

## VI THE LOVERS

**Key Words:** *Gemini; love, attraction, approaching, connection, union of opposites through Love; becoming conscious through relationship.*

The card shows the marriage of the Emperor and Empress. The ceremony is performed by the Hermit, one of the forms of the god Mercury. He is completely hidden by his robes to symbolize that the origin of all things lies beyond the reach of the manifest and the intellect.

The lovers represent two opposites which yearn for and are attracted to one another. This duality which is reflected in every aspect of existence, is existentially experienced in the relations between man and woman. Every attempt at approach, union, connection, is an expression of the passionate urge to re-establish this lost Oneness. Every individual, every man and every woman, contains the duality of male and female. These express themselves in different, often contradictory, personal characteristics.

Psychologists have recognized for a long time that each partner in a relationship mirrors the mental and spiritual condition of the other. Usually, your partner mirrors aspects that are undeveloped and unanimated in yourself. What you feel you are missing in yourself you see in the other. This is an opportunity to have vitally important experiences on the way toward awareness. The lesson can't be grasped theoretically, through intellectual examination, or by wallowing in sentiment. It demands direct, existential experiencing. It requires letting yourself in for all dimensions of joy, ecstasy, mutual enrichment, as well as the pain, struggle and annihilation necessary for growth. A relationship that is vital and alive allows those involved to experience all dualities, all opposites; with love comes jealousy, with harmony comes disharmony, with unity comes separation, with the excitement of becoming acquainted comes the sobering sense of estrangement.

If studying in this »school of life« can be said to have a goal, it is to become whole, total individuals. Only when you can find your oneness and inner harmony will you approach that goal of total self-unfolding. The bliss we all vainly seek outside ourselves is only to be found and developed in ourselves. Every disturbance that stirs us, every discontentment which simply leads us on to greater discontentment, acts to derail us on our search for real stillness and inner peace. This is the reason spiritual masters repeatedly say that an intelligent person quickly comes to the understanding that no relationship can be really satisfying, love leads us to an even greater understanding, but we cannot just be that love.

Back now to the symbols of the card. All symbols are presented in pairs, in readiness to meet the opposite. The transformation occurs in the union of the wedding. This is represented by the winged orphic egg and the snake coiled around it. The children hold in their hands the symbols of the different planes to be affected by the transformation; body (club), intellect (spear), emotions (cup), and spirit (flowers). The lances which build a border in the background represent the conflict between limitation and freedom, connection and independence, components of every relationship.

There are three other symbols from the zodiac to be seen: Leo, Scorpio, Sagittarius. the lion (Leo) represents the male principle in nature and indicates the creativity which may grow out of the union. The white eagle represents Scorpio, the scorpion in its transformed state. It mirrors the feminine component, the surrender to one's own emotional depths. Cupid, as Sagittarius, shows the need for direct, honest interchange.

**Indications:** Drawing this card may indicate a wonderful and exciting love relationship. Current relationships either deepen or end. New methods for personal growth and integration of your own opposing aspects present themselves as you turn toward and interact with a partner or group.

**Questions:** What do you seek in the people you love? What comprises a fulfilling relationship for you?

**Suggestion:** Play Tarot with your partner. Use the cards to learn more about your relationship. See instructions on page 185-186.

**Affirmation:** I am now ready to meet the partner I have always longed to meet.

The value of the personal relationship to all things is that it creates intimacy, and intimacy creates understanding and understanding creates love. - Anais Nin

**The Lovers** archetype represents the universal principle of the art and craft of relationship. Everything upon this symbol is paired: there are two children; there is the couple facing each other; there are the young man and the older man; there are the older woman and the younger woman; there are the eagle and the lion; there are the Cupid and the Orphic Egg, the egg that is wrapped with a snake. In astrology, this archetype is associated with Gemini, which symbolizes a universal motif that's found in all cultures, called the *journey of the twins*. In America, the journey of the twins is Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy; in Germany, it's Hansel and Gretel; and in every other culture we have the myth of the two brothers or the two sisters, the prince and the pauper - all the famous couples in history and in modern time reflect this archetype of the Lovers.

