



DIANA'S
GROVE

Newsletter Volume 5

Between The Worlds Patterns of Possibility

Diana's Grove Mystery School

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Number 8

Justice



Justice stands within a diamond. On tiptoes, she aligns herself around the Ace of Swords. The handle of Justice's sword is graced by crescent moons - one waxing, one waning, one filling, one emptying. What covers her eyes? Does she wear the traditional blindfold...or is that a mask she wears? She was the

first Oracle to speak at

Delphi and, still, she has the power to tell the future.

On tippy toes, stretched, focusing on her own balance, the weight of her job falls from her head. Chains. The bowls of balance fall from her head. What does she attempt to balance? Her scales hold the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. The scales, the blindfold, the sword... the diamond within the box, Justice, you are the timeless keeper of the moment, a maker of futures, a rectifier of pasts. You are the most illusive of the Goddesses and Gods. How do I find you?

Is it time for Justice to take off the blindfold? Should she remove the bonds that blind her? When did we bind her eyes hoping that she could see more clearly without sight? I call her to open her eyes. Look. Justice, see the hurt that gives birth to hurt. See the disregard that wears the mantle of privilege. See the accused and see the accuser. See the past and see the future. See the moment that stands before you. Set down the scales...for equal doesn't equal justice.

"I never used the scales to balance wrongs and rights," she said. "My scales don't try to make

punishment equal pain. Those scales are yours. I hold history...and I find that the future is as heavy as the past. Change both. Change both."

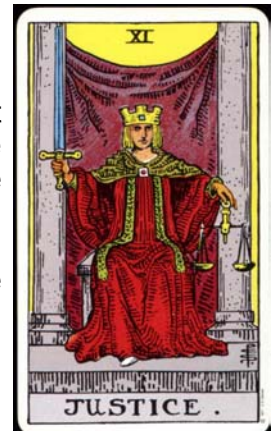
"Don't let the past create the future. Create the future in spite of the past."

"Forgiveness isn't absolution. Forgiveness is stepping out and being free. Revenge is not retaliation. Revenge is taking the action needed to redeem your soul. No soul is gained by hurting others. No forgiveness is granted when you hurt yourself. To find wholeness, be whole. To be a healer, heal. To invoke justice, be just."

Just: precisely, exactly - in place, time, degree, number, quantity, resemblance or other matter of correspondence or relation. Neither more nor less than stated.

Justice: Principle of rectitude and just dealing of people with each other. Integrity. Plato said *Justice is to be obtained in perfect social harmony in beneficent activities.* Aristotle said *Justice is the practice of virtue toward others.* Modern ethics say Justice has the essential principles of equity and liberty.

Adjust: Settling or arranging, making exact, to bring into proper relationship. To bring into a true relative position.



Justice...Self-Serve

by Canyon

My friend Abby just got back from El Salvador. She met dozens of people there whose loved ones have been shot by the El Salvadoran military, often right before their eyes. She heard heart-wrenching stories of torture and murder by El Salvadoran soldiers trained in the U.S.A.; murders of members of a faith-based resistance to the El Salvadoran military dictatorship. She saw incredible poverty, visiting a village where children as young as one and two years of age play, unsupervised, in streets filled with raw sewage - streets lined by hundreds of tiny shacks, cobbled together from bits of tin and wood.

Abby met and talked with a woman who lives in one of those huts. She shares her home of less than 400 square feet with her six children - dirt floor, no plumbing or electricity. This woman gets her family up before dawn to feed them, dress them, and take them to the protective compound of the parish school nearby. She works all day at the market and then goes to a bakery and takes leftover bread to sell door to door - a second job after a long day's work - all to earn enough to feed her family for one more day.

As I listened to Abby tell me about these experiences, I found myself thinking about families here in the United States who live at nearly this same level of poverty - in the slums of our cities and in the most remote of our rural areas. And I found myself wondering about justice. Where in the lives of these people is there any justice? Is there justice in the fact that, from birth, they are condemned to a life of abject poverty, with no prospects for change?

