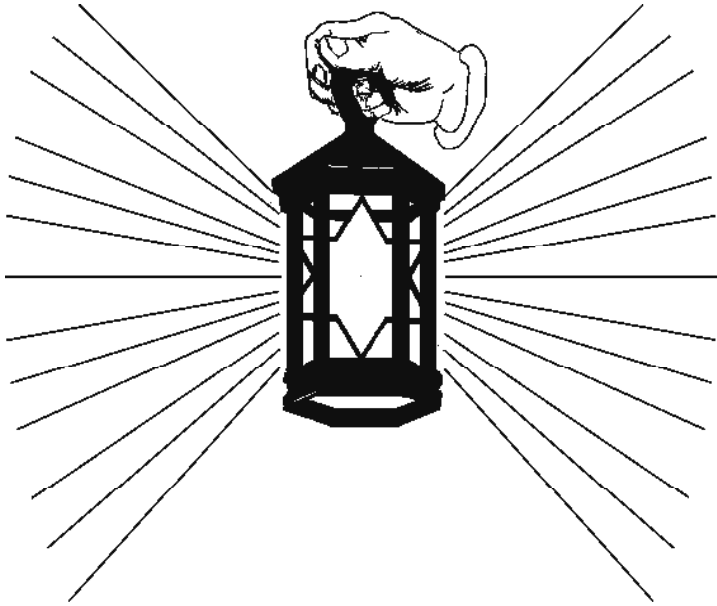


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LANTERN

Winter 2006

Vol. 8, No. 2

“Thy Word
is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:105

builders of the adytum, los angeles, california

A QABALISTIC INTERPRETATION OF CHRISTMAS

from a Sunday Service talk by Rev. Ann Davies



Our topic this morning is the Qabalistic Interpretation of Christmas. Two Sundays ago we spoke about the Qabalistic Christos. This morning we are going to talk on the same subject but in another way. In order for certain spiritual truths to have any meaning they need to be repeated over and over again. However, if we did not come at the truth from varied angles our minds would grow tired of the repetition. I'd hate to see you run out of the Temple howling with boredom!

We need to go round and round the circle, each time approaching the center from another point of view; showing the scenery from another position: from a valley, a low hill, a peak, from a distant star. Then little by little something happens in our consciousness. Instead of merely an intellectual concept, bit by bit an inner perception is built; that which comes from the soul, from the spirit.

So the way we cover the subject this Sunday will be unlike the approach used the Sunday before last. It will add enlightenment to what was already said. Let's analyze Christ Qabalistically. Aside from its historical sequences, the Bible was written by prophets who were trained in the hidden wisdom of Israel known as the Qabalah. Consequently, any true comprehension of the



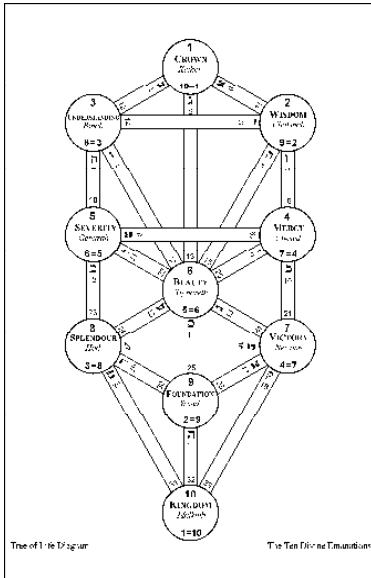
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Bible absolutely requires a knowledge of Qabalah. However, Qabalah is a very difficult study. It requires many technical aspects including knowledge of the Hebrew letters; of the numbers assigned to the letters, along with the ability to reckon those numbers which reveal code words and correspondences; the Paths on the Tree of Life and many other attributions and associations. The hidden meanings are secret except to those who have learned the proper lessons. That is why no matter how often cultures come and go and how frequently they misinterpret the basic symbols of the archetypal unconscious, the truth can always be recovered no matter how many times it seems to have been lost. This is why B.O.T.A. uses age-old symbols and continues the methods of Qabalah for teaching spiritual attainment, the way of illumination. It is a Path that has been with mankind since before history; originally, Qabalah was only taught as an oral tradition.

