

Trump XV or 15:

The Devil / Mars

The World of the Devas

Synchronicity

Stillness or The Unmoving




In observing Trump 15, it should be stated right at the outset (no matter which deck of cards is used), that there is no Evil associated with this card. It represents the Penteade or Pentagram via the aspects of the Law of Three (see Addendum 4: [Trump 5: The Penteade](#)). Within the circumstances of [Synchronicity](#), the worst association is to find that it is dark winter when actually the influence of the Sun is sought. Within the higher Trumps there are no material obstacles and hurdles to be taken. The mental-noëtic sphere is devoid of "evil influences", it is only the circumstances of "misplaced time", an unfavorable synchronicity of events, that may lead to a momentary halt. There is no retracing of steps, no remorse, no bitterness involved. Things may prove unprovidential, fate may dictate a pause, a short time of seclusion may prove most profitable. Therefore this card stands at the top of the I Ching Trigram signifying Mountain or Keeping Still. The text for Mountain over Mountain, I Ching sign 52, reads:

"Stillness. Keeping his back perfectly still [Yoga, Zen], he loses all consciousness of his body... There will be no error."

With the allusion to the back, we are reminded that we are, from Trump 14 onwards, "building a third whole body of Man". Within this new body, we have arrived at the 3rd Chakra, which is the blending of the lower three in one, situated at the navel or solar plexus. It actually encompasses the spheres of Trumps 15 and 16, there, and within the sphere of Trump 17, blending with the 4th Anahata Chakra. Mental discipline and physical-psychic control are stressed.

Within the five Skandhas of Sino-Tibetan philosophy, here appears the second Skandha in its ultimate, perfected form, called Feeling. Feeling implies energy, within, and perception of the sense-organs, thus all impressions of the senses. Mastery of their constant flux is the task set within the sphere of Trump 15, otherwise no perfect, still meditation were possible. "Perception-Impulse" is the realm of the third Skandha, and this applies to both Trumps 15 and 16. Of course, above observations are only applicable within the terrestrial sphere. Yet, the Devil being the Devil, all trepidation or fear towards the appearance of this card within a spread of the Tarot should be dispersed right at the start. There is no double-symbolism. If the zodiacal sign of Capricorn inspires fear, it need not. It is standing in winter, in the dark and cold, before the first rays of returning spring. It is terrestrial, if any zodiacal sign were really "terrestrial" at all. And yet, beyond the Temperance and Alchemy of Trump 14, this Trump is also very far removed from any terrestrial considerations. From any at all, for the mental-noëtic sphere now is ever-widening, leading to ever-expanding intuition and mental, even stellar, view. And so we see Capricorn as inhabiting a lofty, high station, standing on the peaks of the highest mountains, where Air reigns and Space is close at hand.

Man here enters his "third body". The lower physical and psychic astral bodies have become whole. This is a high, sublime station. It definitely signifies the "higher Man", the Man of Virtue of the I Ching, the "Superior Man". The components of his or her Self are understood and harmonised. The inner Boddhisattva awakens to life, the mental body is free to develop. Boddhisattva literally means: "He who is brave enough to walk on the path of awakening". Such a "higher Self" then is concerned above all by reaching the "awakened state", as the first step the higher body consciously takes, placing full trust in the eventual attainment of the complete "Buddha-Nature". Even the complexities of alchemic consideration are no longer important. Tantra, Vajrayogini, higher Jnana Yoga and a high stage of Raja Yoga are correspondent to the station and sphere of Trump 15 (see Appendix 2: [Sino-Tibetan Dhyani-Buddhas](#)).

Trump 15, as above so below, or rather: as below so above, reflects Trump 5, the Sphere of Mars. In Alchemy, the symbol for Mars is . Within Trump 5 we have already discussed the misplacing of Mars' symbolism, that Mars in Greece was called Ares and not violent unless provoked. In the ancient world, before 5.000 B.C., there existed no words for weapons, strife and war. This only came later, with the "downfall of the ages" towards deepest

Kali Yuga, the age of iron. Iron, fire and swords are today associated with violence or unhealthy passions, yet Iron, as an element of Sino-Tibetan Astrology, is seen as Akasha or "close to Akasha", all in all very beneficial.

