



Between The Worlds Patterns of Possibility

Diana's Grove Mystery School

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The Magician

One - a point, a dot, a single intention - this card shows a person who has the power to shape his world. The magician is classically depicted as a man. Men in the Tarot represent our active, conscious, logical processes. Women refer to the intuitive and instinctual aspects of who we are. Not women and men, but yin and yang, active and receptive, external and internal.

The Magician stands in a garden. His tools are before him. Those tools are the four elements, the four suits of the Tarot. The elements are the forces of natures - air, fire, water and earth. Here, in this very first card, the way the *elements* are symbolized shows that they are telling a story about our inner reality, our psychological reality. Not wind or breath, the swords depict thoughts and words. The goblet is at times full, at times empty; it symbolizes the heart. The wand is the Magician's spine; wood is the fuel for his creative spirit. The disk is his body, his daily life doings. With all of these elements before him, the Magician is aware of himself. He has a deliberate relationship with his actions.

Stand in the position of the magician. What does your body know about this card as you raise your hand to touch the stars, as you lower your other hand and feel the earth's history beneath you?

Most conversation's about this card will talk about the Magician and his tools. Take one step back from this card. Is the magician magic's tool?



Definitions of Magic

Magic: *The art of changing consciousness at will.*

Dion Fortune

Magic: *the art, or body of arts, which pretends or is believed to produce effects by the assistance of supernatural beings or departed spirits or by a mastery of secret forces of nature.*

Magic in the strictest sense, was always felt by the Greeks to be foreign, and especially an Oriental art, as shown by the very name. Magician literally means a Persian priest. It refers to the Magi, a priestly caste in

ancient Media and Persia.

Magic, the 1928 Webster's goes on to say, constitutes an important part of every religion, some scholars regard it as the most original element, others as a "disease of religion". Webster's 1928

My definition of magic is: Magic is the ability to develop the art of intention in an alternative reality...and then, to develop the art of bringing that reality into a more common reality, a consensual reality, in a way that impacts consensual reality. What does that mean...? Being healthy in a unhealthy environment. Shaping the world by acting out of your well developed and integrated values rather than acting in accordance with the belief system and values that surrounds you.

Cynthia Jones

The Theme For This Month Is "The Magician" Who Am I? by Canyon

"Who am I?"

This question baffled me for decades.... I was a mystery to myself. The dozens of friends I had were no mystery to me though, for I knew just how to please each one. I had many faces...facets of self that I changed in response to them. I turned this "I" to you and then this other one to you and then a third to you...my facets sparkled in your individual lights and pleased you all. The me that you knew so well was not me but a reflection of what I thought you wanted me to be. As I turned and turned, shifting my self for each of you, I worried. Would this constant turning shift my shape from faceted gem to polished sphere? Would I lose my ability to shift and begin to roll randomly through and then out of my life? I worried.

I worried so much....

I went into therapy. Years later, I learned that to change my reality, to restore myself, I must shift the essence...the core level of reality, not the myths or emotions that are closer to the surface. It was after a couple of years in Mystery School that I came to understand this strategy, but the first time I'd begun to use it was more than 10 years earlier in therapy.

Faced with the question, "What does your self worth look like?" I closed my eyes and saw...nothing...or almost nothing. I saw a Black Hole, that deep space phenomenon that sucks in and devours all the energy around it in a whirling, consuming vortex of nothingness. Around it was a string of blinking fairy lights, strung up to make it appear that something substantive was there. This image, unacceptable to my healing self, became the first essence of reality that I changed. Restoring this essence of my self-worth restored me...released me from being a fragmented reflection of your desires and allowed me to be whole, to see and feel my integrity as a being. Changing my essential reality about myself restored the "I" that I'd known as an infant....