We have to realize that the *methods* of illumination must never be confused with the actual *experience* of illumination. This has happened in so many schools of thought. A most tragic thing has occurred concerning Christmas. The human mind is so limited in its ability to see and understand that it has interpreted things literally; it has taken a vast and cosmic principle and turned it into something completely other than intended by those who gave us this spiritual gem and by he who is said to have lived the principle, Jesus the Christ. We will Qabalistically analyze the birth and life of Christ, what it means and where it comes from. This is very different from the prevalent modern literal interpretation.

Most translations have not been done by Qabalists. They were done by those unfamiliar with Aramaic and Hebrew. They were also done by those who had been conditioned by a powerful theology administered by an even more powerful Church. Few knew that there were numerical correspondences. None knew the Qabalistic attributions. This produced literal translations. It also produced Christians who did not know how to live the great spiritual truths taught in the Qabalistic sections of the Bible.

The Hebrew word Messiah is translated into the word Christos and this has become Christ in English.¹ Another name given to Christ is savior or redeemer.² The ancient text was written with the intention for mankind to live the idea of Christmas all year round, not just during a certain season. Christ's teachings were connected with a group who were receiving illumination and inspiration from the spiritual disciplines of the esoteric wisdom of Israel, the Qabalah. Those persistent students in the lesson work of B.O.T.A. who get to the point of learning gematria discover how completely the ideas of Christ have been lost. It is not an easy task to learn gematria, but it is by no means impossible.



Let's consider the original text and the Tree of Life. In case you don't know about it, the Tree of Life is a synthetic glyph used for Qabalistic meditations whose purpose is to train consciousness about the relationship between all things living; between ourselves and our Creator, the Lord of Life. The following names are assigned to the same location on the Tree of Life, the same emanation of God. The first is Adam.³ All translations make the mistake of defining Adam as a single individual. But in Hebrew the word means

generic humanity, all of humankind. There are those who laugh at the Bible, saying it is stupid because it says that God created only one man. Adam does not mean one man. God created

¹Messiah, משיח, has a gematria value of 358. Christos, Χριστος, has a gematria value of 1480.

²Soter, Σωτηρ, has a gematria value of 1408.

³Adam, אדם, has a gematria value of 45.

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mankind, Adam, in His image and likeness.⁴ Adam is just one title. Another is Tiphareth, which means ‘Beauty’.⁵ Beauty is another term given to the same location on the Tree of Life as Adam, Messiah, Christos and Savior.

God “saw that it was good.”⁶ We look at some people and they don’t look very beautiful or good to us, but maybe we haven’t learned how to see. A work in progress doesn’t look as good as the finished product.

The idea of this grouping of terms is that generic humanity (Adam) is the Redeemer, the Christos, the Savior; and all of humanity is beautiful, whatever it may look like at the moment and on the surface. Those of us who have eyes to see discover it very readily, but we still haven’t learned how to make the most beautiful of bodies yet. A few more incarnations and Marilyn Monroe will be put to shame!



The main idea of Tiphareth on the Tree of Life is that it is the True Self seated in the heart of man. It is that in you which says “I”; your point of awareness; the place from which you watch and listen; that in you which is eternal, immortal; that in you which was never born and will never die. These are all meanings given to that point at the center of the Tree of Life.

The Biblical text says that the trouble started when generic humanity, Adam, ate

⁴Genesis 1:26. See Ann Davies’ Sunday Service talks *The Qabalistic Study of Creation* (11/1/64) and *The Qabalistic Truth About Adam and Eve* (11/8/64), available as part of a 4-tape or -CD set through Builders of the Adytum.

⁵Tiphareth, תִּפְאֶרֶת, has a gematria value of 1081.

⁶Genesis 1:4-31. See Ann Davies Sunday Service talk *The Qabalistic Interpretation of Good and Evil* (11/15/64), available as part of a 4-tape or -CD set through Builders of the Adytum.

