

Trump XII or 12:

Prudence / The Hanged Man

The Zodiac

The Law of Heaven

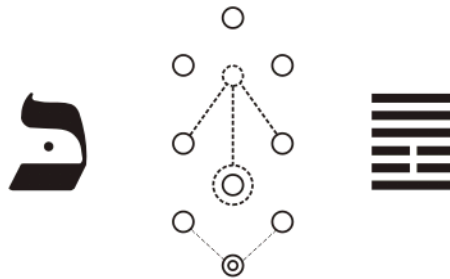
Bakhti Yoga



Right from the start, we will say that we prefer the name Prudence to The Hanged Man. Also, we do not follow the ascription of Water, nor of the "Powers of the Water-Element". This card is correctly placed on the third line of a "Heaven Trigram". To simply indicate the possibilities and possible openness, after having come to terms with the dangerous and dark elements of Water, is not reflective of the central meaning of Trump 12. 12 is the number of the Zodiac, it is also 3 x 4 and 4 x 3, with their respective symbolisms. It is a perfect, holy number. Maybe, together with 7 and 13, the most "holy" number of all: in many ways equal to the Zero or 22.

Indeed, 22 is a reflection of the 12 or vice-versa, as also its visible, tangible outcome, Trump 21, The Universe. Perfection, not evil influence, purity, not a process of purification, should be indicated. As these - circumstantial influences and purification - were not ascribed to Trumps 1, 2 and 3 in the older card decks, they were reflected in the psychic-astral sphere. This is not correct. Having acceded to the psychic-astral sphere, the individual is necessarily purified to a rather high degree. The suspicious questioning as to his or her maturity is long behind the individual, he or she has already entered the inner halls of the temple of wisdom. It may be true that "the tribulations never end", but there is no reason to invoke this by constant repetition. It is like a father or mother who question dubiously a very grown up "child", a man or woman well over 30 years of age.

Number 12 is a holy, perhaps "too holy", i.e. somewhat static, number. Thus the special sanctity of the "holy dynamic" number 13. But 12 is the number of the Universe. In Man, the Microcosm, in the solar system, the Macrocosm, all is governed by the 12. The human body reverberates by "twelves", the days and years turn by "twelves", all measures, not only the dozen, are based on the number 12 or its fractals and multiples. Even the system of the 7 Chakras has a twelve-point equivalent. This consists of 60 subtle "harmonious centers", lying along the channels of subtle energies, in Hindu: Nadi, grouped in 5 main channels of 12 emanations or convergence-points. This sixty-fold Chakra system, breaking down to five basic "Emanations", is wholly centered on the Heart, Anahata Chakra. It may thus be seen as the special system of Bakthi Yoga. This is the way the Microcosm and the Macrocosm have been laid out. By "God". It is the very vibration of Akasha, it is the "divine octave".



The Egyptian symbol of Life: the Ankh, has always been associated with Trump 12. Life, the whole Creation as symbolised by the Zodiac. It turns around Polarity, which is the principle through which all things have arisen: from inexistence or the void to existence and multiplicity. Magic, as different from Alchemy, is wholly encompassed by number 12. Within twelve stages enlightenment can be attained. Trump 6, the Alchemic Wedding, brings forth its fruit, the process of integration is accomplished, the joining of opposites has become complete. This is the symbolism of the terrestrial plane. It has now integrated the psychic-astral plane and is "complete" as far as concerns creation of the mineral and animal spheres. The physical element Earth has been joined with the astral element Earth. This leads to a central meaning of devotion and abandonment.

On a planetary scale, Trump 12 is the synthesis of Mercury (8) and Jupiter (4). By "adding" their correspondent qualities, we arrive at the actual state ruling the bipolar Earth-Moon Sphere. The influence of the Sun rules both, yet now we arrive at the total physical, psychic-astral and mental-noetic unity. As Trumps 10 and 11 were shown to relate to the three pyramids at Gizeh, as "10 = Great Pyramid = Earth", and "11 = Khefren pyramid = Venus", so also the third pyramid, "Menkaur", relates to Mercury, directly related to Trump 12. The number 12 then adds up to 3, which corresponds to the three inner planets circling

the Sun. As symbolic of Thot as Hermes Trismegistos, the measures of the third pyramid show the whole solar system from the Sun outwards, and includes all cosmic measures. This is analogous to the mental-noetic sphere, the "third sphere of Man". Thus Trump 12 is not only the Zodiac, but also the sum of physical, psychic-astral or vital-emotional and mental-noetic influences upon and within the Earth-Moon sphere, emanating from the Sun via the inner planets, and ruling within its own "triple field". This rules, still within the lower 5 Chakras and within the orb of the physical and psycho-astral plane, in the "middle of its own - Sun - trinity", as 2 x 6, the double Hexagram. It is only by "reaching the Sun as Trump 19" that the Suns' influence will be complete. Here we already have it reflected by all major planets, i.e. Mercury, Venus, Moon and Jupiter. The "porch or door of entry" of Akasha, symbolised by Saturn and the quabbalist Ain Soph Aur, is still missing, as also the whole symbolism of Mars. This means that the mental-noetic sphere, the sphere of "God" and the "immortal Soul", is not yet included in its whole force and emanation. It is included as concerns the binary Earth-Moon Sphere, yet it is not inclusive beyond that.

