

The Royal Road

Arcanum 11: The Enchantress

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Arcanum 11: The Enchantress.

Arcanum 11 pictures a chastity dressed young girl.

With little effort, she closes the mouth of a raging lion.

She wears a crown surmounted by a vase and an eagle.

A line of trees decorates the bottom of the card below the heavy black line.

Symbolism and Philosophy:

This marks the fourth time we have met the divine soul in the Tarot: first in Arcana 2 and 3, then in Arcanum 6, and now in Arcanum 11.

In a sense, Arcanum 11 carries forward part of the symbolism of Arcanum 6, in that it too portrays the divine soul and the animal soul together.

Arcanum 6 shows the animal soul as a woman, while Arcanum 11 pictures her as a lion.

The idea of strength and force have been traditionally associated with Arcanum 11.

The two figures pictured herein illustrates well the two types of force: animal and divine.

The lion symbolizes that brute strength so typical of the king of beast, which every man uses before the blindfold is removed from his eyes.

He lives by the law of the jungle, the law of claw and fang.

When the light of heaven dawns, however, he begins to realize that, with the help of God, he must harness his brute force to serve the purposes of the spirit.

Slowly, he becomes aware of a higher law, the law of love.

As he pays more and more heed to the enchanting voice of his divine soul, the warmth of her affection gradually

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thaws out the icy coldness so natural to his un-regenerative heart.

It begins to melt down the frosty barriers of selfishness, envy, greed, lust, hate and all the other bestial traits so characteristic of the animal soul.

The magic of God's love enables us to close, with little physical effort, the mouth of the leonine passions of our own animal nature.

And miracle of miracles, we begin to notice that the animalisms of our friends, relatives and associates have also lessened its ferocity.

We discover, to our amazement that by overcome our own self-love, the Godly love that now fills us overflows and brings out the best in others.

This card shows a vase and an eagle perched atop the headdress of the woman.

The vase symbolizes a chalice, which in turn typifies the heart.

When it opens wide the doors to God's love, that love changes the direction of the heart's natural instincts, which are "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

The heart then soars high on eagle's wings to the light of the spiritual sun and returns to Earth to spread wide its blessings.

As Dr. Dequer says, "In an outward sense, Arcanum 11 indicates the power that true love generates for the benefit of all. For it is the feminine side of life, by its apparent helplessness, that ennobles the otherwise aggressive male instincts by teaching self restraint and sacrifice. As criminals have broken down at the mention of their mother, so the divine soul, awakened, strengthened and made active by the Christic Spirit transforms man's beastly proclivities and brings forth into prominence his ever latent but essential Godhood."

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The placement of the characters in this card above the heavy black line, indicates that the action takes place beyond or interior to the rim of the physical plane, symbolized by the trees at the bottom.

It transpires first in the secret chambers of the heart, then works its way into the outer life.



Astrology:

Arcanum 11 corresponds to the planet Neptune, ruler of the sign Pisces.

It signifies idealism, visions, delusions, exaltation, the utopian urge.

Human Anatomy:

Arcanum 11, like Arcanum 10, indicates subjective processes.

It refers to the pineal gland, or "third eye."

It signifies either a high degree of imagination, exalted visions of truth, or hallucinations, delusions, longing for drugs, drink, and secret vices of all kinds.

Masonic Ritual:

Arcanum 11 corresponds to the Heroine of Jericho degree, based on the story of Rahab, the harlot, described in the book of Joshua as follows:

"Joshua, the son of Nun, sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into the harlots house, named Rahab, and lounged there. And it was told, the king of Jericho, saying, behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country."

"And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee,

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which are entered into thine house, for they become to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men and hid them and said thus, there came men to me, but I wish not whence they were."

"And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out, wither the men went, I wot not, pursue after them quickly, for ye shall overtake them. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof."

"And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof, and she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you."

"For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when ye came out of Egypt, and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites that were on the other side of Jordan, Sihon and Og whom ye utterly destroyed." (Joshua 2:1-10).

This rather sordid story illustrates the dual nature of the planet Neptune, to which Arcanum 11 corresponds.

Neptune governs, treason, spies, harlots, lies, secrets, drink and drugs on its lower side, spiritual force, love and the power to keep silent on its higher.

Mystically, the spies in this allegory represent the rebel spirits of men who left their royal heavenly (Israel) estate and came to the brothel called Earth.

Rahab the harlot, typifying Mother Nature, lets them down by a (navel) cord through the window (or gate of birth) from the wall (of the equinoctial colure), (Pisces, ruled by Neptune),

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which divides the winter (or death) signs from the summer (or life) signs. (Joshua 2:15).

Rahab, or Mother Nature, covers the spirits of men with the stalks of fleshy form.

