

Trump VI or 6:

The Lovers

Alchemic Wedding

The first Hexagram

Venus as reflective of the Sun



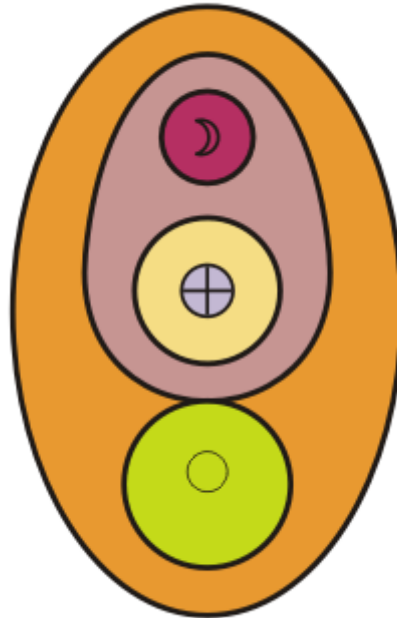
Trump 6, The Lovers, is symbolic of Union. The two first triangles, Man as a physical and Man as an astral being, are joined to form a whole. In the I Ching, the first two Trigrams now form a Hexagram of six lines. Fusion always relies primarily on the agent of Love. Therefore the planet Venus is associated with this card. 6 is normally the number of the Sun in the Quabbala, on the Tree of Life it is symbolised by the central Sephirah called Tipheret, associated with the Sun.

The Tarot always stress the dynamics of the human plane. Therefore the Sun is here shown in its aspect of the resplendent reflection of planet Venus, the morning and evening star, Earth's closest neighbor within the solar system. It is a shining yellow planet, almost equal to Earth in size, and was always an object of adoration among the ancient peoples. There it was associated with the loving, beneficial aspects of life, and through its yellow rays the plants were believed to be stimulated into growth. Therefore its astrologic colour was set at green, symbolising Venus' influence on earthly life. Intuition is its main attribute.

In ancient Egypt, long before the cataclysm of ca. 12.500 B.C., when the astral and mental-noetic bodies of Man were fully developed, it is said that direct contact with the "Hathor-race" of Venus, Beings of the fourth dimension, existed. This points to the real possibilities of Man, when he is fully developed, as is the case during the "high Time" of perfection, the golden age of Sakhya-Yuga.

The influence of Venus, as concerns the Earth-Moon sphere, is intense. Venus is close and almost as large as planet Earth. It is symbolised by the second pyramid at Gizeh, which also

includes all its measures. Upon Earth, the influence of Venus may be shown in the following graphic:



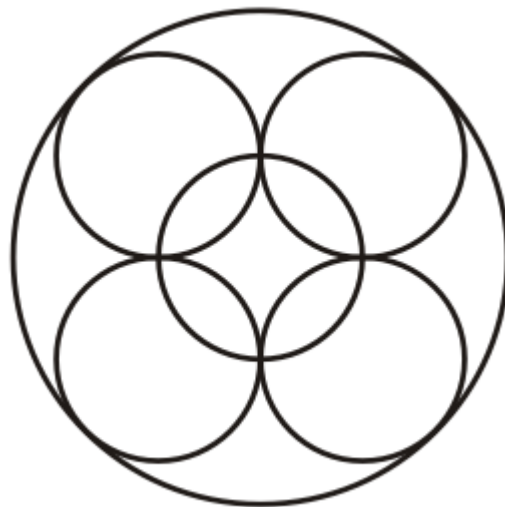
Venus, as correlated with the second planet from the Sun, as also its relation with the pyramids, is presented in more detail within Trump 16.

