Tragically Elda Ruth died from pneumonia in 1937. Howard eventually married his second wife, Margaret who helped him raise his three

children until her demise in 1985. Howard and Margaret had a child of their own, Gail, who predeceased him in 1994. In 1985 Howard was married to his third wife Bonnie Ginther who survives him.

In high school Howard had been a member of the astronomy club and “was thoroughly indoctrinated in the belief that astrology was mere superstition and had no basis in fact whatsoever.” You can imagine his consternation when his psychology professor mentioned quite casually in class that the position of the Sun, Moon and planets at birth had something to do with a predisposition to disease. Howard readily informed this professor that he was crazy and had dropped a few notches in his estimation. The professor Clarence McPhail who just happened to be a member of the Brotherhood of Light advised Howard to study the subject thoroughly in order to prove or disprove it for himself. Needless to say Howard embarked upon a lifelong study of astrology and metaphysics. He would later tell his students, “Chiropractic was my profession, electronics was my hobby, but the study and teaching of Astrology and Occultism was my very life.”

Howard began his studies under the Brotherhood of Light and was accepted into the Church of Light on March 21, 1933, just five months after it incorporated. He became a Hermetician twelve years later on March 23, 1945. Howard taught the lessons for over 42 years part of that time serving on the board of directors. Howard later wrote; “The depression years in the early 30’s were quite tough. My folks lost all of their resources (a farm and grain elevator in Illinois) with the collapse of the grain market and I attempted to start practicing in 1933. Chiropractic was a dirty word in those days and with the depression, money was more than scarce but I purchased some B of L lessons as fast as I could and almost memorized them word for word.”

According to his daughter Karen Cahow of Colorado Springs, “My Dad was the most spiritual person I have ever known, he lived it, it was his very fiber. . . . He passed on his great love of nature to all of us. I remember hiking with him in our beautiful mountains, and him telling me, all the animals, plants, and rocks are our little brothers and sisters. He taught me how to take care of little injured birds. Then when they were all well we would take a picnic in the park, and set the healed bird free. (I’m still doing it)”

Throughout his life Howard’s great passion was healing and the Brotherhood of Light Lessons. In 1950 and 1951 he and Margaret would entertain Elbert and Maria Benjamine in their home. In a letter he would later write, “Then in May of 1950, my most cherished dream was realized. Mr. Elbert Benjamine was my house guest for a few days. Mr. Benjamine was president of the Church of Light and the author under the pen name of C. C. Zain, of all the 230 some

Brotherhood of Light lessons. He had just completed the revision of the lessons and was touring the United States attempting to get classes and centers started. While in Denver he gave two lectures (May 20 and 21) which were well attended and received. Also during his stay in Denver we contacted Mrs. Lucie Disbro another Church of Light student and the author of many astrological magazine articles. It was at this meeting and under the urging of Mr. Benjamine that tentative arrangements were made to start another astrological group in Denver.”

During the 1940’s Howard became a Freemason eventually to hold 32 degrees in that order. He and his wife Margaret were actively involved in the Eastern

Star and he became a much sought-after speaker for Masonic meetings. Howard was actively involved in the Denver Astrology Group which incorporated in 1963 as the Colorado Astrological Association.

Howard always did his best to share the Religion of the Stars with anyone who was genuinely interested. He would give presentations to Masonic Lodges and various astrological groups. At 6’4” Howard was a commanding presence at the annual Church of Light conferences held in Colorado during the 1980’s. He would delight audiences with his slide shows and lectures and have them rolling in the aisles with his dry sense of humor.

Just three months shy of his 95th birthday Howard has moved on to take up his work on the Inner Plane having lived a full and meaningful life. Barbara Molfese the Unitarian Universalist Minister who officiated at his memorial service summarized his life, “We remember a modest man, who did so much in life, yet was never vain. We remember a caring man, a healer who had the magic touch, whose hands saved many lives and whose energy and dedication healed many afflictions. A teacher and lecturer whose listeners will never forget the inspiration his own deep reverence for God and for our infinite universe awakened in our hearts.” 🐾



From left to right, Margaret & Howard Polk, Elbert & Maria Benjamine

Passing On...

How I Use Occultism in My Chiropractic Practice

Howard W. Polk, D. C.

Reprinted from the August – September, 1945 *Church of Light Quarterly*

Success in any of the Healing arts should be measured in the amount of relief given to suffering humanity and not in dollars and cents. Taking all diseases into consideration, many are self-limiting and recovery is spontaneous. In this regard, I once heard a rather famous physician say that 60% of the people who come to doctors for relief from their illnesses would get well anyway, and that if the doctor got less than this percentage of cures he had better take up some other occupation.

That situations should ever exist wherein successes are less than this percentage would seem, to the laity, an absurdity; yet it is appalling the number of misdiagnosed and mistreated individuals who are searching for relief. This is due, not to ignorance on anyone's part, but rather, as yet, to a lack of precise diagnostic means and adequate treating measures.

After studying the Church of Light lessons and resisting the inadequacy of strictly physical methods in some conditions, I endeavored to formulate ways of overcoming some of these obstacles with the application of occult principles.

Generally the greatest problem confronting the healer is that of diagnosis. In this respect, in addition to all physical means at hand, I use both Horary and Natal astrology, and the Uranian type if inspirational ESP. I note the time that I first become aware of the patient's troubles, and erect a chart for this time at some later convenient moment. In these charts I read the first house as the patient and the sixth house as his servant in his health matters, myself. The rulers of the first house indicate the nature of the troubles, and aspects to these planets the various ramifications.

The nature of the ruler of the sixth indicates the type of treatment to be used, and the aspects indicate harmony and discord in their use. Aspects occurring between the first and the sixth indicate the cooperation given by the patient – a benefic aspect, good cooperation, and a malefic aspect, poor cooperation. This latter, however, does not necessarily indicate failure in the treatment, but, rather, if it is known, more work must be done by the doctor and less expected from the patient.

It is very easy to get the patient's birth date when asking for his age, but unfortunately very few know the hour of birth, in which case I make a natural chart – that is, one with 0°

Aries on the Ascendant. I progress this to the present and correlate this information with the Horary chart. These two charts generally give a rather complete picture of the patient's condition. I erect the charts of course after the patient has gone.

For the immediate diagnosis, however, the Uranian type of ESP seems to come natural to me. With the patient lying face down on the table, and with all of the information from physical means in my mind, and my hands in contact with his back, I think strongly of his troubles, and presently the information and type of treatment necessary comes through. I check this with my physical and astrological data, and later with observed results, and generally it is quite accurate.

I have talked with other doctors who use the Neptunian type of ESP with similar results. It is probable that most physicians can develop one or the other of these types of ESP, if they do not already possess the ability, which can become of utmost value to them.

In treatment, suggestion can play a very important role. A positive statement as to the effect of a particular electrical or other treatment should always be given, and I find that a telepathic suggestion is extremely valuable. When I have a patient on the table, face down, giving him a relaxing massage, I very often attempt to project to him the thought, "I AM getting better, I AM getting better," etc., etc.; and many times before he leaves my office, he will repeat "I AM getting better."

Yet, greater than all these is magnetizing and consecrating the instruments and machines used as explained in connection with other purposes, in the various award MSS. A feeling of pleasure and confidence in all mental associations concerning equipment tends to increase this magnetic effect. Of course it goes without saying, a prerequisite for any healer is a feeling of compassion and a desire to use all the means at his command for the relief of suffering; and this often means the difference between success and failure. A doctor's prayers as for any other endeavor should always be for ever-be increasing ability and capacity for serving his fellowman.

