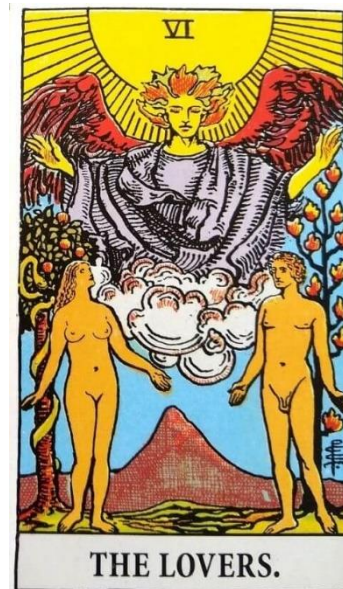


Practice - Newsletter - June 2023

Topic of the month

“Two souls dwell, alas! in my chest...”



Our spiritual and psychological journey through the imagery of the Tarot and the astrological cycle of the year is nearing the end of the worldly sequence before we turn inward on our individuation journey. In the last two months we have been dealing with the mundane and the spiritual emperor and putting the superego content emanating from them to the test. Now there are decisions to be made, and those born under the sign of Gemini can tell you a thing or two about how difficult this sometimes is. The zodiac sign Gemini, which dominates June, corresponds with the trump card "The Lovers" of the Tarot deck, which provides us with valuable information with its rich, archetypal symbolism.

Earlier versions of this trump card in the Major Arcana of the Tarot showed a young man hit by Cupid's arrow who must choose between a blond and a dark-haired woman. Traditionally, in Europe in earlier centuries, this was always seen as a choice between virtue and moral turpitude, in accordance with the world view shaped by the Christian churches and their value system. The woman generally stood for temptation and the dark hair color symbolized a certain wickedness, just as darkness generally stood for evil. Despite all the enlightenment, diversity, and tolerance of the modern Western worldview, this is still a popular motif of films, novels and hit songs: the middle- or upper-class man who must choose between his beloved but now somewhat boring wife and a much younger, usually somewhat wild woman. Usually, such stories come with a clearly judgmental message and a more or less raised forefinger and do not make the poor, middle-aged fool in love look good. The dumped wife is portrayed either as the victim who breaks or as the avenging angel who bitterly repays the unfaithful villain for his betrayal.

The Rider-Waite tarot game takes the matter from the social level into the inner, psychological, and metaphysical realm by depicting more of a paradisiacal scene, showing an unclothed male-female couple with an angel hovering over them. In this Garden of Eden, however, the trees of knowledge do not lead to the Fall, but to enlightenment. The card is therefore no longer called "The Lover", but "The Lovers".

So, it is about making inner decisions that lead out of the conflict between good and evil and to use the so-called evil rather as a driving force for spiritual development. The Hierophant's Trump card, which we discussed in the May newsletter, recommended that we confront the external, ecclesiastical, and moral-social path. The lovers now lead us to the inner path of the occultists, which confronts us with the hidden drives. The simple translation of the Latin word "occultus" is "hidden". So, it is simply a matter of uncovering what is hidden. In this respect, psychotherapy is often occultism in action when it works in a revealing way. Our reality of life is a consequence of decisions: Do we break out of our class? Do we lead a life in the shadows, in addiction, in crime? What do we do in our lives, which are often socially adapted, with the tormenting passions that do not fit our social image, the temptations to adultery, to visiting brothels, the urge to violence, pornography, drugs, alcohol, gluttony?

The churches and the moral authorities of society always had simple answers to these questions: get yourself together, these things are forbidden, what will people think, no one is allowed to know, at least make sure that no one finds out about your dirty deeds, etc. The Catholic Church has always had a "petty cash box" ("Bimbeskasse"), as former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl would have called it, from which the consequences of the missteps of its priests were paid, be it alimony or hush money for the pedophile monstrosities indulged in between two masses. Exotericism (= the outwardly turned or externally accessible aspects of a philosophy or religion) does not offer a real solution. Only when we turn to esotericism (= belonging to the inner realm, understandable from within) can we begin to deal with it constructively.