The Alchemic Wedding consists in a perfect blending of man and woman, it is a "short-cut to God". In the quabbalist language of the Mer-Ka-Ba, we may say that the alchemic wedding represents the joining of the two ethereal "vehicles" of Man. Thus bliss and deep wisdom is generated, the minds merge, the souls "marry". The two central Anahata Chakras merge, this is the higher or even highest stage of Tantra, the practical side of Mahayana Buddhism. What occurs, in other words, is a blending of the Vital and Luminous Ethers, among two human beings, thus "cracking open" the last restrictions of Polarity, giving direct access to the 7th Sahasrara Chakra, symbolised by the Reflective Ether. Even this Ether is then "purified" to allow pure Akasha to penetrate all three bodies of Man. Thus the "boddhisattvic" Body of Light is created by "instant fusion", as opposed to the slow meditative fusion of developing states of "Samadhi", the stages of enlightenment.

The central secret of Trump 6, of Tipheret, is also the access to the entirely pure inner vessel, Nadi, of Amrita Nadi. This will be discussed more at length, when the practical approach to this inner sphere is shown within the highest Trumps. It is an access to divine bliss, absolute joy, only via total inner dedication to the mysteries of the 4th Anahata Chakra. Thus the Heart is also an opening towards the highest spheres. It is exemplified by the life of a

perfected Bhakti Yogi. Bhakta Yoga is the path of complete devotion, of complete submission to the Divine, rejecting the higher mental-noetic spheres as unattainable. Unattainable, yes, by using the more mental path through the higher Chakras, attainable nonetheless through the inner divine ethereal "door" of Amrita Nadi, the Nadi of perfect, unobstructed, all-encompassing divine bliss.

The correspondent Yogic practice is given within the "Six Doctrines", as employed and proven by the Tibetan Yogi-Saint Milarepa (see [Six Doctrines](#)). An appropriate symbol, within ever-evolving life, is the first unity as shown by following graphic:



The Heart, ideally, is perfectly thought-free. It is the unqualified foundation of Being, in its potential expansion into all spheres, it underlies all manifestation. Therefore the Man centred in the Heart is "mindless", not through suppression of thought and idea, but because he understands everything as a recognition of his or her prior state, his or her mental state has "fallen into the Heart". This then is intuition and intuitive, spontaneous action (Lila or Karma-free) arising from the Heart, and not from the "boddhisattvic" higher mental body.

The relationship with Venus and its inhabitants therefore is a realist assumption, supposed to link our two planets into one common fate and destiny.

In the solar system therefore, it may be said that Earth is the man and Venus his mate, woman. The beings of Hathor-race are said to be extremely beautiful, up to the point of being dangerously seductive. This is the warning for the "sphere-magician" or the traveller between spheres: not to succumb to the seductions possibly proposed by the inhabitants of Venus. What is actually implied by this warning, is that the ethereal world of the Devas (Nordic Elves), which actually extends to include planet Earth, should be entered cautiously. The evolution "model" of the Devas, residing in ever-happy "Deva Chen", the Deva Heaven, is a

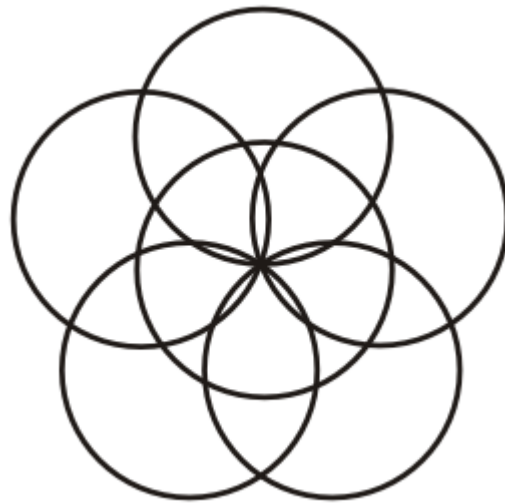
possibility for Man to adopt, indeed many Buddhist monks pray for admission in their next incarnation. The warning consist in pointing out that there are no more merits to be accumulated in this sphere, that there are little or no evolutionary dynamics involved. Thus this sphere is seen as finite, leading eventually to rebirth. It does not represent a permanent escape from the wheel of Dharma, from the recurrent cycles of life and death and life, successive reincarnations. If this, in all, is true, is not certain, only the Devas or Elves themselves may know.

By abstract definition, the Beings of Venus, be they Devas or Elves or not, may be said to inhabit exclusively the ethereal realms symbolised by the four Ethers.