The Lovers reminds us that in every relationship, whether it be a friend, family member or a colleague, or a deep-love one, what is required is: child-like innocence, curiosity and playfulness, represented by the children on the card; loyalty and commitment, represented by the couple facing each other; and the gift of spaciousness - the allowing of space for contemplation, introspection and the need for being alone, necessary for any relationship - which is represented by the Hermit, who is giving the couple a blessing. This is the only symbol, other than the Hermit symbol itself, where the Hermit

appears. In the background of the card are iron gates, symbolizing the Lovers' need not to be limited, restricted, barred or restrained in their relationships, and

also symbolizing a line from the *I Ching, the Oriental Book of Changes*, which says: *But when two people are at one in their inmost hearts, they shatter even the strength of iron or bronze; and when two people understand each other in their inmost hearts, their words are sweet and strong, like the fragrance of orchids.*

Cupid, at the top of the card, reminds us that there are two kinds of love: love as passion, and love as compassion. These are the two extreme poles of the Lovers card, the Gemini card, and the two extreme poles of Gemini. Eros, the God of Love, represented by Cupid in Greek mythology, is both the eldest and the youngest of all the gods, and is represented by the older man and the younger man, and the older woman and the younger woman. Eros also reminds us that there are five kinds of love or five kinds of relationships where love is expressed: first, there is love of servant to master, which is often the professional or collegial relationship that we know today; second, there is love between friend and friend; third, there is love between parent and child; fourth, there is love between husband and wife, or spouses; and five, there is passionate and illicit love. The Lovers symbol represents to us the different kinds of relationship lines or the different kinds of bonding that we can experience within our life, and the responsibility that is incurred with different relationship lines. Regardless of the type of relationship that we have, either with people, ideas, or our creative projects, we will be faced in any of our relationship lines with the principle of duality, or the principles of good and evil that are found within our nature. Another way of representing good and evil would be the light or the dark, or that which is known or unknown within us, or that which is considered positive or negative within us. The principle of duality is represented by the children at the base of the card, symbolizing the Yin and the Yang within our nature, or the dynamic and magnetic within our nature, or the light and the dark within our nature.

In the *I Ching* hexagram of Break-Through, we have an important statement about how to resolve the struggle of good and evil, or opposites, that might be apparent within our natures. The *I Ching* says: *Even a single passion still lurking in the heart has power to obscure reason. Passion and reason cannot exist side by side. Therefore, fight without quarter is necessary if the good is to prevail. In a resolute struggle of the good against evil, there are, however, definite rules that must not be discarded if good is to succeed. First, resolution must be based on a union of strength and friendliness. Second, a compromise with evil is not possible: evil must under all circumstances be openly discredited. Nor must our own passions and shortcomings be glossed over. Third, the struggle must not be carried on directly by force. If evil is branded, it thinks of weapons, and if we do it the favor*

*of fighting against it blow for blow, we lose in the end because thus we ourselves get entangled in hatred and passion. Therefore, it is important to begin at home, to be on guard in our own persons against the faults that we have branded. In this way, finding no opponent, the sharp edges of the weapons of evil become dulled. For the same reasons we should not combat our own faults directly. As long as we wrestle with them, they continue victorious. Finally, the best way to fight evil is to make energetic progress in the good.*

The energetic progress of the good within our natures is represented by the four tools that are held by each of the children. In times of darkness, which is represented by the child that is the dark figure, it is important that we trust our intuition, which is represented by the club or the wand; and that we have right attitude in our beliefs and in our thinking, which is represented by the spear or the sword that he holds. In times of positivity, it is important that we follow what has heart and meaning, which is the cup held by the child that is the white figure; and that we also through our action and behavior, implement what has passion and heart for us, which is symbolized by the cluster of pine cones or flowers that the other child holds, representative of the disks in the Tarot deck.

The animals at the bottom of the card remind us of three principles that are present in all relationships that we have: one, all relationships require us to be creative, like Leo the Lion; two, all relationships require that we are clear on our loyalties and priorities, which is represented by Scorpio, the eagle or the bird; and three, all relationships are a transformative experience, represented by the Orphic Egg, the egg wrapped with the snake, so that physically in relationships, we change like the egg, and spiritually, we transform and let go of old identities, like the snake shedding an old skin. Each relationship has an internal or spiritual connection, which is represented by the wings that are attached to the egg.