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the fruit of the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Living in the Garden of Eden means living in a state of pristine innocence, and it also means living in a state of complete ignorance. Suppose you are in a state of rapture and peace, but you don't know that you are. There is bliss, but there is no knowing that "I am I." The thing that makes us human, that makes us Adam, is the consciousness of "I am," an awareness of self and an objective ability to see "I" in relation to others and even ourselves. The fact that you can think of "I," that you can look out at your own thought processes, your own feelings – your own objective analytical awareness and ability gives you a self-consciousness. Being undifferentiated consciousness is quite rapturous, but at that level there is no such thing as knowing self or not-self. From that level there is just a feeling of "I" as *all-space*, with nothing to be aware of, no concept of time, place or person. There is no trouble. But there is no awareness of it, either, nor is there any enjoyment of the situation. The Lord of Life, the Creator, is consciousness and its nature is to create. What could be created from the All except aspects of Itself? The whole evolution of self-consciousness is the process of becoming conscious sons and daughters of God. Don't we create in our own image, too? Doesn't every tree, every flower, every bird?

The evolution of self-consciousness is dependant upon



developing a knowledge of good and evil – of opposites. In the final analysis, there is no such thing as a separate good and evil: they are opposites. There are the Cosmic Mother and the Cosmic Father, the Cosmic Female principle and the Cosmic Male principle. There are the light and the dark, day and night. It is by the



differentiation of these opposites that consciousness is impacted and moved forward. The pristine, rapturous, unaware consciousness becomes compressed. This is called *the crucifixion* because it hurts! When you are compressed you experience pain. Eating the apple was inevitable and essential because it symbolically brought painful experience, which is the way the Lord of Life creates self-conscious centers of Itself. That is really the essence of the crucifixion.

Attaining complete self-consciousness is like becoming a King, and King is yet another name for Tiphareth.⁷ Remember that Jesus was called “King of the Jews.”⁸ One has to learn how to rule all these elements, to direct the flow of consciousness in special ways, to stop being the foolish, staggering child who thinks he is alone and separated in the world. The purpose of the whole feeling of separation is to become a completely *conscious* Christ. Being unconscious about it would not give us the required powers, nor would it give us conscious glory or anything else that God apparently intends for us.

So we are flowing through a process of incarnation after incarnation. It is a sort of pressure process where we get knocked up against trouble because of our ignorance. The more ignorant you are, the more terrible things you are going to do. The more knowledge and wisdom you have, the more grown-up things you are going to do. You will live more maturely. You will be something more. This is so very little realized by most aspirants. Too many draw a strong demarcation line between people whom they call “evil” and those who are so-called “good.” To the degree that anyone has a sense of separation from others, that person is going to be insecure. If we feel separate, then – either symbolically or actually – we are going to have to hit each other over the head in an effort to survive or

⁷King is *Melek*, מֶלֶךְ, in Hebrew. Gematria value is 90.

⁸Matthew 2:1-2: “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

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protect ourselves. To the degree that we attain a feeling and realization of unity, to that degree will we start protecting each other, even at the risk of losing our lives. This becomes an increasingly close approximation to attaining the full spirit of God, the Christ ideal.

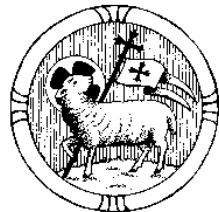
We are told that two thousand years ago someone was born in Bethlehem who would be the King of Israel. I know there are some who feel this is a purely symbolic story and do not agree that it is an historical fact. It is not important which way you want to believe it because belief is just belief. When you directly experience your center of Selfhood, the Christ consciousness, then you will *know*. You will not have to believe or disbelieve. Despite what orthodoxy says, it won't make any difference. This is true despite the claim that Christ came to save you and died on the cross for your sins so you could be redeemed, and that if you don't believe it and conform



to certain rules, you are going to burn in Hell for eternity. This idea has been held with great intensity and such strong emotion that various inquisitions have developed. Instead of man nourishing man, man has tortured and torn man apart in order to save his soul! Is this the spirit of Christ? This is what happens when children stagger around in ignorance and it makes them do incredibly horrible things.

Now
let's

analyze the true meaning of the birth of Christ. We don't have to debate whether it is a literal historical fact. We personally feel that a human being was born in Bethlehem who was called



Yeheshua, which means ‘God is salvation’.⁹ We will try to show you how to work toward experiencing this state, which is your destiny. The name of the man was ‘God is salvation’. The story of Jesus gives a full and perfect account of what was prophesied in all the various Essene¹⁰ schools and the Old and New Testament prophets.

John the Baptist said, “Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.”¹¹ The lamb represents the astrological sign Aries, assigned to Tarot Key 4, The Emperor. This symbolism shows that the lamb of God is the King, and it is the King who takes away the sin of the world.

