

The Royal Road

Arcanum 8: Blind Justice

The Royal Road by George Fathman.
Recorded by Josh Yates on 10/17/2020.

They say that if the rulers didn't show so much greed, selfishness and lust for power, things would be different.

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The symbolism and philosophy of Arcanum 8 tell us that unjust rulers rise to positions of influence only because they exercise more ruthless drive than their fellows.

Arcanum 8: Blind Justice

Arcanum 8 pictures a woman seated on a throne that rests on a four-tiered dais.

But the real secret of their power lies in this: their cunning brains exploit for personal profit the deep seated selfish drives in the animal soul of all men.

She wears a blindfold and a headdress composed of four iron laces.

Until we awaken to the voice of the divine soul pictured in Arcanum 6, we all dance to the tune played by the animal soul, shown as the ruling force of Arcanum 8.

In her left hand, she holds a pair of balances, and with her right, she brandishes a sword.

With the sword of vengeance, we ward off every influence of the Spirit of God standing at our right.

By her side stand a Sphinx, a lion and a winged genie.

The Spirit has its wings of thought outstretched, ready to carry us into the higher realm of love, brotherhood and true justice.

Above her head rises a winged turtle and a canopy inscribed with a cross.

But too often, we refuse his help.

Opposite the canopy shine eight stars.

The coronet of four iron lances the blind woman wears symbolizes the fourfold earthly nature determined to rule in its own strength.

Symbolism and Philosophy:

The blindfolded lady in this card is said by some writers to dispense justice impartially, according to the immutable laws of God and Nature.

It tells us that far too much of our thinking power operates on the wavelength of the war god Mars (iron).

Our view varies greatly from that interpretation.

We conceive her to represent man's animal soul, ruling from her throne in the temple of weights and measures.

Business and war march hand in hand over the battlefields of life.

The allocation of this card to the earthy sign Capricorn relates her to our system of commerce, which is the great Babylon we have built.

Together, they lay waste the finer impulses that many a sincere soul often receives from God's Spirit ever standing by his side, waiting patiently for the invitation to enter and sup.

Babylon means tyranny and confusion.

These healing impulses are constantly devoured by the rapacity of the animal soul, symbolized by the lion, king of beast, as that soul

This system results from the exploitation fostered by merchant princes who buy and sell the bodies and souls of men with the same cold logic they use in purchasing gold and silver and precious stones.

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The term "merchant Princess," as used in the 18th chapter of Revelation, means all those who control the economic destiny of mankind, be they government officials, captains of industry, bankers or labor leaders.

rules in the kingdom of time, symbolized by the Sphinx, both of which stand at her side.

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Those who suffer from the small justice meted out by the Babylonian commercial and judicial system blame the leaders of that system for their woes.

The flying turtle above her head betrays the muddy waters of animal emotions, passions and instincts that pass for what we sometimes mistakenly call "thought."



In spite of the fact that this station pictures the believer, the gross elements of his beast's nature still dominate his subconscious mind.

Arcanum 8 tells him he must learn that apparent victory is not complete on the physical plane alone.

Smug self-righteousness and outward piety will not suffice.

He must use the sword of the Spirit and the rod of power to fight the good fight of faith, now in the emotional more than the physical realm.

He learns that mere formal acknowledgement Of God with the lips must begin to be matched with overwhelming power in the heart.

Arcanum 8 teaches us the great lesson of equilibrium, one of the key words assigned to this card.

Here too, we must depart from the traditional interpretation.

Most writers consider the law of cause and effect, action and reaction, ultimately brings about equilibrium in the individual life.

Our view is quite different.

Zero-22 gives us an important clue.

Only two cards in the entire deck display a blindfold, Zero-22 and 8.

If you have ever tried to stand perfectly still for a few minutes while blindfolded, you know how difficult it is to keep from weaving in a circle.

It is even more difficult to try to walk in a straight line.

The sense of sight is vital for maintaining balance or equilibrium.

Zero-22 pictures, man as a stumbling stranger in this far country of Earth.

His blindness prevents his walking by the light of heaven.

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He stumbles headlong into the open mouth of the crocodile (selfish desires) as he leans on a black staff of materialism.

The blindfold in Arcanum 8 carries much the same meaning as in Zero-22, only this time it is not the blindness of selfish desire but the blindness of self-righteousness that fails to see in itself the evils it only too readily points out in others.

It is the blindness of the carnal mind which: "Receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (I Corinthians 2:14).

Moffatt's translation of this text makes it even more positive: "The unspiritual man rejects these truths of the Spirit of God, to him, they are sheer folly."

The otoliths, tiny calcified organs in the inner ear, sometimes called "ear stones," govern our sense of equilibrium.

If they become seriously damaged, we can no longer maintain our balance.

For example, if a man with defective ear labyrinths is blindfolded and placed in water so as to equalize his body pressure, he becomes completely helpless and has no longer any notion of the position of his body in space.

The senses of sight and hearing therefore vitally affect his ability to balance properly.

In his original home with his Father in the realm of light, the spirit of man enjoyed equilibrium.

On Earth, His sevenfold being is over balanced: three parts divine striving and fertile self-will to rule four parts human.

This iron-willed dictatorship (four iron lances on coronet) destroys the harmony of nature.

But every violation of natural law strikes back at the violator

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with double fury. The inevitable result is that Mother Nature, like all women, has the last word.

Man deliberately blindfolds his eyes to eternal realities.

Consequently, Arcanum 8 pictures him as stark-blind and stone-deaf to the light of the Spirit and the voice of God, symbolized by the genie standing at his side.

