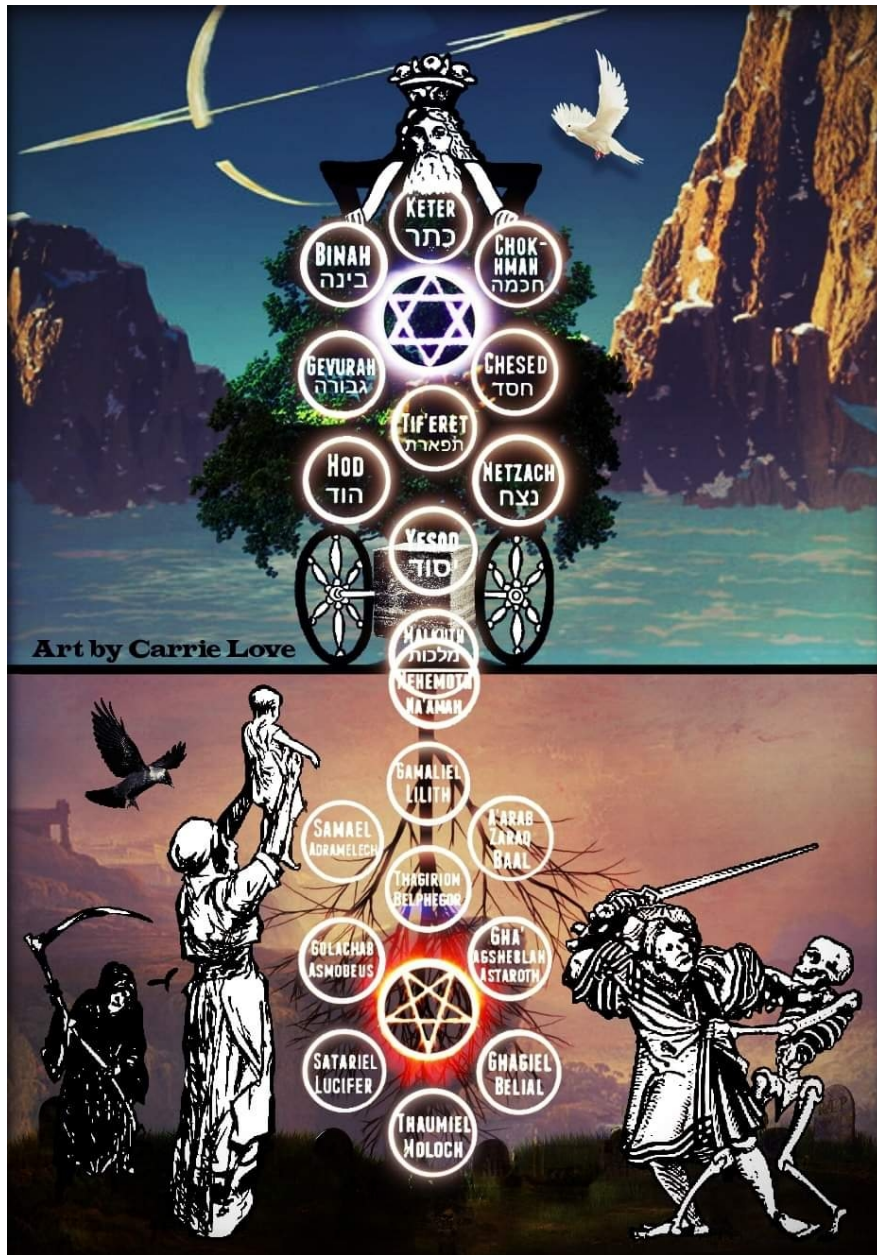


Kabbalah Study Guide for Initiates and Members  
of  
*Circulos Tenebris Matrem Arcanas*  
Circle of the Dark and Mysterious Mother



## **What is Kabbalah?**

When someone hears the word Kabbalah it can bring up a number of connotations including Judeo-Christian tradition, ritual magic, and pop culture. None of these connotations are necessarily wrong in some instances. Kabbalah is best known in Jewish tradition and is often used by many ritual magic traditions such as Golden Dawn & Thelema. In addition, pop stars like Madonna have brought Kabbalah into the public eye. However, the word Kabbalah actually means “Tradition”. Once one understands Kabbalistic teachings, it becomes clear that Kabbalah is a system of understanding the universe, deity, consciousness, and even oneself. It is an extremely flexible system that can work with literally any paradigm.