Trump 12 points to the solar calendar, the Suns' influence on the Earth-Moon binary system. The solar calendar, as has been discussed in chapter 1, is largely associated with the times of patriarch societies, its twelfold division does not take into account the strong influence of the Moon. This is represented by the 13-Moon-Calendar, which is also accurate if one day of 30 hours is added to the year as a day of worship, a "day of God". Thus the solar calendar is largely an abstraction, whose calculations in later times above all served Priest-Kings and a controlling priestly caste to wield absolute power over a populace whose own "inner" knowledge rested within the more natural and tangible Moon calendar. This last, the natural calendar of the binary Earth-Moon system, is expressed by [Trump 13](#).

1	134	10	136	8	139	138	5	141	3	143	12
24	14	123	21	125	126	19	128	16	130	23	121
109	35	27	112	32	115	114	29	117	34	110	36
48	98	46	40	101	102	43	104	45	99	47	97
85	59	87	57	53	91	90	56	88	58	86	60
84	71	82	69	80	66	67	77	64	75	62	73
72	74	70	76	68	78	79	65	81	63	83	61
49	95	51	93	89	55	54	92	52	94	50	96
108	38	106	100	44	42	103	41	105	39	107	37
25	119	111	33	113	31	30	116	28	118	26	120
132	122	22	124	20	18	127	17	129	15	131	13
133	11	135	9	137	7	6	140	4	142	2	144

Man is now placed in the position of total control. He/she still lacks the highest qualities of the 6th and 7th Chakra. The Yogi is not yet "passed beyond all limitations", but he has his tracks placed to reach that point. Here, on the Tree of Life, the blending of Geburah and Chesed becomes complete. With a further "spark" issuing from Tipheret, the individual will be received within Da'ath, now he or she only perceives it from the outside. This is already a very high step within initiation. The individual has reached the second stage of "initiation of the Sun", that is of the whole solar system. It is evident that such a stage is only reached by very few, but already the theoretic study of its implications serve as a preparation to one day, in this life or in another, accede to this wisdom and integrity.

In a different analogy, perhaps more true to actual life, it is still the Heart Chakra that reigns, now in its double-aspect. All Chakras intermingle in eternal flux, and this is especially apt when seen through the changing constellations of the Zodiac. If the 4th, Anahata Chakra, still reigns complete, then the life of the individual is only moving along very slowly, for the dynamics of Trump 11 have shown the higher way, the way of Raja-Yoga and achievement.

There we probably have the reason for giving Trump 12 the name The Hanged Man. Thus it signifies the inability to move further, to evolve higher. An inability to step beyond the constraints of the "divinely fixed and definitely interrelatedly positioned heavenly bodies". But this is not negative. A perception of this stage, which also means the highest psychic-astral levels, already signifies a very mature and harmonious being. The "tragedy" involved, although this is false, is an inability to comprehend, to analyse the reasons for not being able to evolve further. Yet this, in absolutely most cases, is not because of a "static mind", it is the result of not having achieved the station of either The Hierophant, Trump 5, or, more likely, the Alchemic Wedding of Trump 6. Then, as occultists say, it is not the fault of the individual, it is his or her fate. For what has not occurred, within the levels of the Chakras, is the blending of Chakra 3, Manipura Chakra, with the 4th Anahata Chakra. This really very rarely happens in this age, when "virtue is only developed by one fourth", as is characteristic of the Kali Yuga. In "planetary language", it could be said that the mental-noetic "mind-field" of Mercury was unable to integrate the vital-emotional, "astral-psychic", impulses of Venus. As a solution to this dilemma, the saintly way of submission and devotion offers an alternative.

