

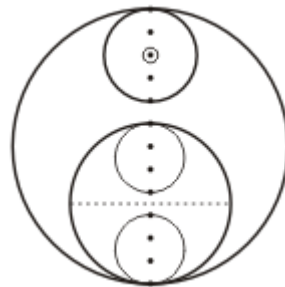
Trump VIII or 8:

Sophia

The Wheel of Dharma

Holy Science

The manifestation of the Sun



With Trump 7 the first "Ray of Seven" had been concluded, a first analysis of the seven Chakras, of the cosmic rainbow, has led through the seven "ancient, holy" planets, the theoretic body of Man built from 1 to 7. The first whole body of Man, built from the merging of the first and second Chakras, the physical-psychic body, is symbolised by Trump 8. It may be called the "double-luminous Being".

The confusion, on purpose or not, reigning among Trumps 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 is great. Clearly we leave a first "Heptade" behind and enter a second, from 8 to 14, beginning a human cycle that again starts with an individual and ends with The Alchemist, Trump 14. The individual human and his/her relation to the Tarot is shown by Trumps 1 and 2. There, the fundamental station of Man has been laid out. What we encounter in Trump 8 is therefore this same individual, yet seen from a different angle, more specific but also more enlarged.

Trump 8, Strength, is therefore "Strength of the Mind". This is Sophia, Sophia Perennis, Wisdom. The eight-spoked wheel of Dharma leaves us no choice. The eightfold Way of the Buddha leads to Liberation, freedom from the world of Samsara, the wheel of Dharma leading from life to death to life.

Adjustment, as A. Crowley suggests, is then simply the balanced, already advanced state of mind of the student. It does not really pertain to any symbolism of use within a spread of the Tarot. This secondary function, the oracular aspect of the Tarot, it must not be forgotten, has saved the Tarot (as also the I Ching) from being lost for ever. It should not be relinquished, it is also an important key.

The unravelling of the confusion concerning especially Trumps 8, 11 and 12 is difficult. In modern times they were realigned, re-associated, loaded with mutually exclusive symbolism, associated often to the whim of the commentator. 8 is the holy number of Mercury. The "strength" of Mercury does not lie in the domination of Leo, or of the Sun, the leonine force par excellence.



Nor is Man merely a tamer of wild animals, or simply involved in a constant struggle to control his/her emotions, fantasies and impulses. To lead a lion, strength of will, physical force and an intimate relationship with big cats are indispensable. In fact, the lion was used to symbolise the Luminous Ether, seen by itself. That, at the high station of Trump 8, is not adequate, for an expression of Akasha, the Luminous Ether, cannot be condensed into an animal-symbol. But that is the old card game. The newer cards leave this aspect. Some insist on the Hebrew letter Thet and its symbolism of: Magic. Yet Magic is pervasive among all Tarot cards, it is their very essence. Also: Why associate "Strength" with Magic? Magic is used to serve, not to rule. The most likely answer is that in earlier systems of the Tarot the physical, astral and mental Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone, the principle of the Earth-Moon binary system, was not associated with Trumps 1 and 2. Thus the astral and mental-noetic aspects only now entered these considerations.

Justice was earlier placed at the same position, now Trump 11. A balancing of powers is inherent in both. The profound question is: balancing of what powers? The answer to this has direct relevance to Trump 12, for the twelve is not only a human aspect, but is symbolic of

the whole Zodiac. Trump 10, as reflective of the whole Quabbala, is also affected by the correct choice of symbolism.

Man, as the whole physical body, may also be symbolised by Trumps 1 to 8. This is the view already mentioned within the symbolism of Trump 7, that Man consists of three bodies, each of which is also a wheel. The lower wheel - Rota - does not move physically (or rather: only physically), yet it touches the potentially moving wheels or fields of the astral or vital-emotional body and of the mental-noetic body. These move around their centers, symbolised by a four-spoked wheel around Trump 11, the astral sphere, and an eight-spoked wheel centered around Trump 17. The mental-noetic sphere or field has a "harmonic convergency point" with the physical body within the sphere of Trump 7. The astral or vital-emotional sphere touches the physical body within the sphere of Trump 8. Trump 9 is the astral wheels' "outer separate" point (where it stands apart from the physical body). The whole study and practice concerning this view is called Mer-Ka-Ba. It is analysed more fully within Trump 9.

