

Chapter 9

Trump III or 3:

The Empress / Trinity
Mercury as the Mental Sphere
Quabbala
The first Trigram



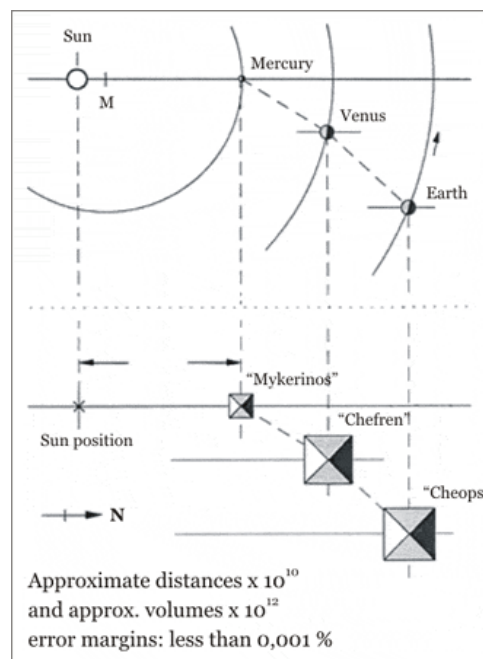
In the Quabbala, the number 3 is ascribed to Saturn, as Akasha, whose first emanation is Fire, of the elements, and the Mental-Noëtic Sphere, "above" the Astral-Psychic and the physical, material Creation. As a path for the aspiring student of the Book of Wisdom, here the 3 is ascribed to Mercury, symbolic of the Mental Sphere. Saturn is called the Master of Karma, the planet of "judgment", where the "Masters of Karma" decide and weigh Man's fate. This is not the sphere which is directly accessible from Earth and Moon, in fact it is one of the densest and most difficult to access sphere of all. Nor was it created to be accessible to Man, for there the "divine Will" enters the solar system from without, whose development and evolution - its Karma - undergoes an alchemic change beyond the understanding of mortal men. Saturn already stands for the perfected, "immortals" or "ascended Masters", who are no longer bound by physical or psychic-astral bodies. The Tarot are a highly dynamic system, which - as the number of planetary symbols are limited to 7 - distributes among its cards the most interactive elements which, in a correct setting, respond to intuition. Therefore, the traditional quabbalist correspondence is not found at "third place", but will be found in a much more complex environment, namely associated with the highest Chakra, the 7th, within the "upper trinity" of cards 19, 20 and 21. See Addendum 2: [Trump 3: The Law of Three \(Triamasikamno\)](#).

Man, with Trump 3, finally approaches a first perception of his true "step", the value and quality of his or her inner elevation. This is related to the third, mental body. The inner step shows the degree of purity within Man's thought, imagination and intuitive quality. The

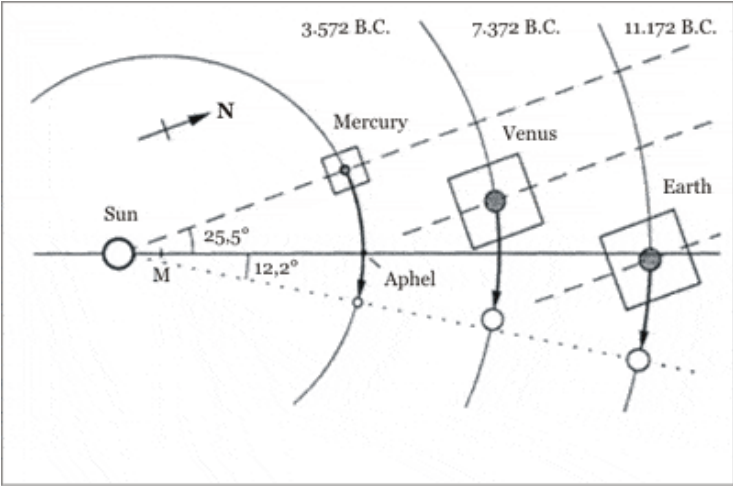
highest step may have inferior elemental might, may even be of low rank, as regards his/her interplay with humanity. A strong introspection into the quality of ones' ideas and thought-projections is urged. They will decide on what forms the emotions, the whole psychological make-up will take. Ultimately, they are the formative steps of what actions will be undertaken. Purity of mind leads to purity of feeling, and this again to purity of action.

