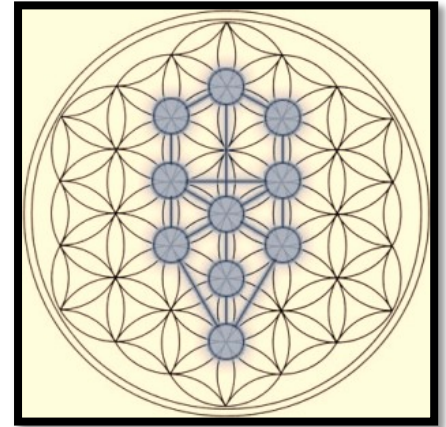


KABBALAH

The Tree of Life:

The 22 paths of The Tree of Life ("Etz Haim") in Kabbalah reflect the 22 primeval vibrations that formed the Hebrew Alphabet. Thus, sound, form and meaning are all coordinated in one cohesive whole. Each is a different manifestation of a singular profound essence. As you see in the image, the Tree seamlessly embeds within the geometrical form known as the Flower of Life, which is evident throughout living systems and represented in countless ancient cultures. *Take a moment to feel the significance of this universal recognition of coherence.*



The Paths and the Alphabet:

The 22 letters/vibrations/paths within the Tree of Life connect the Sephiroth (the spherical points of the Tree): these key vibrational patterns are "emanations" and represent the powers of the soul. Each of the 10 Sephira is defined and acts as a chain of emanation, with each unfolding and evolving the next: each Sephira relates and mediates the influence of the others. They are: Kether ("crown"), Chokmah ("wisdom"), Binah ("understanding"), Chesed ("kindness/mercy"), Geburah ("severity"), Tiphereth ("beauty/harmony"), Netzach ("victory"), Hod ("glory/spendor"), Yesod ("foundation"), Malkuth ("kingdom").

The 22 paths connecting the Sephiroth consist of:

- 3 "Mother Letters" (Aleph, Mem, Shin): These represent *Awareness*.
- 7 "Double Letters" (Beth, Gimel, Daleth, Kaph, Pe, Resh, Tau): These represent *Space*.
- 12 "Simple Letters" (Hey, Vau, Zain, Cheth, Teth, Yod, Lamed, Nun, Samekh, Ayin, Tzaddi, Qof): These reflect the 12 constellations of the zodiac and represent *Time*.

The Pillars:

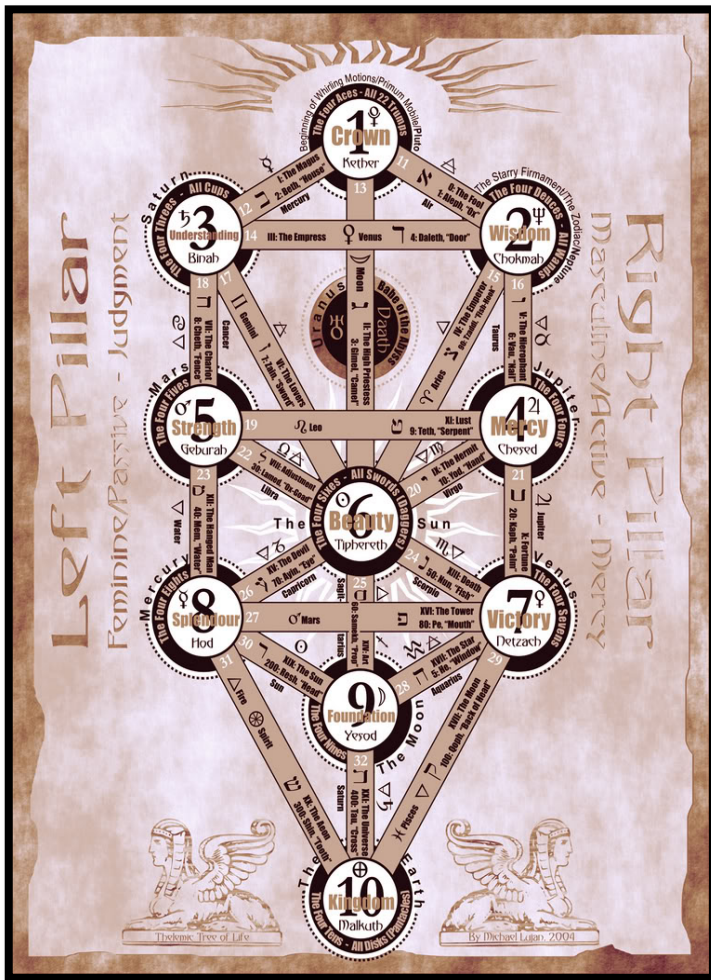
Three vertical pillars comprise the Tree of Life. The Pillars are a diagrammatic representation of the 3 fundamental forces of life: positive/+, negative/-, and neutral/0.

- The LEFT Pillar is the pillar of SEVERITY-DESTRUCTION. This is the black feminine pillar of passivity, form, contraction, restriction, matter, and is the negative pole of the Tree. The Sephira Binah, Geburah and Hod comprise this pillar.
- The RIGHT Pillar is the pillar of MERCY-CREATION. This is the white masculine pillar of activity, force, expansion, movement, energy, and is the positive pole of the Tree. The Sephira of Chokmah, Chesed and Netzach comprise this pillar.
- The MIDDLE Pillar is the pillar of MILDNESS-HARMONY. This is the central pillar that has no charge. It is cosmic awareness, consciousness, equilibrium, stillness, and the neutral "present moment" pole of the Tree. The Sephira of Kether, Tiphereth, Yesod and Malkuth comprise this pillar. The non-Sephira Da'ath is also on this Pillar.