Essentially, the Lovers archetype reminds us that fundamental sincerity is the only proper basis for forming relationships of any kind.

**The Lovers as Life-Time Symbol** For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 6, the Lovers represents your life-time spiritual symbol. If you are born with the number 6, you are like the Lovers in your capacity to inspire and motivate people of all ages and all generations, pictured by the children, the couple, the older people, the younger people on the symbol. It also indicates that you have the ability to work well with persons on a one-to-one basis, as well as to work with people in groups. This is the most peopled card in the entire deck, and teaches persons the art and craft of relating, either to ideas, creative projects or to human beings. If 6 is your number, you have the inherent gift of establishing relationship lines and perceiving what's working and what's not working in relationships. Your greatest abilities are people skills and in choice-making, especially weighing choices either between two situations, two issues, two people, or choices in how to bring two situations, two people or two issues together in order to create a greater whole. This symbol of the Lovers represents Buckminster Fuller's concept of the synergetic principle, which was that two or more parts that came together would create something greater than the two parts that initially came together. Basically, with the Lovers archetype as your spiritual life-time symbol, you have the inherent gift of synthesizing, integrating polarities, oppositions and paradoxes. You

are gifted in putting together ideas, situations, issues or people that other people had not readily thought of as workable. You have the insight or perception to see what's workable and what's not workable as far as relationship lines are concerned on a one-to-one basis, or in group situations. Because of your sensitivity to people and to relationship lines, it is important at different times that you give yourself space, like the Hermit, to integrate your experience; also, at different periods in your life, you'll find yourself wanting to be alone, and not to be so people-oriented. This phase or cycle of your life will be much more targeted to the Hermit figure that is on this card, which is associated with contemplation, introspection and needs for emotional space and psychological space.

**The Lovers as a Growth Symbol** During Lovers years (where your birthday and the current year add up to the number 24 or 6), you may experience a need to reassess all of your relationships - friends, family, colleagues, deep emotional relationships. It is a time of assessing whether you have the kind of support system that you need and want, or the kind that you do not need and want. It is a year where you want to deepen and expand certain relationships, and where you may want to distance, shed, or split apart from other relationships you may have outgrown. During Lovers years, as a growth symbol, many people consider marriage or divorce or moving in or moving out. It is the Gemini symbol, and so it is a weighing between two - either two options, two issues, two directions, two people, or two situations - and weighing which would be the better choice: or how to bring two or more choices together in order to create a greater whole in your life, either personally or professionally. It becomes apparent during Lovers' years that you're no longer willing to support relationships that are not equal and special. We all know what it is like to have equal relationships, this often is the colleague and professional relationship, it's an equal relationship but it is not special. We all know what it is like to have a special relationship that's not equal. And in a Lovers year it is often realizing the fact that you want more equal and special relationships in your life, rather than the disparity, which is so apparent in having either equal, but not special, relationships or special, but not equal, relationships. What becomes clear during the Lovers year is that you emotionally know what you need and want, and what you do not need and want.

This archetype or symbol peaks in the month of Gemini, which is May 21st to June 21st, at which time there could be definitive choices made about relationships; or during a Lovers year, when Gemini people in your life could function as mirrors of choices that you are making personally and professionally, or choices that you are making about your support systems and what you need and want, and what you don't need and want. Often, the Lovers year is a choice-making year, either between two issues, two people, two situations, two places, two directions, and either weighing those choices, or attempting to creatively bring two or more choices together to create a greater whole. Often the Lovers symbol is a turning point within any cycle of change that you are experiencing.

**The Love's as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Symbol** The Lovers archetype is an excellent symbol to use for meditation or for affirming relationships and people skills. If you are a person who has difficulty in relating to people and would like to relate to people more skillfully, the Lovers card would be an incredibly good card on which to meditate as a visual affirmation. Also, the Lovers card is excellent for choice-making, or increasing one's choice-making ability, in bringing two or more things together to create a greater whole or in making definitive choices between two issues, or two situations or two people in one's life. The Lovers also affirms one's capacity to work with people of all ages - children, contemporaries, older people. Also, the Lovers archetype is an incredible visual portraiture of someone who knows how to deepen and expand certain relationships, and also knows which relationships have served their purpose or have been outgrown.

#### **Sample Affirmations To Use While Looking at The Lovers**

I enjoy working with people of all ages.

