

TemCat Trestleboard

March 2021



Chartered 1922

Brethren and Friends,

Welcome to our lodge's latest newsletter. This past month has been filled with ups and downs like any other but I believe it was more up. I am so grateful to be surrounded by such great men within our Craft. A special thanks goes to Brother Walt McDaniel for organizing our Lodge Library and for the very generous loan of books from Worshipful Mark Neilsen. We now have 392 unique titles catalogued and ready for checkout to our members. For details any Master Mason can reach out to Walt or myself.

There was also a fight night hosted which included Brethren from three different lodges and guests. Brother Muravez volunteered/requested the next one be hosted later this month. That is in the works and if anyone else would like to host, let me know.

The next few months we need to truly focus on our opening plans and how to ensure the most engagement of our members when the Grand Lodge allows us to reopen. There are at least six members waiting for advancement, one voted on candidate, and multiple door knockers desiring to enter. The degree teams need to be top notch, so dust off your cypher.

As always, we are here for those in need. If you or anyone you know needs help, please reach out.

Fraternally yours,

**Tim Taggett
Worshipful Master 2021**

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to keep updated throughout the month.



@TemeculaFreemasons



@TemCat524



@freemasons_temecula

<http://TemeculaMasons.org>

CALIFORNIA MASONRY

TEMECULA CATALINA ISLAND LODGE #524 OFFICERS 2021

When you get a chance please thank the Brethren below for their willingness to serve our Lodge for its 99th year of existence.

Worshipful Master:	Timothy Taggett Jr.
Senior Warden:	Robert English, PM
Junior Warden:	Allan Walbridge, PM
Treasurer:	Chuck Hastings
Secretary:	Tom Hafeli
Chaplain:	Allan Bowman, PM
Senior Deacon:	Carl Black, PM
Junior Deacon:	Kevin Becvar
Tyler:	Harold Whitford, PM

*** When lodge opens we will need Stewards to assist with our weekly meals. ***

BROTHER'S IMPORTANT DATES

February Birthdays

Milton	Chavez	4-Mar
Blain	Koenig	4-Mar
Corey	Pono	5-Mar
Jose	Lopez	5-Mar
James	Mc Grath	9-Mar
William	Hillin	10-Mar
Andrew	Gutman	10-Mar
Anthony	McLean	13-Mar
Andrew	Baca	15-Mar
Marc	Miranda	22-Mar
Albert	Evinger III	24-Mar
Kevin	Becvar	27-Mar
Rene	Sabio	30-Mar
Danny	Bagwell	30-Mar

Masonic Birthdays

Russ	Baldauf	3/10/1977
William	Thralls	3/6/1990
Randall	Freeman	3/25/1996
Robert	Sine	3/26/1996
Rene	Sabio	3/26/2001
Alan	Greyer	3/27/2006
Anthony	McLean	3/26/2007
David	Bogan	3/23/2009
Bernard	Truax II	3/29/2010
Mack	Cole	3/26/2011
Kyle	Patrick	3/26/2011
Robert	Sketchley Jr.	3/26/2011
Fabian	Liendo IV	3/12/2012
Wesley	Frye	3/11/2013
Blain	Koenig	3/18/2013
Prashant	Mukerjee	3/30/2015
Kenneth	Fietz III	3/13/2017

RECOMMENDED READING

Approaching the Middle Chamber

By Jamie Paul Lamb

Very extensive book based on the topics covered within the Middle Chamber of the second degree.



ESOTERIC ENDING

The goal here, is to provide Esoteric content. Some, created by local Brothers, and others borrowed from various sources. If there is a topic you'd like to either provide or see covered, contact the Master or editor.

This month we are sharing an article originally published in November 2020 by Southern California Research Lodge, titled “Placement of the Tarot Cards on the Tree of Life”. This brings both Tarot and Kabbalah together in a single article.

PLACEMENT OF THE TAROT CARDS ON THE TREE OF LIFE

BY JERIEL C. SMITH

“When it is realized that the initiate works with the Tarot and the Tree together, that they dovetail into each other at every imaginable angle, it will be seen that such an array of correspondences could be neither arbitrary nor fortuitous.” —Dion Fortune

The interplay between Tarot cards and the Qabalah’s Tree of Life is intricate and extensive—a subject far too vast to be attempted here. However, with the aid of the diagrams shown here, I will attempt a brief description of how the Tarot cards are placed on the Tree of Life, keeping in mind Robert Wang’s admonition that “... as with all truly enlightened works, it is not intended to be read; it must, rather, be used as a stimulus to meditation.”¹

The “Tree” itself consists of ten spherical “Sephiroth,” and 22 “Paths” between them, together known as the *Thirty-Two Paths of Wisdom*. They are arranged in three “pillars”—the Pillar of Form on the left, called “Severity”; the Pillar of Force on the right, called “Mercy”; and a Middle Pillar between them, called “Mildness.” Three pillars are familiar to Masons, as is the concept of two opposing principles, or forces, being balanced by a third to bring them into harmony.