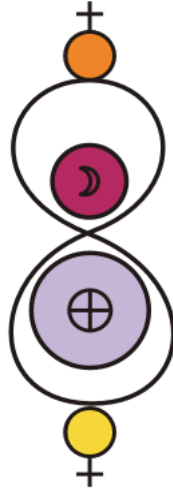
The whole spectre of Gods and Goddesses used to be devoid of negative symbolism. The first to appear as "possibly evil" yet "certainly a stimulus to evolution" was Egyptian Seth. But Seth could not act without his 72 conspirators, and these simply tell the tale of precessional time: 72 years for one degree of precessional change. This is not evil, it only speaks of a highly dynamic evolutionary impulse which could have a tendency to destroy if not coped with correctly. In this way, the total harmony of a balanced world, symbolised by Osiris and Isis, was necessarily disrupted. The Earth's angle changed, time was changed, a new precessional cycle begun: Seth and his 72 conspirators killed Osiris. Seth married Nephtys, sister of Isis, and now the new order was established where Nephtys suddenly becomes a twin-sister of Isis and Horus is born from the remnants of the old God. Eventually, for "good always overcomes evil", an arrangement was sought with Seth, yet with passing time this was not beneficial. It is the receptive, "feminine" forces which take preponderance, they allow for flexibility towards change. And so the "rearranged world" of Seth, Horus, Isis and Nephtys had to be rid of its excessive "masculine" tendency: Horus kills Seth. Thus heaven was remade.

The idea of Evil results from the "wrathful" Gods, Jehova the foremost. Later, in the age of Aries, this was sublimated to read Polarity. Zarathustra (Zoroaster) is the first main exponent of an "opposing" force. He proposed Ahriman (today : the Devil) as the opponent of the light-bearing Ahura Mazda, the "savior-God" of Mankind. But Ahriman, may he even take preponderance for a certain time, is limited in scope and time: Ahura Mazda will win out. Today still, the main "inspiration" of Man is not an evil "God" but the complexities of Polarity, where things can sometimes "take a bad turn". So the impulse of Trump 15 should be to undertake an active search for the "secret teaching", the remnants of Druid law and practice, the ancient precepts of the Vedas, all with a view to find an accessible path to overcome the "last hurdle" of Man: Polarity. This is all we shall say as to the analogies of Trump 15 concerning Polarity and its symbols.