Thus Trump 12 effectively represents Bakhti-Yoga, the Yoga of Devotion. It is also a complete Yoga, though it attains "liberation" through divine Grace and not through total, conscious effort, as is the case with Raja-Yoga. Thus it represents a person who, for the reasons beyond his control already mentioned, has "given up his will to God". This is not an inferior person, for true devotion, abandonment of personal will to simply function as an

instrument of God's will, is a very conscious choice. Prayer and submission replace action and striving. If a further active, inquisitive search is beyond the reach in this present incarnation, then Bakthi-Yoga is a supreme alternative. In the last stage of Raja-Yoga, or also of Jnana-Yoga, abandonment to the high ethereal akashic emanations of divine origin is at the same level. It is the supreme fulfilment of the Heart Chakra, and the Heart Chakra alone (for it mingles and coalesces with all other Chakras "from the center"). In quabbalist terms, it is "total integration of Tipheret", and Tipheret alone, which opens all other spheres through prayer, faith and devotion. Tipheret and the 4th Anahata Chakra are at the central station of purification of all subtle energies flowing within the body and mind. By perfecting these "vessels" through introspection and Bakthi Yoga, the individual may accede to the most inner, holy conduit of divine power, the Amrita Nadi, the conduit of perfect bliss. In the Quabbala, this is shown through the invisible path linking Tipheret with Da'ath and Kether. Of course, the search for the "secrets of the world" has not been complete. The laws of Karma and Fate ruled thus. Yet no man can step beyond certain boundaries, they vary according to maturity and purity. Within the "4th World", the fourth Creation, the cosmic Law is accomplished within the 12. This may have been different before and may change again. But this then applies to a total cosmic change, which is beyond Man's grasp to understand. Thus Trump 12 resembles Trump 7 in that Man approaches a sphere which is inaccessible. Pure Akasha is already a "unity with God", it is hardly possible to attain to this stage within a terrestrial incarnation. Belief, hope, devotion and abandonment to divine grace is an appropriate response.

In a way Trump 12 reminds of legends where an envoy or a special carrier of secrets is lost on the way, never reaching his/her destination. The messenger does not arrive to change the course of events, or, arriving, has come too late. Thus an undertaking is abandoned or proven useless. The congregation of the 12 wise men and women, which only all together possess the whole formula, the complete magic recipe, lacks a member, the transmutation must fail, the oral tradition is severed. Fate has willed otherwise.

One of the most hemming, hindering "emotions" is certainly pride. It keeps the individual from advancing further, it shuts the ears and eyes to further impulses. Thus chapter 12 of the Buddhist Dhammapada, the words of the Buddha, is called: "Self-Possession". He says: "It is easy to do wrong, difficult to do right. It is a fool who scorns the teachings of the holy. By oneself evil is done, and so man suffers. By oneself the good is done, and so man becomes pure." Pride is an emotion which should be abandoned, it never leads to a good issue. Fear is a better counsellor than an over-estimation of ones capacities and qualities.

Thus we have opted for "Prudence" to replace the "Hanged Man". It is not prudence as suggested against real obstacles or danger, it is prudence with the inner handling of how events are perceived. Hastiness is seldom prudent. Ones' own point of view may be dictated by the moment, and thus change with time and reflection. In fact, Trump 12, slowly arriving at the junction-point of the psychic-astral with the mental-noetic, the two wheels based on Trumps 11 and 17, necessarily points to friction or a process of adaptation. We do not believe, as has been commented on Trump 12, that a dire test, an overcoming of a great obstacle, is directly symbolic. Certainly, the feeling of pride may indicate that the person is now satisfied with having "proven him/herself". But we see pride as a more insolent, "lingering" affliction, which persists and is not married to a particular situation.

To give a positive impulse to Prudence, the synchronistic name of the 12th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, the Song of the Lord, is called: "The Way of Divine Love."

As profoundly analysed within Trump 10, we arrive at Trump 12 with a second concluded Hexagram of the I Ching. As the first Trigram, from Trumps 7 to 9, was accorded to Thunder or the Arousing, the choice for the second Trigram proved wide open. We mentioned that the beginning line of Trump 10 was necessarily correlated to Trump 12, whose somewhat outdated and inconclusive association with Water and Danger would be affected. We preferred to place a "Heaven"-Trigram, Yang-Yang-Yang, above Thunder. This gives rise to I Ching sign 25: "No error" or "Innocence". Trump 12, as read by the top line, then states: "Action leads to bad luck", and "When there is no error, there is no fault". Thus: Prudence. Within the symbolism of the other variants, as Earth over Thunder, Water over Thunder, and Thunder over Thunder, the position of Trump 12 was indeed posed as "dangerous", disaster and failure were indicated. It is well then, to study closely the possible outcomes of any moves a person undertakes. The "solutions" lie only with "assertive, active, yet restrained" Heaven and "tranquil, reflective, unstimulating" Lake (not Water). There is also the I Ching variant based on Tetragrams to consider. There is still also the I Ching variant based on Tetragrams to consider.

That commentary states how mature individuals should know the danger of working together with people who are not intuitive. Intuition and inner vision are the guides in all action, in their absence lies an abyss of ignorance.

This again largely concurs with the naming of Prudence, not to proceed into unknowns, taking careful stock of ones' actions. In any case, it is less prudence than simply

good intelligence not to follow in anyone else's footsteps, not to take advice without thoroughly weighing it.