I have inherent people skills.

Emotionally, I am sure about what I need and want, and what I don't need and want, in the area of relationships.

I deeply honor and value the principle of friendship and the quality of love that I bring into my life and that I express in my life.

**The Lovers as an Outer Mirror** Whenever you are drawn to the Lovers symbol or you pull it from the deck, the Lovers represents your current skills with people of all ages, and the Lovers indicates that you are in a period of making choices about important relationships in your life, especially those that you would like to deepen, expand; or those that you feel that you need to distance or shed or split apart, for a temporary time. The Lovers also indicates your desire not to be barred or limited in relationships. The Lovers symbolizes your desire to work with people on a one-to-one basis, or to work with people in groups, because there are inherent skills in these areas. Often, this symbol represents issues surrounding marriage or divorce, or deepening and expanding relationships, or moving in or moving out. The Lovers also represents choices that could be necessary to be made about children or important older people in your life. Regardless, it could also be choices about how to integrate two or more situations or issues, or how to make a definitive choice between two or more situations or issues. Since it is the Gemini card, it could also indicate choices about important Gemini people in your life - that is, anyone born May 21st to June 21st - or in the month of Gemini, you might be making important choices, especially emotional choices that are important to you about important people in your life.

**Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Lovers** The Lovers card is the basic principle that is associated with expressing and extending the art and craft of relating in all of our relationships. The Lovers is the number 6; and the other symbols which add up to the number 6 represent the four qualities that are essential and needed within any relationship: the Six of Swords (science), this is science of mind, the objective mind, the fair-witnessing mind, and in every relationship, it's important to have the attitude of objectivity and of looking at things realistically as they are rather than as we want them to be; the Six of Cups (pleasure) is another quality that is necessary in all relationships, especially pleasure that is healing (represented by the copper cups) revitalizing (represented by the orange lotus blossoms) and renewing and regenerating (represented by the snakes that are coiled within the cups) for it is important in every relationship for us to extend fun and pleasure, and not

always to wait for fun and pleasure to be extended to us; the Six of Wands (victory) - the elemental victory is the victory which is a win/win, rather than a win/lose one and every relationship requires that each individual within it be concerned that the relationship is a win/win for both parties involved, for a win/lose situation is never really the ultimate victory that is pictured on the Six of Wands; and the final ingredient that is required in any relationship is the Six of Disks (success) for on this symbol, we have the formula for success, in relationships or in creative projects or in our profession. The formula has six steps to success, which are pictured by the astrological symbols within the six spheres on this card. In order to be successful in anything, we must do things step-by-step, not push or hold back, which is the lesson of Saturn; we must be open and flexible and resilient, like Jupiter; we must follow our heart and what has meaning, like Venus; we must stay in our honesty and integrity and not abandon ourselves, like the Moon; we must communicate effectively, with artful timing and prepared content, which is the message of Mercury; and in all relationships, we must give consistent energy, which is the lesson of Mars.

The other symbol which is related to the Lovers card and is an outer external expression of the Lovers, is the Devil, or the Pan symbol, which is the number 15. The number 15 adds up to the number 6. Whenever you pull or draw the Devil card, or Pan, the merry goat, Capricorn, it is an indication that you are manifesting the Lovers card outwardly. The Pan within us requires that we look at whatever is bedeviling us or troubling us in relationships with the stability of Capricorn, the goat, and the mirth and humor of Pan, the smiling goat. Taking things too seriously sets us off balance, and so Pan, the merry goat, Capricorn, reminds us that through humor and through stability we are able to manifest objectivity in the mind (Six of Swords), pleasure in the heart (Six of Cups), victory in the spirit (Six of Wands), and success in the external world and in our relationships through our actions and behavior (Six of Disks). Note: (See the Lovers constellation in Section VI.)

### **The Gifts and Challenges for Persons whose Life-Time Personality Symbol Is The Lovers**

#### **Gifts:**

- The Lovers (Art and Craft of Relating)
- The Devil/Pan (Mirth; Stability)
- The Six of Swords (Science; Objectivity)
- The Six of Cups (Pleasure)
- The Six of Wands (Victory)
- The Six of Disks (Success)

**Challenge:** To model the art and craft of relationships and to utilize inherent people skills