Now that's magic worthy of a Magi! I changed my consciousness through the power of my own will.... Not in a single cast spell, oh, no! I had to *really* use my will. My favorite new friend, Dictionary.com, uses these words to define will: "The mental faculty by which one deliberately chooses or decides upon a **course of action**.... The **act of exercising** the will. Diligent purposefulness.... Deliberate intention...." Diligent and deliberate over time, I pursued a course of action to exercise and strengthen a new image of my self-worth, of "I am." At first, my new essence of self was as ephemeral as mist, then as transient as rice paper, then as brittle as balsa wood. The more I exercised

my will, the more durable my new essence became, until -- finally -- it reached the strength of tungsten. In just 12 years I completely restored a myth I'd been telling myself for almost 35 years. Amazing bit of magic, eh?

And now I know the answer.... Who am I? That's easy...I am a Magician!

For more information on "the essence" and other levels of reality, see the booklet "Living Mythology and Four Levels of Reality" or in the "Mysteries only" section of the Diana's Grove web site.

Greetings new and returning Mysteries.

As I put all the information you have been so good about sending us into the computer, I have noticed some interesting "statistics"...mundane perhaps, but fascinating. At the close of our early registration deadline on December 21st, we had a total of 227 people signed up for Mystery School 2003. Of those, 130 are returning from last year or from the year before. Welcome to the 97 new Mysteries. We are so glad you are joining us.

We have 6 Canadians, 1 Mystery in England and one currently living in the Seychelles. Ninety-three of you are from Missouri or Illinois. The remainder of you represent 34 states including Alaska for the first time this year. Michigan, Texas and Washington state have over 10 Mysteries each - thanks to the fine group work being done there. Other states not far behind are: Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio and Wisconsin. We are truly delighted to find our community spreading and to be able to share so much with so many.

We have 27 men and 200 women. We average 10% men at our mixed events, so we are pleased to be a bit over our average. I don't know what the age range is, but for the 6 of us currently living at the Grove the average age is 50. If you think you are the youngest or the oldest, let me know.

Each of you is vital to our "statistics" just as you are vital to our community. Each of you is an individual strand of the greater web we are weaving in the world. Each of you is part of a "small" group that will indeed change the world!

Thank you.

Patricia Storm

Life as a Sacred Path; Musings from the Book of Shadows Beginnings Can Be Hard to Keep Hold Of By Jane Holt

This year's Book of Shadows begins with the Magician. I love the Magician. I love the thought of picking up those four elements, juggling them around and creating something new. I want to dive into the Magician and get things going. I want to be the Magician. I want to have that kind of power and skill. I want to skip right past the beginning. I want to skip past...myself.

I want to skip past that Fool who is about to step off into the unknown. On the other hand, I am eager to step into a character like the Magician. The Magician already knows who she is. It is easy for me to take on another persona. I find that it is easier than being who I really am. If I am myself, you might not like me. If I am myself, I might not be able to do well what I want to do. Or worse, I might not be who you want me to be. As myself, I am just me.

I am afraid to be simply myself as I take that leap into a new world, into Mystery School 2003. I don't know what I am going to find. I don't know what that world is going to look like or how it will work. I don't know how I will fit or even if I will fit. And finally, I don't know if all of you in Mystery School will like me. As myself, as the Fool, I do have some ideas about who I am and what the world looks like and acts like, but I also know that when I take that step off the cliff I am going to learn a whole lot more.

January is my moment of choice. Do I step off that cliff as Jane - The - Fool, the beginner, the person who is willing to view the world and herself with the eyes of wonder and curiosity? Or...do I step off that cliff armed with answers and defenses as well as roles to put on and masks to hide behind? One feels safe, secure and comfortable, like the old protective cloak it is. The other, the Fool's way, leaves me feeling naked and vulnerable, insecure and not very comfortable at all.

Each year I face this choice as Mystery School begins. Do I collect information to talk about so I

sound important and worthy? Or...should I practice laughing at my need for self importance, put the books aside and simply say, "Hi, I'm Jane."? Do I speak from my brain or from my heart? Do I reach out openly towards all of you, my fellow Mysteries, or do I pull myself together, ready, but to be truthful, anxious, of what might be asked of me? Do I breathe in trust or do I exhale fear? The choices are endless. My brain would be happy going on forever listing choices, talking about possibilities and still skipping the beginning. Did you notice how quickly I once again jumped passed the Fool and into the Magician? Actually, I didn't. It took me several sentences before I glimpsed the leap I had made.