From that flax will eventually be woven the white linen robe of God's righteousness, a purified spiritual body.

Then, Rahab says to the spies: "Now, therefore, I pray you swear unto me by the Lord, since I have showed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my Father's house and give me a true token, and that ye will save alive my father and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death." (Joshua 2:12,13).

The birth of the human spirit into this world takes place in the secrecy and silence of the womb, and when, through the rebirth, the Lord gives us dominion over the land (of the animal soul), we verily treat kindly the family of our natural powers, but utilizing them in the service of our spiritual king.

The ancient ritual dramatizes the message of Arcanum 11 by bringing into the lodge the wife of a Royal Arch Mason, who, together with the candidate, re-enact the dialog between Rahab and the spies.

Mention is made of the scarlet thread or cord, and the sign of a red handkerchief is also used.

These refer to the bloodline that runs from generation to generation.

The power of true love is symbolized in the ritual by the man placing his right foot inside the lady's foot, his toe to her heel, denoting mutual understanding.

Then they put their right hands on each other's shoulders, signifying mutual aid.

The three days Rahab advised the spies to flee to the mountain (of faith) refers to the three



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planes of being, body, soul and spirit.

These they must conquer before they can consider themselves safe for the pursuit of animal lust. (Joshua 2:16).

The Bible:

The story of Samson, an allegory of the sun, tells the message of Arcanum 11.

Samson was a Nazarite, or son of purity, his mother having been commanded "not to eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing." (Judges 13:14).

Being pure as sunlight in his conception and birth, Samson represents the male counterpart of Arcanum 11.

For like the woman shown in this card, he slew a lion, with nothing but his hands, rending it in twain, and later taken honey from its carcass.

The sign Leo (the lion) is the house of the sun, the place of his greatest power, while honey symbolizes spiritual nourishment.

Samson is thus portrayed as taking his nourishment from the home of light.

In overcoming his animal nature by the power of heaven, he built up his spiritual strength (honey) on the foundation of his erstwhile leonine passions.

In other words, the drives of his animal nature served him instead of enslaving him.

So long as Samson (the sun) remained pure, (exalted, as in summer) his strength was boundless.

But when he fell into the winter or material signs we read: "And the lords of the Philistines (winter signs) came up unto her (Delilah, sign Virgo, Arcanum 2, the gate of winter, or embodiment), and said unto her, entice him and see

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wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him, and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. (Judges 16:5).

Three times (or signs) Samson (dallying with temptation, Delilah) was bound and broke his bonds as fast as they were applied.

This tells us that the power of spiritual love protects the pure in heart on the three planes of being.

The secret of Samson's great strength lay in his hair.

Hair is adornment, and therefore comes under the rulership of Venus, the goddess of love.

It is also symbolic of sexual virility, which when harnessed to the creative powers of the mind, can be the oil that feeds the flame of spirit.

Samson, dedicated to God since birth, was capable of using spiritual force on any plane, but Delilah, the harlot, shaved off his rays of power (hair).

Having cut him off from the pure love which was his strength, she passed him into the hands of his enemies.

They bound his body and fetters of brass (animal lusts) and extinguished his spiritual light (by putting out his eyes) and forced him to grind (Arcanum 10) in the prison house (Arcanum 12) as they worshiped their fish god Dagon (Pisces).

Daniel 6:22 gives another version of Arcanum 11 in the story of Daniel in the lion's den, "My God hath sent his angel and hath shut the lion's mouths."

The book of Ruth conceals the mystery of this Arcanum.

Ruth 2:10 tells us that Ruth was a stranger in a strange land, another rendition of the Prodigal Son parable.

Truly the divine soul is an outcast from her real home with the Heavenly Father.

"Thou hast left thy father

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and thy mother and the land of thy nativity and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore." (Ruth 2:11).

As strength is one of the qualities of Arcanum 11, and as love is so characteristic of the divine soul, how significant that Ruth's love for Boaz (whose name means strength) ultimately unites her with him who serves as a type of the Spirit.

Spiritual force, one of the key words for Arcanum 11, shows up in the work of the 11 apostles after the betrayal of Judas.

Judas, a type of human self-will, carries the sting of spiritual death.

When rebellion finally dies out, it releases the power of love cradled in the divine soul.

That love then creates a new life that takes the place of the old, with sometimes miraculous results.

Note the significant aspects of the planet Neptune, allocated to Arcanum 11, in the underlined words found in the record of the speaking in tongues phenomenon at Pentecost.



A great many mocked and said, "These men are full of new wine."

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and said unto them, "Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

"For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, and it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophecy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams, and on my servants and on my handmaidens, I will pour out in those days of my Spirit. (Acts 2:13-18).

