



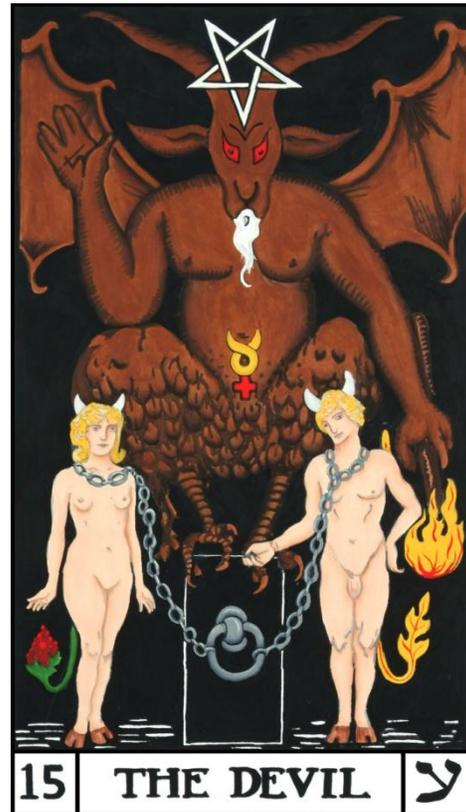
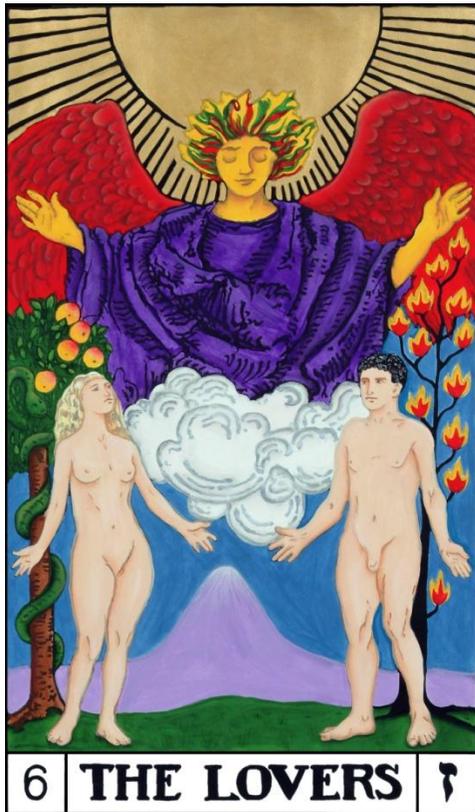
Thoughts on the Subject of Healing

I have been asked to speak here today about the subject of healing as professed by Builders of the Adytum. I'd like to preface my remarks with a brief introduction and statements about the B.O.T.A. organization to set the stage and put what follows into the proper context. As most of you know, B.O.T.A. is an international, non-profit, teaching and training Order, dedicated to the practice of the Oneness of God, the brotherhood of Mankind and the kinship of all Life. We are the stewards of a body of writings and practices given to us by the late Dr. Paul Foster Case and the Reverend Ann Davies. This Western, Qabalistic-Hermetic Tradition has been handed down from Adepts to initiates since ancient times. To those of us who are privileged to view these writings in the form of lesson materials, they speak for themselves. These cherished writings provide the foundation of the spiritual work we do together and individually. As individuals we make no personal claims to knowledge or spiritual accomplishments. Each of us works with our lessons to achieve, in our own way and at our own pace, the transformation of our personal vehicles into ones that more clearly express the One Will. Ours is not a curriculum intended to give us knowledge in the model of modern education. One can amass an enormous amount of knowledge without knowing anything of true importance. Knowledge alone is not Wisdom. Rather, to the serious student, our teachings provide guidance that lead us toward Self-realization by providing theoretical knowledge together with experimental work. We ask no one to accept our teachings at face value. Rather we encourage our students to test spiritual principles in their lives and to demonstrate their transformative power in their own daily experience. We gain mastery over ourselves, first in little things, then in greater.

The nature of our Western Mystery teaching is not dogma. It does not demand that we act a certain way, wear special clothes or only speak of certain things. It is open to all who are sincerely drawn to it. It concerns things that lie behind the veil of appearances. It concerns things that we all have in common. Attend most any B.O.T.A. gathering and you will see people of all kinds, all colors of skin, all cultures and walks of life.