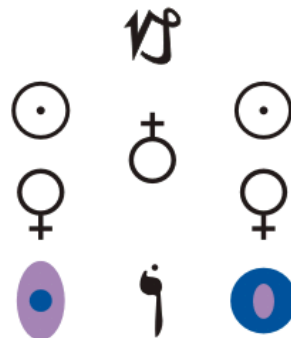
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 218 | 91 | 204 | 77 | 190 | 63 | 176 | 49 | 162 | 35 | 148 | 21 | 134 | 7 | 120 |
| 105 | 203 | 76 | 189 | 62 | 175 | 48 | 161 | 34 | 147 | 20 | 133 | 6 | 119 | 217 |
| 202 | 90 | 188 | 61 | 174 | 47 | 160 | 33 | 146 | 19 | 132 | 5 | 118 | 216 | 104 |
| 89 | 187 | 75 | 173 | 46 | 159 | 32 | 145 | 18 | 131 | 4 | 117 | 215 | 103 | 201 |
| 186 | 74 | 172 | 60 | 158 | 31 | 144 | 17 | 130 | 3 | 116 | 214 | 102 | 200 | 88 |
| 73 | 171 | 59 | 157 | 45 | 143 | 16 | 129 | 2 | 115 | 213 | 101 | 199 | 87 | 185 |
| 170 | 58 | 156 | 44 | 142 | 30 | 128 | 1 | 114 | 212 | 100 | 198 | 86 | 184 | 72 |
| 57 | 155 | 43 | 141 | 29 | 127 | 15 | 113 | 211 | 99 | 197 | 85 | 183 | 71 | 169 |
| 154 | 42 | 140 | 28 | 126 | 14 | 112 | 225 | 98 | 196 | 84 | 182 | 70 | 168 | 56 |
| 41 | 139 | 27 | 125 | 13 | 111 | 224 | 97 | 210 | 83 | 181 | 69 | 167 | 55 | 153 |
| 138 | 26 | 124 | 12 | 110 | 223 | 96 | 209 | 82 | 195 | 68 | 166 | 54 | 152 | 40 |
| 25 | 123 | 11 | 109 | 222 | 95 | 208 | 81 | 194 | 67 | 180 | 53 | 151 | 39 | 137 |
| 122 | 10 | 108 | 221 | 94 | 207 | 80 | 193 | 66 | 179 | 52 | 165 | 38 | 136 | 24 |
| 9 | 107 | 220 | 93 | 206 | 79 | 192 | 65 | 178 | 51 | 164 | 37 | 150 | 23 | 121 |
| 106 | 219 | 92 | 205 | 78 | 191 | 64 | 177 | 50 | 163 | 36 | 149 | 22 | 135 | 8 |

Horizontals, verticals and diagonals add up to 1695 each. The core number is 113, and its perfection consists of : $113 \times 15 = 1695$. Quabbalistically all turns around number 5, emblematic of Mars, as it should be. 3, 6 and 21 are "side-products", yet the 6 corresponds to all computations of 1695, i.e. $1695 \times 6 = 10.170$, and $10.170 : 90 = 113$. 113 is a prime number, similar to the 61 of Trump 11 in that its core values are beyond ordinary computations : $1000000 : 113 = 8849557522.....$, with no end in sight. Is this a "reason for The Devil?"

As has been said concerning Trump 14, it is not acceptable (in the whole) to add 1 and 5 to read 6 as concerns Trump 15, for then we have either Venus or the Sun. That is not bad at all but has little bearing on the significance of the card, which is more concerned with the flux of time, the mental-noëtic applications of the Mars-Sphere and the higher world of ethereal Beings. These are called Devas (or Elves). They take an intermediary stage between Man and the protective Angels and other pure and divine agencies. Their evolution has taken them largely away from the ever-densifying Earth-Moon-Sphere. Yet they were always a presence on planet Earth and some still remain.



Interweaving of astral sphere joining Venus to Mars through Earth and Moon.



Astrologic Mars, Sun and Venus setting.

It is said that Man may choose, at a certain stage of purity, to change over into the evolutionary "model" of the Devas. This is not fiction, for the high Avatars and Prophets of ancient times give testimony as to their existence. Indeed, any Buddhist monk praying for a good life beyond death prays to be granted acceptance into Deva-Chen, the Heaven of the Devas. The experienced "wanderer of the spheres" will recognise this to be the Sphere of Venus, among the ethereal race of Hathor. This may be so, yet Venus is not implied as a sphere here, for these ethereal Beings are not limited to Venus, and indeed some still remain on Earth. They are a part of the Mental-noetic Sphere, which encompasses the whole solar system.

J.R.R. Tolkien, in his creation myth "The Silmarillion", gives a rather accurate account of these mental Beings. Many clairvoyants can perceive them. An [Appendix](#) is added to this study, to explore the role of diverse terrestrial and ethereal Beings, as they appear in the myths and legends all over the world.

