

The Royal Road

Introduction

The Royal Road by George Fathman.
Recorded by Josh Yates on 10/06/2020.

Page 2

Page 1

Introduction.

What are the tarot cards?

That question has been asked and never completely or satisfactorily answered for hundreds of years.

Mystery shrouds their origin and history. The most reliable research traces them back to not earlier than the 13th century A.D.

Various secret orders have perpetuated them in France, Italy and Germany.

The Bohemian Gypsies prize them highly. Most Tarot scholars decry an Egyptian origin. They maintain there is no certain data linking the cards with that country.

Yet, if the Tarot cards date only from the 13th century, how shall we explain biblical references to their symbolism?

Many numbers in Scripture bear no apparent relation to the context of the stories in which we find them. But the application of Tarot symbolism often clears up the fog of vague meanings. This argues strongly in favor of an earlier Tarot origin than the 13th century.

In the Old Testament, Tarot numbers were used by many of its writers. Moses incorporated them in his measurement of the Ark and the Tabernacle.

The Hebrews called their numbering system the Quabalah, or Kabala.

In Stephen's classic oration before the Sanhedrin, he said that Moses was "learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." Acts 7:22

From this statement, we conclude that Stephen was aware that Moses had been thoroughly initiated into the ancient mysteries.

The New Testament is also filled with strange numerical references, such as the 153 fishes and the Beast of Revelation (666).

We shall work out

several examples later in this book to show how deeply the Truth is sometimes buried, and how a little digging with the Tarot shovel brings it to light.

Not only the Bible, but many other sacred Scriptures use Tarot numbers for symbolic purposes.

The Tarot Cards embody universal principles, laws, powers and elements of life.

Together, they form the alphabet of a widespread symbolic language.

Few realize it today, but symbolism still remains the most effective method by which Truth can be imparted to the mind.

We agree with Oswald Spengler when he says that symbols awaken ideas sleeping in our consciousness. They arouse a thought by means of suggestion, and thus cause the truth which lies hidden in the depths of our Spirit to reveal itself.

So far as we know, Dr John H. Dequer is the first modern scholar to openly interpret the Major Arcana of the Tarot by the key of the Prodigal Son parable (Luke 15:11-32).

This parable tells the spiritual history of every man. It describes his self-willed separation from at-one-ment with God; his passing through the "far country" of temporal darkness; and his ultimate return, as a penitent, to his former glory.

Our analysis, therefore, draws heavily upon Dr. Dequer's masterly research, embodied in two of his works, "Arrows of Light from the Egyptian Tarot," and "The Word in Sound."

The Tarot card symbols give the details of the significant story of the Prodigal.

When fully understood, they tell us, in clear, concise terms, the answers to the age-old questions:
Whence came I?
Why am I here?
Whether do I go?

The first seven Arcana with Arcanum Zero-22



Page 3

as the key contains the basic Prodigal Son story.

The rest elaborate the details.

We have no sure proof of the present order of the cards
or whether they were meant to be treated consecutively.

We don't try to, but treat each of the remaining cards
as variations on the main theme which seems
to follow logically through the first seven.

All so-called mysteries tell this same story in one
form or another.

For example, in the summation of the "Atma Botha,"
or "Book of Soul Knowledge," which CC Zain
says is still used in India and Tartary, it reads:

Aphorismata of the Logos:

1. Whatever exists, exists as a Whole, as God,
or is a part, or emanation from God.

2. In the Whole as an angel,
unconscious of the Whole,
is an undescended spirit.

3. Parted from the Whole, yet a portion of the Whole,
and unconscious of the Whole,
is the Law of Differentiation.

4. Parted from the Whole, with the Whole,
yet external to the Whole,
is a descended or fallen spirit.

5. Parted from the Whole,
with the Whole,
yet conscious of the Whole
and knowing it has fallen away from,
and that it should, and can,
return to the Whole,
is the Law of Repentance.

6. That which is parted from the Whole,
turns again to the Whole,
is the Law of True Repentance.

7. That which was parted from the Whole,
and has again returned to the Whole,
is a part of the Whole,
remains so forever as a blessed spirit,
and as the Law of Perfect Atonement.

Page 4

Certain secret orders warn of the dire consequences
that are supposed to fall upon those
who reveal the mysteries.

We contend that God never hides truth from man,
but that man hides from both God
and the truth about himself.