And then I look at my own life and wonder whether there is justice in the fact that I was born with the privileges of democracy and middle class comforts. Was it justice that created the circumstances of my excellent education, or the opportunity for clean, easy office work in my grandfather's company during my teen years? I look at my friends and family and wonder, was it

justice that the generation just before mine was devastated by the Vietnam war, while mine was not? Was it justice that some of us have lost loved ones, been beaten or raped, or had our spirits broken as children? Was it justice that others of us were loved and cherished, nurtured and protected?

Here is what I see: neither the hardships endured in life nor the privileges and benefits bestowed by life are distributed logically. I was not sexually abused as punishment for bad behavior nor was I rewarded with a good education for behaving well. The woman Abby met in El Salvador was not condemned to the loss of her husband and a life of grinding poverty because she was not a good person, or because she committed some crime. I may choose to believe in a Grand Plan that arranges these life events for some Larger Purpose. And...these events and outcomes may just fall into life as randomly as the computer picks the winning lottery numbers.

Either way - divine plan or random chaos - I cannot see the hand of Justice. After all, why me and not my El Salvadoran neighbor when it comes to the privileges of my life? And why not me instead of my neighbor when it comes to the hardships of hers? Which of us endures pain and which enjoys ease is clearly not tied to a system of "just rewards" for actions taken or not taken. I want to speak to Themis, Goddess of Divine Justice, and tell her to get a grip on these things! If I were Justice, I would make justice logical. I'd be sure that the innocent were never punished, that right action earned the benefits life can offer. I would make sure that the guilty suffered, commensurate with the pain they caused, the damage they inflicted. But I'm not Justice and that's not how she seems to work.

So where am I to find justice in this world full of injustice?

Abby also heard amazing stories of hope during her week in El Salvador. When she asked the

woman with six children, a tiny hut and a hard life what her first thought is when she wakes each morning, the woman replied that her first thought is one of gratitude for another day of life. Abby also heard about a Catholic priest, Monsignor Oscar Romero, who spent a long career of toeing the line and staying safe inside a shell of privilege in the church hierarchy. Then, the 1977 murder of four priests from the faith-based resistance broke through his denial about what was happening in his country, and he made a different choice. He joined the resistance and, until he was murdered in 1980, he stood for what was right, rather than for what was easy. Over twenty years later, as a result of those three short years of work on behalf of El Salvador's poorest and most disenfranchised citizens, Oscar Romero is honored by them as a saint. He is remembered in story and picture in the poorest of shacks. They produce his likeness on scraps of paper, rough boards and coffee beans. Oscar Romero found justice served by serving it himself. He found it by working to make right a world he did not create, but rightly abhorred. Did he end the injustice in his country? No...but he made a difference.

And so, as I drive home from my dinner with my

friend, I find myself wondering, how can I create justice in the world; what can I "make right?" Yes, I know I could choose to go to El Salvador and dedicate my life to the cause there. I know that I could go to any urban slum in the United States and do the same. And I believe I have many choices for making justice. I can serve up justice in this unjust world by taking a stand for what I believe in, by taking right action in the face of prejudice and oppression in even its smallest day-to-day forms. I can create justice by sharing the resources of my privilege according to my values, by stewarding my skills and talents for a purpose larger than the comfort of my own life. I can "make right" the pain I have suffered by living beyond my wounds and...I can then be a part of making right the pain you have suffered by sharing with you the tools I used.

Perhaps Themis is right, after all. Perhaps her job is truly not to serve up the logical justice of an eye for an eye, a gift for a good, a pain for a hurt. Perhaps she merely sets a banquet table of sumptuous opportunities and stands by as gracious hostess. Instead of waiting for justice to be served to me by Justice, perhaps I can just help myself.