Obviously, these choices aren't easy for me. I certainly have never looked at them in such a straight forward manner before. In the past, the archetype of The Fool has been more an intellectual exercise. The Fool is a part of so many cultures. It is possible to study this archetype without ever experiencing him first hand. My quest this year is to make the Fool a living part of my own personal culture. I want to be The Fool.

I want to be a Fool because in those moments when I have allowed myself the gift of true openness and wonder, I experience a sense of connection that reaches deep into my heart. I feel a sense of overwhelming awe and peace-filled grace. This quest isn't a new one. I get closer to it each year.

This is my beginning...my acceptance of myself as simply being who I am: No one special and, at the same time, as extraordinarily special as everyone of you. In order to be The Fool, I now realize that I have to simply be myself and say, "Hi, I'm Jane. Who are you?"

What is your beginning? What calls to you? What asks you to step off that cliff and into the world of Mystery School?

Eight of Cups

By Solice



I thank you for this invitation to come and speak. I must admit that I was a bit surprised to be asked. Usually people hope to hear from the major arcana. (At least, that is how we minor arcana often feel.)

I am told that you are "the Mysteries." I can assure you that I, also, am a mystery. I will gladly introduce myself and tell you a little about "me." I am a part of your journey. Over and over you and I have met. Over and over we shall meet again.



I am the Eight of Cups. I am but one of the characters who gives themselves to the telling of a larger story. Many, many larger stories in fact. I live in the suit of cups. Cups...a representation of your mortal hearts.

In the Rider-Waite-Smith deck of the tarot I am depicted as a human being. I have stacked eight cups very neatly and carefully. In the image on this card, you see me with my back to those cups. I am looking into the night, into the mountains, the woods. I am walking away from my cups and toward the full moon in the sky. This attempt to capture my essence in an image is really quite lovely.

Indolence...that is the word written across the eight of cups card in the Crowley deck. This card shows a seemingly much darker image. Eight cups...four empty, four full. The grey, cloudy skies, the dark, murky water, they are quite a contrast, yes? No, not really. This image so beautifully shows you how I feel inside. As I sit on that bit of safe, dry land, I look at my cups, the cups I have stacked so neatly. No matter how I arrange them, there is still something missing, you see? I still feel incomplete. The world around me is so beautiful; the world inside me is engulfed in the shadow of incompleteness.

I truly love the way your different decks of cards show the different aspects of my same reality.

I have taken a careful inventory. I have sorted out my emotions and arranged them before me. I have sat long and studied all that is here...this is where I am. An almost desperate feeling of needing more has overcome me. Longing, too strong to dismiss, overtakes me. So, alas, I stand. I say goodbye to my comfortable and familiar place on the bank of the river. I look to the sky...to the moon, the mystery. I begin a journey. I walk into the unknown. I begin a quest into the mystery. I am propelled

forward by a need for development, completion, new beginnings. I will not stay in the grey waters; I will move out from under the dark skies inside of me. Who knows what will come next? That is another mystery all together.

I have so enjoyed this chance to speak to you. Until we meet again... and I assure you we will, good luck on your journeys, my friends.

My Favorite Places

I wish all of you could visit Diana's Grove. I know that isn't possible, but I still want to share this land and its gifts with you. Diana's Grove and the land that embraces it nurtures and supports those of us who are lucky enough to live here just as it enchants and enfolds those who visit.

Recently, I have found myself watching out over the valley from the house. It is a good place to start this "tour". The view is from the house, out over the barn and across the valley onto the next ridge. All the showy stuff of exuberant foliage and exquisite flowers are gone for the moment. The land speaks quietly this time of year. It speaks of patterns unnoticed in the lushness of the summer. It speaks of bones, the rocks that jut up here and there and underlay everything. The essence of this land becomes visible; the ridges, the rocky outcroppings, the contours of the land itself. Everything speaks of solidness, of strength. It speaks of endurance, of patience. It speaks of the resoluteness of life. Out across this seemingly quiet landscape there is life everywhere; waiting in the roots, sleeping in the bark, perched on branches and curled in small, hidden nests. The view from the house speaks to me of layers of life, of regeneration and of the earnest beauty of this land. The land speaks to me of the strength of interlocking patterns and the tenacity of life.

