

Practice - Newsletter - May 2023

Topic of the month

Finding the hidden light of religions



Our spiritual and psychological journey through the imagery of the Tarot and the astrological cycle of the year continues. While we dealt with the secular ruler in April, the spiritual ruler is now under scrutiny. There is the old joke of the dialogue between the Emperor and the Pope, and the former says to the latter: "You keep them dumb, I'll keep them poor!" On our path of individuation, we are allowed to evolve beyond both the secular laws and the intellectual, moral and religious dogmas of the society in which we have grown up. As stated in the last newsletter, this does not mean that we simply ignore, despise or even break these laws and rules, but that we come to terms with them, recognize their original meaning and thus transcend them to arrive at our own ethics. May is dominated by the astrological sign of Taurus. With Taurus corresponds the trump card "The Hierophant" of the Tarot card system.

The authors of the Rider-Waite Tarot gave this card the peculiar name "Hierophant". This was the name given to the high priests of the Eleusinian Mysteries in ancient Greece. In most other tarot decks, this card is called "High Priest" or "Pope". Waite rejected "Pope", it was too specific to a particular denomination for him. Waite was for a time a member of the secret "Order of the Golden Dawn". A secret doctrine was probably closer to him than the Catholic Church (although the latter is now also approaching the status of a secret doctrine, at least in Europe, due to the constantly increasing number of people leaving the church). But no matter whether Freemason or official church: rules are to be followed everywhere, there are initiations in all systems, degrees to be attained, clear hierarchies and dogmas or teachings to be defended against "unbelievers". On this card, again, a trinity is represented: The spiritual ruler initiates two adepts or teaches two disciples and as with the worldly ruler we are again with Freud with his trinity of "id", "ego" and "superego" or with Jung with his father-imagó. After the rules of the worldly society, which the ruler represented in April, it

is now the turn of the beliefs, which we "bought" in childhood and youth in the psychic and spiritual realm.

In my experience, it is important to first detach oneself from one's intellectual (pre-)judgments, which now drive so many people in Western countries away from official religions and churches. There is a sense in the fact that we were born into a society that has a certain religious or denominational breeding ground, in our case here in Germany namely Christianity. Unfortunately, there are comparatively few people who have taken the effort to fully grasp the inner meaning of Christian doctrine. Mostly, people simply reject the outer form, for which there are, of course, many good reasons in view of the crimes committed by the churches and in the churches. Psychologically, however, the trap of self-righteousness lurks here, and a little more realism would also be appropriate. Jesus is credited with saying, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Mt 28:20) This has deep spiritual meaning, but Jesus was also a realist. Perhaps he reminded people of his presence because he knew that Satan, of course, is also always there where two or three people are gathered, even if it is in the name of Jesus. A human organization that is several thousand years old cannot possibly do only good; that would contradict all the laws of logic and the principle of duality. If one is convinced of the reality of reincarnation as I am, there is also the fact that there is a very high probability that some of us have participated vigorously in the crimes of the Church. This was for me the decisive reason to penetrate the Christian doctrine in depth and to make every effort to understand what in all probability was originally meant before the "followers" corrupted it.

Intuition, down-to-earthiness and an open heart, i.e. love instead of intellectual judgment, are helpful in such an undertaking. Which brings us to the zodiac sign Taurus. The name has something to do with the characteristics of the animal that gives it its (Latin) name. Nothing disturbs a bull in his pasture so easily, if not just a red cloth passes. He grazes with devotion, minding his own business, grounded, steady, but with a big heart and full of love. A prominent person who masterfully embodied this archetype was the recently deceased Queen Elizabeth II of England. With her birthday on April 21, she is an early Taurus, so the influence of Aries is still very strong. In the last newsletter I described these power people who are very fond of taking responsibility, leading, guiding and making decisions. Elizabeth II was fully dedicated to her decades-long task, down-to-earth, conservative, grounded, steady, with sensitivity and intuition, a penchant for spirituality and a willingness to go into conflict if necessary to restore harmony. "Harmony through conflict" is, in fact, the motto of the fourth cosmic ray, to which the zodiac sign of Taurus is assigned. At the same time, people all over the world felt the love emanating from this queen and returned it to an extent that rarely happened before towards a ruling person. The zodiac sign Taurus is assigned to the planet Venus, the planet of love. Due to its proximity to Aries, the influence of Mars was also strong in Elizabeth II, which probably explains her balancing effect and enormous charisma, Mars and Venus together in one ruler.