Within Trump 3, we find the "whole trinity" of 1, 2 and 3, associated with the mental/noëtic sphere, the first "product of alchemy": Love. A Hebrew letter, as Gimel or Daleth, is only a single letter and cannot by itself stand for the whole scope of Love. Also, there is much reason, for love as the product of blending Fire and Water, to therefore ascribe to Trump 3 the first letter of the Tetragrammaton formula, signifying the "name of God" as the "coagulation" of the four elements, namely Yod, which also stands for Fire. This is consistent with the I Ching trigram Yang-Yin-Yang, which means Fire. The Tetragrammaton reads Yod Hé Vau Hé, or Fire, Air, Water, Earth. After the "primal" aspects of Fire and Water were associated with Trumps 1 and 2, now they are put in dynamic relationship with the whole formula, "beyond the primal Polarity" shown by the first two Trumps. If Daleth is ascribed to The Empress, then we have "love" as its main denominator. This is not entirely correct, for the other symbolism, namely "Mercury as the Mental Sphere" is rather "perfect knowledge and wisdom", symbolised also by Thot and Hermes Trismegistos.

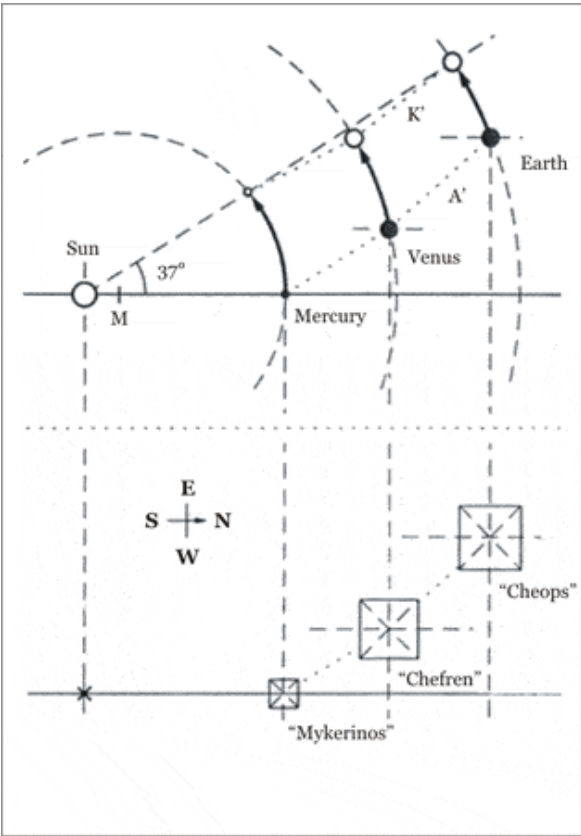
To illustrate this in "planetary language", the following graphics shows the three pyramids at Gizeh in their symbolism of Earth/Moon, Venus, and Mercury:



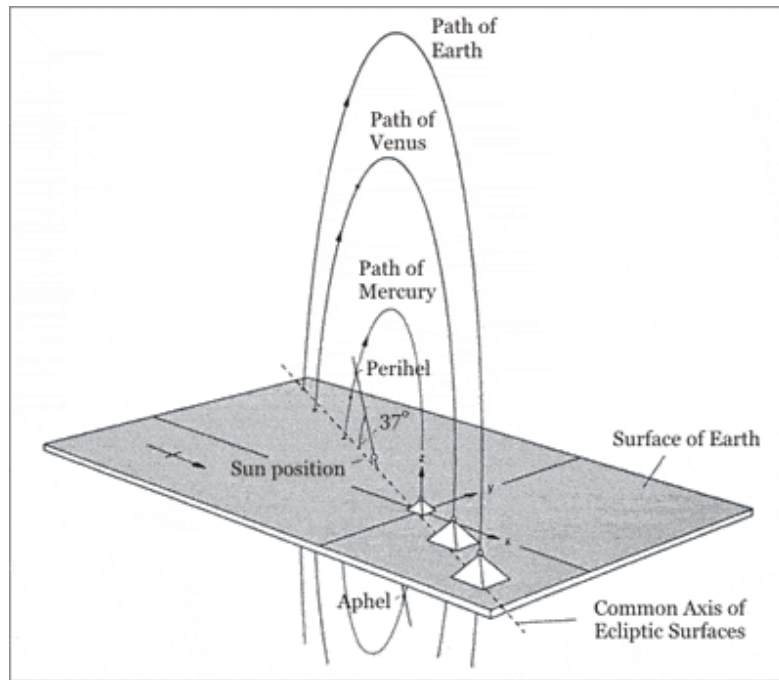
Approximate distances and approximate volumes.