What do we mean by King? We mean that which rules our baser emotions, that which rules our immaturity, that which rules and controls our sense of separation from others. The truth is that we are all made out of one life, we are all the same substance. We only appear to be separate people. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth! Imagine standing in water over your head and reaching up to the surface with your hand and all that showed above the water was your fingers. Now suppose each fingertip had a consciousness of its own. Imagine what it would think? It would think, “Those other things look sort of like me, but I have a special function. I am a little taller, a little shorter, I bend more easily, etc.” None of the fingers would know they were part of the same hand.

What we are trying to tell you, and what Jesus tried to show us, was that we are not and never were separate creatures. Our real consciousness is what might be called the true Christ Being. Most of us are like those fingertips, unaware of the connection

⁹Yeheshua is יהושוע in Hebrew. Gematria value 326. Paul Foster Case defines the name as meaning: “The nature of reality is to liberate.” See *The Name of Names*.

¹⁰The Essenes were a mystical Jewish sect circa 150 B.C. and the authors of the Dead Sea scrolls, found in 1947. For more information see *The Essenes and the Kabbalah*, Christian D. Ginsberg, first published in 1863, a classic text mentioned by Paul Foster Case.

¹¹John 1:29

underneath the surface. The Bible says that we are in Christ and Christ is in us.¹²

Nothing could be more true. That part of the Tree of Life which is called the Christ consciousness is also called the One Self. We are in Christ and Christ is in us, whether we accept it or not, whether we believe it or not,



whether we defile it or not, whether we murder, torture, or steal; we are still in Christ and Christ is still in us. You cannot cut off a finger from the rest of the hand and still have a whole hand.

The universe is one living Being and that being is God. It is the One living essence of God the Father's self-consciousness. We are giving you the real Qabalistic idea that has been known since the beginning. Our purpose is to help you be and do what it is your destiny to be and do. Just as the story of Christ tells us, you have been wandering in ignorance and temptation.

Christ was taken up to the mountain top and tested for 40 days.¹³ Every time your consciousness reaches a certain plateau or a new level, that part of you which still feels separate gets right into action. It tries to make you feel superior to your fellow man. It creates the sensation of contempt for those who are now supposedly inferior. Wasn't Jesus tempted in the same way? Didn't the devil say to Jesus: "Cast yourself down from this mountain top in order to show everyone that you are the ruler. Give them signs and wonders."¹⁴ Wasn't he tempted to

¹²For examples, see Romans 8:1-2, 10; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 2 Corinthians 1:21; Galatians 2:4; Ephesians 2:10.

¹³Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1.

¹⁴Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:9-11 has the devil tempting Jesus to throw himself off the top of the Temple.

show His power? Wasn't the temptation to have His Kingdom on the physical plane?



Do you know what our greatest problem is? It isn't that we need more money. It isn't that he or she doesn't love us enough. It is that we all have hidden power complexes. The whole story of the temptation of Christ shows us that. What is a hidden power complex? If you have to deprecate another human being in order to make yourself feel good, better, more spiritual or whatever, that is part of a hidden power complex. If you want to order everyone else around, that is the same story. The need to feel superior, the need to have power over others, is a result of the false sense of separation. My darlings, the trouble is we are insecure, whether we're broke or a millionaire, deep down inside. Because of that, we keep reaching in the wrong direction for security. We search the wrong areas in the wrong way.

Most of our efforts are attempts to get authority over others. It's the same thing whether our field of endeavor is in the material or spiritual world. There is basically an underlying loneliness. We will never get over our insecurity and loneliness if we keep looking for solutions on the physical plane, though the expression of security and confidence will come on the material level in time. Remember, Jesus said "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God."¹⁵

What is it to seek first the Kingdom of God? Firstly, it is to be able to say with our Elder Brother Jesus: "Get thee behind me Satan."¹⁶ What this means is that we have become so aware of what is going on in our consciousness, in our thoughts and emotions, that we are able to self-consciously say "Get thee

¹⁵Matthew 6:33.