For the first time in the Tarot two figures appear on a card, or even four or six. The attribution of Gemini, symbolic of man and woman uniting into one, would signify an attribution to the element Air. This, as the wedding of Fire and Water, is possible. Yet number 6 is also associated with the material, dense, crystallised Earth. It is certainly on Earth and not in the air that the alchemic wedding takes place. Again therefore, the attribution proposed is different from many card decks, namely the wedding of Fire and Water in its final outcome: Earth. Among the Earth-signs, it is Virgo that fulfils the attributes of perfect purity associated with the alchemic wedding. Virgo is the most earthly sign, its corresponding "double-sign" of the same element, Libra, has a tendency towards Air, yet on a higher sphere, i.e. astral and mental. Virgo also reflects the Hexagram, which signifies Earth as a crystal, crystallised by the influence of Fire, Air and Water. The Hexagram, as six-pointed star, is the first crystalline form to appear in the Tarot. It should be rejected as symbolising "material power", for no symbol is accorded this meaning in its highest, positive sense. Also, allegories of Kain, the sacrificial slaughter, the temptation of the snake - representing the lure of material power - are not adequate. Love among humans can always be problematic, but this aspect has no right to be included within the basic symbolism.

In an old version of Trump 6, called The Lover, either a single person or three people are shown. This then is the person looking for a mate or the group of three, whereby the third person blesses the union about to take place. Sometimes a cupid appears, thus symbolising an invisible, maybe astral or mental, maybe angelic being invoked to give his blessing for the alchemic process about to take place. The Lovers then are always shown "in action", symbolising a movement, a step about to be taken.

A possible symbol of this stage is a circle, in whose centre coincide five outer circles, the last stage before these circles form one flower in their centre. In contrast to the graphic given above, this further stage is symbolised as:



The Hebrew letter Zain, which has an analogy with Swords and Fire, is acceptable, for it must not be forgotten that the union of man and woman very seldom leads to an alchemic wedding, and there is always the possibility of strife, obstruction and enmity associated with the fusion of opposites. Fire again is the impulse invoked for the fusion to take place, here Fire as emotion, the moving agent of the sentiments. An alternative Hebrew letter could be Mem, the second of the three "mother-letters" Aleph, Mem, Shin. In one sequence, Aleph is associated with Trumps 0 and 1, then Mem with 10 and 11, finally Shin with 20 and 21. This, as symbolic of the unfolding of Creation is acceptable. Yet the "alchemic wedding", if ever it takes place in the lives of a man and woman, is beyond terrestrial reckoning, it leads to an ethereal union of complete blending and utter bliss. This then would be the intermediary Mem, applied to the life of a very fortunate man or woman. As mentioned concerning Trump 3, The Empress, our choice is finally beyond these possible Hebrew letters. It is best to place Daleth here, for its significance of a door that now can be crossed to enter a new space, and for the inherent analogy of Da'ath. The values for Daleth are 4 and 14, Venus is its symbol. Still, though our preference resides with Daleth, the other symbols are also valid - this is part of the wonder of Trump 6, The Lovers. The letter Zain has the values 7 and 17, whereby 7 is the holy number of Venus. Daleth - Zain is therefore doubly symbolic.

The alchemic wedding is a "short cut to heaven", thus leading the so chosen (for to achieve this stage a divine intervention must take place, it is the reward for long struggle and absolute purification), to accede to the spheres symbolised in the Tarot by Trumps 17, 19 and 21.

Considering the I Ching lines that begun with a first Yang at Trump 1, continued with a Yin at Trump 2, and then formed a first Trigram Yang-Yin-Yang in Trump 3 (i.e. Fire: Li). If the sequence, as proposed, were kept, then the second Trigram is formed by Yin-Yang-Yin, i.e.

Kan, Water. This is perfect symbolism for Alchemy at work. Regarding this whole hexagram, we find it corresponding to number 63 in the I Ching. 63 equals 21×3 or 9×7 . It is therefore significant, simply as a "holy number". Hexagram 63 is called: "After Fulfilment", Gi Dsi.

