

THE SECRET

By Roberto Grassi



According to an ancient European legend, a dimple on a person's chin means that an angel touched the baby's lips to seal them and protect a particular secret. The legend inspired me to write this simple narrative game.

When playing with kids, help them interpret the cards and remind them that the scenes are not necessarily told in a sequence moving through childhood, adolescence, maturity, and old age.

Set Up

Shuffle the deck and put it between the two players.

Playing the Game

One player assumes the role of "The Angel;" the other

plays the role of a child who will be born in a few moments.

Revealing the cards one by one, the person playing the role of the child begins to describe scenes from his or her future life. The player uses one or more cards per scene, which help inspire the tale. After the scene all cards are shuffled back into the deck.

The player describes two scenes for each major phase of life: childhood, adolescence, maturity, and old age. While narrating scenes the player has the freedom to describe all fictional elements relating to the character.

The Angel listens to the tale. A shake of the head signals that he or she disagrees with something that has been said. This ritual movement helps the player understand that what's happening is not in God's plan for the character and that the player

needs to modify the tale.

The Cards

1. Hearts suggest that the scene must incorporate elements of material or spiritual enrichment.
2. Spades suggest that the scene must incorporate elements related to work (or missing work).
3. Clubs suggest that the scene must incorporate elements related to physical or social strength.
4. Diamonds suggest that the scene must incorporate elements relating to virtues or vices.



Ending

After narrating eight scenes of his future life, the player names the three most important decisions the character will have to make over the course of his or her life.

After that, the angel gets close to the baby's ear and whispers the answer to one of the decisions. The angel then places a finger on the baby's lips, sealing them and ending the game.

*My personal thanks to
Shae Davidson for proofreading.*

Play Time	Around 30 minutes
N. of Players	2
Difficulty	Average
Needed	1 deck of Cards