Modern Kabbalah is based quite heavily in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century works of Moses de Leon who wrote the Zohar in Spain. This has led many to believe that Kabbalah originated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, which is not accurate. There are Kabbalistic works, such as the Sefir Yetzirah which was written in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century CE. By studying ancient texts, it then becomes clear that Kabbalistic ideas are much older than even this book but go back into the Egyptian and Sumerian cultures.

## **The Tree of Life and Tree of Klippot**

Modern Kabbalah uses a glyph called the Tree of Life to represent the emanations of Divine Light through the various realms and dimensions that lead to creation. The Tree of Life consists of 10 “spheres” called Sefirot and 22 “paths” called Netivot. The Sefirot are aspects of Divine Light and the Netivot are states of consciousness represented by the 22 Hebrew letters. There is also a parallel glyph called the Tree of Shadows that represents Darkness that obscures the Divine Light. The 10 “spheres” of this tree are called the Klippot (husks of darkness). Both Trees have an extra Sphere that is neither Sefirot or Klippot. It is called Da’at and represents Experiential Knowledge. It is the gateway between universes. The tree is divided up into 3 pillars – left, feminine, severity; right, masculine, mercy; and center, unified, compassion.

## **The Olamot Universes**

The Trees manifest in four different dimensions that are called Olamot (which means “universes”). This can be seen as 4 “copies” of the Trees each linked together with some overlap. The overlap causes the Sefirot and Klippot of a higher universe to link onto other Sefirot & Klippot on the lower universe. There is a fifth universe that is complete unification and thus neither a Tree of Life or a Tree of Shadow exist because everything is unified.

The Olamot Universes are as follows:

Adam Kadmon (Unification)

Atzilut (Deity)

Beriyah (Arch-beings – angels, demons, archons, etc.)

Yetzirah (Spiritual forces – angels, demons, archons, etc.)

Asiyah (Creation)

## **The Soul**

Just as there are 5 universes there are also 5 levels of the soul in Kabbalah (that is very similar to ideas of the soul in other cultures such as Egyptian tradition). The soul is made up of the following manifestations:

Nefesh (Earthly Soul) – the ego and personality. Often called “the flesh” in Christian scripture. This part of the soul burns off at death and usually disintegrates, although in some cases becomes earth bound and becomes a “ghost”. There are two forms of the Nefesh – Nefesh Behomet (bestial soul that is focused on ego) and Nefesh Elokit (enlightened soul that is focused on true self).

Ruach (Spirit) – the human intelligence and the divine intelligence. The lower Ruach points toward the Nefesh and is our intelligence where the upper Ruach points toward the Neshamah and toward enlightenment.

Neshamah (Eternal Soul) – the part of the soul that reincarnates from incarnation to incarnation. This is the true “us” that exists forever. What is able to be kept stays from one incarnation to the next. This soul is asleep until we reach some level of spiritual realization and then awakens.

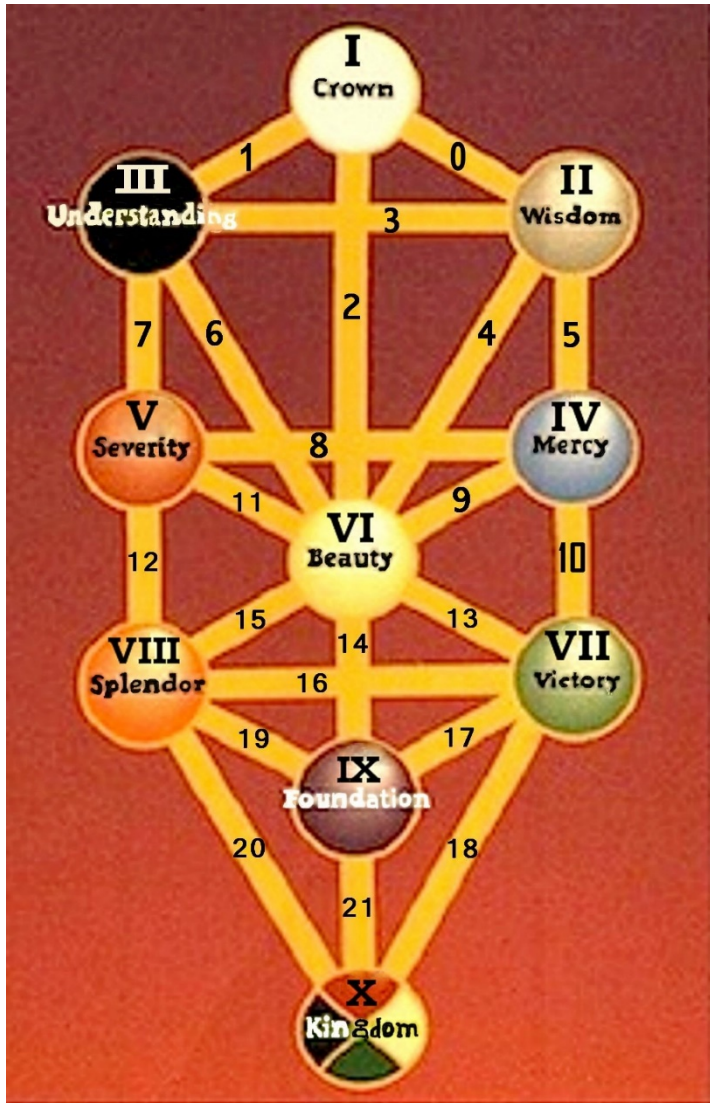
Hayyah (Life Force) – this is the part of the soul that connects that which is in the body (Nefesh, Ruach, and Neshamah) with the part of the soul outside of creation (in Adam Kadmon).

