

Tarot: Key to the Kabbalah

Four Worlds:

Olam Atzilut—World of Emanations: Wands(fire)—Creative Will; King (*Macroprosopus* in *Kether*); *Yud* active; Causal Plane—archetypal world

Olam Briah—World of Creation: Cups(water)—Creative Intelligence; Queen(*Shekinah* or *Ruach*); *Heh* passive; Mental Plane

Olam Yetzirah—World of Formation: Swords(air); Prince or Knight (Son: *Macroprosopus* in *Tiferet*); *Vav* active—receives and passes energy to Daughter (*Shekinah* in exile: *Assiyah*); Astral Plane

Olam Assiyah—World of Action: Pentacles(earth); Page or Princess—Daughter(*Shekinah* in exile); *Heh* passive; *Nefesh*; Material Plane

The Ten Sefiroth— Cards 1-10, with *Kether* = 1 and *Malkuth* = 10, of each suit reflect the facets, elements and actions of the *Sefiroth* in each world/plane (Wands=fire=Atzilut=Creative Will) e.g. Ace of Wands=*Kether* in Atzilut; This card symbolizes growth, new beginnings, the awesome power of intelligence, will and intuition.

Thirty-Two Paths—Letters and Tarot Cards

The first ten paths are the ten *Sefiroth* themselves. They are not symbolized by letters, but, are by the first ten numbers, which is their essence and their nature; *echod* (one) = *Kether* and *ashara* (ten) = *Malkuth*

Eleventh Path of Scintillating Intelligence: *Kether* to *Chokmah*—*Aleph* (numerical value: 1) The Fool (numerical value: 0); Spirit of Air (Aether)

Aleph—Meaning ox or bull significant of the generative energy and power of the Deity, typified by the male and active principle in the manifestation, *Chokmah* (wisdom). Note: *Aleph* is letter which symbolizes *Ain Soph* (infinity)

The Fool This card has a dual nature, one of gullibility and ignorance of the spiritually blind fool-unaware of his true nature, the other of innocence and trust in Providence which typifies the true wisdom of the sage and spiritual warrior. When

all knowledge has been attained and all of the battles (internal and external) fought, the wise fool realizes that all knowledge is foolishness and vainglorious illusion and that the peace which unites all (*Ain Soph*) and negates all (*Ain*) is one and the same. As *Adam Kadmon*, the Fool is our point of initiation and manifestation into existence and our point of return and unification with the All/Nothing.

Twelfth Path of Intelligence of Transparency—From *Kether* to *Binah*—*Bet* (numerical value: 2) The Magician (numerical value: 1) The Magus of Power

Bet—Meaning house—House of Eternal Wisdom and House of the Voice of Jacob (still small voice)—*Logos* (Word of God)—Utterance of Creation by *Ruach ha-Kodesh* (Holy Spirit)

The Magus The manipulator (also known as The Juggler) of the four worlds, Atzilut, Briah, Yetzirah, Assiyah and their essences, symbolized by the wand, cup, sword and pentacle, respectively. The Magus is the wise one to whom all secrets of the spirit have been given and who then creates anew using the old knowledge. The Magus has an awareness of spiritual dimensions and other realities.

Thirteenth Path of Uniting Intelligence—From *Kether* to *Tiferet*—*Gimel* (numerical value: 3) High Priestess (numerical value: 2) Priestess of the Silver Star

Gimel—Meaning camel. According to the *Zohar*, the serpent in the Garden of Eden was a type of “flying camel,” therefore it is considered to be in relationship with dragons and winged serpents

High Priestess. She is the veiled Shekinah, seated between the right and left hand pillars of the Tree of Life.

Fourteenth Path of Luminous Intelligence—From *Chokmah* to *Binah*—*Daled* (numerical value: 4) The Empress (numerical value: 3) Daughter of the Mighty Ones

Daled—Meaning door — Door to life i.e. womb (birth or death)

The Empress She denotes ideal maternal love, sweetness and domination by affective persuasion. The negative sense of the card is vanity and seduction.

Fifteenth Path of Constituting Intelligence—From *Chokmah* to *Tiferet*—*Heh*

(numerical value: 5) The Emperor (numerical value: 4) Chief among the Mighty

Heh—Meaning window Expresses penetrability, possibilities and distances. It is symbolic of consciousness. *Heh* is the “Mother” and “Daughter” of the Tetragrammaton

The Emperor The positive symbolism of this card is concerned with magnificence, energy, power, law, and severity (discipline), the negative with domination and subjection.