You are walking The Path of Nun.

Nun is the 14th path within the Tree of Life and the 14th letter of the Hebrew Alphabet. (It is also recognized as "24" when all elements of the Tree are considered, including each of the 10 foundational Sephira: this is known as "The 32 Paths of Wisdom".)

Nun, meaning "fish" in Hebrew, is known as the letter/vibration/path of depth.



This is the path of intimacy and an unfolding founded on transformation, transmutation, transience, and renewal.

This is what you are here to live, learn, and actualize in this incarnation. You, as Nun, connect the central 6th Sephira of Tiphereth (meaning "beauty") to the 7th position of Netzach (meaning "victory").

On this path, the beauty, harmony and balance of Tiphereth is essential to attain the victory and eternity of Netzach and all its powers. The Tarot card associated with Nun is #13 Death: 13 is the number of the newly initiated and the number of completion.

Death is the shamanic journey of the release of the mortal and finite physical; and the necessary step for rebirth. Deep immersion into the unconscious world of Spirit, instinct, intuition and feeling are inherent to your Soul Print and seeds to be germinated as Nun.

22 Kabbalah Paths and 22 Tarot Archetypes:

The Kabbalistic wisdom tradition and the Tarot are inextricably linked by the form, function, enigmatic meaning, and quantity of "22". There are 22 Kabbalah paths and 22 major arcana Tarot archetypes. Although the origination portal providing this link can be glimpsed and intuited, what we know for certain is that a (natural, inherent) alignment between the two exists that speaks to the evolutionary processes of life.

The Path of Nun is directly linked to the Tarot archetype of "Death".

According to Ann Skea:

Whilst The Hanged Man represents a sacrifice and a complete relinquishment and overturning of everything in the journeyer's former life, his Tarot trump and Path (Mem) also mark the completion of one part of the journey and a pause – an involuntary suspension – before the Initiate can move on. The upper Paths of the Tree – all those Paths leading to Initiation at Tiphereth – have been completed and their lessons, which dealt with the manifest, rational, conscious aspects of the individual's being, should have been learned. Now, the Initiate is immersed in the chaotic Mother-waters of Mem, in which all life begins and ends, and which are the dark waters of the unconscious, the instinct, and the Soul. In order to proceed on the journey, the Initiate must first find a way

through these waters.

So, although the next tarot Trump is Death, the next Path on the Cabbalistic Tree is known as the Path of Nun: the Path of the Fish, which is *"the symbol of life beneath the waters; of life travelling through the waters"* (Crowley, BOT 99); of fertility; and of Osiris, Venus/Aphrodite, Isis and Hermes/Mercury.



The Path of Nun joins Tiphereth (Sephira 6) to Netzach (Sephira 7). It is the Path of re-evaluation, of loss of the conscious world and immersion in unconscious world of instinct, intuition and feeling. On this Path, the Harmony and Balance of Tiphereth is essential if the Victory and Eternity of Netzach and all its powers of 7 are to be successfully attained. And 7 is immensely powerful on this Path. It is the number of Venus/Aphrodite and, because $14 (7 + 7)$ is the Cabbalistic number of the Path of Nun, her powers, here, are doubly potent. A second Cabbalistic number associated with this Path is 50, which in numerology is $7 \times 7 = 49$ ('The Mystic Number of Venus') plus the Divine energy of 1. The fiftieth 'Gate of Understanding' (or 'Door of Light') which marks the end of the Cabbalistic journey is accessible from this Path of Nun¹. So, 7 represents the possibility of completion. The energies of 7, however, become operative only when conditions are right to establish a new order. And at different stages of the Cabbalistic journey, these energies vibrate according to the preparedness of the Initiate and the particular World (Atziluthic, Briatic etc.) in which the Initiate is journeying.

The Tarot number for this Path is 13, which is the number of the newly Initiated and is also a number of completion. And the Tarot card for this Path is 'Death'. On the Tradition Tarot cards, Death is shown as a skeleton with a scythe, surrounded by a chaos of blackness in which lie bones, limbs and heads, but also, green, sprouting plants. Death, as these plants signify, is not an end: it is *"the apex of one curve of the snake of Life"* (Crowley BOT 258), and in all occult quests it is a step on the journey to rebirth. For Cabbalists, as for the Alchemist and the Shaman, the skeleton symbolizes the death of the physical body – the death of that which is mortal and finite – in order to attain knowledge of the immortal. This 'death' is like the shamanic flight to the Otherworld (which, for Jung, represented the journey into the human subconscious) after which the Initiate is reborn from "boneseed" to a higher order of existence. For the Alchemist, it begins the putrefaction and chaos from which cleansed spiritual gold will rise.

Death, therefore, is not an end, but a necessary step on the way to rebirth. Yet, between death and rebirth, the spirit must enter the chaos of unconsciousness which is variously called the Otherworld, Hell, the Void, the Bardo or, in the Greek mythology on which many Tarot symbols are based, the River of Acheron. So, in some texts, the figure on this Path is not Death but Charon, the Ferryman who will take the shade of the deceased to

the Underworld. And always, in occult belief, the bodiless spirit requires a ferryman or guide in order to make this journey successfully.

The Shaman has his or her spirit-guides; Dante had the poet, Vergil; the Alchemist and the Cabbalist have Hermes /Mercury (whose energies are powerfully expressed through the number 7) in one of his many dis-guises."

Nun is your path.