Confusion has found order, peace is established or will be established. Great caution is indicated, for events have reached their culmination. To avoid flexibility becoming rigid, a loss of dynamic, is the principal task. Continuing the quest in the same direction, under the same auspices, or using the same methods, leads to loss and reverse fortune. A change of "frequency", of attitude, of strategy, is indicated.

Thus speak the I Ching, and these same words may apply as to the appearance of this card within a spread of the Tarot. Of course loving union, even a great act of transmutation, is the prime aspect. Yet, were this not indicated by the surrounding cards (or within the questioners character and mentality), then the words of the I Ching are fully applicable.

Tipheret is the central Sephirah within the traditional Tree of Life. It directly corresponds to the hidden Da'ath, reflects the Sun and all ethereal forces. In Man it is the fourth Chakra, Anahata Chakra, the central heart, the innermost vitality and emotion. Via this Chakra, as via Tipheret, intuition enters, Man lets "his heart speak". It has its own language, detached from the intellectual, controlled expression of normal life. "God has entered Man", is the central message of the heart. Where doubt reigned, now intuition says that all is well, a hurdle has been taken, the lower, base and gross elements are no longer really important: Man has taken a decisive step towards spiritual freedom. There is no negative symbolism possible here. The extremely powerful emanations of the Sun are tempered by the yellow reflection of Venus. Alive in the Anahata Chakra, having integrated Tipheret, a lucky star shines upon the life of Man. This is the station he has strived for, having achieved it he is blessed and should experience happiness.

Inversely, being confronted with this card and unable to integrate it produces strong emotions of sorrow, regret and desperation. It is a lack of purity and innocence that is responsible for "feeling envy for the love and bliss of others' .

This is despicable, for we should join in the joy of others, feel happy for their bliss, ask for their blessing and kiss their hands. That is an adequate response. So The Lovers, if the individual is not "up to" this station, at least should work hard to achieve it, at the worst in a future life. Jealousy and envy constitute a manifest lack of love - this is not what Venus tries to tell us.

For the reasons given above, mainly the difficulty and extremely rare occasion associated with the alchemic wedding, Trump 6 has always been considered a "difficult card". Almost every book on the Tarot has its longest and most explicit - most complex also - chapter associated with this card. All types of angelic and demoniac forces and entities are discussed. Indeed, on most cards an angel appears on the upper half, a sign of divine intervention. The

inhabitants of Venus are shown in their evil, luciferic aspect, Lucifer himself is evoked. This is all part of the dangerous aspect of "seduction", in love and in power and might.

Not having achieved the divine union of alchemic marriage, the student may tend to abandon the quest. He may also turn towards the powers he has already acquired. If so, then he/she is seduced into materialism and abandons the ethereal quest for the perfected Self. That is the danger of disappointment. The answer again comes from the symbolism of the Grail. The hexagram, in Grail symbols, is the cup or chalice with a flat bottom. Thus, 6 points align to three curving downwards, an opposite "flat" point and two leading upwards, so forming a flat-bottomed glass or cup. With what substance this is filled, as with Trump 5 also, is the choice of the individual: green tea, ambrosia and the liquid of "eternal life", or simple stagnant water, or a drug, or even poison. These are the possibilities, yet in full confidence towards the integrity of the aspirant, here we only speak of living water and life-giving agents (and let all other fluids "go to hell" from where they originated). Blood is a holy substance and is directly associated with the heart - Tipheret. Blood should not be tampered with, and it is beyond our age of increasing light to assume that "the Gods can be assuaged" by bloody sacrifice.

