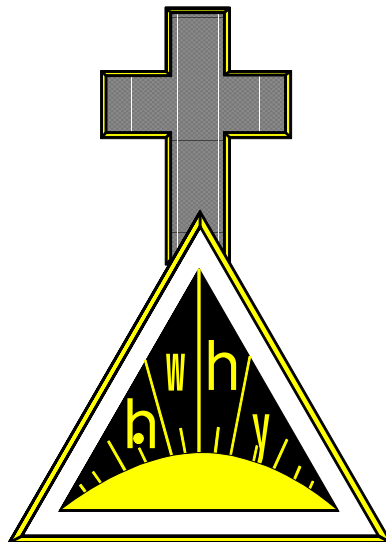


The Hermetic Order Of The
GOLDEN DAWN Intl.

MAJOR ARCANA SERIES

MOON / PATH OF q

**The Guide for Understanding
the Major Arcana**



PHILOSOPHUS 4=7

(The following description of the Moon is taken from the Philosophus initiation):

"The twenty-ninth path of the *Sepher Yetzirah* which answereth unto the letter q is called the Corporeal Intelligence, and it is so called because it forms the very body which is so formed beneath the whole Order of the worlds and the increment of them. It is therefore the reflection of the watery sign of Pisces and the path connecting the material Universe as depicted in t̄wkl̄m with the Pillar of Mercy and the side of dsj , through the sephira j x̄n, and through it do the waters of dsj flow down."

"Before you upon the altar is the 18th Key of the Tarot which symbolically resumes these ideas. It represents the Moon with four Hebrew y's like drops of dew falling, two dogs, two towers, a winding path leading to the horizon, and in the foreground water with a crayfish crawling through it to the land.

The Moon is in its increase on the side of Mercy, Gedulah, and from it proceed sixteen principle and sixteen secondary rays, which make thirty-two, the number of the paths of Yetzirah. She is the Moon at the feet of the woman of Revelations, ruling equally over the cold and moist natures and the passive elements of Earth and Water. It is to be noted that the symbol of the sign is formed of two lunar crescents bound together. It thus shows the lunar nature of the sign. The dogs are the jackals of the Egyptian Anubis, guarding the Gates of the East and West, shown by the two towers between which lies the path of all the heavenly bodies ever rising in the east and setting in the west. The crayfish is the sign of Cancer and was anciently the Scarabeus or Khephera, the emblem of the Sun below the horizon as he ever is when the Moon is increasing above. Also, when the Sun is in the sign Pisces, the Moon will be well in her increase in Cancer as shown by the crayfish emblem."

Esoteric Information

The path of q, the Moon card, is the 18th key of the Tarot. The color for the path is crimson, the sign is Pisces, mutable Water. The literal meaning for q is ear or back of head. The esoteric title of the Moon card is "The Ruler of Flux and Reflux."

The path of q connects t̄wkl̄m, the kingdom, with j x̄n, victory. This could also be referred to as the "Victory of the Material World." It also highlights the deceptive effect of a parent, emphasized as apparent power of material forces. The Moon card and the path of q, in regards to incarnation, is the path where the soul is integrated and begins organizing that of the physical body which it will inhabit. The path of q could be described as a form of sleep, preceding the waking consciousness or referred to as a sort of pre-consciousness. In terms of Order members of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn who are working to become one with their Higher Genius, it is a conquering path of phantoms reflected from the material world. We call this in the system of the Golden Dawn, "The Child of the Sons of the Mighty", meaning the creations of the created. It is on the path of q, the Moon card, that we find ourselves on

probation. Here we must face our deepest fears and conquer the phantoms of the darkest recesses of our own mind as well as those of our race. The path of q could be a terrible and frightening experience. It does involve real danger to the emotional stability of those who are not strong enough to handle and absorb this experience. These inner disturbances that may occur on the path of q may actually result in some kind of physical problem. Interesting enough, tradition states that one who successfully treads on this path and overcomes the phantoms of the recesses of his mind has the power of bewitchment and the casting of illusions. q may be related to a sleep consciousness or a dream state. It is only when we begin to slay the dragons and phantoms of the deepest recesses of our inner mind that we begin to understand how the dream mechanism of our mind works. It is when we gain a certain freedom and power to manipulate these qualities within ourselves as well as others.

q literally means back of head. It is the back of the head, whereas r, the Sun card, is the front or top of the head. Thus, q is symbolized by the Moon, whereas the bright awareness and intellect of daily consciousness may be symbolized by the Sun. We must keep in mind that in pathworking, as well as in the physical Universe, the Moon is only a reflection of the light of the Sun. All pathworking begins on the dark side of the Moon, where the Sun is not being reflected. It is there we face ourselves and our inner fears face to face, eyeball to eyeball. In overcoming them, we move down the path further and further to the light side of the Moon, that portion of the Moon that receives the light of the Sun. It is for this reason that the Golden Dawn Intl. holds that the Moon card is on the increase; it is increasing or waxing. Other metaphysicians of the past incorrectly say that it is waning. A little explanation is that the crayfish symbolized on the Golden Dawn Moon card is a symbol of Cancer, meaning that when the Sun is in Pisces, the Moon will be increasing in the sign of Cancer. So the crayfish emerging from the water, (as depicted on the Golden Dawn card), at one level, is intended to mean, "The Sun below the horizon as he ever is when the Moon is increasing above."