The ascending path of the learning student is always the primary concern in the elucidation of the Tarot. Where does the path lead him after Trump 7? The Grail symbolism is clear: in search of the life-giving spring, of the elixir of life. The danger, or the possibility of danger, is then not imminent, the search is just about to begin. The dragons and monsters protecting the Grail have not yet appeared, the magicians and witches neither. The Grail-knight sets forth in an innocent, searching and seeking state of mind. No battle has begun.

Sophia advises us to reconsider. The correct choice of station, the coordinates of space and time, was stressed at the outset of this study. Why? To give the active searcher for truth some easy tools meant to allow for an orientation within the changing flux of events. The qualities of time change, as does everything in the Universe. "All flows", as Heraclit stated.

A quote from the Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistos, its 8th paragraph, may reveal what forces apply to Trump 8: "This is the Power of all Powers, for it conquers everything subtle and penetrates everything solid."

In the Buddhist Dhammapada, recording the spoken words of the Buddha, chapter eight is called: "Better than a thousand". It says: "Better than a hundred years lived in ignorance, is one single day lived in wisdom; .. Better than a hundred years not seeing the Path Supreme, is one single day of life if one sees the Path supreme."

Of course, the Tree of Life, the 10 Sephirot, is not yet complete in the traditional sense. But in the realignment of the Sephirot as proposed - to realign with the most ancient

traditions - we now enter the outer spheres of the "veil of Creation", or have even arrived at its conclusion, the achievement of "inner fusion". Tarot Trumps 11 to 20 are seen as a repetition, on a higher or more profound level than the previous Trumps 1 to 10. The second Heptade, 8 to 14, will be followed by a third, from Trump 15 to 21. This is symbolic of the structure of Man: physical, psychic-astral and mental-noetic. Yet Trumps 1 to 7 have already dealt with all these aspects. Is the student therefore "told" to ascend completely, to unequivocally enter the psychic-astral sphere, to see everything from that point of view? Were this possible at this stage of human development, then indeed this should be the course taken. Yet Man today is still firmly anchored within the third dimension, his physical work is not finished, he cannot take the great leap towards the higher dimension. This is today, as in the past, limited to those secluded individuals or small groups which, through their own ascension towards the higher dimensions, serve as the pioneers for all mankind. They may well arrive at the sublime conclusion of the 2nd and 3rd Pentade, the "Mirror Tree of Life" of higher dimension. But, though this is certainly the path every student should take if this is within his/her possibilities (for then he/she becomes a true light-bearer for all humanity), the Tarot must also still be meant for those who remain, perhaps in "special mission", on the terrestrial plane. Thus we find that the central Sephirot within the Tree of Life, Tipheret, is wholly centered within Trump 8. The 4th Chakra, the Heart Chakra, in actual reality, pervades all other Chakras and may, in this age, be the only Chakra wholly accessible. By invocation and evocation we have already paved the way to visit or invoke the higher spheres, yet always from the point of view that the individual remains on Earth.

Trump 8 symbolises the 4 Ethers emanating from Akasha, in their double or "astral" aspect. Each Ether has undergone a purification, their aspects are all elevated into more subtle, ethereal realms.

The implicit logic of Trump 8 gives the impulse to search deeper, to reconsider Sophia - Wisdom - and what is known as Holy Science. The factors hampering this exploration are mainly that not all wisdom of Holy Science has survived the ravages of time. We may say that the wisdom of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh, named Khufu by convenience, has fortunately survived rather intact. This has given the coordinates described at the beginning of this study. The second great Pyramid, named Khefren, is largely unexplored. It is said to contain the secrets of all living plants, of the minerals, of all medicine and healing practices.

We cannot accede to this knowledge directly, less even if its meaning is hidden within the Tarot, for just even concerning this symbolism they are all but unintelligible. The Tarot symbols, the correct ones, have been supplanted by very earthly, material aspects of human

life. These latter can hardly claim to correspond to the symbolism of the second , Khefren, and lastly third, Menkaur, Pyramid.

Only in the last years of the 20th century has a significant relationship among the three pyramids been established. Thus the so-called Khufu pyramid as a whole stands for planet Earth. Its mean measure of the four sides, when related to the ratio of Sun and Earth (by volume) gives the speed of light to an accuracy of 0,003%. The volume of the second Khefren pyramid is as the volume of planet Venus, if the first Khufu pyramid stands for the volume of Earth. The third Menkaur pyramid, by volume, corresponds to Mercury. Their distances, from tip to tip, reflect the distances between these three planets, as also their medium side-lengths are in ratio to their positions in space (when aligned, invariable, in their medium positions on their elliptical "circle").