¹⁶Matthew 4:10; 16:23; Mark 8:33; Luke 4:8

hence!” Satan attempts to inflame our immaturity, our ignorance. Whenever we act or think or feel in ways that do not express peace on earth, goodwill to men, we have to learn to say, “Get thee behind me Satan! Get thee hence!” We need that much awareness and alertness. As Jesus said: “Watch, watch!”¹⁷ And what is watching? It is being alertly self-conscious. **It is only in the alert self-conscious awareness of this instant that we will finally have the experience of being Him, the Son of God, Christ.**

Not only did Christ call Himself the Son of God, He also called Himself the Son of Man. This fact alone should tell us that He isn't any different than the rest of us except in age. If you stagger around, bumping into things when you learn how to walk, does that make you evil? No, it just makes you young. Jesus reached the age when he could walk in beauty and control while we still stagger and fall, bruising ourselves. This is the very way we learn. This is what teaches us what Christ Consciousness is. We have something to help us, to hold us, to guide us. We have the entire story of the life of Christ, which gives us the principle and spirit of what our true self really happens to be.

What is that true story? “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”¹⁸

This is our story, too, isn't it? Are you never sorrowful or acquainted with grief? Are you not banished from something that makes you yearn? Do you often feel a homesickness, a loneliness, and you don't know what it is for? Lots of people think it is for their old home town, or some part



¹⁷In the New Testament there are twenty-four times that Jesus advises us to “watch.” The Greek word used is *gregoreno*, γρηγορενω, meaning “to keep awake, be vigilant.” Its gematria value is 1139.

¹⁸Isaiah 53:3.

of the past. That's because they are young. They don't realize they are homesick only for one thing: to retire to the place we came from but with the full self-consciousness of a Son of God, a Son of Man's heritage. Jesus said that the foxes have their holes and the birds have their nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.¹⁹ This reveals a sense of sorrow and yet, this is a time of gladness, too.



The whole secret of attaining to the Christ Consciousness is in being able to deeply and fully understand what Jesus meant when he said: "Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."²⁰ He invited humanity to carry the cross like he

did.²¹ And we do.

Why was He able to do it consciously as well as understand what He was asking us to do? Because He had conscious awareness that there isn't any separation between any of us. I can bear witness to some of the aspects of that truth. **There isn't any single thought or emotion that you think or feel which does not affect me and there isn't any single emotion or thought that I feel or think which does not affect you. There is only one difference between someone who knows at least a little bit of this truth and someone who has not yet learned to know it: conscious awareness.** When you feel hatred it is definitely projected and absorbed by those you feel hatred toward, people you may never have heard of. You have added that expression to the universe. The same thing happens when someone feels hatred toward you, but you are not conscious of that level of flow.

There is a substance in which we all live and move and have our being. It flows between us, back and forth, in a measure that

¹⁹Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:58.

²⁰Matthew 11:28.

²¹Matthew 10:38; 16:24; Mark 8:34; 10:21; Luke 9:23; 14:27.

would astonish you. When you become more aware of it, you realize that it is impossible for you to hurt another human being without hurting yourself. This is true because all events occur within that substance. It is also true that it is impossible for you to love another human being without loving yourself.

Christ did die to save us. Christ *does* die to save us. You die to save you and me. I die to save you and me. We are all living on the physical level where birth and death happen. This will continue to happen as long as we still have not attained perfected consciousness. Therefore, Jesus died to save us. We can accept that provided we also accept it of other human beings, including ourselves.

We can also truly say that Jesus redeemed us, our sins, if we remember that every time we tune into somebody else's grief or cruelty, we can take that awareness and make it something else. If we do that, we too redeem others from sin. This is the job of an occult aspirant in Qabalah. This is the *real* job. We try to lure you, love you, drag you in every way we can to the recognition that all emotions and thoughts flow back and forth. When you are being washed with an emotion of resentment, jealousy, fear or hatred, look at it clearly and alertly and say "Get thee hence Satan!" Put in its place the emotion of "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."²² Make sure to include yourself in that group! You have to forgive yourself or you won't be able to say that, you won't be able to see what is happening inside yourself. When you can say that, then along with Christ you are redeeming others from their sins because you are not adding to the hatreds and crucifixions of life. You are starting to bring about the resurrection. You are taking the unevolved and rolling it forward through the actions of your own heart, and this is a suffering. That is why Christ is called a man of suffering.

But remember this: *He said his burden is light.*²³ It is the type

²²Luke 23:34.

²³Matthew 11:30.

