

## XVI THE TOWER

**Key Words:** Mars; far-reaching inner transformation; healing; the old is destroyed to make room for the new; spiritual renewal; self-knowledge.

The power of the consuming, purifying fire destroys the old and sweeps it away. Nothing is spared; the tower of the ego will be shaken to its very foundations.

Anything you attempt to cling to will be destroyed by this transforming power. The apparent securities of the past have begun to waver and topple. All that remains is trust; the knowledge that all events in life arise from the endless love of the universe and bring us the possibility for learning and recognition. This understanding of the true nature of events transforms even apparent losses or painful disappointments into the valuable gifts they really are. Times of desperation and inner tension, when recognized, can become the most fruitful growing phases of our lives.

The Tower is also one of the highest cards for healing. Just as the extraction of a rotten tooth provides relief for the entire body, the destruction of stagnant situations and relations which hinder growth begins a healing process for your entire organism. Having a tooth extracted can be painful, but when the tooth is poisoning your system, there is no other choice. The strokes of fate may seem equally tragic and unfathomable, but they come to us only because we need them and have created them for ourselves

either consciously or unconsciously. If you can recognize and accept these laws of the universe, you possess all you need for true liberation and total transformation to occur. The eye of Horus illustrates awakened consciousness, which sees reality as it truly is. The dove with the olive branch symbolizes the compassion toward oneself and others which arises out of self-knowledge. It also symbolizes that which remains pure and whole throughout, the essence of being, from which all is created anew (the snake).

**Indications:** You are in the midst of (or are about to enter into) an extremely intensive transformatory process. Whatever is destroyed or shaken within you serves to purify you and make room for something new. Allow it!

**Question:** Are you ready to view yourself and Life with new eyes?

**Suggestion:** Observe yourself in daily life. Situations may seem to repeat themselves, but you will not continue to repeat old, limited, restrictive behavior patterns.

**Affirmation:** Everything that happens in my life is for the best.

**The Tower** is a symbol of the universal principle of healing, renovation, and restoration. Because this card looks so violent, it has often been misinterpreted. The Tower is a symbol of the change and awakening that is required to dismantle that which is artificial, false-to-fact, or conditioned within our natures. The Oriental fire-eating dragon is the spiritual fire or life force that requires that we dismantle and restructure old forms within our personality (The Tower) so that that which is actual and true within our nature can be restored and expressed. Whatever is crystallized or not truly a part of our nature is burned or thrown out of our personality (The Tower). The four figures flying in the air are representative of old mental, emotional, intuitive, and physical ways of expressing oneself that are outmoded and are no longer a part of the authentic or essential Self.

The Eye of Horus, the opened and radiant eye at the top of the card, is an Egyptian symbol for the God of Perception. It represents the state of awakening and of seeing the deeper and authentic aspects of self. Once we begin to awaken, we are required to come into alignment with the greater Being of who we are, which is symbolized by the Oriental fire-breathing dragon. Simultaneously, this process is one of restructuring old, artificial and out-grown forms of self in order to heal, renovate, and restore that which is actual and true within our nature. The haloed snake reminds us that renovation often is a process that is similar to that of a snake shedding an old skin in order to express more fully its new and expanded nature. The Egyptian snake with a halo reminds us that as we expand our consciousness (the halo) we are required to shed out-grown parts of ourselves like the snake when it sheds its skin.

### THE PRINCIPLE OF RESTORATION RENOVATION DE-STRUCTURING OLD FORMS

The dove with the olive twig is a symbol of the inner peace that comes when we return to the essential and authentic aspects of who we are. This symbol reminds us that during times of inner and outer restoration processes, it is important to remember this line from the Deserata: "Be Gentle with Yourself."

#### **The Tower as Life-Time Symbol**

For those individuals whose birthday adds up to the number 16 or 7, this symbol is your lifetime personality symbol, a symbol of your external expression in the world. Inherently you have a natural ability to heal, renovate, and restore ideas, people, buildings, organizations, and environments. You can see what is working and what is not working; and you desire always to repair, rectify, and restore people, things or situations to a point that is definitely more balanced, beautiful, and in harmony with its authentic expression. You believe very much in the Prigogine principle that once an organism experiences chaos and disorder as a means of dismantling itself, the organism always reassembles itself to a more evolved and expanded structure.

For you, it is important to have what you see come into form. Internally you are a natural architect, designer, and builder of ideas, forms, and visions. With people, you inherently sense what is in or out of balance. Healing is an art or subject that may interest you during different parts of your life; or spending time in nature as a means of getting in touch with your own nature may become very important to you.

### **The Tower as a Growth Symbol**

The Tower is your growth symbol for the year when your birthday and the current year add up to the number 16. It is the best year to buy or renovate old buildings, cars, ideas, and projects. It is a year where you could experience a mystical experience or have the experience of waking up to who you really are. As a result, you may, through diet, exercise, or meditation, begin the process of renovating yourself so that you feel that your outer expression is in alignment with your internal nature. Externally you begin to dismantle that which is artificial, false-to-fact, or outmoded in your life. You shed things, people, and situations in order to restore what is true within your essential nature. You are no longer willing to support the dichotomy of experiencing your life as being externally full and internally empty; or being internally full and externally empty. During this year, you are determined to experience the alignment of internal and external fulfillment.

### **The Tower Symbol as a Visual Affirmation and Meditative Tool**

The Tower is the best symbol to use to facilitate any process associated with healing, renovation, and restoration. If you choose to dismantle that which is conditioned or no longer useful in your life, the Tower will assist your intention of de structuring old forms and restoring that which is actual and true for you in your life. Through creative visualization and meditation with the Tower, you can reinforce your intention of renovating and healing aspects of yourself and your life.

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

I have a commitment to actualize who I really am.

My body is a temple for my spirit.

I have the ability to naturally restore and heal myself at all times.

Who I think I am is a belief to be undone.

I am not inside my body; my body is inside me.

### **The Tower as an Outer Mirror**

When you pull this symbol or find yourself continuously drawn toward it, you may be renovating different parts of your life personally and professionally during the next sixteen weeks or the next sixteen months. This is a time when you might consider healing and restoring yourself through diet, exercise, excursions in nature, and inner work. It definitely is a period where you are determined to eliminate from your life that which is false-to-fact, artificial, and no longer useful. You find yourself committed to simplifying and restoring your life to match who you are internally. Either through varied synchronicities, peak experiences, or external "wake-up-calls," you clearly see who you are and what you want in your life regardless of family or cultural conditioning. You are actively bringing your internal and external realities into alignment during this period.

### **Other Symbols that Are Aspects of The Tower Archetype**

The Tower is the external manifestation of the internal Chariot that is within us. (The Tower number 16 adds up to the number 7, which is the Chariot.) External processes of change (The Tower) are motivated and ignited by internal changes (The Chariot). During processes of change and renovation, it is important to have the courage to stay by what we value (Seven of Wands), which will allow us to move through those blocks which inhibit or delay change: debauch (Seven of Cups); futility (Seven of Swords), and fear of failure or success (Seven of Disks). When we are deeply willing to change (The Chariot), the results are transformation and restoration (the Tower). (See the Chariot constellation in Section VI for additional information.)

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

#### **Gifts:**

The Chariot (Change)

The Tower (Restoration)

Seven of Wands (Valour)

#### **Challenges:**

Seven of Swords (Futility)

Seven of Cups (Debauch)

Seven of Disks (Fear of Failure/Success)