We will attempt to unveil this obscure knowledge - Sophia - by a further look at the numeric values of Holy Science. "All is Number", as said the adepts of the school of Pythagoras.

All planets and the Sun have numeric values, which may also be expressed by "magic squares". The most simple is the magic square of Saturn:

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

This has various meanings: The "number of Saturn" is 3. Therefore the number of lines involved is three, three horizontal and three vertical. Each line adds up to 15, as do also the two cross-lines. So we have a total number for this square of 120 (8 x 15). The "key-number", i.e. the central number, is 5, in the middle. 3 times 5 is also 15. All numbers, 1 to 9, add up to 45, 3 x 15. Tarot Trump 15 is called The Devil, probably for his correlation with the Guardian-Spirit of magic science. In the Grail, the life-giving spring is said to be guarded by a dragon.

By the total number, Saturn is correlated with the 12 signs of the Zodiac, the high symbols governing evolution and Creation. 15 multiplied by 3 gives 45, i.e. quabbalist 9. 9 is given the connotation of Change, the highest, most dynamic change possible. 9 is also 3 squared.

Saturn, which we have placed as associated with Trump 7 (and it is the 7th sphere from the Sun, counting the Moon as a separate sphere), is here seen as in line (the central line) with 3 (his own number), 5 (the number of Mars) and "himself": 7. This is symbolic of the vast dynamism active in the solar system.

All numbers of Quabbala, 1 to 9 (plus 10) are to be found in this magic square. The symbolism is pervasive, all-inclusive. This we have remarked upon concerning Trump 7: "what is not symbolic of the 7?"

Trump 8 is related by number to Mercury. 88 is also the number of days it takes Mercury to complete one rotation (orbital period) around the Sun. The magic square of Mercury is highly complex, just short of the complexity of the Moon. It is made up of 8 lines:

64	2	3	61	60	6	7	57
9	55	54	12	13	51	50	16
17	47	46	20	21	43	42	24
40	26	27	37	36	30	31	33
32	34	35	29	28	38	39	25
41	23	22	45	45	19	18	48
49	15	14	52	53	11	10	56
8	58	59	5	4	62	63	1

Here we see that the total of each line is 260. This is in analogy to the numeric value of Jehovah, 26, multiplied by 10. The whole value expressed is 4680, that is 260 x 18. Including the cross-lines, multiplied by 20, the whole number is 5200. The choice between 18 and 20 is possible, especially because we arrive at two distinct symbolisms. The center is

made up of four numbers around the graphic center-point. In this case, these numbers are 29,28,37,36. These add up to 130, which is half the value of each line. Quabbalist 130 is 4, also half of the "holy number" of Mercury: 8. 13 also appears: $10 \times 13 = 130$, and $20 \times 13 = 260$. 13 is associated with rapid change, though more psychic-astral than the change implicated by number 9. Yet the nine is also to be found here, for 18, the whole number of lines, is both 2×9 and quabbalist 9.

In the Tarot it reflects the Moon, whose magic square is made up of 9 lines. A further important factor concerning Mercury is that all its numbers, from 1 to 64, add up to 2080. This "special magic square of Hermes" is also the implicit number of the DNA genetic code. Furthermore, it breaks down to 13 as inherent number and 10 by $2 + 8$. 2080 is the result of 260 multiplied by 8, .i.e. the sum of one line multiplied by Mercury's holy number. The association of Mercury with the Sun and number 8 , Trump 8 , is implied by the whole number of the square: 4680, multiplied by 18 (18×260), without the cross-lines. This, read backwards and multiplied by 1.000, gives 864.000, the number of miles of the Sun's diameter. 4680 gives the quabbalist 18, again. Here we find implied, by reverse symbolism, the Sun's light as reflected by the Moon, i.e. the "Sun by the Moon". True astronomic measures of Mercury and Moon, their diameters of 3.000 and 2.160 miles respectively, add up to 5.160, an approximation within only 40 miles of divergence with the total number , $20 \times 260 = 5.200$, of the twenty lines, i.e. including the two cross-lines which also add up to 260.