Suns' single inner planetary system in human time.



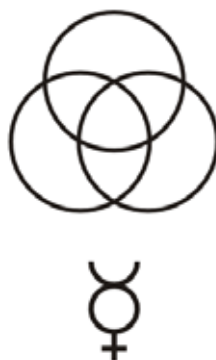
Volume "Cheops" to volume "Chefren" equals volume Earth to volume Venus.



Mirror image of Planetary Cycles.

The Tarot are full of wonder. The 3 is normally symbolised by a triangle, which is also a one-dimensional view of the pyramid. Multiplied by the four aspects of the four sides of a pyramid (symbolic of Thot and all ancient wisdom), we arrive at 12, the zodiacal equivalent of the whole universe. We therefore, as $2 \times 6 = 12$, prefer to ascribe Daleth to Trump 6, The Lovers. It is also within the most material manifestation, symbolised by the Hexagram, that love is the most "needed" aspect, so that The Lovers, also $2 \times 3 = 6$, are really lovers in the whole and perfect sense.

Instead of the triangle or two-dimensional pyramid, we propose the symbol of three circles coinciding in one centre. This is in keeping with the subsequent exploration and development of the third "Body of Light", which is symbolised by successive "flowers" created by ever-more circles:



The first whole I Ching Hexagram should also stress this universal aspect of Creation: Love. The will - "Will" - is the attribute of the 3, and will also is most perfectly illustrated by Fire, Yod. It is here that the ethereal qualities of the Vital Ether enter the body of Man. The vital-emotional body, here seen as an extension of the psychic-astral body, begins to develop. Within the upward-leading path of the "searcher for truth", it is also in Trump 3 that he encounters the conflict of Love and Will, whereby it is his or her innocent "will to strive onwards" which is needed to integrate the whole significance of Trump 3. Love will light the way (Fire), but Innocence and Love do not open closed doors alone, this only the right Will will do.

After the "choice" proffered in Trump 2, to freely choose the way to follow, it is in the "third degree" that this choice becomes obvious, which agents of the ethereal hierarchy are in fact invoked and evoked to lead the pupil onwards. Love should be the prime agent, and therefore all positive agents, yet this need not be: a choice has been made or must now be made, once and for all. With The Empress we are in a realm where three parts of the electro-magnetic potential are realised, alchemy has already played its part.

Mercury is the planet closest to the Sun, it reflects the Sun's rays in the strongest way, transforming them into Astral-Mental Light, thus the (ultra-)violet tinge associated with the colors of Mercury. Trump 3 is called The Empress for the reason that within the highest development of intellect, knowledge and wisdom, the element of love should not be lost to consideration, as is so highly possible when the cold, fluid, "watery" aspects of the mental sphere, though significant of "expansion" (but in an abstract sense), are in the center of interest.

On the Tree of Life, Mercury is associated with Hod. Venus as Netzah and Mercury as Hod are but approximations. The Tarot thereby follow correctly the upwards leading paths within the Tree of Life. It has earlier been suggested to unite the Sephirot which stand on either the right or left side of the middle path. This here again is preferable, for on the upward path of study and learning the student is still below the central Tipheret. Tipheret itself, as Trump 6 (within the "lower" Trumps), is associated with Venus, that is "the Sun reflected by Venus". So Hod-Mercury is called upon to "perfect himself", for Trump 3 must turn into Trump 6, its "double", to achieve the union of Netzah-Hod. This perfection is aided by the influx of Vital Ether, the stimulating life-giving aspect of Akasha.