The Devas or Elves do not usually intervene in the world of Man. Thus the notions of special Devas guiding mankind, as for example "National Devas", are rather misguided. It is difficult to perceive why such ideas were put into circulation. Humanity may be separated into races and nations, but this has nothing to do neither with its origin nor with true present station. The differing races simply reflect a diversity of genetic "input" at the stage of the appearance of Homo Sapiens sapiens around 340.000 years ago. "Nations" and "states" are an invention of the ruling hierarchies, men, dating from the beginning of the patriarch times, around 4.000 B.C. They did not exist before and one day will not exist anymore: they are a part of Maya, the world of Illusion. Planet Earth, in the higher Dwapara and during Treta and Sakhya Yuga, is not divided along these lines, indeed then all races mix to form a harmonious whole. As concerns Devas and Elves, we have compiled a short version of Tolkien's Silmarillion as Appendix 3: [Creation Myths: J.R.R. Tolkien](#). Still, of course, if one reflects on how Man was spiritually cut off from his ethereal cousins, the very agencies of angelic forces demonised by countless dogmas and falsities, the pure invention of Hell and Purgatory, then one is forced to admit a special "devilry" involved within the last 3.000 years or so.

Man, with Trump 15, is made aware that he or she need not necessarily follow humanities' evolutionary "model". By deep meditation, evokation of the ethereal Beings, mainly attached to the element Air, devotion to "their cause", acceptance of a severing from the "human root", and deep devotion for the Buddhist ideals and principles (wherein access to Deva Chen is described), Man may accede to this "intermediate heaven of the Devas". The Buddhist aims to do this by way of death and rebirth, although there is a warning attached to this aim, namely that this state, a life spent in Deva Chen, is finite for Man. It will end in reincarnation, again as a human being. If Man can completely become a Deva, Dakini or Elf is open to doubt. The living entities of the element Air (not to be confused with the Devas), though still somewhat reluctant to enter into direct with human beings (due to the ravages exerted upon their physical, terrestrial habitat), are not hostile anymore. This must be ascribed to the dawning of the age of Aquarius. As they are in intimate analogy (analogy only, as they are inhabitants of the Earth-Moon spheres' element Air only) to the ethereal Devas, Dakinis or Elves, they are the most apt Beings to give advice, counsel and knowledge. As always, a higher intelligence or Principality of the Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone, properly invoked or evoked, can offer the highest and best knowledge as to these and other spheres.

If Trump 15 in any way is supposed to represent a single person, then it surely is, again, the Hierophant of Trump 5, now the "true", not the theoretic Hierophant. "His" connection with the mental-noetic was clear, yet the individual person called upon to appreciate all his scope was still on a theoretic level. Practice has given way to accomplishment, so now the all-encompassing Occultist and Magician reappears. Again, we have the same symbolism: Capricorn, Taurus (of the "horns"), Aries, possibly even Pisces and Aquarius. Again it is the element Water, Hebrew Vau, which is transmuted through the influence of Mars. Yet now Man does not above all seek divine protection and guidance, now he or she may protect and guide, giving evolutionary and beneficial impulses from the firm foundation of a twice-developed, "reborn", physical, astral and mental Being. Thus the mysteries are no longer viewed with awe and devotion, they have been unravelled and integrated.

Although it is true that the Hierophant (less even the Devil) carries no particular sex, it remains basically of masculine inspiration. From Trump 3 onwards, no particular sex should be attributed to any card. Trump 15, named, renamed, found to reflect Horus and the "higher Hierophant", should represent a universal "value". The Egyptian Goddess Nuit fits nicely. She is represented as a female figure bending over all of Creation, herself consisting of the star-spangled night sky. Sky as such, not limited to night, yet, through the brilliance of the stars, better seen at night. The blue of day is the color of Jupiter and Air. The akashik dark-violet color of the night is Nuit. She is an older Goddess than Isis/Nephtys, and precedes the death of the old God Osiris. Orion, the symbol of Osiris, is but a tiny aspect of the night-sky. So Nuit encompasses the whole Milky Way galaxy, and even stretches to the farthest reaches of the Universe. This the old Egyptians were very aware of: that Earth resides within the solar system, this again within Orion's Arm in the spiral galaxy of the Milky Way, and this again just one among countless galaxies. What did they not know that we just begin to know today?

