

Practice - Newsletter - April 2023

Topic of the month

With the Will to Power - Aries and Emperor



Our spiritual and psychological journey through the imagery of the Tarot and the astrological cycle of the year was actually over last month, at least as far as astrology is concerned. The new annual cycle begins with Aries, the sign that dominates April, and its corresponding Tarot card, The Emperor. However, since I didn't start this series until July 2022, it continues for another three months. While in the March newsletter we dealt very strongly with the irrational and unconscious and the question of how to bring together the lustful, libidinal with the divine, April places us in the time quality of the confrontation with the paternal and social expectations from the superego, with which the libidinal and lust-oriented id must also cope.

With Aries, spring comes powerful and mighty, winter is swept away, nature brings forth new greenery, everything is brimming with strength and will to live. In spiritual astrology, Aries is allocated to the so-called "first ray", which stands for will and power. The sign is ruled by Mars, the planet and the Greek god, and is associated with the element of fire. People born in Aries, it is said, take responsibility, lead, guide, make decisions. We think of the former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder with his basta mentality. He is reported to have shaken the bars of the iron fence in front of the chancellor's office long before he became chancellor, exclaiming, "I want to get in here!" This is typical of Aries. Joschka Fischer, whom I got to know personally during his years in Hesse, was also such an Aries, such a high-powered person. Some beloved and feared emperors and politicians line up under this zodiac sign: Charlemagne, Thomas Jefferson, Kaiser Wilhelm I, Otto von Bismarck, Adolf Hitler, Nikita Khrushchev, Erich Ollenhauer, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Helmut Kohl, Richard von Weizsäcker, Roman Herzog, John Major, Al Gore, Margrethe II of Denmark.

The name of the zodiac sign is derived from the shape of the constellation, in which you can recognize a lying Aries with raised head and the horns bent backwards, if you like. Since the

zodiac sign ushers in spring, as mentioned, it symbolizes the carefree, strong, and sometimes childlike naive strength and liveliness of the awakening nature.

While the empress in the Tarot symbolizes rather the maternal, which connects us with the natural world, the emperor represents the social world and symbolizes the laws of society, the power behind it, for better or for worse. The two cards in the Tarot are the archetypal pair of parents: The mother, who is supposed to be the security and abundance of nature for us, and the father, who brings to us the rules and laws of the community of people. In very simplified terms, so to speak, mother and father imago and archetypes in Jung's analytical psychology and the superego in Freud's approach.

In the traditional role models that still shape many of us, the father was the distant authority who judged and punished, while the mother mediated. The father taught the rules of society and demanded obedience. In the child's perception, he was thus often almost indistinguishable from society as a whole; the father represented it. For many, the moment at the onset of puberty was painful, when they had to recognize their parents in their limited natures and were able to push them off the archetypal pedestal of childhood.

Pollack outlines the psychoanalytic context as follows: "Freud, in his scheme of the child's psychic development, postulates a direct connection between the father and the rules of society. The infant's psyche demands constant satisfaction, especially in its needs for nourishment and for physical stimulation from the mother. (Freudians may even claim that the child desires sexual intercourse with his mother, but the situation is the same even though the child seeks only the pleasure of being pressed against her body by his mother). The father arouses the child's enmity by disturbing his relationship with the mother, and in the still uninhibited child this creates the desire to kill the father and thus the disturbance. But the desire to destroy the father cannot be realized, not even made conscious. Therefore, to escape this terrible dilemma, the psyche identifies with the father-imago, creating a "superego" as the new leader of the self (replacing the "id" whose drives and desires led to the crisis). And in what form does this superego appear? Precisely in the form of the rules of society, traditionally learned under the guidance of the father." (Rachel Pollack: "TAROT - 78 Steps of Wisdom", p. 60, 15th German edition 2019, IRIS at Neue Erde GmbH)

By puberty at the latest, male children in particular turn against their mothers. In order to be able to muster the toughness that society demands of them, they have to escape the tenderness, softness, tenderness and security of the maternal. As the legendary Vera F. Birkenbihl once made clear in one of her lectures on the differences between men and women, women are not uninvolved in turning the boy into a soldier. With a smile, she noted that when noises are heard in the house at three in the morning, the "women's libber" (German: "Emanze", direct quote Birkenbihl) does not get up after all but sends her "soldier and protector" off.

Humanity as a whole underwent a similar development. In the old times of matriarchy, when the goddess still ruled, the old king was sacrificed every winter by the representatives of the goddess. Pollack writes that he was often chopped up and his parts were planted in the earth, which was thereby to be made fertile. On the Internet there are references that this was also practiced by the Nordic tribes partly up to the time of the Goths. Otherwise, these reports probably come from the Hindu area and partly from the Celtic area. If one thinks of one or the other emperor of the present, one might be tempted to suggest that this custom be reintroduced. The custom was fought and suppressed when the male-dominated religions took over. The king, and thus the father or man in general, became the symbol of the rule of law. According to Birkenbihl, this is why men like to gather into bawling hordes that establish their own rules and laws and form coterie in which they can define their pecking orders according to rules and laws. Without laws and rules, most men are lost and helpless. Women form groups and networks and orient themselves out of themselves and their relationships with other people. Rule orientation versus relationship orientation. As I said, we are talking here about archetypal patterns that are now much more distributed and mixed between the sexes in modern society.