The real meaning, then, of the keyword equilibrium, as we understand it, is simply this: the Spirit of God must be joined to our sevenfold nature to correct our basic 3-4 imbalance.

This brings the teeter totter of our life to the horizontal, giving us a 4-4 relationship, thereby equalizing our off centered condition.

It restores our center of gravity.

It reconciles us with the law of nature and the law of God.

It substitutes the law of love for the law of self.



When we conscientiously and persistently seek the aid of the Spirit in our daily life, we can then emerge from under the canopy of materialism, symbolized by the cross and its center, and see the realm of light depicted by the eight stars.

Astrology:

Arcanum 8 corresponds to the sign Capricorn, ruled by the planet Saturn, indicating business, profession, honor.

Human Anatomy:

Arcanum 8 indicates the process of bone formation.

It has some influence over the parathyroid glands, the frontal pituitary, the otoliths.

Due to the influence of Saturn, it is associated with liver function and with the power commonly

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known as "second wind (reserve supply)."

Its specific influence is over the knee joint and the patella, also the patellar ligament.

Masonic Ritual:

Arcanum 8 corresponds to the Royal Master degree.

This degree says that "at the building of the temple, King Solomon, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abiff, the Widow's Son, decided to award the most skillful master Masons by imparting to them the Omnific Word.

But they took a solemn oath not to impart the Word until the completion of the temple, and then only when all three were present.

The Omnific Word represents the consciousness of God.

It can be imparted only when the candidate's threefold Spirit is awake and ready to receive it.

Added to his sevenfold nature, it makes the eighth factor and completes the personal needed to build the mystic Temple of Truth.

It balances his human and divine being and restores his spiritual equilibrium.

The Bible:

The character of Jezebel (I Kings 19) best typifies the animal soul Mother Nature gives us at birth, pictured as the ruling factor of Arcanum 8.

Jezebel attempted to kill Elijah (the awakened human Spirit) in retaliation for Elijah's killing the prophets of Baal and the groves.

This story allegorizes the basic animosity man creates when he tries to dictate to the life of Earth.

He reaps false justice when he ignores the ancient law, "To rule nature, you must obey her."

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Revelations 2:20 describes Jezebel as a prophetess, who seduces those who try to follow the Spirit, encouraging them to commit fortification and to follow idol worship.

Jezebel tempts us only because we want to be tempted.

We fall into her arms because we want to forget our responsibility to God, to sacrifice God for self.

This is the reason why the coded statement, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches," is repeated seven times in Revelations 2 and 3.

In view of the significance of the otoliths, this statement takes on added meaning.

It denotes the stone-death condition of our spiritual ear before the rebirth, and tells us that our seven churches (sevenfold nature) must open our inner ear to hear what the Spirit has to say to us.

The words of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 13:13-15, give emphasis to the message of Arcanum 8: "Therefore speak I to them in parables, because they seeing, see not, and hearing, they hear not, neither do they understand."

"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, by hearing, ye shall hear and shall not understand, and seeing, ye shall see, and shall not perceive."

"For this people's heart is wax gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes, they have closed, least at any time, they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

This applies to all men, not only to the people who lived in the time of Jesus.

Our sin-darkened nature makes us all deliberately close our eyes, harden our hearts, make our ears and dull of hearing and wards off the healing influence of the Spirit

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ever standing at our side, waiting to help us.



Until we turn the sword of self-will into the cross
of self-sacrifice, that help will never come.

Revelations 6:5,6 indirectly mentions Arcanum 8 in the
type of man who sits on a black horse (blind self-will)
with a pair of balances in his hand weighing
wheat and barley, symbols of commerce.

The sixth chapter of Micah in the Old Testament conveys
the same thought: "Are there yet the treasures
of wickedness in the house of the wicked
and the scant measure that is abominable?
Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances,
and with the bag of deceitful weights?"

We feel the customary interpretation that the scales
in Arcanum 8 represent God's justice misses the mark,
because it is the animal soul, not God, that holds them.

That soul is crafty, cunning, deceitful and vengeful.

It is completely self-centered.

It loves the scant measure of buying
cheap and selling dear, of reaping
where it has not sown in.

Its so-called justice is too often vengeance.

But the final blame always rests on the human spirit,
not the animal soul.

For it consciously blinds itself to and ignores
the light of heaven, which requires it to live
according to the law of love.

When the blindfold is finally removed,
we can see with our inner spiritual eye
the wisdom contained in the essential message
of Arcanum 8 which lies in the words:
"He (the Lord) hath showed thee, O man, what is
good, and what doth the Lord require of thee,
but to do justly, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with thy God? (Micah: 6:8)

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Aphorism:

Remember then, son of Earth, that to restore your mental balance
and spiritual equilibrium, you must always cooperate
with God's Spirit.

But you yourself must make the choice.

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Keywords and Correspondences:

Arcanum 8: Blind Justice

Sound: H, CH, as in hitch.

Keywords: small justice, equilibrium.

Human Experience: self-denial.

Bible: Revelations 6:5,6; Micah 6:8.

Astrology: Sign Capricorn, the Goat.

Key phrase: I Use.

Physical: business.

Emotional: caution, doubt.

Spiritual: humility, sacrifice.

Mythology: Pan, mischievous god of the fields.

Alchemy: congealing.

Symbol: The Scape Goat, the Believer.

Ritual: Royal Master degree.

Anatomy: Knees, ligaments, bon formation.

Gem: onyx.

Color: dark blue.



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