Interview with the Mysteries - Justice

by Solice Novia

Justice is the mystery of the month...seeking justice, serving justice, discovering justice...or discovering a lack of justice. Justice is the mystery of the month, and perhaps one of the mysteries of all of lifetimes. Justice. This topic really stumped me, personally. I didn't have a clue where to start or how to approach this subject. I didn't know what to do, so I asked two people for help. I asked Cynthia to help me find a way to approach the subject and I asked Jack Lesick to speak about his experience on the subject. Between the two of them, I do believe I have something worth both writing about and reading.

Jack has been in Mystery school for three years now. Jack is a fairly quiet gentleman from Ohio who has two children, one grandchild, and one more grandchild on the way. He is also a lawyer.

When I asked Jack what drew him into law, he explained that his father had been a lawyer. As he was growing up he thought that his dad really knew what was going on and he also wanted to

know. He wanted to go to law school to get a better understanding of how society worked. To learn the rules of the game, so to speak, to be able to help other people navigate. (And also to be able to make a comfortable living.)

In the end he became disillusioned about his original goals but did gain an ability to think, reason, and discipline himself. Jack has held a

variety of positions so far in his life as a lawyer. At one point, Jack was an officer in the Army. After that he did a variety of things, from being a staff attorney in the federal court system, to working as the chief legal secretary of a child protection agency. After that, he had a private practice for a while. For the past fifteen years he has worked as a title examiner for a large title insurance company.

More than ten years ago, after his divorce, he started dedicating a lot of time to "alternative thinking" in all aspects of his life, from the law, to his own spiritual and emotional development. He has been on this spiritual path for at least ten years.

Three years ago Jack met Pamela, who told him about Mystery School. He was interested because of his feeling that both life and himself are Mysteries. He continues to make the effort and take the time for the long drive from Ohio to get to the Grove because he feels the need to go "beneath the surface." He feels a need to talk about the hard questions, to hear other's ideas and stories...to be in a place where that deeper exchange can take place.

I asked Jack, "If you were to advise me about finding Justice, where would you suggest that I look?"

His response was, "If I knew where to look, I'd have found it. One suggestion is to look within." He went on to tell me, "After law school, I thought that if you applied the law you would get a just result. Well, it didn't take me too long to be disillusioned. You can apply the law and still get unjust results." He gave me several examples of how justice can be eluded through technicalities and human errors or flaws in the system. "Justice isn't necessarily a legal outcome, but a fair outcome" he said. "Justice is an equitable fairness in resolution of conflict."

"Lately I've been caught up on the word *Reverence*" he said. "I try to maintain a human view of the people I deal with. I'm not a God, we are all human. I try to keep my ego out of things, to find a fair resolution." Jack avoids trial work because he finds it to combative. "Bottom line, I

strive for an equitable fairness in dealing with people, both personally and professionally."

I then asked Jack, "Blindfold, scale, sword.... In your opinion, how does Justice use each of these tools?"

He replied, "Blindfold and scale...sometimes these seem to counter my concept of Justice. I think sometimes Justice needs to peek through the blindfold to see who's there and not rely solely on the scales for an outcome. I think the blindfold was originally to generate a sense of impartiality. I would like to think that impartiality can come from within at some point. Sometimes we can be unjust when trying to be impartial. Sometimes we need to have our eyes open. The sword was justice in the old times...or it could represent the discipline of Justice. It can also denote discussion, ideas, debate of issues. I don't think any of the three should be relied on, only used as tools to get to a good outcome."

Finally, I asked Jack if there was anything else that felt really relevant or core to the subject of Justice. He said, "One thing, the viewing of other people as people, not any more or less than human. We get into trouble when we start turning people into demons or gods. That type of thinking clouds my effort to be fair. I try to treat others as human. We are imperfect. If all else fails, I fall back on the Golden Rule."

Perhaps there is a piece of Justice as simple as "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." And then there is the rest of the picture, which seems endlessly complex. A mystery of a lifetime...a mystery of so many, many, lifetimes.