Another important concept with the Golden Dawn manuscripts is that the crayfish imagery developed from the scarab or the dung beetle. This refers to Kephera, father of the gods, the great god of creation and of resurrection. This dung beetle species will lay its egg in a ball of dung from which the egg eventually hatches. Since it is subjected to the warmth of the Sun, the dung ball was considered to be like the Sun itself by the ancient Egyptians. It was believed to contain all that was necessary for growth, life and birth.

In some aspects, the form emerging from the waters is both the highest and the lowest. It is the very originator of life as it is Kephera, the Egyptian god, who the Egyptians claim to have emerged as a beetle from the watery mass of Nu. It is the highest creative force, yet interesting enough it begins its material expression as the lowest organic form. The crayfish on the Tarot card of the Moon symbolizes the organic evolution of the human race. It also refers to the cellular development of the physical body from the inner roots of nature as well as an originator of form. Keep in mind that Pisces is ruled by the planet Jupiter which relates to the sephira of dsj. The very

earliest Golden Dawn papers, the ancient cipher manuscripts, say of Pisces that "By it the waters of dsj flow down," meaning that it is of primary formative consciousness at the lowest level of the Tree.

There is another Tarot reference to the Moon card which is important to consider, and that is the path of g, the High Priestess. This leads directly from God the Father to God the Son. The High Priestess is the source of sparkling clear consciousness emerging directly from the Godhead. We could say that the same exact waters that are sparkling clear on the path of the High Priestess are also seen here on the Moon card and the path of Pisces. The difference is that here on the path of q, the waters are polluted. Not that this path is evil, but rather that it is the phantoms that relate and refer to the density of the physical body. Keep in mind that the lower we are located on the Tree, the closer we are to physical manifestation and its density. Earlier in the lesson, it was mentioned that the process of traveling the paths will have a direct affect on the personality and the physical body. This is one reason that pathworking is required for grade advancement in the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn Intl.. The physical vehicle is subtly modified as the Light begins to descend into it and as the personality becomes more increasingly aware of the presence and activity of its True and Divine Self.

One important thing to consider is that almost all of the modern Tarot decks, including the Golden Dawn version, display y's or some kind of rays descending from the Moon. This is indicative that most occultists believe that there is some kind of energy that can be derived from the Moon itself. In the Golden Dawn deck, you will notice that there are four y's descending from the Moon, each one representing one of the four worlds.

The activity of menstruation and its dark polluted blood is intimately connected with the path of q and the Moon card. This is the path of childhood presided over by the Greek goddess Artemis. Artemis is represented by the Moon herself as well as the sister of Apollo, the Greek Sun god. Much like her Roman counterpart, Diana, Artemis was the goddess of "the hunt." She is the goddess of traveling through woods and mountainous areas. This is tough terrain and difficult to traverse. However, with her pack of hounds she is able to travel through it. We see the symbolism of the most savage aspect of nature, mainly childhood. We see Artemis traversing the rugged terrain, which is likened to the Moon card, with her pack of hounds. We see the dogs howling as depicted on the card as that associated to Artemis, not excluding the fact that this is considered a primitive path, one of raw animal nature. It is a path of animal instinct, "the law of the jungle," so to speak. It is a path of high passions and is very sexual and energizing, uncontrolled by the intellectual, moral or ethical considerations. There is no ego on the path of q to keep sexual desires and energies in balance.

Technically speaking, the dogs on the Moon card are not really dogs at all, although they may be represented as the hounds of Artemis. MacGregor Mathers felt that they should be considered the jackals of Anubis, the scavengers of the dead.

Anubis is the jackal god, the great god of the underworld charged with both judgment and the embalming of the deceased. In the Tarot this means the natural deterioration of the physical body in death and the return of its energy into the unseen as well as the suggestion of correspondences with the path of c, the Judgment card. Anubis is the god of Light and of Darkness, of death and of resurrection; a very complicated deity. Describing the subtiles of the deity cult to the Romans, Plutarch wrote, "By Anubis they understand the horizontal circle which divides the part of the world which they call Nephthys, from the visible which they give the name Isis." As this circle equally touches on the confines of both Light and Darkness, it may be looked on as a common to them both. From this circumstance arose the resemblance which they imagined between Anubis and the dog, it being observed of this animal that he is equally watchful in the day as in the night. The Egyptian Anubis seems to be of much the same power and nature as the Greek goddess Hecate, a deity both common to the celestial and infernal regions. One way or another, birth, life, death and resurrection are pivotal to the concept of the path of the Moon and the path of q. The formula of IAO,-- birth, death, and resurrection is the path of q.

To review the meaning of the path of q and the Moon card, let us always keep in mind that this is a murky path. This is a natural energy from which our physical bodies develop in the womb, for this is a watery path, much in the same way a child rests in the birth waters of the womb. It is a continual path that moves on in our lives as cells in our bodies are born again and old cells die. This is the path of the subconscious mind, the dream consciousness of phantoms, of dragons and of fear, the skeletons in the closets that go back to early childhood and even to those of past lives. To understand this path is to understand the makeup of our personality as well as the relationship to the consciousness of our physical vehicle built for each incarnation; a difficult undertaking for most people who perceive themselves as existing only through their bodies and not their spirits. Our dreams and subconscious mind that come to life as we sleep are filled with shades of matter which we consciously transcend, understand and make sense of. Only then can we conquer the path of the Moon.