The use of all these methods has helped me immeasurably and raised my percentage of results far above the accepted 60% of margin. ✨

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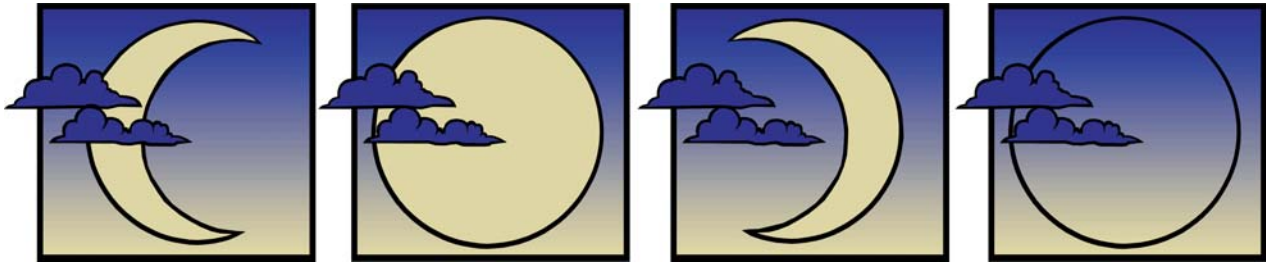
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Looking forward to seeing you here!

SEE BACK PAGES FOR DETAILS



*Change is the constant,
the signal for rebirth,
the egg of the phoenix.*

—Christina Baldwin



**Patrick Ramsey,
Membership Minister**

The Tablets of AETH
Tablet The Sixth
Jupiter ♃

“A cave in the mountain side; a face like the sphinx comes out of the cave; there is a blackness behind it; it looks with upturned head to a light that is way beyond; it is a face that means something awful, a godlike defiance to the things that are.”

The soul emerges out of the darkness, but what does it see and interpret when it perceives the light of the Cosmic Mind? Is that which perceives the Cosmic Mind separate from or part of the Cosmic Mind? Is the soul cell greater than, less than or equal to the Cosmic Mind? Who rules the Universe and why?

To answer a question, it must first be formulated and then asked. The question in itself is not arrogant or wise, but only the beginning of knowledge, initiating a path. Lessons can be learned from errors in judgment, but at what expense? At what point does defiance embody arrogance?

As the soul emerges from the body, the body is a home, a dwelling place for a brief time. As the soul grows the home expands to occupy the local environment, but when it leaves the body the concept of the home expands to a more universal existence. Cosmic Consciousness must be realized by every soul, as the arrogant small self, gives way and transforms to the larger Self, the God within.

The human element of manifested flesh desiring the richest experiences of physical existence to find greater existence in truth and love must bow and give way to the Universal God. The “Self” must live for the Universe and for the accomplishment of the God’s objectives for this space and time.

Therefore depart from any selfish ways to live in the Light. Be that unique spark of Divinity that is you. Unite your purposes for existence with the Universal love that the truth may be accomplished and realized through all. 🐉



From the Light of Egypt, Vol. II by T.H. Burgoyne "...The Tablets of AETH, ...constitute a spiritual astrology, a spiritual science of the stars, void of mathematics, yet possessing all the exactitude of figures, constructed on the principles of astronomy, yet expressed by the methods of the Kabbalah....."



Jupiter

"A cave in the mountain side; a face like the sphinx comes out of the cave; there is a blackness behind it; it looks with upturned head to a light that is way beyond; it is a face that means something awful, a godlike defiance to the things that are."

Jupiter

REFLECTION

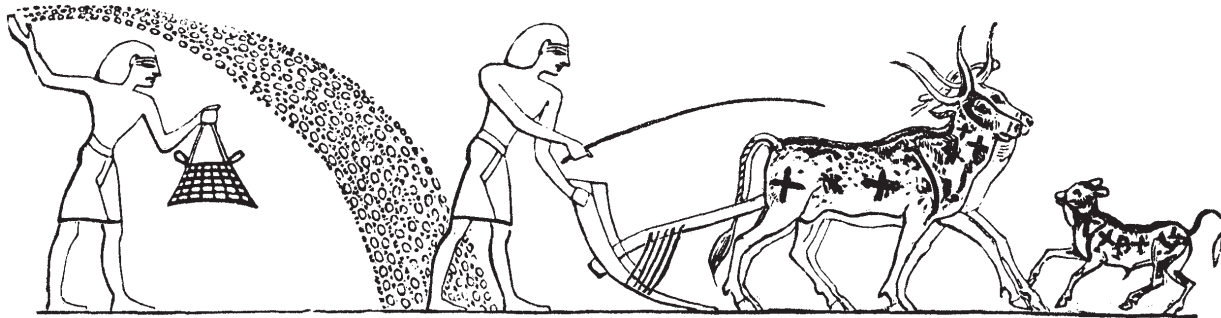
Part II, Chapter II, TABLET THE SIXTH

"Again we are impressed with the contrast of internal and external things. Jupiter, the symbol of authority, conservatism, church and state and the stability of human institutions and the things that are as the things that are the best. But oh, how widely different the internal, the real Jupiter, that governing power of the spirit that hurls defiance at unjust authority, the cruelty and tyranny of the world. The soul sees the light beyond, and, emerging from the dark chasm of matter, knows the battle that must be fought against wrong. It is the awful—yea, terrible—symbol of defiance to gods and men who oppose its onward, upward march to the shining goal of light. Make way, then! Make way! For Earth has given birth to her giant son—the Spirit. For, listen closely, my friend, to the axiom of Immortality. What is soul? Not the spirit, mind you; not the deathless Ego, of which you at present, perchance, know absolutely nothing. Soul is mere memory, a scavenger in earthly states and a gleaner, a hired help, in the fields of heaven; and to become immortal there must be something more than soul as the result. It must take such a vital interest in its Lord's work that finally it becomes too valuable to lose and must be taken into partnership, so to say. The Ego—Lord—has found a valued servant, a trusted steward, after much seeking, and at once adopts it as its very own. And so the soul becomes heir to the heavenly estate and receives the immortal, vital principle of spiritual union, and awakes from the son of Earth a God-like being, free from the shackles of Time—a dweller in eternity. The soul must awake and realize the Deific atom around which it revolves before it is too late. Unless this is so, the seed of immortal life, sown in matter by the Ego, has not germinated, and it returns unfruitful and dies—it is an abortion. Many, many seeds never germinate. Many good orthodox, but animal-like lives, live, move and die—yes, die in very truth. Would to God I could make all mankind realize this awful, inconceivable privilege of life, that Jupiter-like, they would turn and face the light."

"O child of Adam!

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."





Stellarian Honor Guard

July 1, 2006 – October 31, 2006

To those who financially support the work of spreading the Religion of the Stars, we are truly grateful.

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May we all grow and prosper together!

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the perfect type of man called the adept must be pure both in manner of life and in his motives.

The moderation of desires and simplicity of living that must be his are denoted by the plain apparel worn by the girl. Yogis of the fakir type display their powers to the wonderment of the public. They attract attention to themselves and glory in the amazement of the populace. But not so the real adept. True Masters live simply, avoid the vulgar glare of undue publicity, refuse to exhibit their powers merely to gain admiration, and use their energies for the welfare of mankind.