He who sincerely seeks for Truth will find it.
No secret order can prevent anyone from finding it,
no matter what subterfuges it employs,
nor how many barriers it erects,
nor how horrible the threats it utters.

We hold with Dr Papus, that only those who have an ear to hear
will listen to or understand the truth
the Tarot cards have to tell.

The others will pay no heed.

As Moses wisely wrote:

"The word is very nigh until thee,
in thy mouth,
and in thy heart.

When the Prodigal is ready to return to his Father,
the Tarot symbols call to the Word
in his heart and mouth,
finding a glad response.

And the use he makes of the awakened knowledge will
be for the welfare of his fellowman,
not for his own selfish ends.

Numerical values:

Mathematics underlies the laws governing all phenomena,
and is considered the perfect science.

As C.C. Zain tells us, by the use of numbers
we can chart and measure the values and
relationships of things and forces.

For example, solid objects such as houses, automobiles, etc.,
are valued in dollars and cents.
The power of an engine is rated in horsepower units.
The speed of light is calculated as so many 1000 miles a second.
The pressure of an electrical current is stated in volts,
the volume and amperages.

Without a system of weights and measures,
we could hardly

Page 5

conduct the business of everyday life.

The Tarot cards form a convenient method by
presenting units of measure in symbolic form.

By their use we can determine the relative weakness
and strength of dynamic life forces.

By learning the zodiacal signs, planets, numbers and keywords
ascribed to the various cards, we can master the vowels
and consonants of a cosmic alphabet.

These enable us to spell out words, phrases and sentences,
and the thoughts they convey help us
to better understand the riddle of life.

The Two Arcana:

The word arcanum means a secret.

The word Tarot comes from the Egyptian "Tah Ro,"
meaning the Royal Road.

The Tarot, therefore, is a body of spiritual knowledge
known only to initiates.

Anyone who earnestly desires to know its message
can be initiated into the secrets of the Tarot.



The Tarot consists of two sets of cards:
The Major Arcana, 22 in number;
and the Minor Arcana, 56 in number.

The Minor Arcana divided into 40 numbered cards
and 16 court cards, and while they once had,
seemingly, a more exalted purpose,
today are used mostly for fortune telling.

Since we can read the main features of
the story of life from the 22 Major Arcana,
we shall concern ourselves with them only,
and give but a short outline of the Minor Arcana
and their broad symbolism as we find it
in Mainly P. Hall's work:

The 56 Minor Arcana:

The four suits: Swords, Coins, Cups and Scepters,
correspond to (1) the four elements:
earth,

Page 6

air, water, fire;
(2) the four corners of creation:
east, north, west, south and
(3) the four seasons of the year:
spring, summer, fall and winter.

The court cards consist of Kings, Queens, Knights and Pages.
The Minor Arcana of the Tarot gave birth
to our present-day playing cards,
52 in number.

Their four suits: diamonds, clubs, hearts and spades
correspond to the Coins, Scepters, Cups and Swords
of the Minor Arcana.

Playing cards have a King, Queen and Jack (or Knight)
without the Page (or Valet).

Even in its unbridged form,
the modern deck of cards have
interesting symbolisms.

The two colors, red and black,
typify the two major divisions of the year:
summer, when the sun is north and
winter, when the sun is south of the equator.

The four suits, as already mentioned,
represent the four seasons of the year.

The 12 court cards are the 12 signs of the Zodiac.
The 10 pip cards represent the 10 planets of our solar system.
The 13 cards of each suit are the 13 lunar months and the year,
and the 52 cards of the deck are the 52 weeks in the year.

Counting the total number of pips, plus the jacks,
queens and kings as 11, 12 and 13,
the sum for the 52 cards is 364.

If the Joker is added, the total is 365,
the number of days in the year.

The 22 Major Arcana:

Tradition links the Major Arcanum of the Tarot
with the 12 zodiacal signs and
the 10 planets of our solar system.

This makes 22 factors in all, with each Arcanum
carrying a number from 1 to 22.

Several ancient alphabets, notably the Hebrew, Egyptian,
and Chaldean, had 22 letters, corresponding

Page 7

to the number of cards in the Major Arcana.

Many Tarot students used the 22 cards
of the Major Arcana for divination.

In this work, we analyze them only for their rich
spiritual symbolism.

Their most exalted use, we believe, is to synthesize
knowledge, and to correlate the various factors
that explain man and his relationship to God.

We feel that only the Minor Arcana should be used
for the divinatory purposes, and we leave
that subject for other writers to cover.

