

**Trump XVI or 16:**

**The House of God / The Tower**  
**The Alchemy of Venus**  
**The body of Light**  
**Transience**

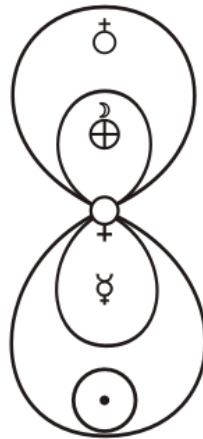


The picture of Trump 16 has always been associated with violence and strife. At best, the downfall of the old, rigid structures. In the Buddhist Dhammapada, chapter 16 is called: "Transient Pleasures". That alone fits well with the symbolic numeric values of number 16. The 16 divides and unfolds "herself" in exquisite harmony. 4 x 4, the fourfold Tetragrammaton, the elements in their absolute, totally ideal aspect, beyond even the Law of Three, joining in divine bliss as a sixteen-petalled Lotus. Twice 8, the whole double-luminous being of Man, symbolised by the sixteen-spoked Wheel of Dharma. The abstract, unmanifest, "ethereal" form of this special Wheel of Dharma, symbolic of the highest alchemic and magic achievements. The physical 6, Venus and the Sun, joined to the Tree of Life as 10, the final tangible Alchemic Wedding, under the highest and most benevolent aspects possible within all 22 Major Arkana. What more beneficent influences can there be? As synchronicity is not only allowed but is even an intuitive tool within all ancient wisdom-systems, we may add that I Ching sign 16, composed of Thunder over Earth, is called "Joy" (as Dhammapada, chapter 15, also).

The Bhagavad Gita, the Song of the Lord, takes a different view, highly synchronic with the older symbolism of Trump 16. It is called: "The Division of Divine and Demoniatic Treasures." It states:

*"Men of Demoniac nature know not what to do and what to refrain from doing. Purity is not in them, nor good conduct, nor truth. The divine Treasures are said to be for the purpose of liberation, and the heritage of the demons for bondage."*

Within Trump 16, we need repeat such sublime symbolism, we have the whole "female trinity" of Egypt: Isis, Nephtys, Hathor, i.e. the Earth-Moon-Sphere in its double aspect and related to Venus and Sirius, the mental-noetic Moon-Sphere in particular, and the nurturing, wholly terrestrial feminine aspects of woman/child, cow and calf (milk), harvest and bounty (of terrestrial fruit, water, life-giving respiration and the best of "female-receptive" faculties and virtues ever symbolised by any hieroglyphs. This trinity is "doubled" even, to represent the physical and psychic-astral spheres, and then added to "Earth-Earth", total terrestrial Creation, as symbolised by number 10. This is the Holy Science of the ancient world, speaking in these highly divine numeric symbols.



Central station of Venus within the mental-noetic Sun to Mars relationship.

Later additions to symbolise terrestrial Creation, the gods and Goddesses of harvest, of the gentle winds, of good luck, be they of Greek, Roman or Nordic inspiration, taking myriad forms within Hinduism, sublimed into Avalokitesvara in Buddhism, they all refer to the sphere of Trump 16.

In human life, at this time, and it is significant of major fatigue, "drop-dead" emotional breakdown, this is not the way the major, well-known Tarot decks of the past have reflected such perfect harmony. Some newer decks have done away with the violent symbolism, realising that such a state cannot conform to the value and station of the higher Trumps. Yet, and this is the tiring and fatiguing aspect, we have not yet encountered a card-deck of the Tarot that actually gave and included all the symbolism, the whole aspects of Holy

Science. When "Angel-Tarot" of various persuasions, "Tarot of New Age" of Aquarian "positivist" persuasion, etc., etc. appeared, then they were rarely built upon a sound foundation of globally interactive spiritual values, the "universal synchronicity". As the remnants of the past Sakhya Yuga are slowly put together, in the majority of cases this has led to an uncontrolled explosion of divergent cross-references, directly symbolic of this Kali Yuga, wherein the family structures implode, population and complexity explode, and the individual is fractured, "atomised". This was not the intent of the Book of Wisdom. A "Shaman Tarot", "I Ging-Quabbalist Tarot", and others of holistic intention, may have served a special, specific cause. Indeed, the multiplicity of "games", card-decks, has given the study of the Tarot a publicity boost, yet their total, holistic approach, based on the ancient, old and newer traditions, at least we, authors of this study, were unable to find (otherwise this study would have been superfluous). We need, even if this age is seen as "already dead and ended", to at least reconcile the older generation with the new. None of the newer Tarot decks were possible, if not at least four generations of active students had created the ground-work for their solid foundation.

Of course, as falsity and conscious falsification has been the lot of the Tarot, even slander and ridicule, the symbolism of one of the most holy cards of the Major Arcana has been treated worst. What had been clearly symbolised within Trumps 3, 4 and 7 and 9, is here attributed to another variant of vicious, "un-dynamic", backwards-looking diversion into the "Black Arts", another aspect of the shadow Tree of Life, the central aspect of the demoniac Sephirot, the Quliphot. Yes, they too must have their "central card and meaning". OK, so is it Lucifer alone, by "dense terrestrial hexagrammatisation", or the whole "evil trinity", or just the evil spirit of the Sun, commonly called Adamas? Therefore, we reject the old cards' visual appearance. No Egyptian hieroglyph had or has ever taken this aspect. This is not ancient, this is medieval, and thus a fantasy of our modern times (from 3.000 B.C. until today). As with Trump 15, we preferred addressing the inadequate and falsified appearance of this card right from the outset. We will now let it stand, stowed away well into the past, a load to be unloaded. Perhaps, as the Tarot are really full of wonder, a variant "truthfulness", a "non-alignment" of basic significance will lead back towards at least a part of the old symbolism, yet we doubt it. The reader will again be aware that we are painting a path of ascendancy, of ever-brightening awareness, especially within the higher mental-noetic, "Boddhisattvic" body of eventual enlightenment and liberation from Polarity, Duality, from the Wheel of Dharma and ever-continuing reincarnation, Samsara, life to death to life.