The girl kneels, to indicate that the adept has absolute devotion to the higher laws of nature, and that in prayerful aspiration he seeks to his utmost ability to live a spiritual life, in which he consecrates himself to assisting, to the utmost of his ability, the fulfillment of the Divine Plan. He seeks diligently to discern the purpose of the Supreme Intelligence, and to cooperate with it in all ways.

The harp which the young girl plays has three strings, to signify that he strives to develop harmony of body, emotions and intellect. His study of astrology teaches him that harmony is life and that discord is death. The aspects in a birth chart map factors within the unconscious mind of similar harmony or discord. And he has observed that the events attracted by the action of the discordant factors within the unconscious mind thus mapped, are hindrances, obstacles and difficulties; while those events attracted by the extra physical power of harmonious factors thus mapped within the unconscious mind, are those that give him pleasure and bring him an advantage. Therefore following the precepts so clearly placed before him by astrology, he cultivates in reference to his behavior, his feeling and his thinking, as much harmony as lies within his power.

Masters, of varying degrees of power, have lived in all ages and in every clime. They are not confined to any special geographical area. Nor do they bow to the conventional religion of their time. Taking their instruction from Nature, and from the wise ones who ascended before their births, the four chief tenets of their belief are to be found not merely in the tarot designs, and not merely in the four emblems which mark the quadrants in the sky — and because of this are found so conspicuously outside the circle of flowers in Major Arcanum XXI — but also in huge monuments of stone.

Written records are subject to vandalism. It was possible that even the tarot cards should vanish from the globe. Thus the utmost precaution was taken that the doctrines signified by the Lion and the Man, the Eagle and the Bull should not be lost to mankind. For hundreds of years during the dark ages of man's religious history there was a relentless effort to destroy all records, all teachings, and even the statuary and monuments of the past. Such records as were too large to be destroyed, when possible were buried, as was the famous and most instructive Aztec Calendar Wheel.

But thousands of such monuments were too large either to be destroyed or buried by later people, and still persist. They are of four distinct forms, and even as the constellations, the pictures on the suits of the tarot cards, and the four emblems around the zodiacal circle of flowers in the tarot card dedicated to the Sun, reveal to one conversant with the language of symbolical pictograph, the ideas attached to them. Each type of ancient stone monument thus reveals by its form the spiritual idea and its astrological association which it was intended to convey to the minds of the people who erected it. As these were fundamental ideas held by adepts past and present, and as a man's accomplishment is inextricably interwoven with his fundamental ideas, let us briefly review the significance of these religious doctrines so well preserved in stone.

Huge, straight shafts of rock upright like the rays of the mid-day Sun symbolize the virile, masculine powers of nature.

In the zodiac the sign over which the Sun has special rule is Leo, pictured by a lion; hence the lion head in Arcanum XXI outside the zodiac of flowers. The lion is noted not merely for his courage but for his affection. The house it ruled in a natural birth chart is the one concerned with pleasures, love affairs and children. Love and life are closely allied, and the upright pillar and the sign Leo symbolize both virility and love.

Fakirs may teach such a doctrine, but true adepts never, that asceticism, sadness and sorrow are holy. Pain and suppression of legitimate pleasure are opposed not merely to the teachings of the adepts of the past, but also to the findings of modern psychology. The love of husband for wife and of wife for husband is a most desirable and sacred thing, and is one of the most constructive forces which man can utilize. The love of parents for their children approaches the deific in its sanctity, and it germinates the seed of that unselfish love which alone makes immortality possible.

“Do unto others as you would have others do unto you,” is one of the most important doctrines ever taught, and is based upon the admonition, “Love ye one another.” It is love that binds together. Love is the universal constructive agent. That which encourages and nourishes true love is blessed and should endure; for when love departs, the vacancy is filled by selfishness.

Thus does Arcanum XXI of the tarot, the second quadrant of the heavens which is pictured as a lion, and the single shaft of stone erected in veneration of creative energy, all record the belief of the adepts that love lies at the foundation of all constructive effort.

Massive tables of stone supported by two or more pillars are called dolmens, and present the form of a doorway. Yet they are more than doorways; for the conspicuous feature of their structure is the flat, table-like surface presented by the slab held thus high above the ground. It strikes the eye at

once as a plane. This plane is obviously one above the earth. It is a higher plane. And the doorway also is to no physical habitation.

A doorway thus connected to a plane higher than the earth can have but one significance in the language of universal symbolism. It is a pictograph, even though of massive stone, signifying that there is a plane of endeavor above the physical, and that death is but a passing through a doorway to a life in spiritual realms.

The third quadrant of the heavens is represented by Scorpio; pictured in Arcanum XXI as the eagle's head outside the zodiac of flowers. This zodiacal sign commonly is symbolized as a crawling denizen of the desert, the scorpion; but as representing another influence of the same sign it is pictured by an eagle, master of the element above the earth. The house it rules in a natural birth chart is the one of death.

Not only, then, does the huge slab of stone supported by two pillars attest to a belief in the survival of the personality after death; but the tarot card by expressing the relation of man to death as a Scorpion that has now become an Eagle, portrays the conviction of the adepts that through death man ceases to crawl in the dust and soars to a life of greater power and freedom.

A circle of huge stones, and within these other circles of huge stones about the same center, portray the orbits of the planets. Such picturing in so many parts of the world of the movements of the planets, at a cost of so great labor would have been undertaken only because it was believed that the movements of the planets thus represented have a profound influence upon the life and destiny of man.

The man of the zodiac, Aquarius, pictured as the head of a man outside the zodiacal circle of flowers in Arcanum XXI — representing the fourth quadrant of the heavens — also speaks in unmistakable terms of the same belief. Water running from his urn flows down upon the earth even as do the vibrations of the planets. And in one hand he holds aloft, as if measuring the influences in the firmament above, a 24-hour gauge, even as astrologers past and present use the 24-hour period as the measure of the influences meted out to man.

Thus we find huge stone monuments, called cromlechs, built long ago, yet speaking to us in the simplest form of written language, the pictograph. And these stone structures bring the same message that is revealed in the constellation of the Man and the design of the tarot Arcanum XXI. They point to a belief that the planets have an influence over human life and destiny.

One more quadrant of heaven and its emblem is yet to be explained. It is represented among the ancient monuments by dome-shaped mounds. They once were used for magical ceremonies and for initiations. Thus they are used today by primitive peoples, the kiva of the Indians of the Southwest-

ern United States being one of many examples that can be cited.

Such a dome by its shape is a universal symbol of the feminine in nature. It represents the same root that "Ma" does in various languages, that is, it signifies the mother. The Sun, which is the influence we are considering when we read Arcanum XXI, is in the sign of Taurus in the month of Ma (y). The sign Taurus also is the exaltation, or highest station, of the mother planet, the Moon. It is an earthy sign, hence the mound while hollow and having a small, low entrance, is usually covered with earth.

It is the first quadrant of the heavens which is depicted by Taurus, the Bull, the head of which appears outside the circle of flowers on the solar tarot card. This is the bull with which the mighty hunter, Orion, is pictured in perpetual conflict. Orion wields the club of mental power to combat and overcome the bull which pitches down upon him from the sky. This bull with which the hunter struggles, and which mythology and the Bible inform us was thus overcome, signifies the sum total of our environment. The bull is the symbol of the most earthy of the sign; hence represents physical obstacles and limitations to be overcome. Pitching down upon Orion from the sky signifies also the planetary influences that come from above. The club is intelligently directed will power. Thus is conveyed the idea that both material conditions and the influence of the stars may be overcome by the use of the mind of man.

