

Trump VII or 7:

The Chariot

The complete Tetragrammaton

Saturn as the mental-noëtic Earth-Sphere

Spirit over Matter

The Grail



Reverse movement of future past.

The Chariot symbolises the complete coagulation of all four elements. It is Akasha or Ether that achieves this. Man's influence is limited to the imprint his actions have left within the Karma of the whole solar system. The 7th sphere has always been considered unattainable by transient, mortal Man. Therefore, in old astrology, all outer planets - Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto and the trans-Pluto planetary bodies - were grouped into the symbol of Saturn alone. Via this sphere God's will enters the solar system "from outside" (versus via the Sun "from inside"). It is our link with the whole manifest Universe. Through the "door" of Saturn Akasha enters the solar system, and it is within this sphere that Akasha "divides" and condenses, thus creating the four Ethers. Saturn itself is symbolic of the Reflective Ether, the most refined, subtle and ethereal. From the condensation of Akasha into Reflective Ether stem the Chymic, Vital and Luminous Ethers. In an inverse symbolism, for the ancient civilisations of planet Earth were aware of the trans-Saturn planets, laid out in the ground-plan and stone markers of the temple and pyramid-city Teotihuacan, Akasha may be seen to enter the solar system via Pluto and the trans-Pluto planetary bodies. Then it becomes more dense, "dividing" into Reflective Ether within the sphere of Neptune, Luminous Ether within the sphere of Uranus, and uniting Chymic and Vital Ether within the Sphere of Saturn. This

reflects modern astrology rather accurately, for by Saturn then all Ethers, which together "reunite" into Akasha again, emanate into the inner solar system.

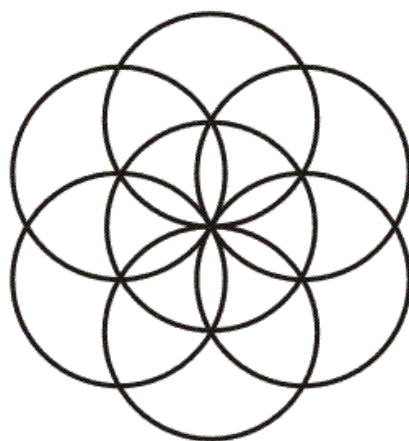
The holy number associated with Saturn is 3. A tripling of this symbolism, to include all Genii, Intelligences, "Archangels", noetic "trans-mental" Beings, leads to Trump 21, The Universe. Here we find Saturn in relation to the binary Earth-Moon Sphere, where he "rules" over all mental-noetic processes. Therefore Saturn, The Chariot of Trump 7, is said to weigh and statute over Karma, not only Man's Karma, but the Karma of the whole "Microcosm" that from this view is the Solar System (see Addendum 6: [Trump 7: The Law of Seven](#)).

This study of the Tarot, an attempt to compile the most relevant information concerning the archaic tradition as transposed into our modern times, has followed the most congruous route possible. Some symbols and analogies have been realigned, others have been refuted as inapplicable. Still, the Quabbala and the traditions of occident and orient have been followed as closely as possible. At Trump 7 it may prove natural and helpful to show the point of view taken by Theosophy. There, the solar system is perceived as one whole, "living" being, made up of seven planes: Divine (1), Monadic (2), Spiritual (3), Intuitional (4), Mental (5), Emotional (6) and Physical (7). This is in the main a correct reflection of our interpretation. The system of initiation proposed by Theosophy consists of five terrestrial stages, a sixth initiation leads to acquiring the "body of Christ", reminiscent of the outcome of the Alchemic Wedding. The sixth and seventh initiations are given after "man has passed away from Earth". Man is then said to become a member of the "Brotherhood of Sirius". No description of the 7th initiation is given, it is already wholly cosmic and beyond Man's comprehension. Within the further study of the Tarot, this highest sphere is then associated with the Suns' twin-star, Sirius. This sphere is approached via Trump 17.

The universe, with the solar system as its microcosm, in this system consists of seven rays of evolution, i.e. "God's divine will is emanated in seven rays. This is also expressed by the Tarot and by the system of Chakras, though the Tarot are more concerned with the psychic and mental dynamics of evolving Man. Therefore the seven rays have been tripled into 21 Trumps plus God as Zero. 56 further cards enter into the "details" of physical, psychic-astral and mental-noetic processes. And the 56 Minor Arcana are divided into 4 suits of 14 cards, again reflective of the "7 as source" which, in the quadripolar Earth-Moon binary system, becomes the eightfold aspect of the 7 ($7 \times 8 = 56$). Trump 7 is symbolic of all this, but we will follow the path of the student, and there The Chariot shows how far he/she is already developed (or what development is possible).

