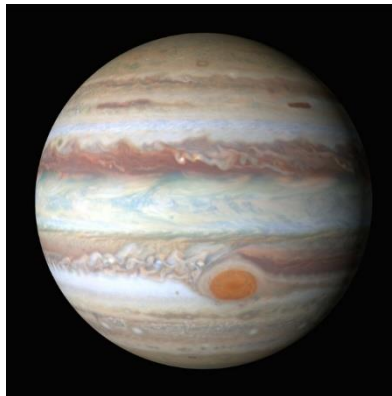


Sphere 7: Mercy

What Are Spheres?

Spheres are the levels of training that we offer for the initiatory process of the Tradition. There are 8 Spheres. Each Sphere contains information on the topics relevant to understanding at its level. These topics build on each other and give a foundation for being able to work in the Circle of the Dark Mother. Some of these areas may be something you've already experienced, and you may be very well-versed in. If that is the case, feel free to move quickly through the section. We ask that everyone complete all sections because this is also the training foundation for clergy in the Circle. It is important that everyone is on the same page and can speak the same language for the optimal communication.

After completing each Sphere, contact Mark H. Williams (markw.ohio@gmail.com) with a description of what you've learned and what you've tried out in the Sphere. He will reply back with any additional questions, suggestions, and answers to any questions you have posed in your email.



Sphere 7

Sphere 7 is mercy and represents the unbridled energy of deity pouring into creation. This may sound like a good thing, and it is, but without restriction there is no differentiation or "self". Mercy needs Restriction for stability and vice-versa.

Correspondences

Color: Blue

Astrological Attribute: Jupiter

Incense/Plant: Heliotrope, Jasmine Berries, Morning Glory, Opium poppy, Water Lily (blue)

Virtue: Charity; generosity

Vice: Miserliness; gluttony; tyranny.

Personality



This is the realm of the Holy Priest King or Holy Priestess Queen. This is the merciful ruler who takes care of their subjects physical and spiritual needs. Within us, this is the aspect that connects us to the divine kingdom and helps us to rule our world as a spiritual being.

Greek Deity



Hestia: In Ancient Greek religion, is a virgin goddess of the hearth, architecture, and the right ordering of domesticity, the family, the home, and the state. In Greek mythology, she is a daughter of Kronos and Rhea.



Spiritual Beings:

Archangel: Tzadkiel

The Archangel Tzadkiel is the “righteousness of God”. This archangel continually grants blessings and mercy to all who seek him.

Order of Angels: The Hashmalim

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.



Meditation:

Meditation is an important part of any spiritual practice. For Sphere 7 we will focus on a meditation that takes up our Union with the Mother Goddess.

The basic aim in all meditations with the Mother (in any of her forms) is to embody her in yourself and to commune with her, receiving messages that she has to give.

1. Sit in a place where you will not be disturbed and let yourself settle in. Perform the Kabbalistic Cross and abide in primordial meditation, letting your heart return to the place (the present moment).
2. Perform primordial meditation.
3. From this ground, shift your focus to the light in your heart, envisioning it illuminating your whole body. Let your mind and heart turn to the Mother and pray that she might come and be with you. Then, envision a ray of light streaming forth from your heart – leaping out of you like a shooting star – and the Image of the Mother appearing in the space before you.
4. Select any embodiment of the Mother that you wish to work with (Lilith, Hecate, etc.). Chant the name of the Goddess. Picture her reaching out to you and giving you messages and teachings that are only for you. When she is finished speaking, envision

her turning to light and pouring back into your heart as light. Thank her for her presence and what she has told you.

5. At first don't focus on any surroundings or any detail beyond the Mother's presence with you. Once you have practiced this meditation you can begin to add details to the environment, location, and details of the experience.
6. Close in prayer

Ritual Topic:

Ritual items need to be acquired as part of the process of working with the Spheres. If you do not have money to purchase items, don't worry – you can make do with what you have. For instance, your altar can be something you set up and take down as needed or you can use a box with a cloth thrown over it.



Altar

Altar set up is up to the individual, but it is where you keep all of your ritual tools and some type of image of deity. Other items can be put on the altar, such as crystals, fetishes, etc.

I usually put the statue in the back – in the middle with one image or one to the left and one to the right with two images. I place the cup and knife to the left and the wand and pentacle to the right. The crystal ball can either go in the center or sit on the pentacle. But, you can arrange your altar as you feel drawn.

To consecrate your altar, anoint every item with oil and pray that they are bound to me and the workings you are trying to do. Light the altar and smudge it with either sage or incense seeing the power of magic entering and surrounding everything to build it into a cohesive whole.



Chakra

Crown (Located at the top of the head): The crown center corresponds to the “seat of the Divine I Am” and to the threshold of the Supernal or Supramental Consciousness; it is the place of the full generation of the Solar Being and Threefold Body. This center corresponds with our True Will, the force of silent volition, the essence and nature of mind or consciousness, which is Supra-Conscious. The crown corresponds to transcendence, deep meditation, cessation or repose, enlightenment and liberation, Supernal Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom: Non-Dual Awareness. This center corresponds with the center of the sacred circle or “seventh direction” as well.

It is in the brow that we experience direct knowledge of God, and it is in the crown that we experience conscious unification with God; in this we may know and understand the distinction between the brow and crown. directing our development and evolution and fulfilling our soul’s destiny.



Level of the Soul

Hayyah (Eternal Soul) – The Hayyah 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 (with Deity).

Holy Day



Mabon (Fall Equinox) – It is a feast of thanks-giving, a celebration of the Earth's bounty. And as with all Holy Days, the cycles of the seasons mirror the cycles of our lives. At Mabon, it's a time to reflect and wrap things up.

Completion

When you are finished with the course, Mark will send you a certificate stating that you are a full initiate of the Tradition. You will be then ready to start Adept training which contains more advanced topics.