The traditional value of the original 8, Trump 8 by analogy, is "all and everything", the whole number of directions, the Wheel of Dharma, the Zodiac as represented by the terrestrial 8. As 4 is the central symbol of planet Earth, the double-polar (quadripolar) planet gives 8 as the symbol of the ethereal forces in their interaction with the terrestrial plane: the eight directions, the dynamism of "light developing from North to East", early spring as symbolised by North-East. East by spring. South-East symbolic of late spring and early summer. South by summer. South-West symbolic of late summer and early fall or autumn. West of autumn. North-West of late autumn and early winter. North by winter. The Sun's light has made a whole round, growing and rising, at its height, and then declining and all but disappearing.

This is the whole effect of above-mentioned angle of obliquity on planet Earth. The Zodiac, 12, are symbolically the forces involved in the slow change of this angle, thus slowly moving the seasons and the effect of light on Earth.

Tetragrammaton and Quabbala, by numbers 3, 4 and 10, aim to reflect the whole dynamic of the Universe. Thus they reflect the Holy Science of old.

For the benefit of the student of wisdom, we here include the magic squares of all planets and the Sun. The computations of each are given to facilitate the finding of possible correlations. In fact, thus we enter the speculative arena (also called Speculative Freemasonry), symbolic of the above-mentioned psychic-astral sphere. Alchemy has become an integral part of the system now, yet we leave the search for alchemic equivalents, the numbers of the elements, the associated transmutations and calculations to the further research of the individual. We hope to be able to include a consistent bibliography at the end of this study. Always, as with the Minor Arcana, the Tattwas may be trusted to point the way.

8	1	6
3	5	7
4	9	2

Saturn: 3 x 3; each line: 15 (=6); key: 5; whole number: x 6 = 90, x 8 = 120; thus in quabbalist numbers 9 and 12 (3) are implied; scope: 15 to 45; total of 1 to 9: 45; holy number: 3; "octave-jump": none. first number (Saturn): 12:

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

Jupiter: 4 x 4; each line: 34 (=7); key: 7,6,10,11 = 34 = 7; whole number: 340, i.e. 10 x 34 with the cross-lines, 272 when multiplied by 8; thus 11 (2+7+2) is implied; scope: 34 to 136; total of 1 to 16: 136; holy number: 4; octave-jump: from 12 (Saturn) to 15 (Jupiter)

The orbital period of Jupiter is 4.346 days (quabb.: 17) The orbital period of Saturn, to turn once around the Sun is 10.774 days (quabb.: 19)

17	24	1	8	15
23	5	54	14	16
4	6	13	20	22
10	12	19	21	3
11	18	25	2	9

Mars: 5 x 5; each line: 65 (= 11); key: 13; whole number: either 650 (x10) or 780 (12); thus 11 or 2, alternatively 15 or 6 implied; scope: 65 to 325; total of 1 to 25: 325; holy number: 5; octave-jump: from 15 (Jupiter) to 18 (Mars)
The orbital period of Mars is 687 days (quabb.: 21)

32	29	4	1	24	21
30	31	2	3	22	23
12	9	17	20	28	25
10	11	18	19	26	27
13	16	36	33	5	8
14	15	34	35	6	7

Sun: 6 x 6; each line: 111; 111 = "pyramid special holy number", or 3; key: 16,15,22,21 = 74, thus quabb.: 11; whole number: x 12 = 1332, x 14 = 1554; thus either 9 or 15 (6) are implied; scope: 111 to 666; total of 1 to 36: 666; holy number: 6; octave-jump: from 18 (Mars) to 21 (Sun). The Sun has a dynamic time-span of rotation, about 25 days at the equator, and about 29 days near the poles.

30	39	48	1	10	19	28
38	4	7	9	18	27	29
46	6	8	17	26	35	37
5	14	16	25	34	36	45
13	15	24	33	42	44	4
21	23	32	41	43	3	12
22	31	40	49	2	11	20

Venus: 7 x 7; each line: 175 (= 13 or 4); key: 25 (7); whole number: x 14 = 2450, x 16 = 2800; thus either 11 (2) or 10 (1) are implied; scope: 175 to 1225; total of 1 to 49: 1225; holy number: 7; octave-jump: from 21 (Sun) to 24; The orbital period of Venus is 225 days (quabb.: 9).