The male prostate-liquid and sperm, and the female vaginal fluid are considered pure and faultless: they are natural and part of the living wonder of Nature in all its aspects. They are symbolised by the union of the 1st and 2nd Chakras. The practice of sexual magic, analogous to the alchemic wedding, is part of Trump 6. This is a very pure, personal and holy ritual. It normally should not be carried out in the presence of other persons, for the fusion of male and female forces is delicate and love, its main ingredient, is easily shied away. The angelic, divine forces are at work, and their aid is discreet. The partners in sexual magic should be aware that they are blending their subtle bodies. Thus the Chymic and Vital Ethers are joined. This should lead to bliss and deep understanding. The most important lesson to be applied is to check the emotions so that they cannot degenerate into passions, which would then make havoc of all subtle preparations and possibly destroy the very base upon whose harmonious interaction the whole practice was founded. Thus the lower three Chakras must be seen as only one harmonious generative, impulsive and vital sphere. This sphere must remain balanced for the individual to proceed further. If sexual magic interferes to imbalance this foundation, then it should be dropped and preparations be made for its application under more favorable circumstances, as for example within the spheres of Trumps 14 to 16. The practical application of the teaching of the Mer-Ka-Ba can be profitably undertaken in relation to the blending of the ethereal bodies, it is described in more depth within Trumps 7, 9 and 13.

One aspect of the use of sex in ancient times, that is from about 4.000 B.C. to 300 B.C. (when the Hellenist invasions of the Middle East stopped the practice), is the institution of "temple

prostitution". Thus every woman in a society, mainly the urban population, was made to give herself in love in special quarters of the temple. This was usually a temple dedicated to a female Goddess. It was meant to represent an act of purification. Bathing and washing accompanied the sexual intercourse. For the female it signified a sacrifice to the divine protective forces, for the male the relaxation and psychic uplift - inner harmony - necessary to correctly address and serve the presiding Goddess of the temple. Thus each member of the given community was equal, more equal and tolerant than were otherwise the case. For the virgins, both male and female, it served as an excellent introduction to maturity, under utmost gentle and "divine" circumstances. The involvement of the female servants of the deity was only a possibility, not a necessity: the pilgrim having come from afar had the right to be comforted and made to feel relaxed and at ease - what better way to achieve this? Of course, the Indian, Chinese and Tibetan Mahayana practices concerned with Tantra aim to achieve the Alchemic Wedding. That is the main reason for Tantra as a practical way of Buddhist meditation. The 4th, Anahata, Chakra is represented by a twelve-fold mandala, whereby six lotus petals intertwine with their correspondences, also six in number. Thus the Sino-Tibetan Skandhas, five in number, representing a "whole and total human being", unite to join tactile or body-consciousness with mental or mind-consciousness. It is here that the hypothetic sixth Skandha appears. It is condensed by the sixth line of a poem attributed to the great Tibetan Yogi and Saint (said to have transmitted his knowledge from Sumatra to Tibet) Tilopa:

"Don't imagine!

Don't think!

Don't analyse!

Don't reflect!

Don't meditate!

Keep your spirit in its natural state !"

Another rendering of the six Skandhas, adding another value to the traditional five Skandhas, reads: Form, Formlessness, Sensation, Perception, Impulse, and sixth: Consciousness.

This is possible only through a great control over the inner functions of the Self, an advanced degree of inner harmony. Therefore the mandala-arrangement of the five Dhyani-Buddhas, actually Boddhisattvas, is associated with the number 6. It places them within a circle which stands for Tao or Ain Soph Aur. This is shown in Appendix 2: Sino-Tibetan Dhyani-Buddhas. By "divine synchronicity" chapter 6 of the Dhammapada is called: "The Wise Man". It states: " He who drinks of the waters of Truth, he rests in joy supreme. The wise find their delight in

Dharma, in the truth revealed by the great. Those who make channels control the waters, carpenters control their timbers, the wise control their own minds."

