

Pictogram Tarot

by Dirk Gillabel

0. Cipher, nought and zero. The primitive waters above which spirit floated. The primitive serpent, Ouroboros, the tail-biter. Alpha and omega. Horns, the frontier of Darkness.

1. The vertical line represents the Phallus, Lingam, Fire, Spirit, the Staff of the Magician, Energy, Will, connecting 'above' with 'below'.
2. Both vertical lines are the pair of Opposites, inseparable connected with each other by an oblique junction, which is the cause that the opposites are each other reflection. The entire picture represents the letter N, which is used as initial letter for negations (no, never, nought), by which the negation is the affirmation of what is denied.
3. The serpent is 'the third' which combines the opposites (the two coils of the serpent), or is rather the common essence of both. Because 'the third' is 'the one' which is present in 'the two', and is also the unifying solvent of both. The serpent has a dualistic symbolism.
4. The Thunderbolt of Zeus combines the four Elements. The four Elements are rather four conditions of the primitive Fire. The scepter of power of the Emperor.
5. An antenna receives ethereal information and transmits it in the material world.
6. A symbol partly formed from Venus- and life(ankh) symbol. Love is life. The upper part has the form of a cup, symbol of feelings, and receptacle-symbol. The part below represents the earthly experience. The center is the place of encounter of three roads; or the division in two roads; or the unification of the opposites; or the division of the androgyny in two sexes, etc. The depicted five points represents two meeting triangles of the hexagram to be formed.
7. An arrow with two different directed points will never reaches his goal, and is doomed to break, as is depicted. The arrow is the symbol of movement, progression and thinking.

8. Two in each other gripped links give the idea of a chain, symbol of the universal laws by which man has been fettered at the material.
9. The flame of the candle is the Interior Light of Man, which is in the Body, represented by four horizontal lines which are the four Elements; the I.L. Vivifies the body, the reversed ankh represents its quality.
10. The eight spoked Wheel of the universe. The rim represents the world of phenomenons; the spokes the laws of the universe on which the phenomenons moves; and the axle is the One which makes the wheel move.
11. A hand is the symbol of Strength and Power. A clenched fist possesses confined energy, energy, in potency ready to explode, unless it is directed on a purposeful way, or transformed by relaxation and using it on a creative manner by which the hand channels the energy.
12. The opened mouth is the gate, the entrance of the secrets of the Body, the Earth, the inner world, the Underworld. Out of the mouth wisdom of ancients times arises.
13. Death transforms old forms which must decay in order to generate new life forms.
14. The breast of the Mother is the soul of the world which constantly nourishes with its fluidum the earth and its inhabitants. The rainbow is the bridge to these ethereal worlds.
15. The horns of the devil, of Pan, of satyrs, of animals. Horns are the symbol of power. The (power of the) serpent unites the power-opposites into the androgyny. The serpent is directed downwards because it is enclosed in the material.
16. The heavenly phallus (the lightning) penetrates the Earth (Tower) by which the destruction liberates the inner essence.
17. Each man is a star, radiating in every direction. The depicted star is the one of the alchemists.
18. The Moon as web of Maya, the boundary of the universe.

19. The third birth. One the All. The Eye as symbol of the experience of Light.
20. Next the experience of Sound.
21. After this, Silence.