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A Seeker's Thoughts

Personal Thoughts and Observations of a Lone Seeker on how Ancient Wisdom is Revealed through Symbolism, Mythology, Metaphor, Sacred Writings, Natural Cycles, and Everyday Life.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010

The Lighthouse - As A Symbol

The Lighthouse is a tall circular stone structure erected upon the highest point of land that is closest to the sea and its potential dangers. It notifies sailors that land is near and warns them that they are approaching rocks, reefs and shallow waters which must be navigated with caution. The Lighthouse is also a comforting sign that the calm waters of a welcoming harbor are close at hand.

The Lighthouse stands alone and tall in both light and darkness and it, along with its beacon, is a focal point which <u>Symbolizes</u> strength, guidance and safe harbor; it is a Spiritual "Welcome Mat" for all those who are traveling by sea.

Symbolically The Lighthouse is similar to the <u>Star</u>, and to the <u>Hermit</u> of the Tarot Deck. However, as the Star serves as guidance for all those who look to the heavens, or higher consciousness, and the Hermit serves as a guide to all who wish to ascend the mountaintop, or highest level of spiritual attainment here on earth, the Lighthouse serves as a guide and beacon to all who are either voyaging or adrift on <u>Water</u>.

Metaphorically, as the element of Water represents the emotions, the Lighthouse is a Symbol for the Spiritual Strength and Emotional Guidance which is available to us during the times we feel we are being helplessly tossed around in a sea of inner turmoil.

With these thoughts in mind, let us now explore the metaphors which are related to, and associated with, the Symbol of the Lighthouse.

Storms consist of both wind (air) and rain (water). And as air is the element representing the mind, and water is the element representing the emotions, storms symbolize agitated thoughts and emotions. Metaphorically, storms are our <u>Inner Demons</u> which torment both our mind and our <u>Subconscious</u>.

The **rocks**, **reefs** and **shallow waters** symbolize the final dangers and miseries which seem to accompany the end of any turbulent voyage. Just as the saying, "its always darkest before the dawn", things always seem the most dangerous and hopeless as we reach the end of an emotional turmoil. This is the point when we feel like tossing up our hands and giving up. However, it is just after this point that our problems become solved, our crises wane and we attain that new clarity and understanding which we have been so desperately <u>Seeking</u>.

The *Strength* of the Lighthouse is Symbolized by its location. It is erected at the highest point of land which is closest to the

*Appearances And **Perceptions** *Apple (As A Symbol) *Apprenticeships and **Internships** *Arrogance *Arrow, The (A Symbol for Thoughts) *Atman (Our God Within) *Autumn (Fall) Equinox *Awareness (Foresight) *Axe, The (As A Symbol) *Ba and Ka - Egyptian **Symbolism** *Baal (Myth And Symbol) *Beauty (Inner Beauty vs. Outer Beauty) *Becoming *Beliefs *Bells and Chimes (As Symbols) *Blending Of Differences *Blessings *Books and Scrolls as **Symbols** *Borders Between Realms *Call To Adventure *Call To Adventure (Part 2) *Capricorn and the Sea Goat *Carpenter (As A Symbol) *Change (The Eternal Constant) *Choices (Your Choices **Define Your Destiny**) *Choosing Our Thoughts *Circle, The (As A Symbol) *Coincidence *Compatibility *Compromise *Conformity and the **Conformist** *Confusion *Consequences (Unintended) *Corners *Cornucopia (Symbol for Abundance) *Cosmic Serpent *Creative Destruction *Crossroads (Symbol And Metaphor) *Cycles Of Eternity *Debates and Debating *Decisions *Decisions (Emotional) *Destiny *Devolution - From Gods To Vassals

Guidance during our mental and emotional storms.

The *Beacon* is the Guiding Light, the Illuminated Eye, which shines in all directions and enables all who are adrift at sea to use it as a focal point in order to steer to the calm waters of the safe harbor which the Lighthouse oversees.

Therefore the Symbol of the Lighthouse reminds us that, regardless of how turbulent our emotional seas may become, we need only focus on the Guiding Light of the Spiritual Lighthouse within us. Our Inner Lighthouse is our inner strength; it is our God-within; it is our <u>Atman</u>.

Our inner Lighthouse is also our spiritual guide which safely directs us to that peaceful port-of-call which resides within each and every one of us; a port-of-call that provides us with calm waters, safe harbor and emotional tranquility from the turbulent seas which are currently surrounding us.