Jane



Mercury and the Bottom Line

By Teri Parsley Starnes

In Tarot, The Magician corresponds to the planet Mercury. My understanding and appreciation of the zodiac's most overlooked planet, Mercury (a.k.a. Hermes), has been deepened by reading Homer's Hymn to Hermes. In this story of Hermes' birth and his ingenious and successful plan to become the last member of the Olympian pantheon, we learn about Hermes' ability to get what he wants by lying, stealing, creating, joking, charming, scheming and gift giving.

If the planets are our allies, then what a good ally to have a part of ourselves that works relentlessly towards the goals we set. Mercury is the ally that absorbs information through all avenues and communicates for pleasure and for device. Hermes was not honest but he could be trusted, perhaps that is one reason travelers called on this god to help with all the uncertainties found on the road. Although it is easy to judge Hermes as immoral, who of us has not found it useful at times to lie, charm, or play our cards close to the chest?

The Mercury in our birth chart will tell us stories about what we might do to get our heart's desire. What follows is a brief description of how Mercury may act to serve the bottom line. It may be useful in understanding yours and other people's inventiveness.

Gemini. Since Mercury rules this sign, we can see a Gemini Mercury pulling any and all tricks. This is the ultimate juggler. Movement and novelty are ways to achieve goals. Cancer. A behind-the-scenes approach works for this Mercury which knows where the heart of the matter lies.

Leo. Hermes' plan became successful through stealing from and then charming his brother Apollo, God of the Sun. Leo ruled by the Sun has a special relationship to Mercury. A Leo Mercury serves the Sun creatively and charmingly.

Virgo. Mercury shows its other side in Virgo, which it also rules. This side is a more careful use of Mercury's talents of acquiring and organizing information meticulously.

Libra. Zeus, Hermes' father, called him a "fabulous prize, a newborn babe with a herald's face." The herald in Greece also played the role of the diplomat. In Libra, Mercury succeeds through graciousness.

Scorpio. Hermes was made the messenger to the underworld. As the only god who could travel into the land of the dead and return, he was made the guide of souls. This Mercury can both hide and reveal information.

Sagittarius. Hermes made Zeus laugh and won his favor. Sagittarian Mercury uses humor to tell the truth or a version of it. Capricorn. The mountaintop of achievement and the bottom line come together in Capricorn. Hermes, god of the deal, finds the foolproof way to stay at the top.

Aquarius. The boundary maker and boundary breaker works in Aquarius to invent for the community.

Pisces. Hermes with his staff, the caduceus, was able to lull to sleep the many-eyed monster, Argus, which was set by Hera to keep Zeus away from Io. The language of trance comes naturally to a Pisces Mercury.

Aries. Many heroes in myth called upon Hermes to get them out of impossible situations. Thinking fast on one's feet is one asset of an Aries Mercury.

Taurus. Hermes' talent at creating and playing the lyre was the key to winning over his brother Apollo's admiration. According to the Hymn, Apollo says, "three things seemed mixed together in this music: humor and eros and sweet sleep." Taurus Mercury serves the bottom line through beauty.

Since Mercury is never far from the Sun, in a horoscope Mercury is usually found in the same sign as the Sun; but may also be in the sign before or after it. Think of the Sun as the King and Mercury as his most trusted advisor. When Mercury is in the same sign as the Sun there is a united method of achieving the King's goals, though not always perfectly. Even when Mercury is in the same sign as the Sun it can still have aspects and qualities unlike the Sun's. A closer look at the horoscope can reveal more nuances of your Mercury. When Mercury is in the sign before or after the Sun, the King has the benefit of getting advice that may not be easily understood or agreed with, but that can aid the King in unexpected ways. The talents of Mercury will always create openings, new approaches, and cunning solutions to achieving the bottom line. It is up to us to use it wisely.



Skippy Speaks Ready, Set, Go . . . Jump!