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Aphorism:

Remember then, son of Earth, that true spiritual power comes from love born of faith, that faith which is your real source of strength, gained by experience along the overcoming path of the Royal Road.

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Keywords and Correspondences:

Arcanum 11: The Enchantress.

Sound: K.

Keywords: purity, spiritual force.

Human Experience: intuition.

Bible: Book of Ruth; Judges 16:5; Daniel 6:22.

Astrology: Planet Neptune, ruler of sign Pisces.
The Utopian urge.

Physical: idealism.

Emotional: visions, delusions.

Spiritual: exaltation.

Mythology: Poseidon, god of the sea.

Alchemy: hidden forces.

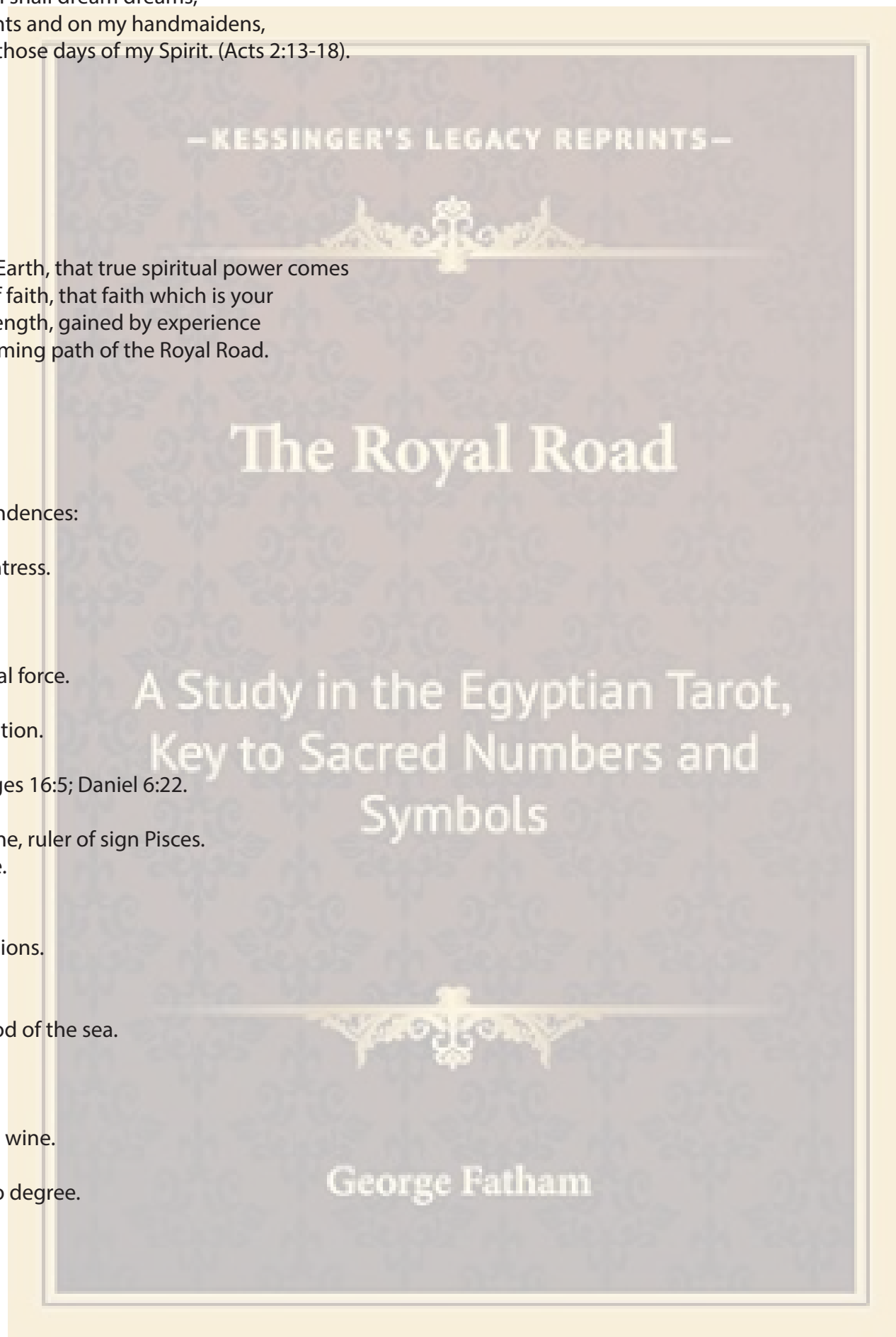
Symbol: the Scarlet Line; wine.

Ritual: Heroine of Jericho degree.

Anatomy: pineal gland.

Metal: molybdenum.

Color: iridescence.



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