It is in these dome-shaped mounds that primitive peoples carried out ceremonies to make them successful in the hunt, to give them a bountiful harvest, to overcome enemies, and to enter into communication with the dead. That is, these were the places where they went to "demonstrate success" through the exercise of the mind's hidden powers.

This sign Taurus, as already indicated, is the best station of the Moon. The Moon is the orb that more than any other rules the unconscious mind, which is the instrument by which thoughts manifest their supreme power. Thus do the mound-shaped dome, the pictured constellation, and the head of the bull on Major Arcanum XXI record the belief of the adepts that man, through the proper exercise of his mentality, can control his own life and destiny, here and hereafter.

Flowers represent the coming harvest time, the blossoming of experiences. And while there are but twelve flowers in the adept's zodiac, as pictured on Arcanum XXI, each flower in the circle has three blossoms. To gain the knowledge and experience by which he thus can rule his present life and future destiny, it is significant that the adept must explore all three planes. His work and knowledge are not confined to the physical world, but must extend also to the astral and the spiritual. These inner realms he explores through using what now has become the custom to call Extra Sensory Perception.

In the July issue of AMERICAN ASTROLOGY MAGAZINE when discussing the significance of Cancer, the most negative of all the astrological influences, it was explained that there are two diametrically opposite methods of obtaining information from the inner planes. One, the method of irresponsible medium-ship, is disintegrative and tends to destroy the will and the soul of the one who practices it. The other is positive, under control, and may be made to strengthen the will and increase the independent activity of the soul.

Needless to say, the adept in his quest for knowledge and in his exploration of the inner planes where he will dwell after physical life shall cease, never uses the method of negative mediumship. But even in the positive use of the psychic senses the adept employs a technique far superior to that of less advanced positive psychics. And as adept-ship implies the efficient use of Extra Sensory Perception and the exercise of Extra Physical Power, some explanation of this should be made while we are considering this adept-ship tarot card.

Man's nervous organization is broadly divided into two fairly distinct systems; the sympathetic system and the cerebro-spinal system. At the head of the cerebro-spinal system is the brain, which is specialized to give orders and to do certain complex types of thinking.

As indicated in connection with the explanation of The Sarcophagus tarot card in the September issue of AMERICAN ASTROLOGY MAGAZINE, all communication between the physical plane and the inner planes must take place through transmitting motion to the boundary-line etheric energies which have the velocity of light. Even objective thought, because it must call upon the factors of memory which reside in the unconscious mind, and thus are on the inner plane, must make use of these etheric energies. But in the development of disintegrative medium-ship the individual cultivates the generation in his nervous system of electrical currents which have a large volume and low potential, and therefore are easily manipulated by some other entity.

The positive psychic, however, through raising or lowering the vibrations of his nervous system — chiefly of his sympathetic nervous system — is able to use the electromagnetic field of the electric charges he generates to tune in consciously on objects or entities of either plane, so that he can see, hear, feel and otherwise perceive them. When the nervous system or some ganglion in it, is made sensitive enough so the etheric energies associated with it can be raised or lowered in their frequency in a manner corresponding to the tuning in of the astral body on some condition, the nervous system or ganglion then becomes a receiving set to convey to objective consciousness that which the unconscious mind has seen, heard or felt.

The ordinary positive psychic thus trains his nervous system, and particularly his sympathetic nervous system, to

bring through into objective consciousness whatever he desires upon which to tune his unconscious mind.

No fault is to be found with this method so long as the psychic develops the ability to tune off that which he does not wish to hear, see and feel as readily as he tunes in on the things he does wish to contact. But commonly those who develop the psychic senses, even in this positive and completely controlled way, become so sensitive that the necessary impacts and discords of the physical world cause them no end of discomfort.

Furthermore, while creatures lower in the scale of life than man commonly make great use of the nervous system other than the brain to guide their actions, man has developed a special capacity to handle information with his brain. And by using his brain efficiently, he can apprise himself not merely of things which are pleasant, but of things which are distasteful, without feeling these things intensely.

Some people, it is true, cannot think about a surgical operation, an illness, or other disagreeable thing without tuning in on it and feeling pain. Whatever they apprehend, they feel the condition within themselves. They live largely in the sympathetic nervous system.

Other people, who when they desire to tune in on something harmonious are quite as capable of enjoyment, are able to hold their consciousness so exclusively on the intellectual level that they can see others in pain, can perform surgical operations, or do tasks where there is great environmental discord, without themselves feeling the discord or pain. They apprehend these things with the intellect, and have trained themselves not to tune in on them sympathetically.

The unconscious mind to apprehend a condition has no more need of tuning in on it than has the objective consciousness. It has the power of seeing and hearing, and can observe what is taking place on the inner plane from the intellectual level, and can even take part in what is taking place, without feeling the condition; just as well-trained surgeon can observe an operation or take part in it on the intellectual level without himself suffering any of the distress of the patient.

Furthermore, the brain can grasp this information as it is transmitted from the unconscious mind to it as memory, without feeling the condition intensely. And thus the adept, instead of sensitizing his nervous system to feel the conditions by tuning in on them, trains his brain to bring up into objective consciousness that which he directs his unconscious mind to apprehend intellectually. In this manner he is able to extend his consciousness to the inner plane, and witness its affairs, or see clairvoyantly what is transpiring at a distance on the earth.

When he wishes thus to exercise his Extra Sensory Perception he does not think about the condition or information he wishes to contact in a sympathetic way, so that he tunes in

on it. Instead he makes it a practice to keep his nerves tuned chiefly to the vital vibrations ruled by the Sun. The Sun rules the type of electrical energy generated in the body cells and nervous system that furnish vitality, stability and the power to rule and control. And as it is the adept's object not to be influenced by other things, but himself to control and direct, he cultivates no high tensions or unusual sensitiveness of the nervous system. Instead he maintains his nerves and body in a state of normal health and vigorous vitality. Thus does he prevent his nervous system from picking up, as does a radio set, the vibrations of that which he thinks about in an intellectual manner.

To exercise his Extra Sensory Perception, instead of tuning in, he temporarily arrests the flow of objective thought, turns his attention to the inner plane, and directs his unconscious mind to extend its consciousness to apprehend the condition or information sought. The unconscious mind, using its senses, sees, hears and otherwise contacts the conditions desired, but does it from an intellectual standpoint, with no more sympathetic response to it than a scientist exhibits while watching some interesting chemical experiment in his laboratory.

That which thus was observed or learned by the unconscious mind, functioning on its own plane of substance, and

thus without the space and time restrictions common to the physical plane, then is raised into the region of objective consciousness as if it were a dream or memory; and in fact it is a memory, a memory of an actual inner plane experience.

In thus bringing the result of the Extra Sensory Perception into the domain of objective consciousness, the border between the two planes must be crossed through the use of the electro-magnetic energies generated by the cells of the brain. But the brain has been specialized, as in the case of ordinary memory to do this work, and to do it on the intellectual level, rather than on the sympathetic level such as psychics use who as yet are far removed from adeptship. The adept, cultivating, rather than relinquishing, the vital and electric controlling force ruled by the Sun, is able intellectually yet personally to explore the realms symbolized by the three blossoms of each sign of the zodiac of flowers pictured in Arcanum XXI, and to do it through an extension of his consciousness, and not by tuning in.