Yechidah (Divine Spark) – the part of every being that is beyond creation and completely part of the divine realm. When this part of the soul is completely awake, a being reaches full enlightenment and liberation.

## **Beyond**

Beyond the trees and universes are what Kabbalists call Ain, Ain Sof, and Ain Sof Or. Ain means No Thing – the idea of God as a unified consciousness that is like nothing in creation... yet everything at the same time. Ain Sof means Eternity – the idea that Ain is beyond time and space. Ain Sof Or means Endless Light – this is a way of describing the God energy that then flows down through the universe and trees and ends in physical creation.

## The Sefirot and The Tree of the Life



### Keter (Crown)

Place on the Tree of Life – Head of the central pillar on the Tree of Life

Divine Name – Eheieh – I am or I shall be; Eheieh Asher Eheieh – I am That I am

Partzuf - Ancient of Days (Atek Yomin); Big Face (Zer Anpin)

Divine Image – Ancient, bearded king or Ancient Queen, viewed in profile

Deities (Creator/Creatrix) – Supernal Hecate, Ptah, Gaea, Jumala, Nipara, Nohochacyum, etc.

Archangel – Metatron

Order of Angels – Hayyot Ha-Kodesh, Holy Living Creatures

Astronomical Attribute – Beginning of Cycles; Pluto in modern astrology

Level of the Soul – Yechidah,

Chakra - Supernal

Virtue – Supreme Attainment

Vice – None

Keter is the crown of the Tree of Life and represents the divine energy beyond creation and just on the tip of Ain (No Thing). Keter is all potential and both male and female, but any form of God at this level is basically unknowable because this is way beyond normal consciousness. Any duties that are associated with Keter must come down the tree to really be experienced in a way that our human body and mind can comprehend. We may experience them in our super conscious state, but there will be no words or symbols that can really be translated.

The Divine Image of an ancient King or Queen is to explain that Keter was the first Sefirot to be manifested after creation of this cosmic cycle so anything of Keter is truly ancient and on the verge of truly eternal.

The Archangel Metatron and the Hayyot Ha-Kodesh (Holy Living Creatures) are completely alien to human understanding. Metatron in his true form is said to span galaxies and be the angelic form of all enlightened beings in this cosmic cycle from every planet and universe. The Hayyot are described as multi-eyed because they can see through time and universes. It is also said that the experience of the Hayyot is like touching an alien consciousness.

Just as the aspect of Deity, the Archangel, and the Order of Angels is beyond creation, so is the Astronomical Attribute. In modern astrology, Pluto, is associated with Keter, but in reality the attribute is the beginning of the cosmic cycle.

In us, the experience of Keter is complete attainment beyond enlightenment, beyond incarnation and is thus associated with the supernal chakra beyond our physical form.

### Da'at (Knowledge)

Place on the Tree of Life – Between Keter and Tiferet

Divine Name – Yahweh Elohim

Partzuf – Crown of Zer Anpin

Divine Image – The Angel of the Apocalypse

Deities (Death and Transformation) – Hecate, Lilith, Na'amah, Arddur, Osiris, Sacred Death, Nephthys, Anubis, Kali, etc.