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of suffering that is preferable to the pleasures of the physical plane as much as joy is preferable to sorrow. This type of suffering has a joy and exaltation because we do not identify ourselves with these emotions. We liberate ourselves from them and consequently liberate all of humanity.

Remember also that the whole story of Christ is the story of own evolution as well. It is a symbol for it. Inasmuch as you were born, Christ has been born. Inasmuch as you die, Christ is crucified. Inasmuch as you suffer, Christ is suffering because everything that happens to you happens to the spirit. It happens to the spirit of us all. Everything



that happens to your fellow man happens to you and the spirit of us all. You *are* your brother's keeper. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" should be a song in your heart every moment of every day. You will learn to reach for the feeling of the spirit of Christ which walks with you. You will be able to say along with the Christ spirit, which is your true selfhood, "My father and I are one."²⁴ You will know that yours is the glory, the privilege of helping lift the sorrow of the world; to know that wherever you look you are seeing a miracle beyond description. And you will know, as Christ does, what he meant when he said to the woman that if she knew who He was, she would never weep again.

Now I will say this to you: If you know who I am, you would never weep again. If I really know who you are all of the time, I would never weep again. If you could look at each other and be able to say: "If you know who I am you will never be able to

²⁴John 10:30.

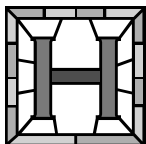
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weep again.” The way to find out is to keep searching in the eyes, keep searching in the heart. Look for it in the song of a bird. Listen for it in the whisper of the wind through the trees. Feel for it whenever you are loving any human being. Contact it by looking into the eyes of your fellow man. Keep reminding yourself of it. We feel that this is the true spirit of Christmas, more so than is usually understood. We invite you to absorb it into your hearts so you will never be able to completely lose it, so that it will grow and guide you, so that your star of Bethlehem will shine in you all your days and nights and so that you will know the fullness of the glory of Christ, consciously and forevermore.



KEY 5 – THE HIEROPHANT

by Paul Foster Case



earing is the function assigned to the Hierophant. The Hebrew letter Vau means nail, and is also the conjunction “and.” The ornament, hanging from the crown of the Hierophant and passing behind his ears, is a conventionalized yoke. A yoke is something that joins together, again symbolizing union.

The Hindu word for union is Yoga. This card symbolizes *Interior Hearing*, or the development of intuition by certain practices of Yoga.

This that we call interior hearing is the real inner teaching, coming from your own Inner Self, your true Teacher. That Self is represented by the Hierophant. In this connection we must caution you that the true interior hearing is not the negative, lower psychic types of clairaudience. The difference is readily distinguished by the quality of what is heard. Intuition is above reason, but never contrary to it, and it never urges you to do an unethical or selfish thing.



The pillars represent the Law of Polarity, or the interplay of the pairs of opposites. Their capitals show a ball and socket pattern and an acorn surrounded by oak leaves. This symbolizes the union of opposites.

The design of the wards of the crossed keys is a bell. This symbolizes sound vibration used in hearing, and is also a hint that sound has a practical value in unlocking the gates of your Inner Temple. The two ministers who kneel before the Hierophant represent desire and knowledge, as indicated by the roses and lilies on their garments.



SNIPPETS OF WISDOM

From Rev. William Chesterman
(Reprinted from Zenith News Notes)



- ❖ You must seek your own inner convictions; they are your only shield from the outer world and its deceptions.
- ❖ You will never live where there is no failure.
- ❖ Persevere with the work on the Tarot Keys. They are not called **keys** for nothing. They are the only safe way to tune into the Universal subconscious mind and it will give you answers and control overall the circumstances of your life.
- ❖ Never be afraid to be humble and say (you are) sorry for needless pain caused through your own immaturities. Meditate on Key 12 to reverse the problems.
- ❖ Put all your emphasis on the work of the truly loving heart; otherwise all is in vain.
- ❖ Keep your attention on the beautiful things in your life and (do) not focus on the destructive.
- ❖ Try not to carry the whole world but lean on the Hermit's staff and let the tensions go.

LOVE CONQUERS ALL

Cultivating a close, warmhearted feeling for others automatically puts the mind at ease and opens our inner door. It helps remove whatever fears or insecurities we may have and gives us the strength to cope with any obstacles we encounter. It is the principal source of success in life.