I'm Skippy. For those of you interested in my captivating and extraordinarily well written autobiography please check under **S** (for Skippy, of course) in the bios section of the Mystery School Web page. Unfortunately, my editors, an anxious and timid group to say the least, insisted on an annotated version. They fear that a full rendition of my awesome life might scare new Mysteries. To be truthful, the word they actually used was *bored*, but I am sure that was a mistake. Needless to say, I know better. I have boundless faith in the courage and tenacity of all Mysteries, new or otherwise. Unfortunately, I don't have ultimate control and therefore only a handful of my life-time achievements and adventures are depicted in this particular portrayal. But, it is still worth reading, I promise you.

For those of you who aren't immediately able to jump to the bios section, it is perhaps important for me to let you know that I am a dog. Not just any dog, mind you. I am Skippy:Top Dog at The Grove. Basically, I do run things. My job is to keep track of everyone and everything and to make sure all are where they belong and doing what they are supposed to be doing. For a mere human, it would be a overwhelming job. For me, it is just one of many tasks that I handle in any given day.

This year, in fact on this very page, I am going to reveal another of my alter-egos. Some of you are surprised, I'm sure. You see, cats may have nine lives, but we dogs live countless ones simultaneously. Top Dogs live top lives, of course. Which is why I get all the starring roles. Who am I this year? Why Skipphooly, of course. That delightful and intelligent dog telling the Fool, "Leap! Leap!" For those of you into phonetics, *Skipphooly* is pronounced *Skip-fool-ee*. It is quite exciting, you know, I learned about the Greek *ph* sound last year from Skip pocles, Ancient Traveler and One Dog Greek Chorus. When last heard from, she was vacationing on a small island just west of Crete. Lovely place.

It is possible that you didn't know the name of the heroic dog chasing The Fool over the cliff. All too

often the Tarot has neglected, overlooked and under appreciated the role of Skipphooly. Often, the artists in their innocence and ignorance simply forgot to draw me in. Appalling. I intend to correct that error this year and show you Mysteries what others have never seen. Luckily for all of you, I am here...and there, in the Tarot, that is.

Without me, without Skipphooly, that poor Mystery (oh, yes, The Fool is a Mystery; how could he not be?) would never have made it over the edge of the cliff. I'm not sure if that Fool has ever thought to thank me, but I keep him rather busy. After all, I chase him through the Tarot cards. My favorite card is the Universe. I love jumping gracefully through that hoop. I look quit majestic with my ears pointing forward and my tail in an imposing spiral. What? You've missed seeing me? Oh, that's because I jump through a moment *before* the Dancer. I have to be ready to urge him over the cliff again.

I have to say that we dogs look at the Tarot a bit differently than you humans. Being the more evolved species it is understandable that we have a better grasp of the mysteries. But we are always willing to help you make whatever leaps are necessary for you own evolvment...or is that involvement? You might ponder that question as you float down off that cliff.

Here is another puzzle for you. What is sacred because it carries a secret, invisible language that we dogs decode with our noses? What is sacred because it warms our backs in the summer time and our bones in the winter? What is sacred because whether it is white or clear playing in it is marrrrvelous? What is sacred because it carries the bones and scents of our ancestors?

I'm looking forward to a year filled with cliffs and leaps and graceful jumps through laurel wreaths. Just remember, I'm the dog right there beside you and I've made that leap a hundred times before.

Ready, Set, Go...Jump!



Who are the Mysteries: An Interview With Donna Reed

by Solice Novia

Who are the people that make up our Mystery School Community? Who are we? Where are we? How do our spiritual practices differ? What are our common bonds?

Each year, our community grows, expands, and changes. It is a challenge for us to get to know each other. This year, each month will feature an article on a different person in Mystery School. I am so excited about the idea of "discovering" who we are. What treasures and tools we have in one and other. What great relationships are longing to begin to form?

I was blessed with the opportunity and good fortune of spending the winter holidays in Montreal, Canada; where I was able to interview a quite amazing "new" Mystery.

Donna Reed has signed up for her first year of Mystery School. She has never been to the Grove before, but she told me that she has heard about the Grove for years now. When I asked her what she was looking forward to the most, she told me that she can't wait to see the land; but really, she's the most excited about getting to meet Cynthia and Patricia. She said that she has been hearing stories about *Patti* and *Cyndy* from Starhawk and various other people for years now. (Apparently, their reputations proceed them.)