Archangel – Hua, Abaddon

Astrological Attribute – Neptune, Sirius

Level of the Soul – Peak of the upper Ruach; Base of the Neshamah

Chakra – Between Crown and Supernal

Virtue – Spiritual Attainment

Vice – Disillusionment; Doubt; Pride

Da'at is actually not a Sefirot. The Sefer Yetzirah is very clear that there are only 10, not 9 and not 11. Da'at is often called the hidden Sefirot or the non-Sefirot. Da'at is actually a gateway between universes. It is the revealed aspect of Keter and is the moment that supernal energy enters creation into the 7 Sefirot of Construction (from Hesed to Malkut). Da'at means Knowledge – not just something you know, but

true experiential knowledge. This gateway is path to other universes and supernal consciousness.

Da'at is the marriage of Mother and Father God and the beginning and end of creation. Because of this, God's of death are often associated with Da'at. Da'at is not death, but transformation which can feel like the end of all. The Dark Gods and Goddesses are the vehicles for transformation because they make us look at everything and decide what is truly valid and what is not. One must be cautious as they approach these deities and this gate because if we are not ready it can end in madness or despair.

The Archangel of Da'at is attributed to Hua (He/She) and Abaddon (the Angel/Demon of the Pit). Hua is the inner archangel of every being that represents their true enlightenment while Abaddon is seen as an angel for those that are ready to experience him/her and a demon for those that are not. You will notice that there is no order of angels at Da'at. This is because Da'at's status as a non-sefirot. It is truly a gateway and thus doesn't have an order of angels associated with it.

The Astronomical Attribute is associated with Neptune or Sirius as being an object far away yet still visible with the right kind of sight.

Within us Da'at is the link between the spirit and the eternal soul. It is the linkage between who we are and who we can be and thus the chakra between our crown and the supernal beyond our incarnation.

### Hokmah (Wisdom)

Place on the Tree of Life – Head of the Pillar of Mercy Divine Name – Yah, Yahweh

Partzuf – Father (Abba)

Divine Image – A bearded male image; the One-Who-Sits on the Throne

Deities (Father) – Zeus, Jupiter, Great Pan, Osiris, The Dagda, Cernnunos, Tubal Cain, Enki, Ashur, Ivarog, Geb, etc.

Archangel – Ratziel

Order of Angels - Ofanim

Astrological Attribute – The Wheel of the Zodiac

Level of the Soul – Hayyah

Chakra - Supernal

Virtue – Perfect Devotion

Vice – None

Hokmah and Binah manifest together from Keter as the force and form of God's will to create. They are Father and Mother as they differentiate from the No-Thingness that is still at Keter. Hokmah represents the creator Father God of all Traditions and is part of the supernal aspect of the Tree. This means that Hokmah is not accessible with normal consciousness as it is beyond creation and outside of our experience of time/space. In Kabbalah, the Father is accessible through the Mother. It's not that the Creator Gods' can't be experienced, but that they are approached through the context of Mother.

The Archangel Ratziel is said to have a book called the "Book of Ratziel" that contains the knowledge of everything. This is, of course, not a physical book, but the consciousness of Ratziel. This idea is much

like the Akashic Records. Since Ratziel is outside of time and space, his mind knows all. The order of angels, the Ofanim, are “Wheels”. In the Jewish Scriptures, the book of Ezekiel describes wheels within wheels. These are the Ofanim. These wheels represent the turning of time, space, and the zodiac.

Within us, when we are able to reach this level of realization, we are able to connect with the part of our soul that can bridge the gap between physical incarnation and the part of us still in Ain. The Chakra associated with Hokmah is the supernal one because it is outside our physical body.

### Binah (Understanding)

Place on the Tree of Life – Head of the Pillar of Severity

Divine Name – Elohim

Partzuf – Mother (Aimma)

Divine Image – A mature woman

Deities (Mother) – Isis, Hecate, Danu, Demeter, Tiamat, Kishar, Ashera, Atira, Nut, etc.

Archangel – Tzafkiel or Shabbatiel

Order of Angels - Aralim

Astrological Attribute – Saturn

Level of the Soul – Neshamah

Chakra - Supernal

Virtue – Self-Discipline

Vice – Lack of Organization

Binah represents the energy of Mother God and represents all of the Mother Goddesses in all their forms. Binah, considered the form of God’s will to create, contains all archetypical forms of everything that could ever be in creation. Kabbalah teaches that creation is within the Mother’s womb, so we are literally located inside the Mother and thus she is much easier to connect with than the father. She is truly immanent. In a way Da’at is the birth canal of the Mother to both birth us and rebirth us as we return in enlightenment.