I want to acknowledge that Jack was uneasy about the idea of being interviewed on this subject. I want to acknowledge what a difficult subject this is, and how many of us may have deep wounds around this subject. I would like to sincerely thank Jack for his willingness to speak so openly about such a charged and sensitive subject. Thank you very much, Jack.

Six of Cups

Just tell our community a little bit about yourself
...who are you?

That was the request I was presented with. It really didn't seem like that difficult of an undertaking when I agreed to it. How hard can it be to describe myself, really?

I honestly had no idea what a challenge I had taken on. The simple answer would be that I am the Six of Cups. I exist as many different images around the world and have shape shifted throughout time.

I can describe what two of my oldest and more popular images look like. In the Rider-Waite - Smith deck I am represented by a young man or a boy handing a cup (filled with a flower) to a young woman or a girl. The girl is looking up at the boy smiling and reaching to accept the cup. There are five other flower filled cups surrounding the young couple.

In the Crowley deck there are six cups being filled from golden flowers. The background colors - light blue, green, and gold - seem to suggest a sense of warmth, serenity, and happiness. The name I bear on this particular deck is Pleasure.



Pleasure is a great name. Everyone loves getting a card labeled pleasure. The calm colors, the images of flowers, the golden tones all suggest the same thing.

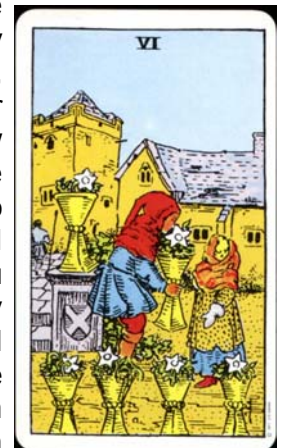
What does that really tell you about me? So far I have not mentioned anything below the surface. You can look at the card for yourself to know what I look like. Why am I having such a difficult time exposing my essential, core self to you?

You probably already know that cups represent the heart, the womb, the flow of emotion, blood, tears, tides. Perhaps you know that the number six in the tarot represents the meeting of two triangles. (What does that even mean? The meeting of two triangles? Triangles are the shape

born when three points come together. Three points creating dimension and form are referred to as a triangle.) Imagine two triangles, one reaching for the ground, one reaching for the sky. Imagine that they cross paths in a perfect union of balance. See these identical shapes, reaching out in opposite directions, come together and form a perfect, different shape. They create balance and beauty...harmony.

Six...that is me. I am polarity...one seeking it's opposite in order to find wholeness. I am myself in relationship with others. I am myself as I am defined and redefined, in and by my relationships with others.

I am that little girl reaching out, smiling because the boy I love just gave me flowers. I am the little boy handing a flower to a girl, in hopes of making her smile. I am the golden glow that you feel in those moments that feel so complete and wonderful. I am the moments that you feel truly understood by your lover or loved one...the moments where you feel made whole by an equal exchange with another person.



I am those beautiful and blessed moments where the world around you fades away as you slip into a blissful sleep in your lovers arms. I am the moments of instant, deep, spiritual connection that sometimes happens between two strangers.

Have you ever looked into a stranger's eyes, and recognized a kindred spirit? You might not know this person's name, yet you recognize them. Have you ever had one of those moments?

I am those times when there is more than enough, and it all seems in balance. I am a relationship of equal exchange. *Equal exchange*, what does that mean? I am those moments where the give and take are flowing in proper proportions in both directions. I can be easily recognized in some situations and harder to spot in others.

Do you know me? Have you experienced my presence in your life recently? Are you looking for me? Are you conscious of when your

relationships are pleasurable, balanced, and in proportionate exchange?

Are you conscious of when the balance is off? I am just one of many moments that make up the story of your life, of your relationships with yourself and with others. Perhaps you are wise enough to appreciate these beautiful and harmonious moments while they last. I hope so. May balance, wholeness, and pleasure find you along your path. Until we meet again....