64	2	3	61	60	6	7	57
9	55	54	12	13	51	50	16
17	47	46	20	21	43	42	24
40	26	27	37	36	30	31	33
32	34	35	29	28	38	39	25
41	23	22	45	45	19	18	48
49	15	14	52	53	11	10	56
8	58	59	5	4	62	63	1

Mercury: 8 x 8; each line: 260 (= 8); key: 29,28,37,36 = 130, thus quabb.: 13 or 4; whole number: x 16 = 4160, x 18 = 4680; thus either 11 (2) or 18 (9) are implied; scope: 260 to 2080; total of 1 to 64: 2080; holy number: 8; octave-jump: from 24 (Venus) to 27 (Mercury); The orbital period of Mercury is 88 days (thus quabb.: 8 and 7 /16).

37	78	29	70	21	62	13	54	5
6	38	79	30	71	22	63	14	46
47	7	39	80	31	72	23	55	15
16	48	8	40	81	32	64	24	56
57	17	49	9	41	73	33	65	25
26	58	18	50	1	42	74	34	66
67	27	59	10	51	2	43	75	35
36	68	19	60	11	52	3	44	76
77	28	69	20	61	12	53	4	45

Moon: 9 x 9; each line: 369 (= 18 or 9); key: 41 (5); whole number: x 18 = 6642, x 20 = 7380; thus either 18 (9) or 18 (9) -!- are implied; ; scope: 369 to 3321; total of 1 to 81: 3321; holy number: 9 (and 2); octave-jump: from 27 (Mercury) to 30 (Moon).

The "inner relationships" may be of interest. An example, by "key number": Saturn to Venus is as 5 to 25 (5 squared); Mars to Moon is as 13 to 41, or prime-number to prime-number, whose "inner core" (see Appendix "Shadow and Light") relate as 76923 76923 76923 76... (in a variable double-field related to a prime-number beyond 701), to 24390 24390 24390 24..., or, simplified according

to quabbalist numbers, they relate as 27 (7+6+9+2+3) to 18 (2+4+3+9), i.e. as 2 x 9 to 3 x 9, or as 9 x 3 to 6 x 3. They thus share an inner meaning of 3, 6 and 9, in spite of their holy numbers 5 and 2 (9). In the dimensions still to be discovered, for they do not end with a fourth dimension, the numbers of holy science could act as a guide. If no Principality of the Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone would guide the student, or a knowledgeable guardian-angel, then holy science can explain the otherwise unexplainable.

In accordance with above reflections relative to the Tarot, we shall now continue to regard the following Trumps, as of Trump 8, with a focus on the astral-psychic development of Man. Therefore the names traditionally ascribed to these Trumps will take back-stage. We will try to analyse them as profitably as possible, but the further significance of the numbers and their "inner character" will largely replace the names given to the Trumps. Trump 8, in

our view: Sophia, will be called Trump 8, not Strength or Adjustment or Justice (as in older decks). We propose the Tree of Life as the "World Esh Tree", Yggdrasil, as the central symbol. Its implications are given further onwards.

The Wheel of Dharma is usually to be found associated with Trump 10. This is the symbolism of the Tree of Life. The strongest forces in action - within the visible universe - are those of the Sun. It is not extreme to propose that the slowly flowing shift of the Suns' action on Earth influences the equally flowing movement of Dharma. The Sun is but an aspect of Trump 10, which in the language of the Quabbala includes the solar system as a whole. Thus it is correct to place the Sun in association with Trump 8. The Wheel of Dharma is eight-spoked (or twelve- and sixteen-spoked, at most). By the number 8 a smooth and eternally recurrent movement is indicated. It is within the sphere of Trump 8 that the 4th Anahata Chakra, the Heart Chakra, is totally centered. We may also say that therefore the Sephirah Tipheret is completely symbolised by Trump 8, although 6, the holy number of the Sun, is its station within the Tree of Life. The complete merging of the two spheres, symbolised by 6 and 8, leads to 14, the practical application of Alchemy. It is the inner Alchemy in its purest state, and thus may lead to the practical outer manifestation too.

The astrologic association with the sign Leo poses no problem, and for symbolic reasons Trumps 1 and 2 have been associated with the male and female lion. But this was simply made to incite utmost force in discovering the hidden meaning of the Tarot. Force is indeed an attribute of Leo. As we always strive to give a double zodiacal aspect, reflecting the ancient 24-sign Zodiac, Leo should not stand alone. Here, as all types of animal-symbolism are invoked, we propose to associate an Earth-sign, namely the one we had rejected for The Hierophant: Taurus. This sign also symbolises force, the "force of Earth". Taurus is well in need of restraint, as astrologic analogy goes. In the age of Taurus bloodshed of hitherto unknown extent was unleashed upon humanity. The Assyrians, Babylonians, the "Hyksos-invasion" of Egypt, and finally the bloody conquests of the Aryans in Central Asia and India, all waged innumerable wars in this age. The hitherto stable forces on planet Earth were shaken. Leo - Taurus is therefore our preferred association. The Tattwas can most profitably be placed within such consideration.