The Archangel Tzafkiel is said to be keeper of the “Book of Life”. Christians would consider this the book of those that are going to Heaven, but in Kabbalah this is not the case. The Book of Life is actually the consciousness of the Archangel that contains the knowledge of all beings that have become enlightened and all that will in this cosmic cycle. Since Tzafkiel is an emanation of Binah, she is both inside and outside of creation – in the mother and outside the mother and so she can see between time and space. The Aralim are described as Thrones. This means that they are agents of Merkiavah. Merkavah is a Kabbalistic idea of a Throne Chariot which is a vehicle for the soul to reach Ain. So, the Aralim are angels of enlightenment.

In us, Binah manifest as the eternal soul that lives on between incarnations and into eternity, while the chakra is still supernal. This is a level of consciousness beyond the physical even though it may be obtained in the physical realm.

### Hesed (Mercy)

Place on the Tree of Life – The center of the Pillar of Mercy

Divine Name – El

Partzuf - The Holy Priest-King enthroned

Divine Image – The Holy Priest-King upon his throne

Dieties (Rulers) – Jupiter, Odin, Nordens, etc.

Archangel – Tzadkiel

Order of Angels - Hashmalim

Astrological Attribute – Jupiter

Level of the Soul – Ruach (the Upper Ruach)

Chakra – The Crown

Virtue – Charity; generosity

Vice – Miserliness; gluttony; tyranny.

Hesed means mercy and represents the unbridled energy of God pouring into creation. This may sound like a good thing, and it is, but without restriction there is no differentiation or “self”. Hesed needs Gevurah for stability and vice-versa. Hesed is the first day of the metaphorical 7 days of creation where divine light enters time and space. This is the closest we get to a manifestation of the Father in creation and we then see any God that represents kingship and being a ruler at Hesded.

The Archangel Tzadkiel is the “righteousness of God”. This archangel continually grants blessings and mercy to all who seek him. The Hashmalim are called “the Speaking Silences” which refers to the fact that even though they do not make sound, they are still able to communicate. Their communication is through dream, vision, and other methods of communication

In us, we are now entering the parts of our soul and consciousness within the body. At Hesed we are at the very tip of our “intelligence” that brings us the breakthrough to our Neshamah (Heavenly Soul). The Chakra is at the crown.

### Gevurah (Severity)

Place on the Tree of Life – The center of the Pillar of Severity

Divine Name – Elohim Givur

Partzuf – The Great Warrior in the Chariot of Fire

Divine Image – A Spiritual Warrior riding a Chariot

Deities (War & Protectors) – Mars, Ares, Bran, Brigid, Minvera, Ahtena, The Morrigan, Kali, Tubal Cain, Vulcan, Hephaestes, Ninugurs, Odin, Vali, Indra, Huitilopochtli, etc.

Archangel – Kamael and Samael

Order of Angels - Seraphim

Astrological Attribute – Mars

Level of the Soul – Ruach (the Upper Ruach)

Chakra – The Brow

Virtue – Self-empowerment, courage, passion, resolution of conflicts

Vice – Bullying, overbearing, cruelty



Gevurah means “Severity” and is restriction. This is the act of bringing the energy of God into creation and tempering it so it can be used. Gevurah is the second day of creation where God does not say it’s good until the creation of Tiferet, which balances Gevurah and Hokmah together. Then “it is good” is said twice. Gevurah, being restriction, lets darkness and shadow enter creation and in it’s extreme becomes cruel, controlling, and hellish. Because Gevurah is restriction, Gods & Goddess of war and protection are associated with this Sefirot.

The Archangel Kamael is the “burning” angel. He is depicted as a being on fire. Kamael forces us to look at ourselves and decide what is good and what is not. If we are ready for Kamael then he is loving, but if we are not, he will burn us. The Seraphim are “firry snakes” and are involved in the process of kundalini within our consciousness. They assist us in raising our consciousness and bringing it up through our chakra system.

In us, the energy of Gevurah is within the brow chakra and still within the part of our soul that is ready to connect with our Neshamah. Gevurah is just as necessary as Hokmah as it is the balancing force that brings us into union.