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Travelogue: Egypt 2005

“Return to Spirit” ... a Journey of Enlightenment (part 4 of 4)

Allyn McCray

Day 9 - Denderah Temple

We arose at 3:30 am, down to breakfast by 5:00, and on the minibus by 5:30. After a booming and energetic “Hellooooooo” from Emil, we were off to Denderah Temple. Dedicated to Hathor, the Goddess of Love and Joy, this temple is built in the same style as the Temple of Horus but incorporates a feminine energy. The most noticeable difference, however, were the stairs that went up and over the top of the temple and down into the depths of the temple in what seemed to be a circle. On one of the ceilings, the Goddess Nut is pictured swallowing the moon at night and giving birth to the sun in the morning, and the stairs in this temple reflect this transition from night to day. Vents on the rooftop of the

temple allowed incense from below to escape. We were all astonished to see a zodiac on one of the ceilings. It was patched over by the Greeks about 1,000 years BC and blackened with soot. Although it was difficult to capture in a photograph, its intricate details were still visible

In one of the very narrow sub-chambers, one that we had to remove our packs to get through, there was a carving of what looked like two large light bulbs. I’d seen this carving before in a book called *Secrets of the Lost Arc of the Covenant*. This book discusses a theory that the ancient Egyptians had access to a number of energy sources, including electricity. Emil said that he wouldn’t doubt it.

Another fascinating feature about this temple is that it is apparently built squarely on top of another temple. Emil showed us where the Germans had chipped away at one of the floors of the temple only to expose the top of a column. Further digging was not permitted and, of course, this temple below will never be unearthed because to do so would be to destroy the Temple of Hathor. So, unfortunately, we

will never know who built the buried temple, why it was built, and how old it is. One can only imagine

There was a separate temple to Isis outside and the remains of an old wall and a submerged palm grove that appeared to have been a ceremonial pool. Beautiful blues and reds were still visible on some of the carvings, and the temple was certainly a tribute to feminine energy. As usual, because we were so early, we experienced this blissful monument to joy and love by ourselves.

An hour and a half bus ride took us to the temple complex of Abydos. Pharaoh Seti I dedicated this site to Osiris and, as far as Emil is concerned, it is one of the most sacred sites in Egypt and the world. I happened to be walking next to him as we approached the temple

and overheard him saying, “Every step is a prayer.” I always meant to ask him about the origin of that phrase but never remembered to do it. Struck by its poetry, I decided to think about what it meant to me and use it in a poem when the time was right. Emil went on to say that Abydos is to Egypt what Mecca is to Islam and what Jerusalem is to Christianity. Here is where tradition holds that the head and backbone of Osiris are buried. It does not look like the other temples in that the top of the pillars have been filled in, giving it the appearance of a modern office building on the outside.

Seven sanctuaries devoted to seven individual archetypal energies are inside. The first is dedicated to Seti, the mortal king about to experience resurrection. The next three are dedicated to Ptha, Ra and Amun, the three faces of the creator deity; and the last is dedicated respectively to Osiris, Isis and Horus, the divine trinity in the ancient Egyptian pantheon. One of the most spectacular wall carvings at Abydos depicts the story of how Khnum created a clay penis for Osiris enabling Isis to become pregnant by her beloved and thereby give birth to Horus, the one who unites



photographed by Dean Jones



Approaching Denderah Temple

Upper and Lower Egypt and continues his father's struggle against the powers of evil.



Cooling our Heels at Denderah Temple

We visited the 18,000 year old Osirion. Supposedly, this granite temple below the Temple of Karnak was carved without using tools. Unlikely. A Stonehenge-type arrangement, these massive granite slabs are precision cut and sit precariously on top of each other. Green spring waters still cover its depths but the water is contaminated with a worm-like microbe that after it enters, say, the pores in your feet, will travel to your organs and kill you within several days.

The sun blazes to well over 100 degrees but inside the mini-bus, we are cool and comfortable. Driving through the countryside on a hot day, it is common to see the women washing their clothes along the banks of the Nile while their young children splash in the water. Burning slash from the sugar cane fields fills the sky with a golden veil. Heady breaths of sweet smoke fill the senses as egrets lift silently from the shore of the meandering Nile.

Back at the cruiser by 4:00 pm. Tonight, a visit to a papyrus factory, Emil's home, dinner, and a belly dancing show.

The visit to the papyrus shop was mostly educational; but, of course, the idea is to help out Emil's friends by purchasing from them. Vicki bought three beautiful pieces for the new Albuquerque Church of Light Headquarters. Noel bought one of everything in his usual style, and Dean



Denderah...Monument to Feminine Energy

smoked Sheesha with Emil and the shopkeepers. When Dean told them that we lived in Santa Fe, New Mexico, they wanted to talk about cowboys and Indians. Giggling like schoolgirls when Dean smoked, they expected him to keel over from dizziness. Dean, being an old hand at sheesha by now, disappointed them. Emil loved this type of interaction and, as Dean engaged Emil at every opportunity, Emil was moved to shout out once in awhile, "Dean, I love you." He would do this spontaneously and unexpectedly, usually at the dinner table or on the bus, but it could be anywhere.



Osirion at Abydos

Emil did a lot of shouting as a matter of fact. Who knows what he was saying to the guards. For example, Emil would describe his “delicate” conversations with them as a process of “mastering” or at least getting his way about an entrance fee. He said once that I had “mastered” Dean. “Hardly,” I replied, and then whispered to him that even if I had, it would not be in my best interest to let him know. Emil laughed out loud.

Emil’s home is in downtown Luxor. Archeologists have just discovered a row of ram-headed sphinx near his backyard, but more on that later. When we visited his home, we were greeted by his wife, who was very gracious to allow 12 people a visit at that late hour. Their living room was spacious with high ceilings and an archway that led into what was supposed to be a formal dining room but was furnished as a sitting room. There were lots of international artifacts, and the mint green walls and ceiling fan gave the place an old world charm. Emil’s study looked very “Egyptologist” with old black and white photos of the pyramids and statues of gods and goddesses on his glass-enclosed bookcases.

We walked back to the cruiser for our last dinner aboard. A belly dancer was featured in the lounge that evening and Dean and I as well as Paul, Vicki, Michala, and the Vaughn girls joined her on stage for a little fun with the music.

Day 10 - The Temples of Karnak and Luxor



Ram Headed Sphinxes

Early start at 4:30 am. Juice and coffee at 5:00. On the bus at 6:30, and after a big “Helloooooo” from Emil, we’re on our way. When Luxor was the capital of Egypt and called Thebes, a vast temple complex was erected and added onto by every pharaoh thereafter. Even though we arrived at an early hour, there was already construction going on outside of the temple and, inside, archeologists were busy at work. A large crane stood in contrast next to an obelisk. It appears that destruction and construction has gone on at this site since the dawn of civilization.

This vast temple complex is called Karnak and it is huge. It is so because every pharaoh built a temple to himself here.

