

The High Priestess Key 2 – Gimel λ - Gematria 3



Gimel means Camel – This can also mean travel, commerce, and communication since the camel is used for transportation and is known as the “Ship of the desert.” The Moon is the celestial body assigned to Gimel. Note the headdress of the High Priestess.

Gimel is a double letter (having hard and soft pronunciation). The opposites it connotes are Peace and Strife. Consider the roles commerce, communication and transportation play on a global scale and how they relate to Peace and Strife (war).

Uniting Intelligence is the mode of consciousness attributed to Gimel as a camel “brings” distant places together and unites them. Unification is the power of bringing together to join pieces, ideas and people to make a harmonious whole.

The title High Priestess literally means Chief Feminine Elder or primary receptive aspect of the life power. Thus the woman in this key is identical with the First Mother or First Matter or as the alchemists said “Prima Materia.” In fact the High Priestess corresponds to all the virgin goddesses of the ancient world and represents Eve before she met Adam. The veil between the pillars represents the fact that the High Priestess is a virgin or “virgo intact.”

The High Priestess sits in a temple of Solomon. Her number is two (2) and represents duplication, reproduction, reflection, copying and transcription. Two also represents duplicity, untruth, error and delusion. Think how the subconscious duplicates and repeats the mistakes of faulty, superficial, self-conscious observation. She is the “Keeper of Records.”

The walls and her vestments are blue. This represents the moon and water. This represents the creative world, the cosmic mind and the root substance.

The two pillars are those of Solomon and Hermes (like the ones in Masonry). They are opposite in color but alike in form; opposites, positive and negative. Note the letters on each of the columns. The High Priestess is the Middle Pillar! She is the path of equilibrium. She is silent, non-judgmental, receptive, nondiscriminating and neutral. The bases of the columns are cubes as is the High Priestess’ throne. The cube represents the material world or the physical manifestation. The cube also symbolizes salt which forms cubes in its crystalline form. (How might this relate to water?) The High Priestess sits on the cube because the basis of all subconscious mental activity is what has actually happened and actually exists.

The caps of the pillars are lotus buds not opened flowers. They represent the latent unrealized power of the virgin High Priestess. The forces of sub consciousness have not come into full bloom.

The veil behind the High Priestess contains palms and pomegranates. It contains both male (palms) and female (pomegranates) symbolism. It suggests the union of the positive and negative, male and female forces. Compare the arrangement of the pomegranates and the palms with the Tree of Life. Note the position of the High Priestess corresponds to the path on the Tree from Kether to Tiphareth.

She holds a scroll marked Tora (much like Torah – or law), but it is the book of memory. It is the subconscious' record of all that has happened, all mental and physical stresses that are indelibly impressed on the subconscious – both personal and universal. It contains the history of all of us throughout all time. It is the collective subconscious and is that which allows us to communicate telepathically.

The water that flows out to the High Priestess' robe represents the stream of consciousness. Watch for it in later Keys.

The cross on her tunic is equal sided meaning – equal male and female aspects. It denotes the equality of the male and female aspects, the active and passive. It also, in Case's words, "foreshadows the completion of the entire cycle represented by the 22 Tarot Keys."