

The Tarot

The Major Arcana of the Tarot have, for about two centuries, been associated with occult and esoteric teachings. They are believed to contain, in hieroglyphic form, the deepest secrets of the ancient masters and initiates. This is as much as all occultists agree upon but when the details are discussed the disagreements between various schools and paths begin. Some say that the Tarot was designed in ancient Egypt, others - that in India, and still others - that in the city of Fez in about 1200 A.D. Also the matter of the "true" meaning of the cards is interpreted in many diverse ways, e.g. religious, magical, qabalistic, alchemical, etc.

What is common to all of these opinions is the attempt to bind the Tarot in a frame of time and space, and this attempt is caused by misunderstanding of the "true" nature of those images. The Major Arcana are not just hieroglyphics hiding some definite system of occult teachings in accordance with one or another school but they are archetypes of basic concepts occurring in any occult, philosophical or other system of thought. As a series they also provide an archetypal structure of any such system. In other words the archetypes represented by the Major Arcana of the Tarot cards generate systems of ideas in human minds or constitute their "deep structure" upon which all such systems grow and finally appear in their outer form or "surface structure". (The terms "deep" and "surface structure" are borrowed from Chomsky's linguistics which has certain features similar to the Qabalah and may have been influenced by it to a certain extent.)

In order to show that the above concept of the Tarot actually works I tried to interpret the Major Arcana from the most unsuspected and surprising point of view, i.e. as representing marxist-revolutionary doctrines. It may sound unbelievable to committed occultists but it works, as would any other system.

Therefore here is, for the first time, the only true and initiated exposition of the doctrines taught by the ancient priests and masters of occult sciences and subsequently entrusted by them to a series of pictures known as the Tarot. Those sages knew the future of our planet and predicted correctly the final phase of the evolution of its inhabitants, which is the social-economic formation called communism.

This interpretation is concerned with the popular marxist ideology and does not pretend to expose all its technical details, though it is also possible but would not be understandable to everyone. On the whole the Major Arcana of the Tarot show the development of the working man from his original state of class-unconsciousness to the final victory of communism and achievement of universal class-consciousness. So the card O. Fool shows the class-unconscious working man, while the remaining cards fall into three categories: (1) the actual situation at the beginning of the journey, ~~(I)~~ /Arcana I-VI/, (2) the principles underlying future actions /Arcana VII-IX/ and (3) the future development of the situation /Arcana X-XI/. So let us accompany the Fool on his mystic journey of class-consciousness alteration. I will use the traditional titles of the cards for easy reference, though they do not always correspond to the initiated meaning of the Arcana.

I. The Magician. The Fool (class-unconscious working man), who does not know why his life is so wretched, sooner or later meets an agitator, whose understanding is developed well enough to explain the cause of the working class misery to him. The Fool learns that it is due to four kinds of exploiters who live on his work. These exploiters are:

- II. The High Priestess. Intellectual rulers.
- III. The Empress. Economical rulers (owners of production means).
- IV. The Emperor. Political rulers.
- V. The Hierophant. Spiritual rulers (clergy).
- VI. The Lovers. The Fool also learns that the only way to oppose the exploitation is to organize with other working men and prepare