The Dalai Lama



SIMPLICITY

by Harriet B. Case

Truth is simple. Therefore let us seek simple ways of service, simple forms of speech. In this age of high tensions and pressures and the seemingly constant need for speed and excitement, many appear to have forgotten the joys of simple pleasures and simple living. We are inclined to let our lives get so complicated that there seems no time in which to have a few moments of quiet contemplation or relaxation. Yet just because of this stepped-up tempo of living, we need more than ever to provide time for these few moments of quiet.



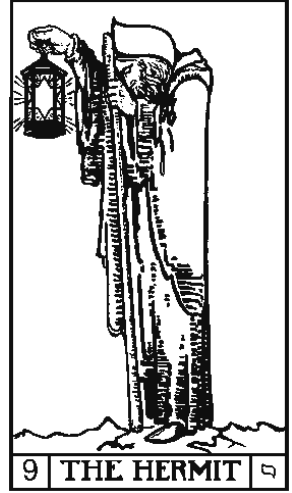
There is a way by which we can achieve all the many things that have to be done during a busy day, and yet have a little time to ourselves towards the end of the day. It is this – and I have found that it works:

Each morning before you start the day's activities, particularly if it is to be a very busy day, recollect that you are an instrument for the ONE LIFE-POWER, truly a center of expression for the Primal Will to Good, the One Life, Mind and Love that works **through** you, that does the work and carries the responsibility. Then say: "I am the instrument for carrying out Your Will; please see to it that all that needs to be done this day will be done smoothly, harmoniously and perfectly, without the slightest tension or feeling of pressure, for Thou art all-wise, all-powerful, and, as I remember to remember throughout the day that **Thou** art the ever-present worker in and through me, the personality, all will be accomplished with plenty of time to spare." If you try holding these thoughts, this attitude in mind, I believe that it will work for you too. We are so inclined to forget and think that it is the little personal self that

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accomplishes everything! True, we have to be good tools or instruments for God to use, but let Him direct and do the work.

Simple goodness, expressed in all our activities and thoughts, sows seeds of love and brotherhood. We can serve humanity in no better way than this, to be an instrument for the forces of the Light; to surrender to God, to obey the Divine Will. There is no limit to the rays of light that can pour through each one of us and extend over the whole world. Aspire to be a “lantern” such as our beloved Hermit (Tarot Key No. 9) holds in his right hand. A “lantern” whose panels are of clear glass which let the pure rays of Divine Spirit shine forth unimpeded. Let us all try to be such lanterns, not the kind with metal sides having but a few small holes punched in the panels which only let a few little peep-holes of light come through.



Project love, simple kindness and good will. Actually, you need only to **feel** love and good will in your heart, and it will radiate to all. It is as simple as that!

Nothing is more simple than greatness;
indeed, to be simple is to be great.
~ EMERSON-*Literary Ethics*

Simplicity of character is the natural result
of profound thought. ~ HAZLITT



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THE DECAD

“The ancients used ‘ever-flowing Nature’ as a metaphor for the Decad, since it is, as it were, the eternal and everlasting nature of all things and kinds of thing, and in accordance with it the things of the universe are completed and have a harmonious and most beautiful limit.” – *Attributed to Iamblichus (c. 250-c.330, Greek Neoplatonic philosopher influenced by Pythagoras)*



Historically, the decad, the number 10, means that all has been accomplished. According to Pythagorean philosophy, the number 10 is the nature of number, because all nations reckon to it and when they arrive at it they return to the monad, the number 1.

To illustrate:

$$10 = 1 + 0 = 1$$

Similarly, in order to exceed 10, another series must begin by returning to the monad, that is, 11.

The decad was called both heaven and the world, because the former includes the latter. It was also called unwearied, because, like God, it was tireless.

The Pythagoreans stated that the decad perfected all numbers and comprehended within itself the nature of odd and even, moved and unmoved, good and ill. They also associated its power with Atlas (for it carried the numbers on its shoulders), the Sun, and the One God.

The number 10 is composed of two numbers or symbols, namely, 1 and 0. Zero, 0, is a symbol for the no-thing, the unknown, immeasurable, infinite, absence of quantity, quality or mass, freedom from every limitation, unmanifest.