Concepts underlying each spherical Sephiroth, shown in Diagram 1, are applied to the cards of the Minor Arcana. Thus, Sephiroth (1) gives context to understand the Aces, and each numbered card relates to that numbered Sephiroth. Each card of the Major Arcana is associated with one of the 22 Paths of the Tree of Life, as on Diagram 1. These “Trumps” cards are assigned to the Paths (numbered 11 to 32) per the sequence of their Tarot numbers, starting with The Fool (Trump 0) on the first path (numbered 11), connecting Sephiroths (1) and (2); and ending with the final path (numbered 32), connecting Sephiroths (9) and (10). The Major Arcana thus track an allegorical initiatory journey, (of the Fool), ascending upwards from “Kingdom” at the bottom of the Tree, to “Crown” at its top.²

There are also a number of paths with special initiatory significance that are often depicted on the Tree of Life. Among the best-known is the “Path of the Flaming Sword.” As shown by the dotted line in diagram 2, this initiatory path crosses “the Abyss” between the third and fourth Sephiroth—where no path exists—crossing the “invisible” sephiroth (“Knowledge”), as shown in diagram 3 on the facing page, and described below by Dion Fortune. Major Arcana Tarot cards upon the Path of the Flaming Sword (or Lightning Flash) are on our cover.

The Paths ... represented upon the Tree of Life by a Lightning Flash, or in some diagrams by a Flaming Sword ... must proceed from Kether outwards and downwards to the right to reach Chokmah, and then turns on a level course to the left and proceeds an equal distance beyond Kether upon that side, and there establishes Binah. The result is a triangular figure upon the glyph, and it is called the Triangle of the Three Supernals, or the First Trinity and is separated from the rest of the Sephiroth by the Abyss, which normal human consciousness cannot cross.

[Dion Fortune, *The Mystical Qabalah*, (London: Society of Inner Light, 1935), 27.]