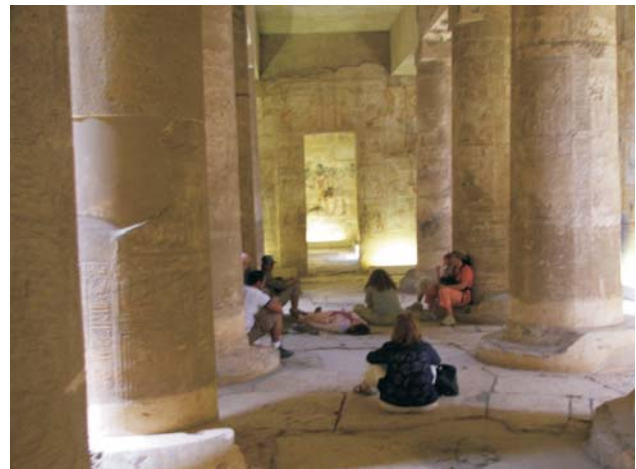
There are also temples dedicated to every god and goddess in the Egyptian pantheon. It would be easy to lose yourself in the maze of columns, statues, obelisks and passageways. At every turn, there is a spectacular photo opportunity. Of



Karnak

whom or what? Who knows? We were only able to scratch the surface of this unparalleled religious and historical center. Approaching the entrance to the complex, there is the famous corridor of ram-headed sphinx. When the row of ram-headed sphinx was discovered not far from Emil’s house, it became clear that this corridor connects the Temple of Karnak to the Temple of Luxor some five miles away.

The altar of the Scarab was of special interest to me. The ancients knew that because the scarab is a hermaphrodite species, it could survive most, if not all, natural disasters. Cockroaches, a cousin to the scarab, did indeed survive the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima during WW II. The Scarab was believed to symbolize the everlasting life that continually arises from the underworld. This was accepted



Temple of Karnak

because its hatchlings are laid in dung, feed on dung and come forth from dung. The Scarab was said to be the one who pushed the sun across the sky.

The grounds were covered, of course, with palms trees, but one lone sycamore graced the entrance to the Chapel of Sekhmet. The sycamore fig was cultivated in Egypt since prehistoric time for fruit, wood, and the healing properties of its juice; but, it also had religious significance to many cults, the most important being that of Hathor who was Lady of the Southern Sycamore in Memphis. (Reference: Egypt, the World of the Pharaohs)



Sekhmet

The most unexpected highlight of our tour of Karnak was when I was led into a small, dark chamber. Suddenly, I came face to face with an imposing onyx image of the lion-goddess of war and love, “the one who was before the gods.” This was Sekhmet, and I gasped at the sight of her. Beautiful and terrifying at the same time, she emitted an ancient power that was palpable. In the myths this goddess, whose name means “the mighty one,” destroys the enemies of the sun-god Ra or of Osiris. She also supports the king in fighting his country’s enemies. Besides her warlike character, however, the goddess was also seen as patroness of the art of healing and of doctors, who were often also her priests. An odd combination to bend your mind around; however, in our most recent history, many of our medical technologies sprang from war and were expanded upon during wartime, such as anesthesia, blood transfusions, amputations and prosthetics, ambulatory, surgical and paramedic technologies, to name just a few. You only have to watch a few episodes of MASH to learn that. But the concept of war and love goes much further. Certainly the opposing forces that we all face in life are never as challenging as when love is involved. A bad marriage, an evil parent, or an errant child can ruin a life just as effectively as any bomb. Furthermore, the forces of duality that we are faced with pose the Zen questions, can light exist without darkness? Can good exist without evil? Can peace exist without war? Can war exist

without the love of family, the love of country, the love of one’s faith or God?

When I came out of the chapel, Emil took one look at me and said I’d become “Sekhmetized!” Many of us had.

We returned to the cruiser for a farewell breakfast before checking out and continuing by bus to Luxor’s elegant St. George Hotel. Laden with crystal chandeliers and overstuffed furniture, the lobby refreshed us as it was now between 107 and 110 degrees outside. Dean and I headed straight to the Italian restaurant on the main floor for lunch with Cary. Our room is top-notch with a view of the Nile and a large swimming pool. For the first time on this trip, we have a king bed instead of twin beds We thought that twin beds were the custom in Egypt all this time until it became clear that because our names are both male, it was assumed that we were not a married couple but two men traveling together. Oh well. Better late than never. We spent a quiet and



Temple of Luxor

relaxing afternoon by the pool with Michala. Tonight, the Temple of Luxor.

LUXOR

A dark sky cloaked in heat

Sphinx of ram light a path

To Luxor

A chant from ancient days, and now,

I walk the rhythm of divinity

Every step is a prayer

And all before me

Is God

And so it was at Luxor, in the dark, in the heat, listening to the chant of a call to prayer from a mosque within the temple walls. I walked along its corridor of golden rams recognizing the divinity in All That Is, and accepting all of life's dualities, for this one magical moment, as a creation of God.

Back to the hotel for banana splits. Tomorrow is our last day of site-seeing. As usual, it will begin early.

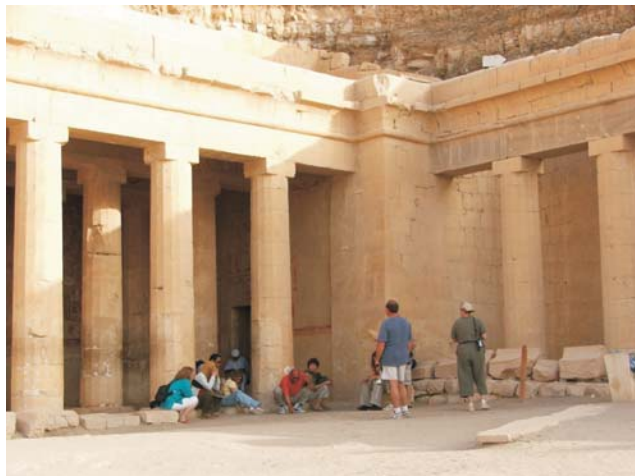
Day 11 - The Temple of Hatshepsut



Temple of Hatshepsut

Wake up call is 4:00 am. "Good mornings" all around, the group proceeded to the International Café by the pool for breakfast. It was very hot already, or should I say, still.

Just beyond the pool there was a dock where a small boat waited for us. Crossing the Nile in a water taxi saved us a good half-hour of driving time and kept us ahead of the crowds and out of the heat. A cool breeze swept through our hair and cooled our bodies as we sped across the water. The river, the mountains and the palm groves bled into a tapestry of soft watercolors. A hot air balloon drifted silently along the horizon. All too soon, we were ashore and were met by a



Temple of Hatshepsut

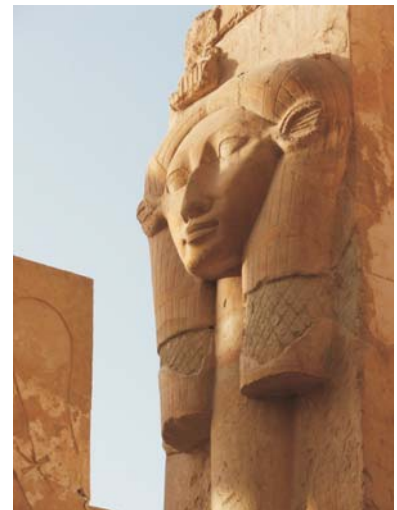
minivan that would carry us off to the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Pharaoh of Egypt.

The temple loomed on the mountainside like an imposing modern-day capital building. Unlike the other four queens who each ruled briefly, Hatshepsut first reigned as regent with her infant son, Tuthmosis III, and then assumed the role of Pharaoh for over 20 years. She did this by claiming that her birth was immaculate. This circumstance would override the law that stated only men could be pharaoh and only through their mother's ancestry. The temple was built next to an even more ancient site, and the materials from there were used to build it. Upon the walls of this "good queen," as Emil called her, are carved the story of her expeditions to the land of Punt to trade for myrrh and other commodities. These stories contain the only depictions of Egyptian sailing ships.