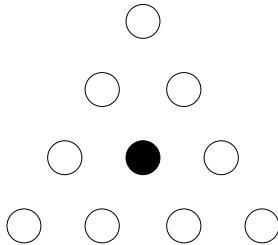
In this concluding article, now that all the numbers preceding 10 have been explored in previous articles, let's look at some interesting relationships relative to the numbers 7 and 9 to further illustrate the encompassing nature of the number 10. To

recall a point in the article on the number 9 in the previous issue, a curious peculiarity of the number 9 surfaces when it is divided by the number 7. The result is 1.2857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857,.....

When the number 10 is divided by the number 7, the result is 1.42857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857, 142857,.....again the repetend!!²⁵ The repetend, or residuum, eternally repeating as “142857” is considered to be the number of Infinite Evolution.

According to the Pythagoreans, the decad is the greatest of numbers, not only because it is the Tetractys, but because it comprehends all arithmetic and harmonious proportions. It has been said by Theon of Smyrna, a mathematician that the ten dots, or Tetractys of Pythagoras, were of the greatest importance, for to the discerning mind it revealed the mystery of universal nature.

Though the Tetractys is a symbol commonly attributed to Pythagoras, the number symbolism is widespread.

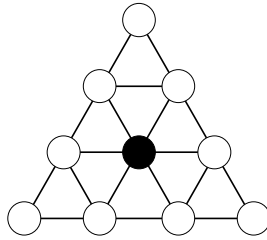


When the Tetractys is shown in this manner with the central point shaded, it is generally recognized as the symbol of the Grand Ennead. The number 9 can be depicted as a Grand Ennead. In other words, an ennead is a “group” of nine and not necessarily a sequence. Several schools of thought attribute meaning to this universal symbol. In the terminology of Pythagoras, the Grand Ennead emanates from the Absolute, or “central fire.” Hindu mythology speaks of the “Nine Cobras of

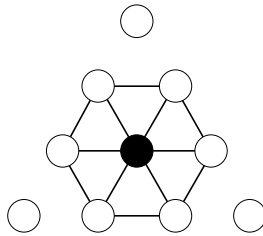
²⁵ Repeated sequence.

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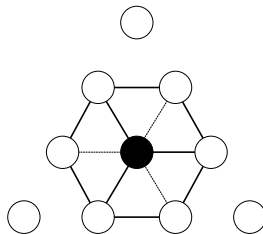
Brahma.” The Qabalah refers to the Nine Legions of Angels about the throne of the hidden God – “He whose name is hidden.” The Nine Principles, circumscribed about the One, the Absolute, become both One and Ten. The Tetractys is sometimes constructed with the dots formed instead with the Hebrew letter, ך, Yod, the **10th** letter in the Hebrew alphabet of 22.



By connecting the ten dots, nine triangles are formed.



The hexagon is comprised of six equilateral triangles, each “looking” toward the ONE point that is common to all six triangles.

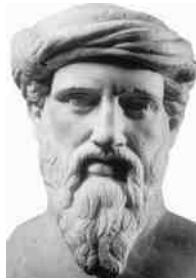


A cube may be developed from an original point, portrayed in its visible aspect of symmetry as a hexagon with 6 internal lines radiating from the center. Theoretically, there is a 7th radius but

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never more than 6 are visible because the 7th approaches the eye and unites the central visible point (the shaded dot) with the 8th point lying exactly behind it. It is interesting to note that only 7 dots are used in forming the cube and the star.

In Qabalistic terms, the 3 unused corner dots represent the threefold, invisible causal universe, while the 7 dots involved in the cube and the star are the Elohim--the Spirits of the 7 creative periods. The Sabbath, or 7th day, is the central dot.



This concludes the series of articles devoted to the Pythagorean number system. For further reading, the following references are recommended.

1. Bell, Eric Temple, The Magic of Numbers, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, 1946.
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3. Heline, Corinne, Sacred Science of Numbers, DeVorss & Co., 1981.
4. Schneider, Michael S., A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe, HarperCollins Publishers, Inc. New York, 1994.
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6. Westcott, W. Wynn, Numbers – Their Occult Power and Mystic Virtues, Third Edition, Theosophical Publishing Society, London, 1911.

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*Let my prayer be set forth before thee
as incense;
and the lifting up of my hands
as the evening sacrifice.*

*Set a watch, O LORD,
before my mouth;
keep the door of my lips.*

141st Psalm (verses 2-3)



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