Henry Dunant, the founder of the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement was also born under this star sign, as was Karl Marx. It was said of Marx that he had a dictatorial, thick-skulled and stubborn personality, was very convinced of himself and his opinions and did not allow anything else to be valid. These are the uncomfortable sides of the bulls, which played a not insignificant part in their successes, but occasionally posed great challenges to their fellow men. Marx had found his red rag in capitalism and fought it vehemently throughout his life. Also the almost bull Adolf Hitler should be mentioned here again, although I had him in the celebrity list in April at Aries. But with his birth date on April 20, he was a borderline case, certainly already had a distinct Taurus coloring, and is a good example of the dark side of power that a Taurus can also unleash. Other prominent bulls include Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, German entertainment superstar Thomas Gottschalk, the "Polish pope" John Paul II, English soccer prodigy David Beckham, and U.S. music legend Duke Ellington.

So, in order to get to the bottom of religion with the help of the Taurus qualities, we may ask ourselves, among other things, what our own relationship to the divine is like. In pre-

Christian times, the priests were those people who, by their nature and temperament, had a more direct relationship with the divine than their average contemporaries. Through the performance of various practices, they established communication with the Divine Spirit. The practices consisted of various forms of mediumship, shamans went into trance, priestesses and priests consulted various oracles with the help of sometimes frightening techniques. Most people were happy not to have to do this themselves and gladly availed themselves of the abilities of their priestly caste. In the Christian religion, especially in its present modern form, we find only a few clergymen who use the old techniques of communication with the divine. Nor does an aspirant have to be medially inclined to choose this profession; there are many reasons for doing so, ranging from family expectations, a social consciousness, ambition, a desire for power, an inner inclination or an intellectual, theological interest, to certain sexual orientations, everything is included. The members of today's priestly caste derive their legitimacy more from their expertise, from which they speak to God (regardless of whether they then listen to him or not) and their abilities to speak to us, the faithful, and to explain to us how the divine laws are meant and how they are to be applied. Like so many things, the practice of religion today is less direct and immediate, and more abstract than in ancient times.

So the card of the "hierophant" asks us how we want to deal with the divine in our lives. Do we want - as in politics - to relinquish responsibility in this area as well and stick to complaining about our politicians and priests, or do we want to take matters into our own hands and establish a relationship with God to experience firsthand how the divine laws are meant? Do we have the courage to dare a little enlightenment, or is social obedience, the protective mantle of mass consciousness and social recognition more important to us than our salvation? But beware, whoever sets out to become an individual enters a space where dogma and doctrine no longer provide orientation. In this space, depending on the situation and circumstances, one has to consciously decide what is appropriate and balanced action. For those who find this ice too thin, it is better to stay with Emperor and Pope.

The Tarot, on the other hand, leads us to our individual salvation. This is the difference between secret doctrine and official church. Genuine, serious secret doctrine shows us where we can start working on ourselves, it does not tell us what to do and what not to do. But here, too, there are false gurus and prophets. The modern trend in Western societies to pick and choose from all kinds of religions and philosophies and to knit one's very own esoteric worldview has advantages and disadvantages. An advantage is certainly the great openness, which largely prevents fanaticism, dogmatism and religious intolerance. Disadvantageous is a certain superficiality and arbitrariness that sets in. Historically, all the great and notable mystics were always firmly rooted in a particular religious tradition, which they had completely penetrated and transcended. The Kabbalists were firmly rooted in Judaism, the Christian saints and mystics in Catholicism, the Sufis in Islam, and the yoga masters in Hinduism. They were able to see, point out, and appreciate the similarities and differences from there, as Yogananda's seminal works on the parallels between Hinduism, yoga science, and Christianity show. So, we are well advised, even in the realm of faith, to first master the tradition from which we come, and from there to look to other shores.

Dates, important and current events:

- Elke's naturopathic practice and my psychotherapeutic healing practice are closed until May 07, 2023.
- **Elke's date preview:**
 - May 07, 2023: Online Meditation (date change instead of 12.05.2023)
 - May 11, 2023: free introductory seminar for the annual training: Spiritual Counselor
 - May 23, 2023: Beginning of the annual training "Spiritual Counselor - Success in life through applied spirituality".

- **Save the Dates:**
June 06, 2023: Online Meditation

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.**

Our annual training "Spiritual Counselor - Life Success through Applied Spirituality" gives you ample opportunity to work on the topic of this newsletter. The examination of philosophy and religion is an essential focus of this training. Elke and I would like to have more registrations for May, so that we can accompany as many people as possible on this path, because this also brings us a big step forward on our individual path each time.

Yours Joerg Schuber



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