This temple lined up directly with the Temple of Karnak as could be seen through the temple entrance. On a certain date of the year, the sun would shine through their separate entrances at the same time.

Hatshepsut was succeeded by her son Tuthmoses III, who defaced her image throughout Egypt and left her name off the list of pharaohs at Karnak.

We then took a drive to the Valley of the Kings. There we saw the tombs of Septah, Tauset, and Rameses IX. All three tombs began with a descent into halls of very colorful wall paintings and hieroglyphics. They were behind glass for their protection, and photos were not permitted inside. As usual, our group was miraculously able to get in before anyone else. We did our "oms" at the first



Hathor

tomb, and the lights went out completely as arranged by Emil. It was eerie and disquieting to be so totally submerged in the dark in an Egyptian tomb. Again, as in the King's Chamber of the Great Pyramid, whether or not your eyes were open made no difference at all. At the second tomb, we "omed" (Emil liked to listen to "oming.") and Julie, our resident opera-trained and very talented songstress, sang for the benefit of us and the folks who waited in line behind us. The last tomb was extremely crowded so we didn't have the time or the privacy to stay long, which is probably how many people experience Egyptian tours.

When we left the Valley of the Kings, it was only 8:00 am and already very hot. There was no shade in the valley, and the heat and glare off the desert sand had close to disabled the younger members of our group. We all poured water over our necks and heads to stay cool.

We then took the bus to the Valley of the Workers where the tomb robbers live. The tomb robbers' ancestors were the master craftsmen that built the tombs and created the carvings. They have been there for centuries and all attempts to stop them from robbing tombs and selling the artifacts extracted from them have failed. We entered the home of a tomb robber and its adjacent tomb. It wasn't much of a tomb and probably not one of importance; but there it was, next to the kitchen. The kitchen, by the way, was also home to a bevy of pigeons. Rows of small holes were carved out of the mud wall to accommodate them. Pigeon is a staple protein in the Egyptian diet so, not coincidentally, their bevy was very close to the oven. This particular tomb robber was also an alabaster craftsman. There was a showroom of small vases, large urns, and statues off the main hallway of the house. We visited a second tomb robber and craftsman who reproduced hieroglyphic and pharaohic art on small plaster panels. Dean was so impressed by his craftsmanship that he bought a small panel for Emil's negotiated price.

We went on to the Valley of the Nobles, which lies between the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens. Here lie important people of Egypt like priests. We visited the tomb of Ramose, who was pharaoh's right-hand man and confidant. His tomb was cool, white, and provided a quiet respite from our day trek in the heat.



Medinet Habu Temple of Ramses III

Finally, we visited the Medinet Habu Temple of Rameses III, but not before a quick pit stop at the restaurant across the street where Noel smoked sheesha with Emil, and the rest of us had a cold drink or an ice cream. The colors in this temple are well preserved. Rameses III, knowing that his successors would try to carve over his name and his story, made



Medinet Habu

sure that cuts in the stone in his temple were made extra deep. At this temple, there is a particularly wonderful lintel showing a winged orb with outstretched snakes at either side. On the way back to our hotel, there was just enough time to take a quick photo of the Colossi of Memnon, which were once temple entrance guards.

We had lunch at the Café Africanas where the food was delicious, and we danced the Macarena. As further entertainment, Dean and I did a little swing dancing, too.

Back at the hotel and after a soothing shower, it was time to journal, rest, and arrange for our laundry to be done. That evening, Emil offered to take the group on the town for a visit to the private home of one of the locals. As it is always an option on these tours to decline whatever event is on the agenda, and as we were just plumb tired, we opted for a light snack and a refreshing drink by the dock. Julie joined us for pleasant conversation and an Egyptian beer. It was quiet and relaxing to watch the falookas sail by on the moonlit waters of the Nile. In bed by 8:30, we had an early flight to Cairo in the morning.

Day 12 - A Rainy Day in Cairo

After arriving in Cairo too early to check into our hotel, we were taken to the 700-year-old Khan el-Khalili Bazaar. It was raining in Cairo that morning, and Emil led us around like ducklings through the narrow, winding streets of this amazing marketplace. He first took us to a rug shop and then a perfume decanter shop. Our next stop was unusual. We went into a 1,000-year-old Turkish bathhouse, the oldest in the world. A man washing his feet in a sink near the entrance eyed us curiously as we made our way in. Moldy odors immediately assaulted our nostrils as we focused on the architectural details, particularly that of the ceiling, of this dank and forbidden establishment. We were not in there long as the air was too thick to breath and women were not allowed. We meandered and passed a famous coffee shop on our way to our restaurant, the Naghib Mafouz. There we dined in first-class Egyptian style for a little over an hour. After such a wonderful meal and rest we had almost forgotten where we were and it was a disorienting shock to re-enter the

world of the bustling Khalili Bazaar. Again, making our way through colorful streets, elaborate stone arches and hundreds of shops, we visited a beaded scarf store where professional belly dancers buy their costumes. The ladies had a ball there while the men folk waited patiently downstairs on benches and talked to the guards. Just like shopping at the malls back home.

Checked into the gorgeous Cairo Hilton Hotel. A high-rise, it had a full-on shopping center off the lobby, and there were many restaurants. Dean, Paul and Vicki went for coffee in one of the outdoor cafes while I spent a little more time shopping for last-minute gifts.

We had one more dress-up night before leaving Egypt. This evening we were attending a special lecture presented by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities. The event took place in one of the hotel's meeting rooms and was attended by members of another tour group. After a brief question and answer period, group photographs and an opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of Dr. Hawass' latest book, it was time for our farewell dinner.

Our floating restaurant called the Blue Nile featured a Mediterranean menu prepared in traditional European and Egyptian styles. Hugs, some goodbyes, and tips all around, it was time to head to our hotel room knowing that tomorrow we would have to say goodbye to Egypt and all of our new friends. To rest now, and to sleep, I know to dream of Egypt.



Membership Room

Services

Services are conducted by Rev. Meg Dissinger and Rev. Christopher Gibson from 11 A.M. – 12 noon on the third Sunday of every month. The following are the dates and topics for the last quarter of the year:

January 21, 2007

Sermon: Equulus

Keyword: Originality

Text: *Next to Love, Man's Most Useful Companion is Knowledge, and in Particular the Knowledge of the Manner in which the Planets Influence Human Life and Destiny.*

February 18, 2007

Sermon: Cepheus

Keyword: Activity

EGYPT

A call to prayer

On distant shores

My ancients beckon thee

For untold stories lie beneath

The sands that

Bury me.

My fertile Nile

And silent Gods

Know what you deny

I am your fate

I draw thee to

A flame that never dies



Text: *As it is Above so it is Below, and that which is Below is Like unto that which is Above.*

March 18, 2007

Sermon: Triangulum

Keyword: Activity

Text: *All Life, Thought and Action Are the Product of the Union of Positive and Negative Potencies.*

Beginning in January special topics workshops will be held after the Sunday service from 12:30 - 2:00 P.M. Topics to be announced with the January topic to cover Hermetic Progressions.



Mr. & Mrs. Peter Tourian

Wedding Bells

On Friday, September 8, 2006, surrounded by immediate family and a few friends, Ana Albu and Peter Tourian were wed in a small civil ceremony in Hackensack, NJ. Peter, a Church of Light member, teacher, and Hermetician, and Ana, an avid reader of Tarot, and (at this point) a casual peruser of the Church of Light Lessons, presently reside in South Orange, NJ.