We have mentioned that with Trump 7 a second hexagram of the I Ching was opened. Thus, repeating the Yang-Yin course, Trump eight is associated with Yin, the solar force thus being "feminine", receptive. 8 is the holy "middle way" of Buddhism. 8 is also the core of the I Ching, its 64 Hexagrams derive from 8×8 . The student will remember, that Mercury, by the "magic square of Hermes" - 2080 - holds the whole symbolism of the I Ching. Being an oracle

of the Sun ($8 \times 8 = 64$), using solar symbolism above all else, we see how Mercury is placed as the divine messenger of the Suns' emanations towards the Earth.

We have not yet constituted a Trigram of the I Ching, so we will leave out any intermediary symbolism (though Trump 8 stands in the middle of Thunder, The Arousing). The I Ching variant, composed of three different lines, in a turn-around of the lines proposed concerning Trump 4, gives us two "Tetragrams" concerning Trump 8: The first states: "To rule is to serve. To serve is to rule." This is true, for the possible might of Magic, Quabbala and Alchemy is destined for the service of mankind only. The magician, quabbalist and alchemist must serve, to rule without serving the development of Man is an aspect of "Black Magic", impossible even to consider. The second Tetragram states: "Use what is not there. The wheel only serves by the voids between the spokes, a pot of clay only serves by the empty hollow." Thus, once again, the "immaterial" or astral is stressed.

Mercury, whose holy number is 8, has been discussed above. What remains is to analyse the relationship of Mercury with the Sun. Offhand, according to the significant numbers of the magic squares, there is little relationship. By measures, the Sun is exactly 288 times the size of Mercury (by diameter). 288 breaks down to quabbalist 18 or 9. 288 is also 4×72 , 48×6 or 24×12 or also $12 \times 12 \times 2$. As the holy number of the Sun is 6, the relationship is as 6 to 8 (or as 4 to 3). This is so simple as to possibly escape attention. It means "physical and psychic-astral" in relation to the "mental-noetic". The number primarily shared by both is 11 (symbolic of strong dynamic change). Their octaves are 21 to 27, with the 24 of Venus as relating principle.

Thus we have a true mirror-image of the Suns' rays as they reach planet Earth. Its emanation is first mental-noetic, Mercury, then reaches Venus, is there sublimated into psychic-astral, and then "materialises" on Earth. Again, we stress that "Earth", as of Trumps 1 and 2, is considered a binary Earth-Moon system, composed of a physical, psychic-astral and mental-noetic Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone. It is upon this whole sphere that the Suns' emanations, via Mercury and Venus, manifest. This is indicated by the relationship Sun-Mercury, expressed in numbers 18 and 9, the numbers of the Moon-Sphere.

11, at the center of the "psychic-astral sphere", is the number symbolising mental-noetic change. This is also the effect of the Sun on planet Mercury. Thus, if "Justice" is implied by Trump 11 (it was earlier placed as Trump 8), its very idea of balancing, meeting out justice even-handedly, respecting all sides of argument, is first created through the alchemy of the Suns' rays as they touch the Sphere of Mercury. Venus and the Moon will

further add the psychic and astral components, so that finally justice appears as a tangible principle in the life of Man. The relationship of Venus' physical measure (7.700 miles) and the Sun's line number (111) is symbolic of this further change: 70 to 1 (approx. to 0,64). Venus is then 70 times "denser" than the Sun. Mercury, again, is 288 times denser, yet only as concerns the mental-noetic aspect. In this we view the Sun as reflective of an "absolute Sun", le soleil absolu" or the hypothetical "black sun" at the center of the galaxy: with density 0, thus reflecting "God" as much as humanly possible. Students have been warned not to apply this symbolism within the material, manifested world (of today), for it is not in keeping with the analogy of Trump 8.