Once we are safe within our Harbor of Tranquility we are better able to evaluate the emotional tides and currents which are temporarily disturbing our voyage. Then, once our emotional storm finally passes, we can once again set out to sea and enjoy clear skies, calm seas and prosperous Waters as we cheerfully sail toward new <u>Horizons</u> and new <u>Adventures</u>.

Comments and Emails: I welcome comments and emails from people with similar thoughts and feelings. My email address is located in the upper-left area of this page. Comments can be posted by using the "Comment" link located below each article. **Also:** If you found value in this article please feel free to forward it to other like-minded individuals, organizations and sites.

Disclaimer: None of my articles should be considered to be either advice or expertise. They are simply personal opinions and no more. Everyone is encouraged to seek competent advice from a licensed, registered, or certified professional should such advice or service be required.

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Posted by Joseph Panek at 5:59 AM Labels: emotional guidance , guiding light , illuminated eye , lighthouse , metaphor , spiritual guidance , spirituality , symbolism

11 comments:



<u>Noelle V</u> said...

Thank you. This is wonderful, and very timely for me.

October 24, 2010 at 7:59 PM



<u>plaintain1</u> said...

Hi

A good article. I've just finished watching the movie The Skulls.

*Drum, The (Symbol and Metaphor) *Dumbledore and Gandalf *Dust (Mythology, Mysticism and Symbolism) *Egyptian Ankh *Egyptian Anubis and Upuaut *Egyptian Maat *Egyptian Neter (God And Goddess Symbolism) *Egyptian Pyramid (Part 1 -Symbolism) *Egyptian Pyramid (Part 2 -Symbolism) *Egyptian Sphinx *Egyptian Thoth *Egyptian Weighing Of The Heart (Symbol and Metaphor) *Emotional Decisions *Events *Face Of A Child *Failures, Mistakes, and Tinkering *Faith *Feather (As A Symbol) *Femur, The (As A Symbol) *First Time, The (Zep Tepi) *Five-Pointed Star (As A Symbol) *Flying (As A Symbol) *Fog (As A Symbol) *Fool, The (Tarot Symbolism) *Footprint (As A Symbol) *Forbidden Act, The One *Forgiveness (Release and Acceptance) *Four Elements, The (As Symbols) *Four Pillars of Heaven *Free Will *Gandalf and Dumbledore *Garden of Eden *Genesis (The Source) *Giant, The (As A Symbol) *Gnosis - An Inner Knowing *Goat, The (Symbolism and Mythology) *Gold - As A Symbol *Gold, Frankincense, Myrrh and The Three Wise Men *Guilt, Threats, and Obligations *Gunas, Three (Trinity) *Hand And Cloud (As A Symbol) *Harmony *Hermetic Logos

lighthouse with its beam is flashing. I wondered given the context of the film, whether the symbolism is positive? Thanks July 20, 2011 at 10:42 AM

<u>5 aly 20, 2011 at 10.42 min</u>

Dilip Barad said...

Good one. I am sharing this with students while teaching novel 'To The Lighthouse'.

October 3, 2011 at 10:09 PM

<u>MandaBurms</u> said...

Totally connect with your symbolism of a lighthouse, Thanks! Love Leanne <u>March 2, 2013 at 7:30 AM</u>

<u>chelsea</u> said...

thank you for this explanation. i just recently bought a lighthouse poster for my new office. i love looking at it. it gives me comfort. im going through emotional turmoil in my lfe. <u>February 21, 2014 at 8:04 PM</u>

Jennifer Riebau said...

Wonderful!!! Very pertinent. Thank you :) July 18, 2014 at 8:38 AM

<u>znovu majak</u> said...

Hello, This explanation of the symbol for lighthouse is excellent. Thank you. <u>October 2, 2014 at 6:31 AM</u>

A.A. Garrison said...

Thank you for this post and its insights. I benefited from it. March 2, 2015 at 7:22 PM

Karen White-Furtado said...

I resonate with this article. Thank you for posting! <3 December 10, 2015 at 1:28 PM

Christie Stacker said...

During meditation the other day, a vision of myself as a lighthouse came to me, with the beacon emanating from my third eye Chakra. Since then I have been seeing images of lighthouses and references to lighthouses which seems like some kind of message. Thank you for your explanation of the

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