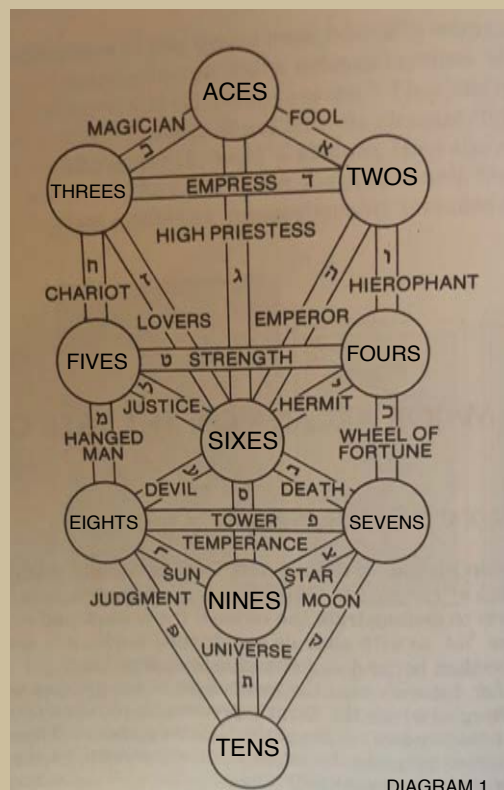


DIAGRAM 1

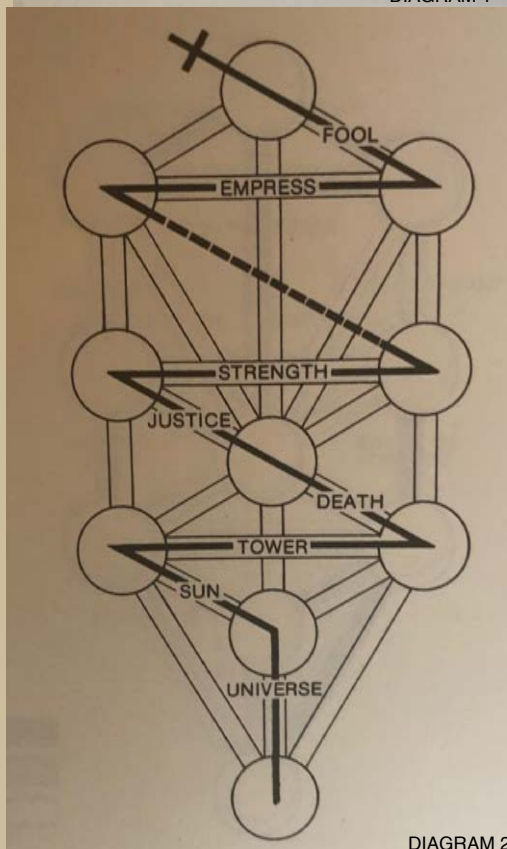


DIAGRAM 2

Diagram 3, at right, shows several of the most salient attributes of the ten sephiroth and 22 paths of the Tree of Life. It also includes the “invisible” sephiroth, “Knowledge,” here numbered zero (0). There are countless versions of such Tree of Life diagrams, containing a great variety of esoteric symbolism that can be better understood with reference to the Tree of Life—including symbols of alchemy, astrology, numerology, etc.—but none are so plentiful as those related to Tarot.

The information shown here in each sephiroth includes: its number, above which is the symbol of the solar body associated therewith, and its Hebrew name; and below which is a qualitative description in English (which may vary) and the Minor Arcana cards associated therewith. Common variants of the English names of the Sephiroth qualities include: (3) Intelligence; (5) Judgment; (7) Victory; and (8) Glory. Names of the “Court Cards” also may vary among Tarot decks. Kings (3) and Queens (4) are consistently so named; while, as shown in this diagram, Knights are named “Princes” (6) and Pages are “Princesses” (10). The meaning and significance of each suited card is considered in light of the qualities of the corresponding sephiroth, and also the suit as, for example, a part of the human psyche: Pentacles the physical; Cups the emotional; Swords the mental and Wands the spiritual.

Information shown on each of the twenty-two paths includes the name and number of the associated Major Arcana card, preceded by the path number and followed by the related letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Few Masons have the knowledge of Hebrew letters, and of their numerological significances (*gematria* in Hebrew), to effectively employ them in meditation; however, a Masons’ experience with Masonic symbolism does provide a foundation for contemplating the archetypal symbolism of the Tarot images.

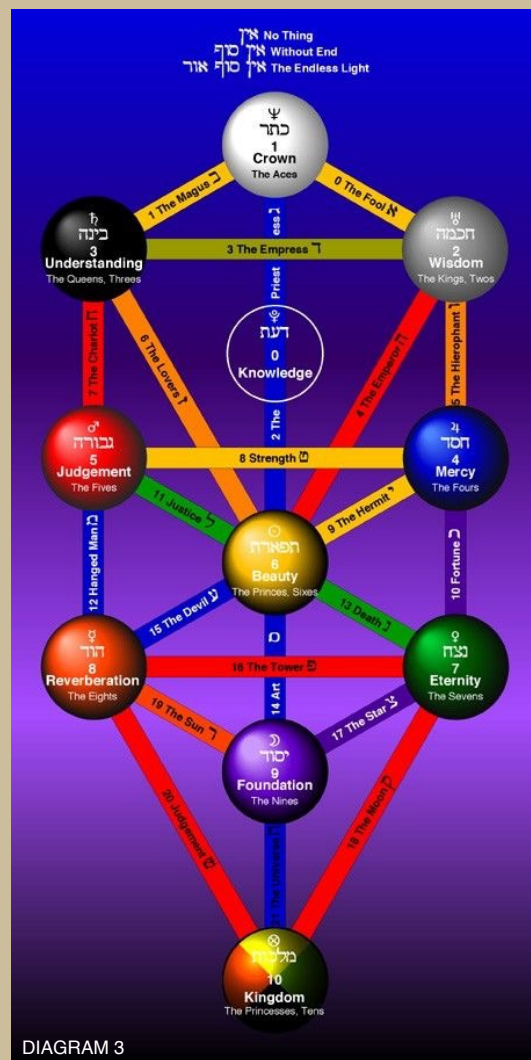


DIAGRAM 3

Diagram 4 illustrates one of many examples of how the Tarot cards placed on the Tree of Life may be used in contemplation; in this case, for deeper understanding of the human psyche. It is based on the Qabalistic notion that the three triangles of sephiroth shown on this diagram represent the three parts of the human soul. In each triangle, the sephiroth on the left pillar represents consciousness; that on the right is “what that consciousness acts upon” and the one on the center pillar is the balance between the other two that sustains their interaction. Reflection on this diagram can assist the serious seeker to use Tarot and the Tree of Life to explore the path from the consciousness of his/her Higher Self to that of their Spiritual Self that, through meditation, may thus commune with the divine spirit of the Grand Architect.