While much of what I've just said is familiar to most if not all of you, I mention these things to emphasize the fact that I come here not as an authority on healing, but as a student of our teachings, offering my personal view of healing. My understanding grows with time and experience, as does yours. What I would have said to you 5 years ago or what I might say 5 years from now, may very well be different from what I say here today. And certainly many of you may have beliefs about healing that differ from mine. That is the nature and the beauty of our work. As individuals our consciousness continues to expand, our understanding grows deeper and our recognition of the meaning and purpose of Life grows

in greater measure. I'm not here to lecture. I simply offer my understanding of healing, in the context of B.O.T.A., for your consideration.



So Just What Is It We're Talking About When We Speak of Healing?

The accomplishments of modern medicine and the role it plays in relieving physical maladies and causes of suffering are in many cases nothing short of a miracle; and I, for one, am grateful for the remedies it offers in treating injuries and fighting disease. Medicine plays a vital role in promoting and maintaining good health to those fortunate enough to have access to it. We don't recommend that anyone turn their back on the medical community, for they have an important role to play: but we should also bear in mind that modern medicine, as wonderful as it is, in the final analysis does not heal in and of itself. What modern medicine is very good at is clearing away physical obstacles to the healing process.

Within each of us, every man, woman and child; every creature that walks the earth, every plant rooted in soil, every grain of sand in that very same soil, within all things, is a force that both powers and directs the events of our lives. We have many names for this Force; God, Allah, The One Will, The Strong Force - each name perhaps reflecting our religious, cultural or individual perceptions of that Force.

We as human beings are very complex creatures with complex emotional natures. Yet if we could peel back the various layers of those emotions we might find that their origins are more simple than we think. These two keys portray the two root emotions, Love and Fear, from which all other emotions are derived. Love is the recognition of the underlying unity of all Life and the expression of generosity and acceptance that flows from that recognition. Love is at one with the Strong Force, giving it unfettered expression. Fear, on the other hand, is the denial of unity driven by belief in the pervasive but false appearances of separateness. Fear blocks the natural energy that seeks expression through us. Fear is a belief in the lie that we are at the mercy of our circumstances and are powerless to change them. Fear creates an impediment to the natural healing powers of the energy of the One Force that is eternally seeking expression through us.

Love, on the other hand, is the active ingredient in healing and creating anew. Loving acceptance of what is true now, is the first step required in being receptive to the healing message that would deliver us from the apparent evil conditions we face. This is a paradox and it may seem counterintuitive to some. How can we be asked to love that which we hate? Yet perhaps in your own experience you've noticed that whatever you resist persists. Resistance to what IS, is rooted in the primary emotion of fear. To resist something simply energizes it. To try to ignore something is only a guarantee that it will return to haunt you. Have you ever tried to not-think a thought? To deny something subconsciously simply abdicates the powers of your consciousness to change it.

This is why we say that true healing begins with an honest assessment and acceptance of things as they are. I'm displaying these keys because they among other things, illustrate true healing and the antithesis of true healing. They look very similar in some ways don't they? Yet there's one particular detail in each key that brings the experience of heaven to one and hell to the other.

It has been said that one who "believes in absurdities, commits atrocities. I've also heard it said that one definition of insanity is to do the same thing over and over again, each time expecting a different result. I can't speak to the accuracy or the truthfulness these statements, yet it does bring to mind the condition we see in The Devil and the correction of that condition which we see in The Lovers. In Key 15 the man is not looking at the woman. Symbolically this is equivalent to ignoring those inner elements of your life experience that inform and instruct you and to being doomed to repeat ones mistakes again and again. A mind without a link to the heart is a mind self-absorbed, isolated and capable of justifying anything it chooses to rationalize from its own limited viewpoint. We see evidence of this every day in the newspaper. We see it in one political faction trying to enforce its will over another or one country trying to dictate it's will over other countries. We see it in acts of violence and brutality rooted in the fear and the belief that we are all separate and that Life is an unending struggle of dominance. In Key 6 of course we see the antidote to this. The man looks at the woman who in turn looks to the healing angel Raphael. Recall what I said earlier about all true healing beginning with acceptance of things as they are. Here we see this symbolically. In this image the Self-conscious mind looks upon the woman who represents subconsciousness and by association looks upon his life experience without judgment. He displays an attitude of acceptance and receptivity. Love is the root emotion at work here. And Love is

the key that unlocks the meaning of his experience. Love makes available the powers of the One Force which he may then bring to bear upon his circumstances. Those of you involved in Pronaos or study group work no doubt recognize why fraternal love and harmony is the highest priority of the group. Love is the ingredient without which any endeavor will inevitably fail.