### Tiferet (Beauty)

Place on the Tree of Life – The Center of the Pillar of Compassion

Divine Name – Yahweh Eloheinu

Partzuf Above – The Messiah (Messiach) or the Son (Ben)

Divine Image – The Holy Child; The Messiah

Deities (Sun & Sacrifices) – Osiris, Apollo, Attis, Adonis, Tammuz, Balder, Bran, Llew, Lugh, Yeshua, Dionysius, Bide, Nonens, Parva, Sura, Amaterasu, Ra, Sekhmet, Apu, etc.

Archangel – Raphael

Order of Angels – Malachim

Celestial Attribute – The Sun

Level of the Soul – Ruach

Chakra – The Throat

Virtue – True individuality

Vice – Lack of true individuality

Tiferet, which means “Beauty”, is the balancing agent between Hesed and Gevurah. This is day three of creation and is represented by the Sun. Tiferet is associated with Messiach and all sacrificial Gods because this is where we sacrifice our egoistic desires for those of who we truly are. Because of the association of the Sun and Sacrifice, any deity that is solar in nature or is a sacrificed God/Goddess is associated with Tiferet.

The Archangel Raphael is considered the angel of healing. He gives spiritual, mental, and physical healing to those who seek him. It is not a coincidence that he manifests at Tiferet because of it’s property of balance. The order of angels are the Malachim which are the messengers of deity who bring prophecy and messages from God to those who have reached consciousness of Tiferet.

In us, this is the divine intelligence brought to fruition and prepares us for connection to our Neshamah. The chakra is the throat where speech comes from. The word Abracadabra actually comes from an Arabic word that means “As I speak, I create”. It is said that God spoke creation into existence, so what we speak is truly who we are.

Netzach (Victory)

Place on the Tree of Life – Base of the Pillar of Mercy

Divine Name – Yahweh Tzavaot

Partzuf – The Prophet

Divine Image – The Prophet

Deities (Love) – Venus, Ishtar, Aphrodite, Hathor, Rhiannon, Niamh, Olwen, etc.

Archangel – Haniel or Uriel

Order of Angels – The Elohim

Astrological Attribute – Venus

Level of the Soul – Lower Ruach

Chakra – The Heart

Virtue – Inspiration, artistic talent, harmony

Vice – Lack of creativity or inspiration

As we move lower down the tree, we get closer and closer to physical creation. At Netzach or “Victory” we are at a level where divine energy is more understandable and tangible. The Hebrew names for God at both Netzach and Hod contain the word Tzavaot which means “Hosts”. Netzach being Lord of Hosts and Hod being God of Hosts. This implies that many beings, physical and ethereal are associated with these Sefirot. Netzach is considered the “clear mirror of prophecy” and thus the image is that of a Prophet. But, since Netzach is associated with the heart and with our intelligence, deities associated with Netzach are those that have dominion over love.

The Archangels Haniel and Uriel are angels of creativity and wonderworking. They are closely associated because art is often magical and magic is certainly an art. These angels help us to create and to manifest magic in the world. The order of angels, the Elohim, The word Elohim is usually translated as one God that manifests as many Gods and Goddesses. This is also the name of God in Hebrew at Binah. When Elohim is not capitalized it is associated with the order of angels of the same name which are considered dominions, authorities, and principalities. These are the angels that watch over countries, groups, and organizations. It is also important to recognize that every order of angels also has a corresponding order of demons and of archons (dark and mixed forces).

Within each of us, Netzach is associated with the heart chakra and our intelligence. When this energy is balanced, we focus on love and creativity, but when it is not we are not loving and we are not creative.

Hod (Splendor)

Place on the Tree of Life – The Base of the Pillar of Severity

Divine Name – Elohim Tzavaot

Partzuf – The Mage

Divine Image – The Image of the Mage in the Circle of Light  
Deities (Messengers) – Thoth, Hermes, Mercury, Anubis, Ogma, etc.  
Archangel – Michael  
Order of Angels – Beni Elohim  
Astrological Attribute – Mercury  
Level of the Soul – Lower Ruach  
Chakra – The Solar Plexus  
Virtues – Sound logic, skilled communication, clarity of mind  
Vices – Dishonesty, unclear mind, misperception

Hod which means Splendor is associated with the Mage or Magician. This sefirot is also called “the hazy mirror of prophecy” meaning that it is also associated with prophetic movements, but the messages are hazy, confusing, and not as sure to transpire. Associated with Hod are all messenger Gods and Goddesses.