Sixteenth Path of Eternal Intelligence—From *Chokmah* to *Chesed*—*Vav* (numerical value: 6) The Hierophant (numerical value: 5) Magus of the Eternal

Vav—Meaning nail, Symbol of the phallus: reproductive force and creative vitality. *Vav* is the “Son” of the Tetragrammaton

The Hierophant The Spiritual Power who holds the secrets of Life and Death

Seventeenth Path of Disposing Intelligence—From *Binah* to *Tiferet*—*Zayin* (numerical value: 7) The Lovers (numerical value: 6) Children of the Voice

Zayin—Meaning sword Sword of Truth. It is composed of a blade and a guard which forms a “conjunction,” a meeting for two different forces. It denotes liberty and strength. Sword is the counterpart of the distaff, which is the feminine symbol of the continuity of life. The sword and the distaff symbolize death and fertility or war and peace, respectively.

The Lovers Positively, this card symbolizes making the right choice between Vice and Virtue; and represents moral beauty and integrity. On the negative side, it concerns uncertainty and temptation.

Eighteenth Path of the House of Influence—From *Binah* to *Geburah*—*Chet* (numerical value: 8) The Chariot (numerical value: 7) Lord of the Triumph of Light

Chet—Meaning fence—a separation between *Geburah* is Judgement and *Binah* is Intelligence, in making decisions, one uses both intelligence and judgement to arrive at the correct decision.

The Chariot A card which denotes mastery over the positive and negative forces within the self. It symbolizes the "Great Work" by which a person comes to know self-integration and consciousness

Nineteenth Path of the Intelligence of Activities of Spiritual Beings—From *Chesed* to *Geburah*—*Tet* (numerical value: 9) *Strength* (numerical value: 11) Daughter of the Flaming Sword or Leader of the Lion

Tet—Meaning serpent – symbol of wisdom and power (kundalini) to ancient peoples resurrection, strength, the sacrifice of the serpent (life force) makes it possible to accept death gratefully (like the swan) and soar to higher regions. Alchemists see the snake as an illustration of the feminine in man.

Strength This card symbolizes the triumph of intelligence over brutality in the positive sense. Conversely, it denotes insensibility and fury.

Twentieth Path of the Intelligence of Will—From *Chesed* to *Tiferet*—*Yud* (numerical value: 10) *The Hermit* (numerical value: 9) Prophet of the Eternal or Magus of the Voice of Power

Yud—Meaning Hand of God or consciousness which sets the world-forces in motion. *Yud* is the "Father" of the Tetragrammaton

The Hermit He is the master of the invisible—Adept. On the positive side The Hermit stands for tradition, study, reserve, patient and profound work. On the negative side he signifies all that is taciturn and meticulous.

Twenty-first Path of the Intelligence of Conciliation and Reward—From *Chesed* to *Netzach*—*Kaph* (numerical value: 20) *The Wheel of Fortune* (numerical value: 10) Lord of the Forces of Life

Kaph—Meaning the hollow of one's hand—receptivity

The Wheel of Fortune Based upon the symbolism of the number two, it expresses the equilibrium of the contrary forces of contraction and expansion— the principle of polarity. It is the wheel of fate and irreversible. Above the wheel a Sphinx is positioned, which alludes to the mystery of all things and the intermingling of the disparate.

Twenty-second Path of Faithful Intelligence—From *Geburah* to *Tiferet*—*Lamed* (numerical value: 30) Justice (numerical value: 8) Daughter of the Lords of Truth

Lamed—Meaning whip. Symbol of domination, mastery, or superiority. It expresses the idea of punishment counterbalanced by the sword as a symbol of purification—and also the power to encircle and overwhelm.

Justice This card relates to judgement with emphasis on the internal and psychic mechanism involved in the process of determining guilt. In a positive sense this enigma denotes harmony, a strict code of behavior, and firmness; in the negative sense, restriction, pettiness, and craft.

Twenty-third Path of Stable Intelligence—From *Geburah* to *Hod*—*Mem* (numerical value: 40) The Hanged Man (numerical value: 12) The Spirit of the Mighty Waters

Mem—Meaning water. Waters of *Briah* from which all life has come.

The Hanged Man This card denotes self-sacrifice, mysticism, and continence. In the negative sense it denotes a utopian dream world. Odin in Norse mythology was said to have hung himself from a tree of Heaven in order to give the mystic runes to mankind.

Twenty-fourth Path of the Imaginative Intelligence—From *Netzach* to *Tiferet*—*Nun* (numerical value: 50) Death (numerical value: 13) Lord of the Gates of Death

Nun—Meaning fish. The fish symbolizes the whole of the formal, physical universe. The upper part of its body is representative of the superior stages of development and the lower part of its body represents the lower stages of development.