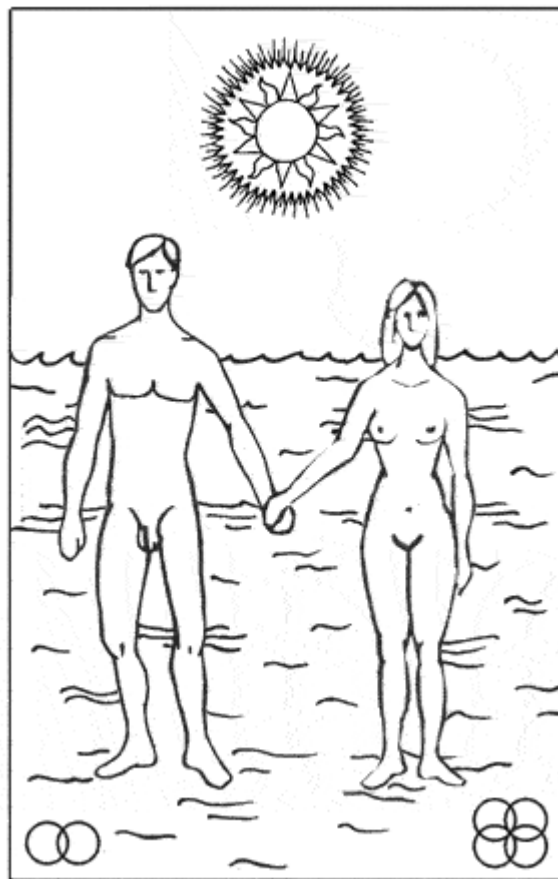


As already mentioned above, negative symbolism has no acceptable place within the Tarot. It is only the aberration practised by certain followers of the "left-handed way", reminiscent of "black" Tibetan Bön, that leads us to remark the following. Tipheret, though never the Anahata Chakra, may be associated with the Sun as symbolised by the hexagram. The Sun, supposed seat of 45 Genii, is said to be ruled by an "Arch-Intelligence": Mettatron. This must be the most powerful intelligence of the solar system. His "projection onto the terrestrial plane", by the evocation of the dense, material hexagram, is related to utmost, maximum power and might. Terrestrial power, dominant, a raw and even vicious force. This is a negative association of stupendous magnitude. Further, it is not Mettatron who is evoked but his demonic "double": Adamas. This is another name for Lucifer and part of the "trinity of evil" at the center of black magic worship. The associated color then is not the bright yellow-orange proper to the Sun, but the red of blood. All this is blasphemy. Unfortunately, when we look at the symbols employed by political, military and financial powers - the human "rulers" of this planet - we often encounter the Sun and hexagram. The student is warned not to employ any evocation of this type. He/she would seriously "burn his/her fingers", the force would be uncontrollable and violent. Damage to the body is still the lesser evil, for the spiritual path would be sundered and psychic-mental evolution inhibited for a long time. It is for very good reasons that Venus, and not the Sun, has been associated with Trump 6. The sphere of the Sun should not be evoked at all, it is the most powerful and very delicate to handle. Invokation of the 45 Genii, to aid in special undertakings requiring a strong resistance and very healthy body, is possible. Humbleness is the main trait to be stressed.

The oracular aspect resides in the handling of delicate situations. The surrounding cards will show the course to take. The appearance of The Lovers has all the various meanings

discussed above, therefore we will not condense them in a few precise sentences. Control of emotions is perhaps the most significant single factor, changes of attitude are collateral to this. Equanimity rules inner harmony, all inner functions exist only to be consciously purified, equilibrated, and merged with each other as harmoniously as possible.

The sphere of Venus is gentle, beneficent, offers comfort for the distraught. It may with all confidence be invoked. An evocation is possible, yet the strong and possibly seductive beauty of the "race of Hathor" must be taken into account. These ethereal Beings are also a part of terrestrial evolution, here called the Hindu or Chinese Devas or the Nordic denomination Elves. The intelligences of the Venus-Sphere number 90 by tradition, grouped astrologically by 7 or 8 according to the Zodiac. Green is the dominant color, yet this green is closer to its yellow component than to the blue. The number of Venus is the 7. Seven here stands for the totality of Man, it is Man's most holy number. Therefore 7 candles or petroleum lamps should be arranged in a seven-pointed star, within or without a circle. The fundamentally positive intelligences of Venus need not be approached with any defence, no protective agents are needed. These are our "next in kin", so Man can confer liberally with these beings. As incense Cinnamon, Rose and Lily - in the form of their ground blossoms and flowers - may be used.



Rectified traditional card