The archangel Michael, “Who is Like Unto God”, is said to be the warrior and protector. He brings peace, but will fight when necessary. The order of angels called the Beni Elohim are a very interesting angelic presence. Beni Elohim means sons of God and these angels are the most skilled at interacting with physical incarnation and are said to be able to easily possess human beings if allowed.

With us, Hod is associated with our intelligence, however at a more base level than some of the higher Sefirot. The chakra for this energy is located at the solar plexus where our will is located. The solar plexus chakra is sometimes called the “belly of the beast” because if this energy is out of control, we become manipulative and control seeking. When it is balanced, we are balanced with logic, communication, and clarity.

### Yesod (Foundation)

Place on the Tree of Life – Near the base of the pillar of compassion  
Divine Name – Shaddai, El Shaddai, Shaddai El Chai  
Partzuf – The Holy Teacher  
Divine Image – The Healer  
Deities (Moon) – Goda, Diana, Thoth, Ganesha, Sin, Myestats, Soma, Ch’ango, Pah, etc.  
Archangel – Gabriel  
Order of Angels - Kerubim  
Astrological Attribute – The Moon  
Level of the Soul – Ruach and Nefesh  
Chakra - Navel  
Virtue – Emotional Stability  
Vice – Overly emotional

Yesod means “Foundation” and is the Sefirot in which all energy passes between Malkut and the rest of the Tree. This is the funnel that moves the energy back and forth. This is why there are three divine

names in Hebrew associated with Yesod – mercy, compassion, and severity. Yesod is associated with the moon so all moon deities are connected with this Sefirot. We know through science that the moon controls tides and other forces on the earth, so this is a very important aspect of the Tree and our spirituality.

The Archangel Gabriel is the prophet who is over messaging. Since Gabriel is located at Yesod, this is where all messages from deity flow into creation. It is also not surprising that the order of angels, the Kerubim, are doorways. They are associated with any doorway or gateway including physical doors within buildings. They control the flow of energy in both directions.

The chakra that manifests in us is at the navel and is associated with emotions. Anyone who reaches this level of consciousness is able to tie their earthly soul to their intelligence and will have a spiritual outlook on the world.

### Malkut (Kingdom)

Place on the Tree of Life – The base of the pillar of compassion

Divine Name – Adonai

Partzuf – The Bride (Kallah) or The Daughter (Nukvah)

Divine Image – The image of a young woman crowned and, on a throne,

Deities (Earth) – Pan, Ceres, Demeter, Geb, Marduk, Nisaba, Cernunnos, Myrddin, Lilith, Mary Magdalene, etc.