Within Trump 3 the sphere of Tipheret is still removed and it is the Netzah-Hod symbolism that applies. With Trumps 4 and 5 the sphere of Tipheret is approached. Trump 3

here should be seen as the "top of the lower pyramid", entering, from Yod onwards, the sphere of Hé, Air. Thus the relationship with Da'ath is said to be "open", for it is accessible via Hé as Air, and Mercury as "Wisdom" relates to the "all-knowing" Da'ath. If the symbolism of the Hebrew letter Gimel, values: 3 and 13, symbolism: an opened cup or flat-lying Moon-sickle, is an aid, then the letter-symbols are: Yod/Gimel.

Trump 2 has been shown to stand "in hidden relationship" with number 7, Trump 7. Trump 3 in turn stands in an "open", clear relationship to the 7. $3 \times 7 = 21$, the "Whole Physical-Astral-Mental Creation" of the 21 "real" Tarot cards accessible to Man. Here the relationship to the 7th planet, Saturn, is again stressed, for from Saturn issues forth the first element: Yod, or Jod. In the form of the Reflective Ether, the least dense manifestation of Akasha, the first expression of the Tetragrammaton, the first "whole name of God", is reflective of the path from Earth to Moon to Mercury, thus forming the "first Trinity" of Creation.

There is much reason to rename The Empress and call attention to "her" true attributes. These are symbolised on the Tree of Life by the opened Lotus flower, an image of Malkuth/Yesod - Hod - Netzah, the "lower trinity" which corresponds to the third Chakra. The 3rd Chakra is called "the precious jewel", it is situated at the navel. The Manipura-Chakra is associated with the "inner fire".

It stands for "integration" of Mans' three bodies - physical, astral, mental - and is associated with the first real hurdle on the Yogi's way to perfection, for the separate mastering of Yin and Yang now achieves its conclusion: integration, sublime alignment. In fact, within this sphere a first mingling or blending of the Vital Ether with the Reflective Ether takes place, via the ethereal "door" of the solar plexus or the navel. Therefore Trump 3 should correctly be named "Equilibrium" or "Integration", though the latter tends to be too abstract a name.



Golden Dawn and F. Bardons rosicrucian and quabbalist symbol.

In association with the 3rd Chakra, situated at the navel or the solar plexus, the student should not make the mistake of assuming that this Chakra is already "opened" in its full sense, it needs conscious effort to awake the divine powers emanating from the Chakras. Thus, as the full awakening of the 4th Chakra is already a major achievement within Yoga, so also the full scope of the 3rd Chakra takes time and effort to develop. Its full scope is associated with Trump 9, thus showing its triple and nine-fold qualities.

Within the Sino-Tibetan philosophy, Trump 3 is associated with the 2nd and 3rd Skandhas, thus with the intermingling of feelings (bodily or spiritual) with discriminative awareness, giving rise to reflection and intuition. The 3rd Skandha is called Samjna Skandha, it lies in the central place. Thus Trump 3 is reflective of the central place of the 4th Chakra, the Heart Chakra. As a Skandha, the 3rd is associated with discriminative awareness, which comprises reflective, discursive and intuitive functions, both of the psychic-astral as also of the mental body.

The White Eagle (as opposed to the Red Eagle of Trump 4) and the Pelican are not really valid symbols for Trump 3, whereas the open unfolded Rose of seven petals is correct. If a symbol could express "double-magnetic electromagnetism", as a first mirror-image of the Universe, then it is adequate. There is no Red Eagle in nature and the use of eagle-symbolism is subsumed to result from a preoccupation with the electric aspects of the element Fire. The student must now understand the "occult" reasons for Man's fall into materialism. This same preoccupation, it is recalled, had already led to the "fall of the Angels" (see [Trump 2](#)).

