

Addendum 1

Trump 3, The Empress: A polemic concerning the "changing of the paths" among the Sephirot

After the alchemic marriage of Fire and Water, the only outcome possible is the fruit of their equilibrium : the "three in one", the uniting principle. This, "below" Akasha, is the "mental or noëtic, the "logos" as harmonious trinity. The material alchemic wedding bears a living fruit, either Sulphur or Quicksilver. Sulphur (fiery) is dispersed among the "fiery cards", and so Quicksilver (Mercury) is chosen as the balancing agent.

In "The Book of Thoth", Aleister Crowley associates alchemic Salt with Trump 3. In his own words: "Salt is the inactive principle of Nature. Salt is Matter, which must be filled with Energy by Sulphur, to upkeep the whirling equilibrium of the universe." These statements are not in accordance with his own and various other traditions` planetary symbol of Trump 3: Venus.

Venus may be expressed by Sulphur but hardly by Salt. Further, Crowley states that Venus, or rather its planetary sign ♀, touches the Sephirot, as "the circle is formed by Sephirot 1, 2, 4, 6, 5, 3; the cross is made up of 6, 9, 10, 7, 8". This then is the whole meaning attached : an expression of the psychic – astral sphere only. Were Mars associated by his ancient symbol of the upturned Venus ♂, the same symbolism would apply on a different scale, for then Mars is also associable through circle and cross, only turned upwards. But this would include the mental-noëtic "input", thus elevating the concerned Sephirot to include Da'ath and the fusion of Geburah and Chesed/Gedulah. This did not enter this consideration, and so it remains limited, actually more or less static. Therefore, though Crowley has made profound intellectual studies and added some valuable insights (mainly derived from his association with the Golden Dawn mystery-school), his full station is only considered as that of an advanced Fakir, not of a Quabbalist. It may be useful at this point, if only as a justification of the hopefully pure quabbalist view expressed in this study, to make a final comparison with the system Crowley proposes. There is little concurrence or alignment. Is it through an ideal of "keeping his vow of secrecy", to keep soiled hands from achieving any results with a purposely flawed system, or should we assume more sinister motives ? The

reader has the choice, and the example of comparison is Trump 3, and its supposed Venus-symbolism.

It is proposed, by Crowley et al., that Trump 3 is associated with the Pelican (of Masonic significance), its supposedly secret and hidden meaning only to be unveiled at achieving "the fifth degree of initiation of the O.T.O. (Ordo Templi Orientis)". Why should the symbolism of the Pelican, also described as "the Great Mother and her progeny", be secret? What is so "hot" about this subject? As a triangle (3), maybe the lower triangle of the hexagram of "the Whore of Babylon"? Such an allusion to sexual magic is hardly "white", especially if clothed in obscure words. It is not within the framework of this study to discuss any negative symbolism associated with the "negative, demonic Shadow-Sephirot, the Quliphot". There we find the "evil trinity" or, as Dr. Rudolf Steiner called the Quliphot: "the Anti-Spirit, the Trinity of Evil". The honest student of the Tarot has already made his choice when confronted with Trump 2. Suffice it to add that the three degrees of "blue" Freemasonry end with the Master, and this is reflective of what Man's station, as an individual of high and pure attainment, should generally be.

But we are confronted with medieval words, and we may ask what the denomination The Empress has to do with Trump 3. The numeric value 3 does not come about just by chance. It necessarily includes the spheres of Earth-Moon, Mercury and Venus-Mars, reflective of the central emanations of the Sun. Why should The Trinity be associated with a female Emperor, representing material power and perhaps domination – Man's will turned to the satisfaction of material matters. The triangle is turned upwards in its primal and most basic sense, it would take an active will to turn it downwards. The potential of the three is not to "double itself" or be turned to base uses, its potential is as one side of the pyramid, one side of four visible sides and of five if the square base is taken into account. The "hermetic" view is clear and unobstructed: Akasha, "God" as viewed from below, the "dynamic manifestation of God" as viewed from above, chooses the most sublime "abode of the soul" as its first manifestation. This, due to lack of other words, is the "Mental-Noëtic Sphere", the "first expression of the Logos". As above so below, and so Trump 2 is associated with the second manifestation, the "Astral-Psychic Sphere", whereas Trump 3 symbolises the mental-noëtic as the highest sphere accessible to Man. Man can overcome the polarities and step beyond Yin and Yang to access the Universal Life Force.

As a path of evolution, Man moves from the "primal principle" to physical existence, then strives to attain the Earth-Moon-Zone, or the Astral Plane, and lastly attempts to fathom or "enter into contact" with the sublime realities of the Mental-Noëtic, the Solar System, to

take part of the Universe. In this last stage, the path proposed is from Earth-Moon to Mercury, always keeping Venus and Sun in mind, for they are the strongest impulses, and therefore possibly too difficult to attain in the beginning. In the dynamics of human evolution it makes better sense to approach the spheres of Venus and the Sun after having studied the closest neighbor of the Sun, Mercury.

Were this in variance with any traditional system, it is for the reason that the genii and intelligences of Venus and the Sun must be approached with an utmost "cool and balanced " mind, prepared for strong emotions and willing to encounter very strong forces and powers indeed. With all respect due to tradition, it is here nevertheless proposed to "change the Paths of the Tree of Life" in their Tarot-symbolism. Through a central alignment, which then corresponds to all ancient wisdom, and is also "highly synchronistic", dynamic, the ascription of certain paths must be reconsidered. This then would render the whole system at least "double-dynamic", just as the intertwining double-system of the I Ching: abstract and/or temporal dynamic.

The aspiring student will be aware of the benevolent intuition formulating this proposal. The Sun, [Trump 19](#), is still far removed, if the evolutionary model "from Zero to 21" is chosen. Otherwise, as some new Tarot decks reflect already, from "22" (0) "downwards", via 21 and 20, the path does now reach 19, The Sun (as concerns [Trump 3](#)). To each his proper choice.