Blessed Be...the Six of Cups

The next step: A Libra adjustment

by Teri Parsley Starnes

A pause. A breath in. A breath out. A point of balance. It is time to consider where we have been and where we are going. The first seven cards of the Tarot have laid a foundation. I've learned that the next seven cards will repeat that pattern but with a difference. We've already seen how our worlds expand through relationship. After expansion, we've built form, reached beyond that form, resolved the tension of opposites and centered ourselves in paradox. The card that will initiate us into the next part of the journey is Justice/Adjustment, the card that relates to Libra. What does Libra teach us about continuing our journey? What do we learn next?

I live in a Libra laboratory. My mother, sister, husband, and daughter were born under the sign of the Scales. I'm an Aries, the sign directly opposite Libra in the zodiac. I've thought for a long time, even before becoming an astrologer, that the Universe must be trying to tell me something with so many Libras in my life. And you know how it is with those lifelong Universe messages, I still don't think I've figured out what I am supposed to be learning. But oh, how fascinating that mysterious and, many times, frustrating realm of Libra is for me.

Here is what I've learned so far about Libra. If, as an Aries, I stand centered in my self as a single point, with a simple impulse to be, then it seems that Libra stands as equally centered in relationship. And not just human relationships but in all things that can be related in any way, like ideas, colors, shapes, or feelings. I think this centering space is the fulcrum that supports the scales. Libra is constantly putting things into the scales in order to

achieve fairness, harmony, and balance. Libras have an always-shifting sense of where the fulcrum needs to be located and what must be placed in the scales. Because of this awareness, Libras have an acute perception of flow and harmony. The dynamic of constantly perceiving and responding to what is needed in relationship seems as normal as anything to a Libra, and can seem like vacillation and inconstancy to an Aries. Take my word for it. I mention this because I have a strong bias and limitation to my understanding of this sign. I feel personally that in these two signs, Aries and Libra, we see the archetypal attraction of opposites and the lessons to be learned from those opposites. All other oppositions between the signs pale in comparison. But that's probably just me.

This story of opposition becomes very interesting when we look at The Emperor (Aries card) and the Justice cards in the Tarot. The Emperor is in the position of form, right in the middle of the first 7 cards. The Justice card comes at the beginning of the next set, where we get another awareness of self. Perhaps now we learn that when self is centered in relationship, we must constantly adapt our form (Aries/Emperor) to do justice to those relationships and to ourselves. From my Libra family I learn that all is not what it seems to be at first look. I can never take for granted that everyone sees the same elephant in the living room as I do. The world is more subtle and, indeed, more beautiful when I allow myself to see with Libra eyes. I sometimes wonder what they see when they look with my Aries eyes. When you look at these two cards, The Emperor and Justice, what relationship do you see? What lessons do you learn?

There are 6 pairs of opposing signs in astrology. Each part of the pair provides a missing piece for the other part. Each sign becomes a mirror for the opposite. Each sign tells a compelling and mysterious story to the other. Imagine Themis with her scales...and within them are not alpha and omega but each pair of opposite signs. How do they balance each other? As we have seen in the first pair of opposites, Aries/Libra is about form and relationship. It is the opposition of spring and fall. Both of these signs are cardinal signs, initiators.

Next come Taurus and Scorpio. This pair is about power. Taurus represents the power of life, desire, and the body. Scorpio represents the power of transformation that comes from the powers of money, sex, and death, to name a few of Scorpio's interests. These signs negotiate with each other about when to hold on and when to let go. This is the opposition of death and rebirth as seen in the seasons of October and May. Both of these signs are fixed. They are containers holding strong energy. In the Tarot these signs are The Hierophant and Death.

The third pair of opposites is Gemini and Sagittarius. This pair of signs values the search for truth. Gemini looks for the missing half and Sagittarius desires to gather information into an all-encompassing philosophy. To Gemini, Sagittarius can seem dogmatic; to Sagittarius, Gemini can seem trivial. These mutable, changing signs move us between the seasons of spring and summer, and fall and winter. Their cards are The Lovers and Temperance/Art.