The laws reigning the life of a mature and circumspect person are different from the laws applicable to a still furtively searching individual. Once inner harmony has been achieved, the outside world - basically inharmonious and unaccomplished - cannot comprehend the reasons for doing this or that, following this way or another, moving or remaining still. Of course, by the study of the Tarot, if their course from Trump 1 onwards has been followed, the individual has been standing well above the crowd right from the start, more so as of Trumps 3 and 4. Whatever is applicable as "danger from outside" lies not in the station signified by Trump 12, but in not having achieved a permanent, though always dynamically changing, station at all. Within a spread of Tarot cards, when such an individual is addressed (which we discourage, for the Tarot are too deep a subject to use among "inferior Men"), then Prudence is indicated in the full sense. The laws of Karma, of "Heaven", should be laid down carefully, laying stress on the harmonious development of the psychic-astral body, the careful development of vitality and emotional balance. In this sense, Trump 12 may indicate a return towards the beginning, thus signifying what the I Ching would call "youthful folly".

In life, the greatest test for an individual is to have totally lost his/her way. Hermann Hesse, in "The journey to the Orient", says that going astray leads to desperation. Then suffering sets in, leading to ever more desperation. But there is a limit; when such inner pressure has built up, it must lead to an awakening further step, a forward movement. And then, in after-thought, all straying and getting lost has only served this purpose: to break through an inner barrier, through suffering and desperation, and accede to a brighter and profounder view of things. As Man, seeing and studying the world around, may or even must fall into desperation, at one point, H. Hesse's Grand Master says: "This side of desperation live the children, beyond its suffering the awakened".

The Tetragrammaton formula, composed of three letters to give a fourfold meaning, is completed to its third level, or to the sum of its own "ingredients", by number 12. This has correctly been judged as an accomplishment of higher magic, a physical, astral and mental "double-view" of each element: Fire, Air, Water and Earth. It is Earth again, as in Trump 10, that is principally concerned. Yet Earth is not doubled here, it is Earth in interaction with the remaining elements. Thus, as this is "hermetic" within itself, the stress is laid upon Akasha, and the "secret formula" employed is 4 plus 3 plus 5. Or: elements plus symbols plus divine integration via the Akasha. Akasha itself, as also the Tetragrammaton, is divided into four Ethers, and here they all blend "back and forth" again with Akasha. An ascription to any one

element, as either Fire, Water or Earth is not inclusive of this large formula. Mem, the central component of Aleph-Mem-Shin, was placed in the middle of the quabbalist double-formula, 1 - 10 - 20. From there, Trump 10, we may rather "correctly retrieve" the letter Kaph, whose values are 20 or 500, and whose association is the biggest planet within the solar system, Jupiter. The opened hand, another symbol of Kaph, also fits nicely, for within Trump 12 whatever has been accomplished shows itself plainly. If that amounts to a danger, then it lies within the individuals' own responsibility. Also, Kaphs' hidden secondary value, 21, is a direct inversion of number 12.

Of course, the real key symbol for Trump 12 is the zodiacal twelve-spoked wheel. Within the zodiac, as a reflection of "where it starts and where it ends", in reference to the "quabbalist wheel" of ten spokes, we should opt for the balancing "middle signs" of each element, i.e. Leo, Aquarius, Scorpio and Taurus. All this symbolism, we repeat, should be seen within the sphere of the psychic-astral or vital-emotional, at whose outer limit towards the intermingling with the mental-noetic sphere Trump 12 stands.

Here, with reference to numbers 6 and the number of Genii of Mercury, 72, an identification with one of these Genii can profitably be undertaken. 12 offers a sound "platform" for such an invocation or evocation. Such an action would be like "a call from the astral to the mental", expecting an answer and a collaboration from the higher sphere, which now should appear willing to answer.

The reader will be aware that the Tarot lead into "inner space" as much as towards "outer space". That this is largely an illusion is shown by the quabbalist symbolism of the "changing of the lights": the light-stand, without human intervention, changes from left to right. The perspective is totally changed. What was thought outside is now reflected inside, what appeared to be in the future reveals itself to have been accomplished already. The lowest is seen to be the highest, and so submission to "God's will" is almost automatic. The full force of divine emanation is only to be met knelt down, it is a blessing. This should be accomplished or at least fully envisioned within the sphere of Trump 12. By prudence we shadow our eyes so as not to be blinded by the immeasurable brightness of celestial light bursting forth.

In the symbolism of the Grail, this is here either shown as an immensely large receiver, formed of twelve points, or a large plate. In either case: this is the receptacle for the most high and holy. No impure Man may touch it, less even intervene with what is filled inside: the holy spirit or the blood of the Saviour. Thus we have the last secondary meaning of

Trump 12: Immunity. This is true of someone who totally submits in abandon and devotion to the divine emanation.

