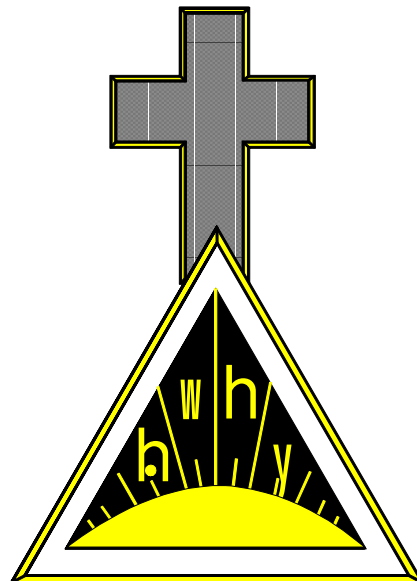


The Hermetic Order Of The
GOLDEN DAWN Intl.

MAJOR ARCANA SERIES

STAR / PATH OF X

**The Guide for Understanding
the Major Arcana**



PHILOSOPHUS 4 = 7

(The following description of the Star Card is taken from the Philosophus initiation):

"The twenty-eighth path of the *Sepher Yetzirah* which answereth unto the letter x is called the Natural Intelligence, and it is so called because through it is consummated and perfected the nature of every existing being under the orb of the Sun. It is therefore the reflection of the airy sign of Aquarius, the water bearer, unto which is attributed the countenance of man, the Adam who restored the world."

"Before you upon the altar is the 17th Key of the Tarot which symbolically resumes these ideas. The large star in the center of the heavens has seven principle and fourteen secondary rays and this represents the Heptad multiplied by the Triad. This yields twenty-one, the number of the Divine name *hyha* which as you already know, is attached to *r tk*. In the Egyptian sense, it is Sirius the Dog-Star, the star of Isis Sothis. Around it are the stars of the seven planets each with its seven-fold counterchanged operation. The nude female figure with the star of the heptagram on her brow is the synthesis of Isis, of Nephthys, and of Athor. She also represents the planet Venus through whose sphere the influence of *dsj* descends. She is Aima, *hnyb*, Tebunah, the Great Supernal Mother, Aima Elohim, pouring upon the Earth the Waters of Creation which unite and form a river at her feet, the river going forth from the Supernal Eden which floweth and faileth not.

Note well, that in this Key she is completely unveiled while in the 21st Key she is only partially so. The two urns contain the influences from *hmkj* and *hnyb*. On the right springs the Tree of Life, and on the left the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil whereon the bird of Hermes alights, and therefore does this Key represent the restored world, after the formless and the void and the darkness, the new Adam, the countenance of the man which falls in the sign Aquarius. And therefore doth the astronomical ripple of this sign represent, as it were, waves of water. The ripples of that river going forth out of Eden, but therefore also, is justly attributed to Air and not unto Water because it is the firmament dividing and containing the Water."

Esoteric Information

The Star card is the path of x. The path color is violet. The sign is Aquarius, meaning fixed Air. The literal Hebrew meaning of x is fish hook. The esoteric title is, "The Daughter of the Firmament." The path of x, the Star card, is a path of Natural Intelligence. It is the path that connects *j xn*, which is victory, to *dw sy*, which is foundation. This is a very powerful path and one that must be approached with the understanding of the Divine energy inherent in ourselves as individuals. It is through this path that we begin to approach that Divine energy. The letter x in Hebrew literally translates into fish hook, which implies meditation. We can link meditation with the use of imagination, such as in pathworking. Both meditation and imagination are important in the process of pathworking. Here we look at meditation as a process of merging two links of consciousness. The two connecting links of consciousness are connected with

a greater consciousness. Let us see how the fish hook, x, can translate into or signify meditation. The Star, fishhook, is put into the waters of Mem. Mem is associated with the Hanged Man, that catches the fish, in the Death card. Water again is a symbol of our awareness and our consciousness. It might be further understood that the fish we are trying to catch is in the Death card, the death of the ego. We will discuss that later as we explore the path of n and the Death card. As we begin using the concept of meditation and imagination with visualization through our pathworking, particularly on the path of the Star card, we begin to literally leave the shores of safety to the universal seas of consciousness. We then begin to understand or at least we seek to understand the very process of life and death.

Let us always remember that this is a path of Natural Intelligence, not learned or inherited. This points directly to the raw forces and the nature attributed to j xn. The \yhl a, as referring to the Choir of Angels of j xn, become synonymous with nature itself. As we further examine Natural Intelligence, we find it is related to the energies symbolized in the Strength card as well. Next, if we take the Qabalistic number of the Star which is seventeen and reduce it to its prime number eight, we get the number of the Strength card. That card represents the conscious control of \yhl a j wr, Kundalini or Pranic energy. This is described both as sexual and solar energy. Let us also keep in mind that Kundalini energy is said to be coiled in dwsy. This is the place of the Nephesh, the producer of life force, or at least the center of life force, that is found in the physical body in the region of the groin. It touches each and every path of the Tree, as does our sexual or life force energy touch each and every aspect of our physical body. If this portion of our body should stop, we would soon die. As we begin to encounter and face the \yhl a j wr energy force, the sexual energies in our own lives relating to ourselves and the world around us, we approach then the Greater Mysteries of trapt, the solar Logos which is the central star of our existence.