Death This card symbolizes transformation or transmutation and change (evolution) in consciousness or circumstances.

Twenty-fifth Path of Tentative Intelligence—From *Tiferet* to *Yesod*—*Samech* (numerical value: 60) Temperance (numerical value: 14) Bringer forth of All Righteous Persons

Samech—Meaning prop. This path is connected with the Zodiacal sign of

Sagittarius, the Arrow, which, when shot, goes straight to the target as joy to the heart.

Temperance This card is symbolic of maintaining equilibrium between the spiritual and physical planes. It suggests universal life and ceaseless circulation through formation, regeneration, and purification.

Twenty-sixth Path of the Renewing Intelligence—From Tiferet to Hod—Ayin (numerical value: 70) The Devil (numerical value: 15) Lord of the Gates of Matter

Ayin—Meaning eye. It is symbolic of the Eye of God, also the third eye. This path is symbolical of the Man-god, eager and exulted, consciously aware of his True Will and ready to set out on his long and wearisome journey of redeeming the world.

The Devil This card is symbolic of regression or stagnation in what is fragmentary, inferior, diverse, and discontinuous. It is related to the instincts and to desire in all its passionate forms, the magic arts, disorder, and perversion.

Twenty-seventh Path of Exciting Intelligence—From Netzach to Hod—Pe (numerical value: 80) The Tower (numerical value: 16) Lord of the House of God

Pe—Meaning mouth. This is a reciprocal path. It denotes the taking in of spiritual truths. It is also used to re-verbalize those same spiritual truths. The words which came forth from the mouth of God in the beginning brought forth all creation.

The Tower This card is called The House of God. Mystics have always traditionally considered the feminine aspect of the universe as a chest, a house, or a wall, as well as an enclosed garden. Another symbolic association is that which equates the house as the repository of all wisdom. The house may also symbolize the self, both physically and spiritually.

Twenty-eighth Path of Natural Intelligence—From Netzach to Yesod—Tzadeh (numerical value: 90) The Star (numerical value: 17) Daughter of The Firmament or Dweller between the Waters

Tzadeh—Meaning fish hook. Its astrological significance is the sign of Aquarius. Since fish is symbolic of the cosmic universe, the fish hook is symbolic of the ability to perceive the cosmos and one's true relation to it.

The Star This card is a symbol of the spirit shining as a light in the darkness.

Twenty-ninth Path of Corporeal Intelligence—From *Netzach* to *Malkuth*—*Koph* (numerical value: 100) The Moon (numerical value: 18) Child of the Sons of the Mighty

Koph—Meaning back of the head, but more specifically one that is clouded or dulled by the illusions of life on the material plane.

The Moon This card refers to delusion, illusion, change, psychic awareness, (cloudy), and the emotions.

Thirtieth Path of Collective Intelligence—From *Hod* to *Yesod*—*Resh* (numerical value: 200) The Sun (numerical value: 19) Lord of the Fire of the World

Resh—Meaning head, specifically a clear-thinking one.

The Sun This card symbolizes glory, spirituality, and illumination. On the negative side it stands for vanity or an idealism incompatible with reality.

Thirty-first Path of Perpetual Intelligence—From *Hod* to *Malkuth*—*Shin* (numerical value: 300) The Last Judgement (numerical value: 20) Spirit of the Primal Fire

Shin—Meaning tooth, it is used to denote the name of God (*Shaddai*: The Almighty or The Breasts of God) in *Mezzuzot*. (doorposts)

The Last Judgement This card is symbolic of illumination, regeneration, healing, and resurrection. On the negative side it stands for hot-headedness and Dionysiac ecstasy.

Thirty-first Path of Administrative Intelligence—From *Yesod* to *Malkuth*—*Tav* (numerical value: 400) The World or The Universe (numerical value: 21) The Great One of the Night of Time

Tav—Meaning cross. This path represents both the lowest of the Astral Planes and the whole universe as the sum total of all extant intelligences.

The World The *Zohar* gives this path to the final *Heh*, the daughter who is a reflection of the *Shekinah* above. At the four corners of the card are the *Ophanim*,

symbolized by the bull, the lion, the man, and the eagle. This card implies a synthesis of or the totality of the manifest world, that is, the world of space as a reflection of permanent activity. Also symbolized in this card are the four elements of, fire, water air, and earth, which relate to the four worlds of *Atzilut, Briah, Yetzirah,* and *Assiyah,* respectively.