Donna is a Canadian film producer/editor. She is a dedicated and involved political activist for peace and equality. She is also a mother of five amazing and talented people and one beautiful golden retriever named Sarah. I asked her the following questions to try to sketch a brief outline of her amazing life.

Question: How would you describe your personal connection with the Divine?

Answer: All encompassing.

Question: How do you connect with the Divine/or a larger energy source? In other words...what is your spiritual, religious, or psychological path or practice?

Answer: Oh it's so multidimensional. I mediate, do yoga, and connect to the earth by observing the natural laws and forces of the universe. By living in a state of consciousness...staying tuned into the laws of nature.

Question: What inspires you? What drives you? What are you passionate about?

Answer: Making the world a better place for people to live in. Also, the health of the planet, herself.

Question: You have accomplished quite a bit for the Feminist Spirituality Movement, and for women's rights over the past 35 years, Donna. What, do you feel, has been your most profound contribution?

*Answer: It began for me in the early 60's after reading a book called *Feminist Mystique*, by Betty Friedan. I started women's consciousness raising groups that focused on women's issues. We organized protests, burned our bras, and...the movement just kept growing.*

*The Women in Spirituality film series trilogy that I did (*The Burning Times*, *The Goddess Remembered* and *The Full Circle*) was important, in part, because it reached so many people. I am grateful for the changes that have taken place over the course of my children's lives, changes concerning women's rights. I'm not done yet! A lot has shifted, and...there is still much work to be done.*

Question: What is your preferred form/forum of creative expression?

Answer: Film! I have been working with film for more than 35 years now.

Question: How has your commitment to the peace movement, combined with your dedication to independent media, shaped your life over the years?

Answer: I have really pushed myself to get out on the front lines. I see the challenges we are facing, and the only way things will change is if people know what is actually happening in the world. Gloria Steinem talks about how activists, in their 60's, have become the real warriors, real revolutionaries. I agree. I feel lucky to be in a situation that allows me to do the extensive and exhausting travel that this work requires. I am able to take risks that other people can't...and I do. I see windows of opportunity for change. For people to create change, accurate, independent media coverage is an invaluable tool.

Question: What can you tell me about your recent trip to Palestine, Donna?

Answer: I was very afraid to go to Palestine, but I felt called to go, to expose huge pieces of the stories that were not being shown by the corporate media. People have a right to know

about the brutalization happening in Palestine. I honestly believe that people are desperate to know what is really happening. There has been a movement of international people going into Palestine, to help protect the people and report the truth. Through independent media web sights and independent film producers, people really are able to become informed about what is actually happening in our world at this point in time.

I wish I were writing a book instead of an article. At just past 60 years of age, Donna looks like someone's sweet and loving grandmother (and in fact, she is.) She has a smile that put me completely at ease and she radiates with inner light. She has strong and passionate eyes, and her hugs make me melt. At first glance, you might not know what an incredible, brilliant, driven artist/priestess this woman is. Her silver curls almost make her look fragile. Within that persona, Donna is a warrior. She has an unbreakable spirit and an unquenchable thirst for life. I feel truly honored to be able to call Donna and her family my dear friends. I hope many of you get the opportunity to meet her at some point. She is delighted with the possibility of meeting people from our community at the Grove.

Until next month...Solice

Who are the Mysteries?

This is a new feature in this year's newsletter.

We realized, as sign-ups came in for Mystery School 2003, we have many individuals in this group who have very interesting stories. In fact, each of you *is* an interesting story. We wanted to know more and to share that information with you.

We have some people who are very new to Mystery School. And we have some people who have been in Mystery School for several years and are still "mysteries" to many of us.

We know some of you only by your email address.

We know some of you by your presence here at the Grove, but don't know about your presence at home.

How do we select our mysterious Mystery to interview? Many ways. Let us know who you are interested in, or what is interesting about you. We're starting a cauldron of possibilities from which the Goddess may choose. Drop your name or someone else's in the cauldron.