The harmonious functions of Man's physic and astral bodies is taken for granted. This "lower" equilibrium is already achieved and need not be considered anymore. It is the mental aspect of "conscience" and far-sighted, "mental" intuition and clairvoyance that Trump 7 is concerned with.

Thus, with Trump 7, we reach a point of "harmonic conversion" with the physical-astral-mental "vehicle" called the Mer-Ka-Ba. Within the sphere of Trump 7 the physical body touches the potentially revolving higher mental-noetic body or field that has its center at Trump 17. The physical bodies' point of touching the equally revolving astral or vital-emotional body or field lies at Trump 8. The symbolism of Man as a potentially moving "mind-field", made up of three "wheels" - Rotae - is enlarged upon within the symbolism of Trump 9. The lower physical body, which remains stable and is the seat of the unmoving central Self or Soul, is symbolised by Trumps 1 to 8, which include all the centers exclusively associated with the physical body alone. The Mer-Ka-Ba constitutes a vehicle, therefore its relevance to The Chariot is very apt. It is the vehicle of the whole, completed Man, taking the four-dimensional form of a star-tetraeder, which envelops the double-luminous Being, Man. Through the development of a mental "boddhisattvic body", Man can actually take control of this vehicle to travel the spheres. This is enlarged upon within Trumps 9, 13, 15, 16 and 17. Suffice it to say here that the mandala-image of the "Flower of Life", which stands in direct relationship to the image of the Tree of Life, begins with 7 circles intermingling to form a first "flower". This will enlarge to 19 circles which symbolise all Creation and imply a six-dimensional reality within our solar system. We give here the picture of the "sixth day of Creation", the formation of the first flower of seven circles:



Though the 7th Chakra, Sahasrara Chakra, is far from being reached at this point of the ascending path, here it is already visibly reflected. The mental powers of Mercury are here brought to completion, what Trump 3 has taught is here manifest. Thus we approach the full

unfolding of the 3rd Manipura Chakra, or also of its equivalent, the third Skandha, concerned with awareness, discrimination, reflection and intuition.

In the symbols of the quabbalist Ethers, here the Luminous Ether merges with the Reflective Ether, whose symbol is the 7th Sphere of Saturn.

The crystalline structure, manifestation of the elements on Earth, is advancing in complexity. The Earth's crust, the uppermost layer of life, is called to mind. The Chariot moves on the Earth's surface, it relies on wheels and animals to pull. A charioteer is necessary to give direction. This "vehicle" of Man, artificial product (result of imagination and work), and animal - a "personal trinity" - moves on Earth, which symbolises that "Man has found his proper station in time and space", his coordinates are laid down. In this sense The Chariot is a singularly strong personification of the questioner in a Tarot spread, the perfect "significator". It is not human in the physic-astral sense, yet encompasses all that Man can be or become. Therefore it is said that "7 is 1 and 1 is 7".

The "Lords of Karma", the arch-intelligences of the Saturn Sphere, are 49 in number (7×7), or as they also allow life and action for and by the negative entities of the solar system, they may be counted as 147 (49×3 or, quabbalistically $1 + 4 + 7 = 12$ as reflective of their total "zodiacal" scope) or 343 (49×7 or 10), as numbered in the grimoires of Alchemy. This sphere is hardly accessible to Man, nor has he much reason to "travel" there: the knowledge and wisdom of the Mercury Sphere already comprises whatever may be learned by direct contact with Saturn. Evokation does not work, these intelligences do not descend into the Earth-Moon system. Invokation is admissible only at death, when the principles of the Wheel of Dharma are invoked, the Bardos of the Bardo Thödol, the Tibetan Book of the Dead.

Invokation of protective agencies for a spreading of the Tarot cards is possible, yet only in association with the whole Zodiac and all planets.