This process of approaching the solar Logos and the central star of our existence in trapt is a type of internal process, a pathworking and self yoga process. This is involving the integration of centers of energy. This energy is very important because it is what we use in our meditational process. It is both a means and a goal of self enlightenment. According to the text, it says of x that "Through it, it is consummated and perfected in nature of every existing thing beneath the Sun." In other words, x, or the Star, is a means of perfection, but not perfection itself. It is a method or a process, and that would signify further the literal term of x meaning fish hook or meditation. Meditation then becomes the process or the means.

Thus, meditation is not a destination. Oftentimes we think in terms of pathworking as a destination unto itself, or a destination from point A to point B. This must be eliminated from our thoughts, for as we understand, as we meditate we are enlightened in a sense that we commune with the Higher.

Thus, we can say that the fish hook, the Star card, x, is in part our own search of our personality consciousness for reality in the context of meditation. Also, it is the process of the Higher Self hooking the personality or the ego up from its depths of self entrapment and self enclosure.

We see the figure on this card as a very pure and wholesome manifestation of our Great Mother. It is our Great Mother at the level of our personality, which is prior to its enclosure in physical matter. For this reason, the figure is completely unveiled. We can say that this figure also is the same figure that we later find in the Empress card, robed and crowned. It is also the same figure found in the High Priestess and the Universe cards.

The Golden Dawn traditionally displays the Star card as a woman pouring the contents of two urns. These urns represent the energies of hmkj and hmyb poured onto the Earth so that they unite and form a river at her feet. Thus, taking a closer look at the traditional Golden Dawn card of the Star, it is a very complex and intricate. On this card, the seven primary rays of the Star and the fourteen secondary rays add up to the number twenty-one. If we take this number, using the process called gematria, it corresponds to the Divine name hyha. Remember, gematria is a process of assigning a particular value to each Hebrew letter. This tells us that the relationship of this path to the Godhead is far more direct than we would imagine on the surface, looking at it on the Tree of Life. Moreover, very important to understand is that some modern occultists have taken the twenty-eighth path and substituted the Emperor card in its place, which is incorrect. The Star card firmly belongs to the twenty-eighth path where both common sense and tradition has it placed. Also, depicted on the Star card on either side of the female figure are the Tree of Life on the right and the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil to the left. People who have read the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, will have heard of these trees. Adam and Eve, according to mythos, were forbidden the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge and not the Tree of Life.

The card also shows the bird of Hermes above the Tree of Knowledge. The bird of Hermes is the Ibis. This gives indirect reference to the card of the Magician, also referred to as Hermes, Thoth, and Odin. If we look at the name Kokab in Hebrew, it literally translates into the word star, but more specifically it translates into the word Mercury. Thus, we understand a great truth and a wonderful mystery that should be cherished. This refers to the concept that we must apply our own personal power of the Magician, not the ego, but our magical force, the same directing force found in meditation, that we are to learn as the lesson in the path of the Star card.

We see the process of meditation and the concept of the Magician coming together in the Star card. The Hermetic Mysteries serve in explaining all that is good or evil in our lives. Also, its to help us transcend the limitations which are imposed by these qualities.

It will also be seen that the Tree of Knowledge is towards the side of severity, the feminine aspect. The Tree of Life lies on to the right side, the Pillar of Mercy, the

masculine aspect. This could be considered a Divine gift, thus, balancing the severe polar lessons of the other tree, or in other words, one tree balancing the other. There is, again, another cherished and important point to remember, and that is we must continually refer and recall the lessons of our inner self and our inner travels in our inner worlds. These are the results of our inner meditation, being meditated to our daily lives. We must take the aspect of our daily lives and apply it to the process of meditation.

The correct Hebrew title attributed is Ha-kokabim, this means literally the "stars" rather than just the "star." While Aleister Crowley may have thought that x was not the Star, as translated from his "Book of the Law", he was incorrect, for it is not considered the Emperor either. It is not a single star, for it is plural and referring to the Stars.

The airy sign of Aquarius associated with peace, love, imagination and independence is given to this path. In the ancient times, it was Saturn that was considered to govern over Aquarius which refers us to hnyb , and in fact, to the Universe, for as you recall, it is the Universe card that is governed by Saturn. It should be made perfectly clear that the Star relates to a great many more paths than most other keys, and such are of importance.

This resolution is implicit in the very figure of the central star itself, which is the merging of many lights through the process of meditation. It is the shining forth from the central exalted point which has been related to Lucifer, the Light Bearer. The Angel in this particular case isn't referring to Satan, but rather as the "Bearer of Light," the "Morning or the Evening Star", usually associated with the planet Venus as well as associated to the consciousness or the ego. It is through the process of light borne upon the Earth that man supposedly obtained consciousness. In the process of obtaining consciousness, he lost innocence.

