

It's Magic



Magician / Mercury *Greek Messenger to the Gods*

Communication, Decisiveness, Intellect, Logic,
Agility, Mystery

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The Magician

Jack Be Nimble
Jack Be Quick
Jack Jump Over
The Candlestick

This ancient nursery rhyme springs from an age-old practice at weddings. It was used to predict the success of the wedding and the life to follow for the couple.

If a groom was nimble and quick enough to jump over a lit candle without extinguishing the flame, it was seen as a good omen that predicted a successful marriage and a good life. Jumping the candle flame successfully implies that the groom was agile, and quick-witted enough to meet the challenges that life would throw at him and his bride.

This old custom illustrates how we as a species have in the past, and continue today, placed great value on dexterity and astuteness. Notice how we envy the quick-witty retort or the sudden, nimble movement that allows a soccer player to decoy the goalie just long enough to kick the winning goal.

The metal mercury – quick silver – named for its brilliant, shiny, silver colour and its property of being able to break into gleaming beads of silver that race around on a surface only to re-align (magically) into a single body in a fraction of a second.

Mercury is an illustration of the attributes and energetics of the Archetype known as 'The Magician'.

What happens to us as individuals when we find ourselves lacking in the agility it takes to handle the vagaries of life, unable to come up with the perfect lightning riposte; or find ourselves unable to make fast, accurate decisions? Often, we plunge into the downward spiral of "not good enough" and in many instances, we withdraw from life.

Recently, a young woman, Betty, came to us for help. Betty was essentially a recluse. She had no social life, only a few casual friends. Anytime Betty was forced into a social event she found a place to hide. She had a great fear of having to talk to anyone other than a close family member.

Betty was convinced that she was stupid, dull and backward.

In the past she had made a few half-hearted efforts to break free of this – unsuccessfully. Each time that she tried and failed Betty became more and more convinced that she was simple-minded and unable to speak intelligently.

During our intake session Betty gave a long list of examples of where she had failed in social settings, where she had been unable to function during conversational exchange, of times she had thought of the perfect retort – only long after the fact.

Upon further questioning about her early life, we asked Betty when she first began to think of herself as stupid or what had led her to believe that she was stupid.

Betty related an incident that took place when she was in Grade Two.

Betty's class was putting on a play for parents and she had been cast in one of the leading roles. After many rehearsals the play was ready for presentation.

The audience of parents were seated and the curtain went up. When Betty's turn came, she stepped on the stage to deliver her part. When she saw the auditorium filled with parents, Betty froze; unable to move a muscle. She stumbled incoherently trying to deliver her lines but the play soon became a disaster and muddled its way to the conclusion.



After the play, all the parents came backstage to collect their children.

When Betty's parents arrived it was obvious that they were both embarrassed that it had been their daughter who had spoiled the play.

On the ride home, instead of offering sympathy and understanding, both parents berated her. *"How could you be so stupid as to forget your lines! You let everyone down!"*

Betty went on to tell how this berating continued through her childhood, teens, right up to the point when she moved away from home.

The foundation of her belief system and the prison it created for her had been established.

As most self-fulfilling prophecies do, the universe continued to support her belief system and a never-ending myriad of situations arose to confirm for her that she was stupid and inarticulate.

It took several one-on-one sessions to break the energetic chain for Betty (remove the sliver), but the next piece of the puzzle was to find a way to help her shift her perception into knowing that she was intelligent and articulate (change the behavioural patterning).

Enter – Magic, or more precisely ritual work with The Archetype, The Magician.

Working at the Mythic (Level of Engagement) as opposed to at the Literal (Level of Engagement) removes our propensity to intellectualize everything. It takes our awareness and helps us perceive the bigger picture of life, the mythic story of our existence – the possibilities at hand as opposed to the probabilities.

We would dearly love to report that Betty's life has completely changed. The truth is, as we speak, she is still in the process of her ritual work with The Magician. Time, focus and intent will be the determining factors.

By sharing Betty's story, we hope we have encouraged at least some people to step outside of the literal, the intellectual interpretation of their problems.

If you, or someone you know, is stuck in a situation, caught up in a circumstance you seem unable to free yourself from, or driven by beliefs that you would like to permanently change, then be willing to step into the mythic.

Leave your head at the door. Our biggest enemy in life is often our brain.

By Shanon & Marv Harwood

Directors of [The Kimmapii School of Shamanism](#)

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