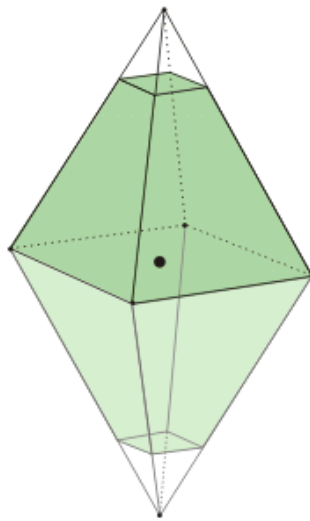
Though 7 is the divine number associated with Venus, here it is definitely not the planet Venus as we know it today, but its ancient aspect of Isis - Sirius.

It is Isis, the Goddess of "all that was, is and will be" on Earth (!), who leads us to the Hebrew letter Hé, the second Hé of the Tetragrammaton: Earth.

In Trump 7 therefore the first whole rendering of the Tetragrammaton is complete, via Trumps 3, 4, 5 and 7. Creation of the physical plane is complete. This will be repeated, on

a "higher level", (if that is possible within the scope of the individual), with the double-seven: Trump 14, totally analogous of Trump 7, and the "higher 7", Trump 17.

On the Tree of Life, The Chariot is either the hidden Da'ath itself, or the trinity of the Sephirot Kether-Binah-Chokmah, considered inaccessible to Man. As proposed earlier, Trump 7 is associable to Ain Soph Aur, or maybe better, for the Trumps continue through two more expressions of the "Law of Seven", the inner or lower Ain, the absolute. This Ain then is the "inner veil of Creation", followed by the further "veils" Ain Soph and Ain Soph Aur. Number 7 signifies the whole pyramid, above and below, as a crystal, with the center and its invisible reflection below added to the five visible points.

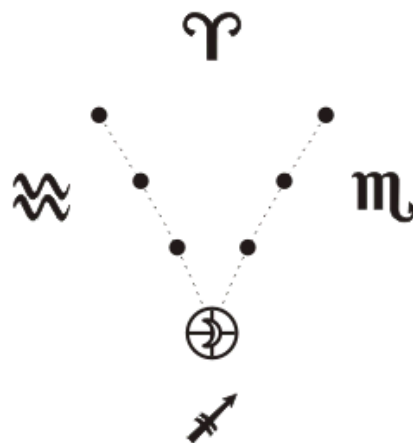


The symbolism of number 7 is extremely extensive. It goes from the "seven elemental weapons" to the whole symbolic way of the initiate, the searcher for truth.


One may ask: what is not 7? If seven reflects the qualities of Zero, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and six, what does not lie within its scope? The seven colours of the rainbow, the notes of music, the spectrum of light. Even the Karma of the whole Solar System is included. Just one illustration of all that is involved: If the I Ching are arranged in the form of a 64-sided crystal, and a division by 7 is made of its sides, all I Ching sides realign on triangles with a degree of 51'51", which is the slope of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh! This is hardly helpful to the aspiring student, for then all numbers would already end with Trump 7. It is only correct and logical therefore that with Trump 7 we encounter the artificial, man-made chariot. It is not meant to stand still but to move, not in the ether but on earth. We therefore meet Man in his totality, with his virtues and talents, able to tame the beasts and direct the course of terrestrial events. He/she is "whole", at least intuitively already beyond polarity, free to think, imagine and act.

The symbolism of the Golden Dawn or of Aleister Crowley, repeated in many other decks, of the Hebrew letter Vau (Water), Cancer (of water-element), or of letter Chet (value 8 as Mercury), the planet Jupiter (watery-gaseous), or even of the Zeth as Greek Zeta, they are all not in keeping with the whole Tetragrammaton formula, which rightly arrives here in form of the final Hé. Of course this implicates using the same Hebrew letter twice. Tsaddi, of the seven-pointed star of Trump 17 comes to mind. This letter was already realigned by A. Crowley to Trump 4, where we set our first Hé of the Tetragrammaton. Also, we have discarded Gimel from Trump 3 as not appropriate. The letter Vau was associated with Trump 5. All changes up to now are entirely consistent with the oldest, most ancient tradition. Chet goes well with Trump 8, whose numeric values are 8 and 18. We prefer the easiest way, the most logic analogy: Gimel, "from three to seven". Tsaddi we allow to remain with The Star, Trump 17. The Camel, supposed meaning of Gimel, is appropriate, for having reached Trump 17, the aspiring student has indeed passed through the eye of the needle, at whose other side, in oriental view, awaits the Camel to continue the journey.