The next pair is Cancer and Capricorn, the other cardinal signs. Honed down to their essence, for me, these signs are about ancestry. Cancer is concerned with the nest and family, Capricorn is attuned to the voices of family tradition. Even though a Capricorn may not accept the burden of their family expectations, they will need to come to terms with them. Cancer says clan is the most important identity and Capricorn says, "What I achieve in the world is the most important identity." They are the opposition of summer and winter. Their cards are The Chariot and The Devil.

The next pair is Leo and Aquarius, fixed signs. This polarity invokes creativity. Leo creates through solar abundance. The Leo season is late summer when everything is golden and possible. Leo creativity is centered in the individual. Aquarius creates through the need to innovate and assert individual freedom through communal organization. The season of Aquarius is deep winter when the mind is actively dreaming about possibilities for the future. To Aquarius, Leo can seem self-centered; to Leo, Aquarius can seem overly analytical. Their cards are Strength/Lust and The Star.

The final pair is Virgo and Pisces, the other mutable signs. Part of me wants to say that this pair is about mysticism and the other part of me wants to say service. And there you have it; they are about those things. Pisces is led to service through mystical leanings. Virgo is led to mysticism through surrendering to service. These signs must negotiate which is more important, the dream or reality. The Virgo season moves us from summer to fall; the Pisces season from winter to spring. Their cards are The Hermit and The Moon. (An interesting aside that I just learned from Cynthia: in the Crowley deck, these are the so-called pornographic cards. The Moon looks like a vagina and The Hermit like a penis.)

Oppositions between signs may occur through relationships. Perhaps you have significant relationships with people whose sun sign is opposite your own. It is my belief that those people will show us something about life that we cannot learn on our own. Oppositions can also occur in your chart, between any two planets. This aspect encourages us to find the balance between opposing forces, and to give each it's due. Interesting times in our lives occur when transiting planets make an opposition to a natal planet (i.e., Saturn in Cancer opposing a Capricorn Moon). These situations behave just like those relationships or natal oppositions. They ask us for the insight of balance. They ask us to adapt our forms in response to the shifting needs of relationship. They stand like Themis in The Adjustment card, still and balancing, and ask us if we are prepared to begin the next phase of discovering our true selves.

September Events at the Grove

Paradoxically, when the harvest calls us together, we contemplate the need to withdraw and tell myths about the solitary journey away and within. The Hermit's story is more often told by the apprentice. The solitary quest is a piece of the journey, but not the nature of the journeyer. What, then, is the archetype of solitude? How do we know when to go and when to return?

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| Sacred Body, Sacred Self - An Open Retreat Weekend
...dedicated to restoring body and soul | Sept. 12 th - 14 th |
| The Feast of Persephone: An Open Weekend
Honor the healing power of the deep and drum in the Fall Equinox with Sun Ray and Patricia. | Sept. 19 th - 21 st |
| Mystery School Fall Retreat: Regeneration for Women
A week-long women's only retreat dedicated to silence, regeneration, sleep and the hot tub. | Sept. 22 nd - 27 th |

October Events at the Grove

The Goddess Fortuna, the Goddess of ups and downs, of circles and cycles, of the rise and fall of all living things. We will explore the wheel, its center, the edges, and the perspective gained by we who spin.

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| Fall Mystery School Intensive
Circles and cycles....The year made whole. | Oct. 4 th - 11 th |
| Mythic Quest: Rites of Passage
An open weekend | Oct. 17 th - 19 th |
| Samhain - An Open Weekend
No end: The circle of life | Oct. 31 st - Nov. 2 nd |

November Events at the Grove

The Lion, The lady. Is it not time that our dominion over nature be our dominion over our own nature and not over the life force of the wild, the weather and the land? As we struggle with the forces within us, we create the forces that surround us. Mystery School will end with a look at the lion and the lady: the nature of power, fear, strength and sexual ethics. With this courageous look at self and life, we - as a group - will complete the year.

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| Closing Mystery School
The end and the beginning. | Nov. 14 th - 16 th |
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