We congratulate members Emmett Perry and Diane Pinney who were joined in marriage in Orlando Florida on December 8, 2006.



Emmett Perry & Diane Pinney

2007 Classes

Ongoing astrology and tarot classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Church of Light headquarters from 6:30 – 8:30 P.M. For information call: 505-247-1338

February 1 - March 8, *Beginning Hermetic Astrology* with Christopher Gibson

February 6 - March 13, *Beginning Tarot* with Allyn McCray

March 20 - April 24, *Intermediate Egyptian Tarot* with Christopher Gibson

March 22 - April 26, *Intermediate Hermetic Astrology* with Christopher Gibson

Gail Carswell and Michael Foltz offer an ongoing study group on the Brotherhood of Light Lessons the second Tuesday of every month at Owl's Clover Bookstore in Fort Worth, Texas. For information call: 817-921-5809

Transition

The Church of Light bids a fond farewell to a very dear friend, Jewell Richman. She and her husband William joined The Church of Light in 1933. We'll miss Jewell but know she is content and happy to join William on the other side!

Congratulations!

The following members have received their Hermetician's certificates:

Nicole Arcand
Eddie Denis

Quarterly Policy Announcement

It costs the CofL approximately \$4600 per year to print and mail the Quarterly within the US. Beginning with the 2007 Spring *Quarterly*, only those persons who specifically request and who have donated a minimum of \$20 to the *Quarterly Fund*, will receive a print version of the *Quarterly*. Everyone else will be able to access the *Quarterly* on the CofL website at www.light.org. For those of you who do not have a personal computer with internet access we suggest that you check availability at your local library. For those who request it, e-mail notification with a link to the on-line *Quarterly* will be e-mailed to you.

Information about this new policy will be sent with upcoming monthly mailings. Please note an error regarding the costs to print & distribute the *Quarterly* in the February *Ninth House* & postcard mailing. The March mailing will correct this information. Sorry for any confusion. 🐾

MAKE THE CELEBRATION COMPLETE!

CONVENTION 2007 DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

Pre-conference Activities — June 20th thru 22nd
Conference — June 23rd thru 24th, 2007

Join us in June 2007 for the Church of Light Convention. This year's conference is being coordinated by The Order of the Sphinx and will celebrate our Diamond Jubilee - 75 years of "Living in the Light".

The location of the convention will be the **Wyndham Hotel Albuquerque** located at 2910 Yale Blvd. SE. This is the popular site we used in 2003 which offers comfortable rooms and free shuttle service to and from the Albuquerque Sunport.

A special feature of this year's event will include pre-conference tours to "**Sacred Sites**". On Wednesday June 20 we will visit Haak'u Cultural Center and the Pueblo of Acoma.

The Pueblo of Acoma sits atop a 367 foot high sandstone mesa approximately 60 miles west of Albuquerque. Commonly referred to as "Sky City" the Pueblo of Acoma boasts of being the oldest continually occupied community in the United States. The Spanish colonizers used indigenous labor from 1629 - 1641 to build the massive mission church of San Esteban Rey. The mission church and pueblo are both registered National Historic Landmarks.

On Thursday June 21 – We will celebrate the **Summer Solstice by soaking in the mineral rich waters of the geothermal springs in the Jemez river valley.** Included in this day trip will be a visit to the archeological site of Giusewa or Jemez State Monument. The ancestors of the Walatowa (Jemez Pueblo) people have occupied this region and used the healing waters for over 700 years.

On Friday June 22 from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. we will be offering a **four-hour intensive with tarot master Christopher Gibson.** In this workshop participants will learn about the use of the tarot in divination – the foreknowledge of future events. Special emphasis will be placed on creating an interpretative story with the cards. Student will receive "hands-on" instruction in the use of several tarot card spreads.

Also on Friday from 2 to 5 P.M. we will hold our **Annual Membership Meeting.** This is an excellent opportunity for the membership to meet their directors and participate in the leadership of the organization.

Friday evening from 6 to 9 P.M. a **reception and initiations** will be held. Contact the Order of the Sphinx in advance if you would like to participate in receiving initiation into your grade level of the Church of Light.

We will offer two days of **expert instruction in Brotherhood of Light teachings** from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. on Saturday June 23 and Sunday June 24. The speaker's panel will include: Paul Bergner, Paul Brewer, Linda Bryant, Neil Cantwell, Gail Carswell, Meg Dissinger, Michael Foltz, Christopher Gibson, Sandra Mayo, and Peter Tourian. Some of the topics to be discussed are: Spiritual Alchemy, Mental Alchemy, Occultism Applied, Higher Consciousness and Archetypes,

Tarot and Divination, ESP, Energy Patterns, the Hermetic System of Progressions, and Medical Astrology.

Convention Registration: **Pre-registration prior to May 1, 2007 is being offered at the incredibly low price of \$125.** Registrations made from May 2 – June 20, 2007 will be \$135. After June 20 registration will be \$150. Registration includes participation in all Saturday and Sunday programming, lunch buffet both days, and the Saturday night banquet. There will be a separate \$30 fee for the pre-conference tarot intensive. Nominal costs for the pre-conference tours will be announced in May.

Hotel Reservations: We have been offered a special low room rate of \$75 for single or double occupancy. Each guest must make their own reservations by calling 1-800-227-1117-or 1-505-2843-7000 by May 15, 2007 and identify themselves as members of The Church of Light. All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit or secured with a major credit card. We strongly recommend making your reservations early. 🐉

THE CHURCH OF LIGHT



**Diamond
Jubilee
1932-2007**



Building a Better World with a Better Vision!

The Church of Light Vision for the 21st Century

OUR MISSION

To promote Universal Welfare and the exaltation of humankind by teaching and practicing the Religion of the Stars as outlined in the writings of C.C. Zain.

WHAT WE TEACH

- There is a loving Cosmic Intelligence, of which we are all a part, whose infinite goodness guides us through undeviating natural law.
- There is a Divine Plan, manifesting through progressive evolution, in which each soul has a unique and important role.
- A soul is completely moral when, to the maximum extent of its abilities, it follows the universal moral code: Contribute Your Utmost to Universal Welfare.
- Realization of the soul's Mission and the attainment of Self-Conscious Immortality is the spiritual goal toward which each soul moves.
- Love is the way to life. Unselfish Love alone makes immortality possible.
- Influence over one's life and destiny, both here and hereafter, is achieved by exercising Directed Thinking and Induced Emotion.
- Astrology is the Golden Key that unlocks the door to understanding the Soul's true character and potential.

- Extension of Consciousness is a valuable tool for realizing each individual's mission in the Divine Plan and for verifying the survival of the soul after death of the physical body.
- Religion is the sister of Science, and it evolves by incorporating new information as it is discovered and verified.

OUR VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

We are a powerful force for good and for spiritual enlightenment, because we expand the reach and experience of our members by:

- Providing reliable and verifiable information regarding the nature of the soul and its relationship to Deity and other life forms;
- Seeking out reliable and verifiable information regarding life on higher planes of existence, especially in regard to the transition we call death, and the nature of the next life;
- Developing increasingly advanced tools and training in astrology, extrasensory perception, directed thinking and induced emotion, toward the end of maximizing each person's happiness, usefulness and spirituality;
- Promoting the importance of the four essential freedoms: Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion;
- Building a sense of community and spiritual purpose, which uplifts and inspires our members to Contribute Their Utmost To Universal Welfare.