The above analogies, if through a complicated cross-reference acceptable, show the difficulty and complexity when Saturn or the Saturn Sphere enters consideration. Therefore we once again turn to the symbolism of the Grail. There we find somewhat of a confirmation as to the "path among the Sephirot": from Binah to Geburah. Power and strength issuing from the highest trinity is appropriate. The Chariot represents the highest oracle, the oracle of Chronos (Saturn). If the chariot is drawn by two Sphinxes instead of two horses, then this points to an "absolute central mystery". In Grail legend, the final, perfect chalice - purified enough to receive the blood of the Saviour - is symbolised by 7 points, three downwards, a central point on the bottom, three upwards, just as the zodiacal symbol of Aries, only here now expanded from five to seven.



This is a receptacle neither for Water, nor for Air or Fire. So what may the zodiacal equivalent be to Saturn-Earth-Mercury? The answer may lie within the "akashic" equivalents of Tibetan-Chinese (Sino-Tibetan) astrology, the zodiacal signs associated with element Metal. These are the Monkey and the Bird. These are associated variously with Gen (Mountain) or Sun (Lake, Gentleness), as their I Ching equivalents. In the introductory chapter we made mention of a possible lost 13th sign of the Zodiac. If such existed, then here is its place.

Metal is white, in keeping with Saturn ("akashic" light violet to whitish). The I Ching, in the dynamic temporal order of King Wen, places Kiän, Heaven , at 45 degrees next to Kan (Water). Heaven in the abstract order of Fu Hsi, on top, is not adequate, for Trump 7 "is" all seven rays of divine emanation but not "God" or Heaven itself. "Easy mobility" is what is common to both Bird and Monkey. Mobility and movement is certainly a major aspect of The Chariot.

Once again we turn to Aquarius as the sign symbolic of all that occurs now within the solar system, the sign of our time. This is always a possibility. The reader may have noticed, though, that from Trump 4 onwards the Tetragrammaton was applied as analogy to the sign of the Zodiac: Aries as Fire of Air, Scorpio as Fire of Water, and Aquarius - in the spirit of our time - was associated with Mercury. On Earth, mirror of Saturn, we therefore place Sagittarius, Fire of Earth. This goes well with mobility and freedom of action. Also, the driver of the chariot, if he/she goes forward and into action, indeed carries a protective weapon, the bow of Sagittarius. At this point the true protective force is already visible, the great Hunter of Trump 10 : Orion.

The Jupiter-relationship is associated with the great god Jupiter, Zeus or Jahwe.

In the infinite polarity, the ever ongoing alchemy and transmutation, we prefer the symbolism of the "double-god", male-female, as found in Shiva-Parvati, Osiris-Isis, Zeus-Hera. In context to Greek myth Athena is reminiscent of the driver of the chariot, as maybe Mercury-Hermes too. As the driver, not the whole symbol.

In I Ching symbols, with Trump 7 we open the second Hexagram with a first line of Yang, reminiscent of Trump 1. The searching student here has learned much and gone through a major metamorphosis. It is now time to wholly integrate and apply what has already been shown. He/she now has the means to put the chariot in motion, apply intellect, imagination and intuition correctly, prepare the further way with the confidence of a free man or woman. Baser restraints have been overcome or brushed aside, a new era is opening.

The occult is becoming less secret and more transparent, the path of the searcher for the Grail now leads outside the halls of learning and discussion (King Arthur's Round Table). Stepping forward, supplied with a steed and the weapons of choice, the world opens up, what has been thought and mentally prepared may now be done. Action.

What is the first path of the Grail? The search for the life-giving source, the spring of rejuvenation, the blessing of the protective agencies.

In the Buddhist Dhammapada, chapter 7 is called: "Infinite Freedom". This will also apply to Trump 17. Chapter 17, inversely, is called: "Forsake Anger". Both are applicable. Anger points to helplessness facing the unknown. Faith is necessary and can help. But, as applicable to The Chariot, chapter seven reads: "The man who wisely controls his senses as a good driver controls his horses, and who is free from the lower passions and pride, is admired even by the gods."