The Qabalistic point of view regarding healing may be a little different from what's generally accepted. We in Builders of the Adytum are not in the business of treating injuries or curing illnesses, as is the medical profession. That work is better left to those with their very specific and rigorous training. Nor do we seek to instantaneously give blind people sight or cause people who are wheelchair bound to walk again. These things are often associated with spiritual healing: these things may be possible in special cases and under certain circumstances, yet we do not individually aspire to performing such miracles. Why *don't* we do that?

Well, perhaps the most obvious answer to this question is that most of us are simply incapable of doing so. The great majority of human beings have not reached those levels of attainment where the exercise of such powers is possible. We acknowledge that there *are* people who walk this earth, perhaps even people in this room, who are capable of such things. Yet those people, in their Wisdom, rarely - if ever - demonstrate spontaneous healing. Why is that?

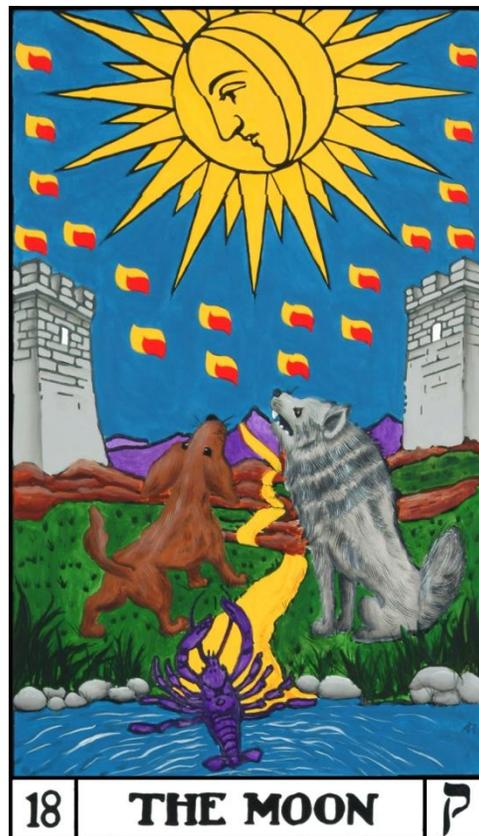
I'll offer my opinion. One spiritual principle that is possibly the hardest to accept, is that the universe, the world we're living in down to the most intimate detail - while evolving - is nevertheless already perfect as it is. How can that be? There is pain and suffering everywhere. What sort of loving God would allow such circumstances to exist? Yet what would better move us to change our thinking than the challenges that our current thoughts bring? One cannot effectively discipline a child without loving it. The parent who shields his or her child from life's challenges only impedes or delays their development of the mental and emotional tools they need to work with those challenges. The most powerful messages of Self-transformation come through experience. Perhaps a more accurate view of a truly loving God then, is one like that parent, letting us trip over obstacles of our own creation while offering a hand when we stumble and fall and the guidance to move beyond them. To do so is to empower us. To do so nurtures our mastery over ourselves. To do so aids us in realizing our birthright as co-creators, as personal centers of expression for the Lord of Life. Suffering has little to do with events and far more to do with how we react to them. Those who are true healers do not interfere with this process. They do not take pride or ownership of the healing powers. Rather they, like their medical counterparts, assist the one needing help to become aware of his or her obstacles to the forces of healing, though they be sub conscious or psychic rather than physical. True healing is not to remove another's pain, but rather to allow them to become aware of the root cause of their pain - so they might ultimately heal themselves.

As an aside, those of you who have experienced the Vibratory Attunement Ritual may have heard the presenter say that we only direct the ritual's healing energy to individuals for whom we are directly responsible - like our children, for instance- or to those who ask for healing. Inherent in this policy is the recognition that we, of ourselves, do not presume to heal, or for that matter do not know what is

needed for another's healing. Instead we act as facilitators, bringing the message that the healing energy of Love is pervasive and available to all those prepared to lift their thoughts and be receptive to it.