The time quality of the sign of Gemini provides us with the optimal energy for this confrontation. The sign is ruled by Mercury. The planet Mercury stands for communication, inventiveness, sensory impressions, and traffic. Mercury is the mediator through which we can communicate our thoughts about the world - and our impressions of it. Gemini is associated with the element of air and those born under this sign are also often perceived as being quite "airy". On old star charts, Gemini is represented by two youths, Castor and Pollux, sons of Zeus, facing each other and embracing (see historical illustration above). This expresses what I hinted at in my heading for this newsletter: two souls dwell in the breast of the Gemini. The immortal Pollux is self-confident, cool, analytical, critical, deliberative and at peace with himself. His mortal brother Castor is fond of worldly and material things and is described as rather superficial. Many born under this sign of the zodiac feel this conflict between the spiritual, ethereal, airy aspect of their nature and the hefty, sensual, pleasure-seeking part of themselves very strongly, which often leads to lifelong inner struggles and at times great inner turmoil, although outwardly, of course, they can put on a usually good-humored, enterprising and energetic face and get any party going. But the Gemini-born are by no means as simple-minded as they usually pretend to be; they only very rarely allow anyone access to their deeper soul processes.

The quality of time in Gemini is characterised by great tolerance and esteem, friendships are sacred and important to most Geminis, social loyalty is a high value in the lives of most Gemini-born people, although erotic loyalty is often not so far off. With their restlessness resulting from constant inner conflict, Geminis are eager to travel, curious, inquisitive, communicative and agile, often keen on sports. They seem to be on the fast track of life at high speed, are often the typical "racing reporters" found in journalistic and other professions that involve speed, being on the move, communication and good written expression. They sometimes appear superficial to others, and sometimes that is just fine with them. Behind this image they can easily hide their distinctive sore spots. Excuses and bold ideas fly effortlessly to them and so they elegantly manoeuvre their way out of many a tricky situation. But

these airheads often had a hard time as children, often had to find rational explanations for things they felt were not at all right and often quickly became independent and self-reliant.

As an early Gemini-born, who saw the light of day on 25 May already, I myself am still exposed to strong Taurus influences, but in the meantime I know enough about the themes of the star sign Gemini and can wholeheartedly confirm what astrology has to say about this star sign. The constant struggle of head/intellect and heart/guts is very familiar to me. I can also confirm that people born under this sign do not have a particularly strong career drive or pathological ambition, we Geminis are not hard workers, but if we enjoy something very much, we can be very diligent and write pages and pages of newsletters. Sometimes we are downright geniuses 😊. But we wouldn't dream of elbowing our way to the top somewhere, where's the party in that? Besides, you lose too many friends in the process. We prefer to celebrate successes as a team.

On the dark side of this star sign lies, for example, their biting mockery. Those who know me well have certainly already made acquaintance with it, I can have a very sharp tongue. Many a cabaret artist was born under this sign, such as the unforgettable Dieter Hildebrandt. Gemini have difficulty keeping secrets and have difficulty making decisions, they sometimes muddle through to the point of deviousness, although that is usually too strong a word, as they usually remain lovable in their little games. With their acting talent, they sometimes play the class clown and have to be careful not to get stuck in this role. They are good at separating sex and love and are often afraid of too much closeness, need a certain distance and freedom in relationships and are sometimes frightened of too deep feelings. Sultry love vows are not Gemini's thing and often only they and other Gemini-born people can do something with their humour.

The completely opposite Scorpio-born often exert a great fascination on the Gemini-born and vice versa. In practice, this pairing is common. If the two have learned to balance how to deal with each other, it can work very well, but they will still often shake their heads at each other.

One famous Gemini-born who led a real double life was former US President John F. Kennedy, who is now known to have been a sex addict. The controversial former US President Donald Trump and the unstable, late actress Marilyn Monroe were also born under this sign. But also more positive figures like Clint Eastwood, Heidi Klum and Paul McCartney.

So now the tarot card of lovers points the way for the torn Gemini and all other tormented souls to overcome their inner conflicts, struggles and disconnected loose ends. With the awakening of sexuality in our youth, we have to make the decision to find our own happiness and break with mum and dad in order to do so. The little boy realises that mummy is already taken to daddy, and the little girl may accept that she will not marry daddy. So we set out in our own generation to find appropriate replacements. Those who consciously put their parents' guidelines to the test and develop their own ethics and personality have a much easier time establishing a relationship that is more independent of the influences of the parental home than those who do not like to break away from them.