With regard to the great majority of contemporary cards, The Chariot with both wheels on firm, green ground. Vegetation is indicated. The choice of Horse vs. Sphinx is irrelevant. We prefer our horses of natural horse-colour: grey-specked and brownish. We prefer our Sphinxes in the natural colour of the Sphinx at Gizeh: light-brown, sand-brown, light Siena. The colour of the Chariot is best a violet-brown below, any baldachin should be greenish-blue. Yellow-orange, to show the further path - towards the Sun - is also indicated. Whether the charioteer is man, woman, an angel, Athena, a prince or king - is it really important? As a hermaphrodite is not wholly symbolic of the questioner, the student and searcher, we prefer a young handsome man. One hand on the reins, the other empty. A wand or bough and arrow allows for interpretations that do not align with the great cosmic significance of Trump 7, yet may apply to "Fire of Earth": Sagittarius.

Again, we remind of the analogy to Trump 14, for the same symbolism is also applicable there, thus The Chariot leads to Alchemy.

Here we may introduce the symbolism of Hindu "Lila", which corresponds to Karma as Freedom, just as Spontaneity corresponds to law and Necessity. Lila means "spontaneous, ego-free, unreflected, wholly intuitive" action, which has no bearing on Karma. Why? Because the conscious, self-reflective Self, the Ego in this sense, is absent. No karmic reaction therefore follows. That is the meaning of Taoist "action within inaction", for the Self is untouched by its outer movement, its actions result only from intuitive inspiration emanating from a higher sphere. This is the total absence of meditation, evaluation, reflection. In Hindu

thought it is proposed as the most favorable way through the intricacies of Maya, the world of illusion.

This, in Buddhist thought, is also the sphere of the Siddhis, the gift of magic faculties. These should be weighed and integrated, they are a divine gift. Their practical use lies within, for the furthering of inner yogic qualities, as impulses for further inner purification. Unwavering constancy is indicated, the quiet progress of inner purification, in order to maintain the Siddhis, to make them and their actions impeccable. Thus Man, standing tall and strong, is ever reminded that the true action lies within. The outer world may exist and some may be called to rule, but the qualities of inner virtue always take first place, no action can lead to long-lasting success if the conscious action of inner purification is interrupted. Thus every ending is always to be seen as a new beginning, there cannot be a return to static conditions, life calls upon Man to fulfil his obligations, to deepen and widen the inner transmutation.

Within a spread of the Tarot cards it has already been said that Trump 7 is the perfect "significator" for man or woman. It lacks the human element, for it stands in analogy to the mental-noetic sphere. Intuition is the main aspect. Control is another. The will is pronounced. Therefore its use as significator is only an abstract possibility, or referring to a direct question which implies wilful, direct action to be taken. The questioner then must be a largely perfected individual, for he/she needs to be totally balanced to grip the reins and steer without fault. The appearance of this card relates to its above characteristics. A balanced, strong, even-handed view must be taken. As with all Major Arcana, it is the Minor Arcana or other Trumps associated which determine the nature of the situation. A situation of doubt has been implied by other commentators. This is only a possibility, Saturn and the whole Tetragrammaton are not linked to uncertainty or doubt. The outcome will most likely be good, whatever the circumstances. It is indicated that the "normal way" should be followed. Trump 7 is not rebellious, there is no need to be. Victory (Athena) will come by itself, therefore we do not need weapons. To follow the fate-given path is part of the divine plan. The protection of the angelic powers is assured, confidence and action should follow.

Invocation of the Saturn Sphere should not be sought, evocation even less. If an action invoking the blessing power of The Chariot is looked for, then it should concern a blessing of very noble, lofty sort. In combination with Alchemy, the transmutation of elements and the Alchemic Wedding, this surely has its place. We are fundamentally dealing with the Mental-Noetic. This cannot be taken all alone by itself, it must be associated with an astral or physical element. Intuition is a nice dream if it does not lead anywhere. So the

placing of all Tattwas, of all the elements and their aspects is indicated. The whole Zodiac, not only one or two signs, all planets and the Sun, not merely Saturn or Saturn-Mercury. Then Trump 7 can be placed as a triangle, 3 points and sides, among the others. This triangle is not meant to be placed in the middle of a circle, nor to encompass one. Three candles or petroleum lamps may intertwine with other symbols. The incense of Black Poppy or Caraway seeds should be mixed with others, or placed in connection with another incense, preferably Frankincense and Rose.

An association with the symbols of Venus is recommended.



Rectified traditional card