

33. As Arsenic (4.15) The Person Loyal to Life-Affirming Values

- Living with integrity; Resisting temptation.

Row 4. 4th (Heart) Chakra: Love; Joyful Connection.

Column 15. Stage 15: Acknowledging your accomplishments, then letting go.

Lesson: In your deepest heart-of-hearts, you are guided by inner values that truly support Life. However, you might be tempted by false values, such as the desire for wealth, power, popularity, etc. Recognize where you have been tempted, and find the courage to resist temptation. Remain true to your inner Life-supporting values—they will sustain you and bring you fulfillment and joy in the long run.

Gift: Arsenic, the person who Values All that Supports Life and Resists Temptation, represents our ability to live with integrity, by staying true to our inner values. In our Hearts, we are connected to the values that truly support Life. But as we go through life, we can be tempted to follow other values, that supposedly will bring us wealth, happiness, love, or power. It's easy to be tempted, but in the end, these false values turn out to be destructive of Life.

Arsenic's gift is the ability to stay true to our Life-affirming inner values, while avoiding being tempted by seductive values such as the desire for wealth, power, fame, popularity, etc. The familiar dilemma of "Should I listen to the Angel or the Devil inside me?" expresses Arsenic's themes, while stories such as "Faust" or "Damn Yankees," about someone who "sold their soul to the devil" in order to gain wealth, youthfulness, love, etc., are cautionary tales about Arsenic-Imbalances.

- "I remain loyal to my Life-supporting inner values, and I avoid temptation."
- "I resist temptation and stay true to my Life-affirming inner values."
- "I remain true to my Life-affirming inner values, and I resist being tempted by false values."
- "I deeply value what truly supports Life, and I avoid being tempted by false values."

Imbalances (Problems and Recommendations):

■ You have spent many years accomplishing things, and you have become "successful." And now you may be feeling that you need to change your life; you need to move to deeper, more truly fulfilling and Life-sustaining values. Now it may be time for you to look into your own Heart, let go of your old way of life, and live a new kind of life that feels deeper and more authentic.

■ You may be facing a crucial choice in your life. False values that you know are destructive may now be tempting you. The desire for wealth, power, glamour, fame, popularity, or Love can be highly seductive. You need to make a choice, and it may not be easy; but in your Heart of Hearts, you know what is right. Have the courage to resist temptation, and instead choose Life-supporting values.

■ You may appear "successful" according to the standards of the outside world, but in your Heart of Hearts you know that the values you are currently living by are destructive to your well-being, or to the well-being of others. You may realize that now you want to live in a more authentic, Life-supporting way. You can find ways to move beyond these harmful values, so you can live with more integrity.

Arsenic's "*Sting*": Material *arsenic* is toxic. Holding fast to what you truly believe in can give you self-respect and integrity; but it may also bring harmful consequences, because you might have to sacrifice other benefits—you might have to pay a price—in order to remain true to your ideals.