¹ Robert Wang, *The Qabalistic Tarot*, (Stamford, CT: U.S. Games Systems, Inc., 2019), 123. Diagrams 1, 2 and 4 on these pages are from this book, at pages 124, 126 and 140.

² See, e.g., Stephan A. Hoeller, *The Fool's Pilgrimage: Kabbalistic Meditations on the Tarot*, (Wheaton, IL: Quest Books Publishing, 2004).

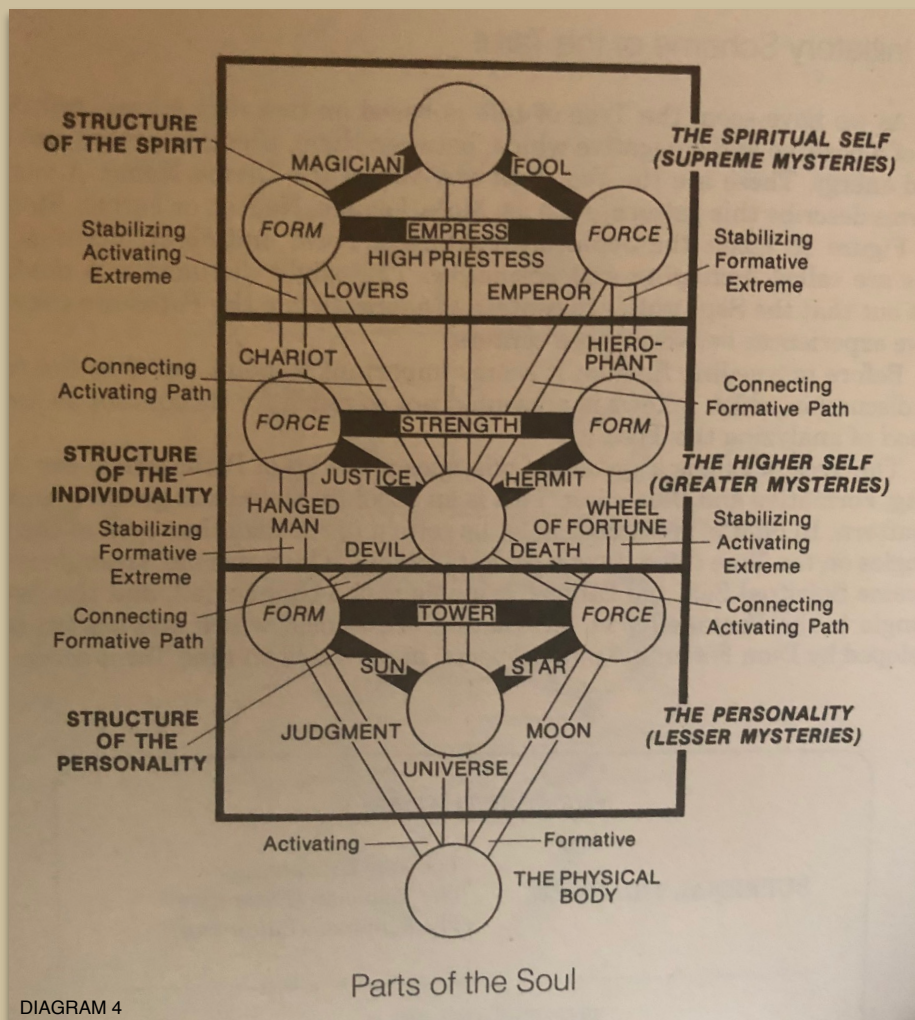


DIAGRAM 4



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Request to the Families of Brethren

Please notify the Lodge if our Brother is in the hospital or incapacitated in any way at: **(951) 526-9300** or
tom@hafeli.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

March

1st—Stated Meeting @ 7PM (Zoom)
6th—Fight Night @ 5 PM
8th—talk @ 7PM (Zoom)
15th—A Brief Introduction to Prince Hall Free-
masonry by Bro. Dudley & Marshall @ 7 PM
(Zoom)
17th — Funeral Service Riverside Memorial @
12:15 PM
22nd—talk @ 7PM (Zoom)
27th — Fight Night @ 5 PM

April

5th—Stated Meeting @ 7PM
(Zoom)
10th—Brother's Breakfast @ 8AM
12th—talk @ 7PM (Zoom)
19th—talk @ 7 PM (Zoom)
26nd—talk @ 7PM (Zoom)