Archangel – Sandalfon

Order of Angels - Ashim

Astrological Attribute – The Earth

Level of the Soul – Nefesh

Chakra - Root

Virtue – Grounding, Harmony with nature

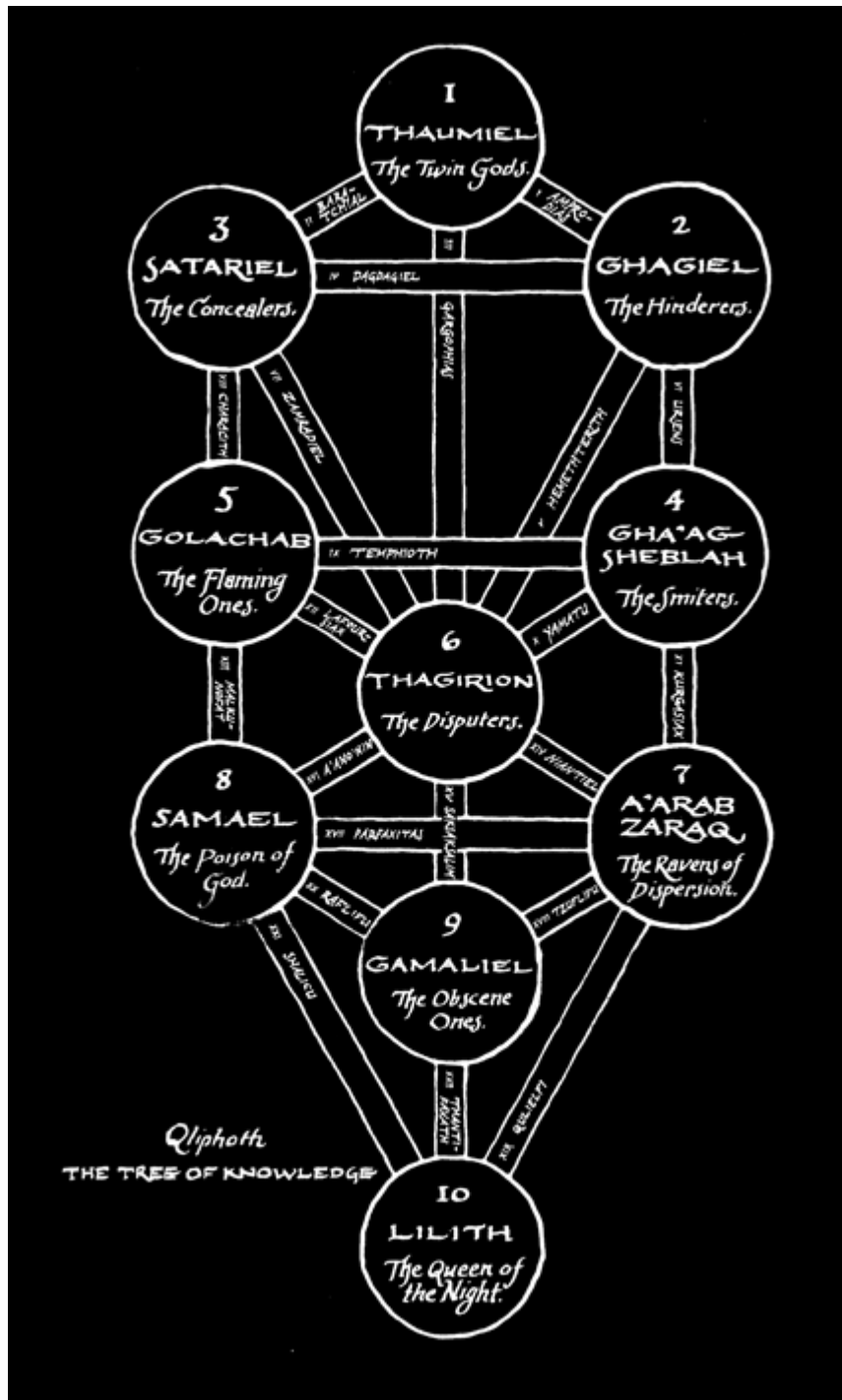
Vice – Lack of Focus, Disharmony

Malkut is called Kingdom (and could be called Queendom). It is the physical creation within the universe. In Kabbalah, Malkut is the realm of the Daughter and Bride. This is a representation of all beings... who are God/dess's child, but when we choose to reunite with our true-self we become the bride, one who chooses to be part of the family consciously. Because Malkut is physical creation, Earth Gods & Goddesses are all linked to Malkut as well as any that are considered daughter or bride.

The Archangel Sandalfon is called the “Shoe Angel” and is said to walk the earth. Sandalfon is associated with the Mother God and walks with all beings who know her. The Ashim are an order of angels that said to be very tiny and control things like gravity, the strong/weak nuclear forces, and anything that keeps matter held together.

Every human being has an ego.. it is our personality and interface to the world. The question is whether we leave it as is or whether we try to develop it and connect it with the higher aspects of our consciousness. In Kabbalah this search to raise consciousness (throughout all our incarnations) is the purpose of creation. The chakra is at the root... we need a firm foundation to grow from, but if we are stuck there we will focus on material things and never look for more.

## The Klippot and The Tree of Shadows



Klippot is a Hebrew word that means “husks of darkness”. The Tree of Shadows is the dark tree and contains the darker side of creation. This is a very advanced practice because if one enters the Tree of Shadows and is not prepared, and individual can enter into a place of evil and insanity.

The reason to work with the Tree of Shadows is to break our klippot, look at our own darkness, and find wholeness. It is not recommended that one work with the Tree of Shadows until they are very advanced in Kabbalah and experienced in journeys of higher consciousness.

Thaumiel (Twin of God)  
Da'at (Knowledge)  
Ghagiel (The Hinderer)  
Satariel (The Concealers)  
Gha'ag-Sheblah (The Smithers)  
Golachab (The Flaming Ones)  
Thagirion (The Disputers)  
A-Arab Zaraq (Ravens of Dispersion)  
Samael (The Poison of God)  
Gamaliel (The Obscene Ones)  
Lilith (Queen of the Night)

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