Thus Nuit perfectly reflects ancient Holy Science - the object of the Magicians' quest - predating known "human history" by far. Horus - Nuit: what an extraordinary subject of meditation ...

The action of Alchemy, where once more a stimulus of Mars' inspiration is used to further purify the already highly distilled and pure "holy essence" cannot be explained here, yet all hints possible are given to further a specialised study of this subject. What does an old alchemic text say? "It rises from Earth to Heaven, thus describing the processes of circular distillation. The chymic vessel is to be put into the same order as the physical vessel. Then we

see that the whole heaven und the elements are equal to a sphere, a ball, in whose midst or innermost being the subterranean fire is both strong and mighty, whose actions send the subtle qualities of the elements upwards into air, towards the heights." Thus "Mars" is seen coupled with fire and water and the gases of air to allow the distilled subtle elements to rise, to expand.

Chapter 15 of the Dhammapadda reads: Joy. This in itself is astounding in a pure, original Buddhist text, the words of Lord Buddha himself. There the Buddha says: "O let us live in joy, in love amongst those who hate ! Among men who hate, let us live in love." And: "The hunger of the passions is the greatest disease. Disharmony is the greatest sorrow." And: "Contentment is the greatest treasure. Confidence is the greatest friend. Nirvana is the greatest joy." And: " If you find a man who is constant, awake to the inner light, learned, long-suffering, endowed with devotion, a noble man - follow this good and great man even as the moon follows the path of the stars." Above may mean to trust an individual of such high rank, who has passed beyond the passions and is no longer troubled by disharmony. Such is definitely the standing of an individual having reached the stage of Trump 15. This is also reflected by chapter 15 of the Bhagavad Gita, the Song of the Lord: "The Way to the Supreme Self." Here, the Asvattha Tree is named, the Sanskrit version of Yggdrasil or the Tree of Life. Of this imperishable tree, it is said: "Its true form is not comprehended here, nor its end, nor its origin, nor even its existence...; Man should pray: "I take refuge in that Primal Being from which has streamed forth this eternal activity", and seek that Goal from which they who have reached it never return."

Apart from the complexities involved with Mars and Alchemy, Trump 15 is a very "easy" card. It is subsumed that the individual who has passed beyond Trumps 13 and 14, both highly dynamic, must also take a rest. Is he or she exhausted, then it is due to "adverse synchronicity", or, worse, may provoke "adverse synchronicity". (See Index: Synchronicity). This is so common in today's troubled world as to almost be "normal". Everything goes wrong? Normal. An accident occurred? But it's not too bad, is it? Normal. Lost your money, wife, friend, girl-friend? Normal, someone else took their share. This world is full of robbers and thieves. Even thieves of ideas and vital energy. Normal. Does that make you feel weak from time to time, maybe exhausted? Normal. So Trump 15 tells us that there is absolutely no use in opposing such idiosyncratic forces, they are merely signs of pervasive confusion. Should this correspond to the surrounding cards within a spread of the Tarot, then it is to be considered as "Highly Synchronistic", a mirror of the confused times. Otherwise, calm and equanimity are above all advised. Restraint. Rest. Sleep. Rejuvenation. A therapeutic cure may be advisable. Ill health should take all its time to be properly addressed. This is no life-

death situation, illness can be cured, but it may take time. So many dynamic, "mutually exclusive", idiosyncratic, etc. forces are in motion in these days, that an individual with even only "one foot still within the world" may be dejected, may need a "time off".

The Indian sage Atisha (10th century) stated:

"This Kali Yuga is not the time to display your ability; it is the time to persevere through hardship. It is not a time to take a high position, but the time to be humble".

Thus all harmony proceeds outwards from within. There, we find no disruption. On the contrary, an impulse to throw us off balance thereby "prescribes" a rest, a pause. Stillness, meditation, as implied by I Ching sign Gen: Mountain, Standing Still.