As already mentioned above, there is a Nordic element, taken from the Edda, the myth of Hyperborea, mixed in with Trump 8. It is the chains of Fenrir's Wolf, who strains to be set free, in order to throw the world into chaos. The object of his fury is the "World Esh Tree", Yggdrasil, around which the universe revolves. If Fenrir, the great Wolf, the Nordic Satan in a way, or Ahriman, lays his pranks on Yggdrasil, the world changes, is heaved out of its axis, the "heavens turn". This, by inclusion in the symbolism of Trump 8 - Yggdrasil -, would elucidate the "power of restraint" better than a woman restraining or taming a lion.

The whole visible setting of Trump 8, as purported by the majority of card decks, needs to be changed, the symbolism is outdated and should be brought into line with today's realities. Mercury, the Sun, the astral sphere, the mental-noetic, the tree symbolism, the eight-spoked Wheel of Dharma, these are the elements proposed.

Still, in spite of above realignment, Trump 8, when it appears in a spread of the Tarot, is an incitement to be brave and courageous. This may seem simplistic, but faced with an obstacle, unminded, intuitive, it is a spontaneous response. It implies the sudden appearance of an unknown. It may well be the sudden "intrusion" of the psychic-astral and/or mental-noetic. The questioner may not know how to handle this, so Trump 8 says: don't fear, step forward, it will go well. Whatever the hurdle or obstacle, with a keen intellect the situation will be mastered. In different circumstances, it may mean the appearance of a helper, not from close by and maybe expected - though this should not be excluded completely - but rather from an unknown quarter. As always, it does well to analyse the whole situation that has led to this present moment. Intuition, the main characteristic of the mental-noetic, will lead the way. If a decision is to be reached, then the answer is: yes. Maybe even against seemingly great odds. This applies to things, contracts, marriages, court-cases and also to human beings as persons. It is probably the living individual that is most stressed, the interaction among humans, an approach to group-work, an activity within society. To serve is important, especially when higher powers are invoked. The individual should look beyond

him/herself, aim to serve, in service lies achievement. A meditation on the benefits of "not doing", on the law of action within inaction, of restraint and looking on as situations unfold by themselves may prove helpful.

As to the Hebrew letters and stations on the Tree of Life, the choice is open. Within the sphere of Da'ath, for if Tipheret or the 4th Chakra are centered on Trump 8, then the relationship to Da'ath has been established, Trump 8 corresponds to the blending of Geburah and Chesed /Gedulah on the central path, below Da'ath and just above Tipheret. The individual "reinvents" him or herself. Approaching the 5th Chakra, Visuddha Chakra, placed at the throat, the individual is still largely within the orb of the Heart Chakra, Anahata. His or her actions should emanate from the heart, it is the best advisor - this will remain the case until Trump 12 has been reached (or even within the whole set of 22 Trumps).

Hebrew Thet is as appropriate as Chet or even Lamed. Thet carries the values 9 and 19, and is symbolic of Leo or the snake. Chet carries the values 8 and 18, and is symbolic of Cancer or a fence. Lamed carries the values 30 and 22, and is symbolic of Libra and an ox-train. Vau, the letter carrying the value of Tipheret, 6, represents the element Water. The esoteric meanings of these letters, if studied with interest, will realign according to the students' intuition. It should only be remembered that Trump 10, around whom these letters align, is associated with the three "mother-letters", Aleph - Mem - Shin, and Mem is the central signicator for the 10.

From an obscure quarter, possibly related to the undeciphered pyramid of Khefren, comes an association of number 8 with bad health and illness. Meditation and an effort towards inner equilibrium are always the best treatments. Again, the meaning of serving is stressed. Who does not serve, who does not contribute through his existence, he or she necessarily becomes unbalanced, and that is the reason for all indisposition and finally illness.

Invocation and evocation of Mercury have already been described with Trump 3. If these preliminary magic practices have been followed, then it is here possible to invoke the Sun Sphere. The actual evocation of the Genii or Arch-Intelligences of the Sun is discouraged until the Tarot have been mastered up to Trump 19, The Sun. The Sun may be invoked as protective force, a stimulus to physical, astral and mental power, by the use of 6 candles or petroleum lights. The ideal symbol is the open chalice of 6 points, 3 leading downwards, one even lower, and 3 leading upwards. The hexagram may be used, but the simple six-pointed star is to be preferred, enclosing a circle within.

The appropriate incense is Sandalwood, preferentially associated with Myrrhe. Aloe and Frankincense also are good, a mixture of all four calls forth the whole power of the Sun.



Rectified traditional card