The sexual instinct forces us to enter into relationships with other people, leads us out of isolation and finally opens us to the path of human and sometimes also to the path of Divine love. That is why on the card "The Lovers" we see an angel above the heads of man and woman. So once we have said goodbye to the ecclesiastical idea of sin in relation to sexuality, it can lead us to paradise. This happens either by combining it with unconditional devotion and love in a devoted external relationship and thereby raising it to a higher level, or by not living it externally - at least for phases - but using it as a driving force for spiritual development and experiencing it as ecstatic energy in our meditations or our yoga and other practices. C.G. Jung spoke of the "unio mystica" as the result of the individuation path, where all opposites flow together and world, divine, conscious and unconscious become one. One step on this path is the union of anima and animus, the female and male parts of the psyche. For me, the card of the lovers is a representation of this union between soul (anima)

and spirit (animus) in the body, which is thereby redeemed and rises to new vitality and youth.

Both in loving another human being and in loving God, we have to give up some of the ego control that keeps us trapped in the illusion of separateness. The symbolism of man and woman has been used throughout the ages to represent duality and its overcoming. On our tarot card the man stands in front of the burning tree of life, from which the voice of God already spoke to Moses. Behind the woman is the tree of knowledge, entwined by the serpent of unconscious wisdom. A constructive counter-design to the paradisiacal fall of man, in which the tree of knowledge is reduced to the knowledge of good and evil and the serpent to the satanic principle. This constructive counter-design allows the angel to appear, hovering over the two figures. There is no longer any question of an expulsion from paradise.

Rachel Pollack reminds us that an old Platonic myth tells of double beings who were split by Zeus because they were too powerful. There were three types of these dual beings: male-female, male-male and female-female. Since the split, each of us has been looking for our better half. Pollack goes on to write: "Unlike the Jewish and Christian myths, Plato's story gives equal rights to homosexuals. This reminds us that we make it too easy for ourselves when we treat the symbolism of male and female as absolute opposites. The magician and the high priestess are very subtly interwoven in each of us. And the angel can be evoked by lovers of any kind. It is not the roles that matter, but the reality of the union." (*Rachel Pollack: "TAROT - 78 Stufen der Weisheit", p. 74, 15th German edition 2019, IRIS by Neue Erde GmbH*)

The Tarot is a path to liberation and a clear counter to the various religious teachings of sin and punishment. The Tarot also does not share the fear of religions that man could presume to become like God, on the contrary, it promotes the unity of God and man, not by the ego "playing God" and making the earth subservient to itself with all kinds of technical finesse, but by disempowering the ego and allowing our true, divine nature to take over. On our Tarot card today, the man looks at the woman and the woman looks at the angel. This is exactly the right way: reason and rationality (male principle) overcome their sometimes narrow limits by turning to passion (female principle), which in turn is guided by reason (male principle) and thus opens the view to the angel (divine principle). They need each other to find the way to paradise. Those who cannot give up their ego even for a brief moment abuse sex for power games and are controlled by sex. Those who negate their desire for devotion end up in depression. Those who, in turn, without sense and reason (male principle), always just go where the drive and desire takes them (female principle), stagger from one unsatisfying experience to the next without awareness. In the unconscious (soul, anima) we find the actual energy of life, from there we bring it to the light and give this energy form, direction and meaning (spirit, animus). Many mystics have described union with God in terms of sexual ecstasy.

Dates, important and current events:

- Elke's naturopathic practice and my psychotherapeutic healing practice will be closed on Friday, June 16, 2023.
- **Elke's date preview:**
 - June 02, 2023: Online Meditation
 - June 07, 2023: Meeting point - group for patients (chronic diseases)
 - June 21, 2023: Summer solstice celebration in the garden
- **Save the Dates:**
 - July 7, 2023: Online meditation
 - July 16, 2023: Spiritual devotion

➤ **Summer Special:**

26.08.2023: Day seminar in the garden. Topic: Self-worth

For more information, please contact Elke: naturheilpraxis.tegel@gmail.com

- **At irregular intervals on Sundays from 15:00 - 18:00** we organize a spiritual devotion, i.e. common prayer and singing, Bible text with metaphysical interpretation, joint meditation. **The next dates: 16 JULY 2023, 15 OCT 2023.**

In this spirit, I wish you a sunny June full of passionate reason in the here and now. That is the best thing we can do to counter the current, frightening developments with their soulless, artificial "intelligences". Let's show them that we are vastly superior to their algorithms, their oh-so-sophisticated software and their robots. Inspiration will always be superior to AI.

Yours Joerg Schuber



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