Symbolism for this is obviously self-contradictory. On one side life is like this, on the other practically the contrary, "we" are this evolved person, yet "we" are still "here", within the troubles of this world. Won't they ever fit together? Hardly. So deeply meditative equanimity is the best advice. What symbols may stand for that? Capricorn? The eye as analogy for the Hebrew letter A'ain, values 70 and 26? Pé, the mouth, values 80, 800 and 27? 27? Why not: 27 is the derivative, "hidden core" number of Mars. Thus Mars in its higher abstraction. Capricorn? Yes, but Vau, Water, and Earth, Capricorn, do not give rise to higher alchemic processes. Thus the Sagittarius normally attributed to Trump 14? Pé/Vau, Capricorn/Sagittarius, all within the helpful "fiery and impulsive" emanations of Mars? This is our last addition to the problems, if any, posed by Trump 15. Hé carries numbers 5 and 15 respectively, Vau 6 and 16, thus Air (Gas) is the outcome of "Mars active in Water", once more opening the Scorpio analogy but the other symbolism is therefore not necessarily less valid.

The Tattwas are the same as for Trump 5, yet Akasha takes the central position. They should reflect the "lower" blending of Trumps 4, 5 and 6, and the "upper" blending of Trumps 14, 15 and 16. This is the region where any limitative symbolism should be discarded, all elements are found in purified form, the "gross" qualities do not enter anymore, neither in theory nor in practice - it is a pure realm, ethereal and beneficent beyond any doubt.

Within these "Higher Trumps" we do leave most inspiration open to the student and individual practitioner, in any case we know of no existing card decks that reflect all of our suggestions.

As also reflective of the "polarity" between Karma and Lila (Lila being the self-less spontaneous, intuitive action that carries no karmic consequences), Master Lü-Tsu of the "Secret of the Golden Flower", a highly secret text of mainly oral transmission, remarks upon the inner "Circulation of the Light": "The decision must be carried out. With a collected heart, and not seeking success; success will then come of itself." The Buddha said: "When you fix your heart on one point, then nothing is impossible for you." Still, detached, quiet introspection is a main ingredient of the alchemic work. And therefore, in the higher teachings of Mahayana Buddhism, we find that the station of Trump 15 corresponds to the beginning of tantric practice. This, at first, is a wholly concentrated meditative technique. Tantra stresses "being here", the word Tantra means Continuity. It is a thread within the weaving of the path, of Dharma. If the Tarot, always physical and psychic-astral minded, stresses the Alchemic Wedding as the equivalent of highest "tantric" Uniting and its bearing upon Alchemy, tantric logic says that: "The existence of Lead is not rejected, but Lead is transmuted into Gold. The metallic quality needs not be changed, it must simply be transmuted." Thus Alchemy is a never-ending process, even the gold and the philosophers' stone, the Lapis philosophorum, are but a mirror of ever higher aspirations. Thus, the Theosophists spoke of the "initiations of Sirius", G.I. Gurdjieff of attaining the Soleil Absolu, both situated already well outside of our solar system. Energy, the transformation of energy and waves or emanations, has no limits, if Vajrayana corresponds to Tantra, i.e. energy and transmutation of energy. Interestingly, Vajra is an analogy for Water, but its color is white. Thus the tantric practices, transferred to the Tarot, are a preparation of the Alchemic Wedding, whose scope is now seen to "begin" within the sphere of Trump 14, worked upon and purified by highly mental practices within Trump 15, possibly achieving a first blending (of very great scope, as it implies the blending of all energies Man is capable to integrate) within Trump 16. Thus, abstractly, the numeric and symbolic values of 3 pass through purification by 4 and 5, blend or attempt to blend at 6, are sublimised by 7 and 8, reach dynamic velocity and flexibility by 9 and 11, are further sublimated, "distilled and filtered" by 13, and may enter ultimate purity and perfection through the agents of 14, 15 and 16. 17 will then, again, be Man as God, closing the wheel of Samsara, Maya or Illusion.