Why is it that some are presented with more than their share of challenges? The short answer is I don't know. Even as a young boy I can remember asking myself why it is that some individuals and some families are more burdened than others with personal tragedies? I've heard it said that no one is given burdens greater than they can bear. If everything emanates from the One Life, then it makes sense that nothing is inherently inimical to it. All centers of consciousness are ultimately assured of success. Why would The Creator present problems that are insurmountable to aspects of itself? Perhaps those with greater burdens are those with the greater capacity to bear them. Perhaps those with bigger problems are taking bigger strides on the Path of Return.

Our teachings lead us to look at healing at the soul level. Underlying our circumstances, both good and bad, are patterns of subconscious beliefs. These beliefs are reflected back to us in our daily experiences by the mirror of sub consciousness, formed and solidified by our habitual observations - more often than not driven by delusions of separateness. If we think we are unworthy of good fortune, we may very well experience more than our share of back luck. If we feel we are unlovable, we may very well have trouble keeping friends. You get the idea. Through our powers of consciousness we find what we look for in the world around us. Only keen observation and Receptivity can turn a vicious cycle of experience into an ascending spiral of insight. These tendencies can influence not just a single incarnation, but multiple lifetimes. Those who do not examine their beliefs in this lifetime may find themselves confronted with the same problems in the next lifetime. Those who take their own lives out of despair over what seem like insurmountable problems will likely face a repeat performance the next time around. As is always the case, the solution is revealed in the problem. The bad news is that we create conditions in our lives that seem inimical to us. The good news is that the very same power we possess to create those problems is the same power we use to overcome them.



As Above So Below

If we take a step back and think of healing in its most general sense as a process that reduces pain and suffering through Self-transformation - I think we can all see that healing is not limited to specific events or conditions but is actually a continuous process. Healing is the purification process of consciousness. We speak of this in ritual work when we purify by water. Each of us experiences our own unique personal pains and problems that arise from our individual circumstances and the particular way we adapt to our environment. This is the human condition. We in this room are among the more fortunate who have been given the training and the tools to work with our problems and to tap into that inexhaustible source of guidance for help. The degree to which we receive this help is proportionate to our willingness to listen and to be receptive to it. The guidance is always there. We need to develop the eyes to see it in every form we behold. We need to know its caress in every subtle breeze. Every circumstance in our lives, down to the most minute detail is a condition whose source is an impulse that emanates from the highest levels. Everything we do, we do in response to that impulse. Every circumstance carries with it a direct and personal communication from our Holy Guardian Angel. That communication is a message of healing.

In recent years I've looked back upon the very first course of our curriculum - Seven Steps - and come to realize that all of the secrets of Practical Occultism are revealed to us in those first seven weeks of

training. Perhaps though it would be more accurate to say that those secrets were hidden in plain sight. At my first exposure to them I could not fully appreciate their significance. Such things cannot be communicated in words or writing. Only experience can truly convey what cannot be adequately expressed. The Universe is driven by desire. What a beautiful design! What could be a better motivator? That eternal itch we all feel, the incessant belief that we want something different from what we have keeps us exercising the creative powers of consciousness. When our desires are realized and are based upon material things, we're temporarily satisfied. But with time we come to find that that itch remains. With each cycle of desire, fulfillment and new desire we peel away the layers to gradually reach our greatest underlying desire - the desire to be united with our Higher Self. Gradually our sense of identity shifts from being centered in the limited confines of personality to dwelling in the eternal Life of the soul.

In the Seven Steps process we define an objective - a desire to be realized. We do so by giving it a thought form. Once that process of manifestation begins we become aware that those things needed to achieve our goal seem to present themselves as though drawn to us by magnetism. Keep that image in mind. Consider now if you will this same process from the perspective of the Most High - as above, so below. Could it be that God-The-Creator's greatest desire is for each of its children to be healed, and to be united with it? Could it be that in the All-Knowing Mind of God is held the image of perfection that each of us will some day realize. Could it be that the entire process of healing and evolution and magnetism depicted in The Moon key demonstrates the same creative process as Seven Steps? I'll leave that for your consideration.

Mortality is a death sentence - all of us will drop our bodies some day. Immortality is a life sentence. There is no escape from Life - not even death can take it away from us - so we might just as well get on with living it. We have in the past, we are now, and we always will be creating our own experiences by the thoughts we keep - by the mental images we hold. I wish for you all to aspire to your highest ideals, to live Life more abundantly and to bring upon yourselves the grace of God through continuous Self-transformation and Self-healing. Shalom.

Frater M.