If the Hebrew letter Daleth, should it be applied instead of Yod and Gimel, signifies a door, "The Door", then it must be remembered that every Trump, every page in the Book of Wisdom, is a door.

The union between man and woman produces a child. This "child" is certainly associated with Trump 3, for it is the outcome of an alchemy that has already taken place. As a God, this child would be Horus, the "new God" born of the union of Osiris with Isis. Osiris then dies, he continues to exist as the God of the dead, and in this function is reminiscent of the qualities ascribed to Saturn, the planet of the weighing of Karma. In Christianity of course, the 3 is Jesus Christ, or - if "God and Christ are One" - then the Holy Ghost (reminiscent of the Mental sphere). Especially relevant to Trump 3, Jesus Christ proclaimed: "A new Law (T(h)ora) I will give thee: to love others as yourself".

Among Hindu Gods, Krishna is the "new" Avatar, the manifestation of Brahma on the earthly plane. In Buddhism, Trump 3 could well be ascribed the meaning of the direction North (mental), and there we find Amitabha, the "Buddha of eternal Light" (in the most popular symbolism; for the esoteric tradition, see Addendum 5: [Trump 6: Buddha, Buddhism, The Lotus of the five Dhyani Buddhas](#)).

In the Buddhist Dhammapada, chapter three is called "The Mind". The Buddha says: "The mind is fickle and flighty, it is difficult to restrain. Invisible and subtle is the mind, it flies after fancies wherever it likes; but it is a great good to control the mind. Let the wise man guard well his mind, for a mind self-controlled, well-guarded, is a source of great joy." And: "A Man's own mind, if wrongly directed, can do him greater harm than all his enemies combined."

The appearance of this card in a spread of the Tarot can mean both birth and death. The appearance of something new. Within a task to be accomplished, it points to the qualities of Will and "heightened intellect", aided by intuition, to master the arising situation. Apart from this rather abstract use of the mind, Trump 3 may also be seen as a time of harvest. Thus The Empress is associated with the benign qualities of the Greek and Roman Goddesses Demeter and Ceres.

They symbolise that after ploughing and sowing (Trumps 1 and 2), now approaches the time to reap the fruit of ones' labors. This is beneficent in every sense and may be borne out in fact, if the surrounding cards in a Tarot spread have a bearing in this sense. Of course the harvest always reflects what has been sown, if good, then good, if bad, then bad.

This is the card where the practice of Magic can be begun, based on the sound foundation of the "lower trinity". Still, being doubly "magnetic", this practice will rely mainly on invocation, for now only the first tentative steps are possible. Hermes Trismegistos means "Thrice great Hermes", he has shown the path from the physical elements to their astral correspondences, now it is the mental reflection of these elements that becomes visible. Under the guidance of Osiris, Isis and Horus, all in their benign aspects, the true "foundation" of the interaction of the heavenly bodies may be perceived. New also has the correlate meaning of "in its correct time and place", and so Aquarius, as the new sign mankind is entering, is the main zodiacal relation. Attempting a double-zodiacal symbolism, in keeping with the ancient use of 24 symbols, Aquarius has an "earthly" companion, either Capricorn or Virgo - the choice is largely open.

The sphere of Mercury, where it is said that 72 Genii watch over Man's evolution, can be invoked by the use of 8 candles or petroleum lamps, the symbol is an eight-pointed star. Relating to the mental sphere, rarefied incense is adequate. The 72 Genii or protective angels are sometimes associated with the "Shem-Ham-Phorasch", the 72-letter "name of god", yet God goes beyond this qualification. One special Genius, as divined by astrologic computation, may be invoked to serve as a personal guardian angel.

Within the Tarot, the first gift of the 3 Magi in honour of Jesus Christ , frankincense, has its proper place here. It thus links the "fate" of Trump 3 to an advance forward, reaching Trump 4, even more symbolic of gaseous-mental processes than can be associated with Mercury. Sword, Wand and Cup are correct magic attributes, if possible used in conjunction. Whatever is manifested now begins to take concrete form, alchemy or the "transmutation of waves" goes into action. As a beginning, great care must be taken to make the correct associations, yet the fire of Mercury - as manifest light - will light the way.