The Romans then elevated "law and order" to virtues in their own right. Even bad laws should first be obeyed at all costs until they could be changed; there can be no progress under anarchy, was the argument. Anything else would cause society and the solidarity within it to disintegrate. This attitude is still very much alive, and the Corona crisis has made it clearly visible again. Every Corona measure had to be followed, no matter how ridiculous or useless it was. Anyone who did not go along was a slob, anarchist, contrarian, conspiracy theorist, enemy of the state, and antisocial subject. The Romans still concentrated this power in a Caesar, a personalized emperor, today we summarize the goal of our blind obedience in an abstraction we call "system".

Now I personally don't believe in anarchy either, a certain amount of social structure, of law, order and rules is indispensable, otherwise we would spend our existence exclusively with the fight for survival, spiritual development would not be conceivable at all. Otherwise mankind would not have developed at all. On the other hand, the phenomenon of the "bleating flock of sheep", which in blind mass consciousness runs into the abyss, lynches scapegoats and demands the crucifixion of the holy, has always been a big problem. Thus, the card of the emperor in the Tarot shows us the light and the dark side of the power that is inherent in all of us. In our political leaders this power is only concentrated, it comes from all of us, each one of us. We only delegate it up the line. Thus, each one of us is called upon not to slacken in the struggle for a just society by educating ourselves for justice, by informing ourselves, by sharpening our eyes to be able to distinguish and to keep away from illusion and misjudgment. The more people escape from mass consciousness and perfect themselves individually and personally, the more just society becomes. The society is only the sum of the individuals. The better the components, the better the result, the sum. In my view, the individuation path is the most important political work that a person can do.

Those who get stuck in rules and dogmas end up like the emperor on our Tarot card, as an old stiff bone in armor, living a sterile life full of rules. Over his empress he has cast a "net of oppression," as Pollack puts it. He has lost touch with his passions; his life is cold and barren. The once mighty stream behind his throne has degenerated into a thin trickle that can no longer penetrate the lifeless desert in which he sits. The card shows the emperor with an "ankh" in his right hand, the Egyptian symbol of life, over which he has the power to decide and which he will hopefully use wisely. His throne is adorned by Aries symbols. As already explained, this symbolizes power, aggression and war, but also indeed the new life of spring. In a just society new life can arise.

What challenge does this pose to each individual before us? The emperor stands for a test of maturity on the way to real adulthood. The individual is challenged, while absorbing the laws of society and not breaking them, otherwise he will remain bound by them, to go beyond these laws in order to establish a personal setting of ethical values and rules of conduct, so that he can develop and refine his character. Father's role is to teach us socially acceptable behavior, that is the basis. Once we have recognized and accepted his ordinary nature, we must detach from the father imago and be a father to ourselves. The same applies to the mother imago. We must not remain trapped in it either but become mother to ourselves. Whoever has completed these steps will no longer be led astray by other worldly emperors, since their ordinary nature will also be recognized and accepted, while one continues to think and decide for oneself.

So, this is the quality of time that April offers us: Grow up, detach yourself from the parent imagines that still rule you, think for yourself and independently, evolve beyond mass consciousness to be truly useful to society. Become a shepherd, don't be a sheep anymore. Or as the unforgotten Heinz Erhardt once said, "Everyone guard themselves."

Dates, important and current events:

➤ **Elke's date preview:**

- April 06, 2023: Medicinal herbs to the annual cycle festivals - evening seminar in the practice.
- April 19, 2023: Creating your own world - online evening workshop.
- April 22, 2023: Booth at the health day in Althütte - lecture at 13.10 h
- April 26, 2023: Meeting point self-help cancer - late afternoon meeting in the practice

➤ **Save the Dates:**

- May 07, 2023: Online Meditation (date change instead of 12.05.2023)
- May 11, 2023: free introductory seminar for the annual training: Spiritual Advisor
- May 12, 2023: Lecture "Four pillars of health" in Amberg with Simone Haase
- May 13, 2023: Day workshop "Four pillars of health" in Amberg
- May 23, 2023: Beginning of the annual training "Spiritual Counselor - Success in life through applied spirituality".

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 last date on March 19, 2023, was again well attended and we sat together until 6 pm with lively conversations and many a delicious goodie, thank you again for the bring! **The next dates: 16 JULY 2023, 15 OCT 2023.**

For April I wish you and me first of all better weather and more warmth, so something that resembles spring 😊. In addition, Easter is just around the corner and therefore I wish you a good crucifixion and a happy resurrection. Who knows my way of thinking, knows how it is meant 😊. Otherwise, good luck on the further way to yourself.

Yours Joerg Schuber



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2. Rider Waite Tarot: The Emperor
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