

Visio



Divina

## JUSTICE

The Seventh Card of the Tarot

In the world we inhabit, we live in a duality where opposing forces are juxtaposed and often challenge each other. It's rare for one force to appear without its opposite also appearing. Movements of energy swing between and around these polar opposites, often spinning wildly until they can achieve a place of equilibrium or rest. If there is no balance reached, the disparities create disjunctions and inequities that disturb and even destroy the worlds, systems or persons in which they exist. Somewhere between them, whether they find it or not, a place of equilibrium does exist, and that spot is what we might call justice. What is important to realize is that that spot can be known and influenced by an intelligence and consciousness that attends to the energetic disequilibrium until these forces are brought to balance.

An intelligence (or a force of conscious attention) using its sense of justice attempts to adjudicate the inequities in duality and then to create balance between the forces. Justice is, therefore, a third force creating a new space or synergy between competing dualistic forces that allows for the emergence of a new possibility once the state of equilibrium is reached. There something new emerges.

As we live in and get to know these opposites, we come to understand their power and their meaning. We often experience these forces when they are unbalanced, but if we are fortunate we may

know the goodness of balance when the intentional force of justice creates the possibility of equilibrium. Justice is the law that seeks equilibrium, providing space within duality to teach us the intrinsic meanings of opposing forces and their interactions, how to understand the proximate relationship between them, and the principles of wisdom that keep them dynamically alive, not simply static, and that prevent them from becoming destructive.

This is very mysterious and cannot be taught precisely, but it can be learned while living, much like learning to ride a bicycle where opposite and opposing forces of gravity, forward momentum and centrifugal forces all combine either to collapse the rider and bicycle to the ground or provide the joy of riding and the completion of a ride. Justice is when equilibrium and balance is achieved and the result is something entirely new, the vivid experience of mastering a bicycle and learning to ride for pure pleasure or even, perhaps, to accomplish some task not related to the laws of motion or the mechanics of the bicycle, but for higher purposes allowed by such mastery.

All of this is created by justice, not simply by a law applied from without by an external authority, but by the internalization of such forces and laws and integrated within. This is the wisdom of true justice which is the exercise of intelligence to integrate opposing forces into both balance and emergence.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. How have you experienced justice?
2. When have you known justice as an external force applied to you, perhaps when you were out of balance? This may have been, for example, when you were a child or a teenager. Journal your recollections.
3. What opposites and opposing forces seem most challenging to you at this moment?
4. How have you been able in the past to integrate opposites in your life?
5. How might that apply to your circumstances now?
6. Look at the image of Justice. What do you find of particular symbolic importance?
7. As you contemplate the second image, what do you see symbolically and how might it express the emergence of some new possibility for you?
8. What could emerge in your life if there were the direct application of justice as a dynamic force? What might be possible?
9. How is justice working for you at this moment? How is it working in you or through you? How might you come into a new relationship with it in your life?

*—A breviary of the  
Oriental Orthodox Order in the West  
prepared by Lynn Bauman,  
Alison Hine, and Amelia Hefferlin  
2020*

# Lectio Divina

The Contemplative Reading of a Sapiential Text

Let justice flow on like a river,  
And righteousness like a never-failing stream.

— Amos 5:24



To everyone who turns their face towards you,  
You come so close,  
And glory floods the landscape of the soul.  
And in the secret places of the heart  
Your mercy and your truth  
Shall meet at last in full embrace,  
And justice and peace kiss one another there.  
So truth is finally born in full,  
It springs from earth full grown,  
And heaven reaches down restoring just balances to all.  
And from that marriage,  
Prosperity unmeasured fills the lands,  
And yields a harvest of unimaginable good,  
And makes the path of justice smooth between all  
peoples everywhere.  
For every place you step knows perfect peace.

— Psalm 85:9-14  
**Ancient Psalms Sung Anew**

# The Illuminations

*The Wisdom of Contemplative Seeing*