Yet the Indian sage Atisha (10th century) warns:

*"This Kali Yuga is not the time for subduing others, it is the time to subdue yourself. It is not the time of merely listening to words, but the time of contemplation on their meaning. Nor is it the time to go visiting here and there, it is the time to stay alone."*

But Joy is the main denominator, the Transience of Pleasure the dynamic, evolutionary fact. For Joy cannot last, it is transmuted, just as Pleasure eventually is of transient nature. Yet in the "here and now" both may, can and should exist, otherwise Man would only lead the beat-down life of a subservient slave and underling.

What is called the Body of Light is the Bodhisattva of the inner Self. Spontaneous compassion is the main sign of having entered this path, whereby "entering" means "creating the Light Body". The steps along this way are generally classified as:

**Generosity**, which stands for spontaneous, intuitive openness, having nothing to hide, giving and receiving without thought-structures attached, the mind is at rest, the actions evolve from the inner state of awareness without reflection on the reasons or possible outcome.

**Discipline**, which stands for an everlasting action of inner purification, thus the outward appearances are secondary, they are necessarily the product of the inner state. Thus, even when moving, acting, working, all is totally flexible, following the higher "trans-human" movement of Dharma, the integration of the cosmic flow within present life.

**Patience**, which stands for freedom of all expectation. Thus the mind is calmed, nothing is expected, nothing looked for, the certainty that "things will appear and disappear" in an orderly fashion rules, thus no action is ever intended, therefore no outer or inner action will provoke a reaction, all reactivity ends.

**Energy**, which stands for the unobstructed flow of Shakti, the Life-Force, within the body. This depends upon the previous three steps, for the free flow of energy depends on total detachment from outside influences. Then this energy is turned to light, a brightening occurs. Joy is the feeling associated with this, for the individual realises that all energies within flow through the central heart. When the inner energies are ever more subtle and pure, then they may eventually open the secret "heart-channel", Amrita Nadi, thus turning all energy to bliss.

**Meditation**, which stands for the associated ever-widening awakening to the realities of the "other world", the higher mental-noetic sphere.

**Knowledge**, which stands for action through non-action. Ideas and thought-models released within the mental-noetic sphere will become reality. They pass through the "filter" of psychic-astral "enlivening", giving them vital force, and will eventually concretise and become tangible "appearances" in the real outer world.

Thus "God" is said to have created all through an idea, a dream, a thought-projection. This does not tangibly work from the physical sphere "upwards", for then simply psychic-astral forms are created. It works from the mental-noetic sphere, closest to Akasha, "downwards".

1	242	14	244	12	246	10	249	248	7	251	5	253	3	255	16
32	18	227	29	229	27	231	232	25	234	22	236	20	238	31	225
209	47	35	212	44	214	42	217	216	39	219	37	221	46	210	48
64	194	62	52	197	59	199	200	57	202	54	204	61	195	63	193
177	79	179	77	69	182	74	185	184	71	187	76	180	78	178	80
96	162	94	164	92	86	167	168	89	170	91	165	93	163	95	161
145	111	147	109	149	107	103	153	152	106	150	108	148	110	146	112
144	127	142	125	140	123	138	120	121	135	118	133	116	131	114	129
128	130	126	132	124	134	122	136	137	119	139	117	141	115	143	113
97	159	99	157	101	155	151	105	104	154	102	156	100	158	98	160
176	82	174	84	172	166	90	88	169	87	171	85	173	83	175	81
65	191	67	189	181	75	183	73	72	186	70	188	68	190	66	192
208	50	206	196	60	198	58	56	201	55	203	53	205	51	207	49
33	223	211	45	213	43	215	41	40	218	38	220	36	222	34	224
240	226	30	228	28	230	26	24	233	23	235	21	237	19	239	17
241	15	243	13	245	11	247	9	8	250	6	252	4	254	2	256

Horizontals, verticals and diagonals add up each to 2056. The core values give 514, which is  $2056 : 4$ .  $257 = 2056 : 8$ , and so the quabbalist numbers 8, 10, 13 and 14 appear. 257 is a prime number, which is very symbolic of "The House of God". The inner values of 257 are highly complex, as one would expect of any number correlated with 14 and 16, as is here the case.

The searching student may have been aware of this as of Trumps 1 and 2, and indeed the basic thoughts are laid out there, yet here, within the mental-noetic wheel, the higher body is created and should also function as a real third body of Man. Within the higher body, we are at a Yang, impulsive and awakening position. The texts in the I Ching, pertaining to this Yang, a "four-fold" Yang, all lean towards "upwards enlightenment". "Greatness lies in

being the source of Joy". This means: emanating without the pure, compassionate energies of within. "Rectitude brings good fortune, regret disappears". The stress is always laid on holding fast to ones' inner harmonious constitution. "Power resides in the axle of a great vehicle. Correctness is beneficial, the way lies open". This is a reminder that the real center of the higher mental-noetic body resides in the hub or axle of Trump 17, and is therefore still a station to be attained. By tripling number 16 we arrive at 48, which carries, open and hidden, all symbolism of Trump 16. Sign 48 is called "The Well". Thus, the life-giving fountain, the holy spring or well. This, within the 22 Major Arkana, is certainly the station of Trump 16, as much in Grail symbolism as within the higher 4th Anahata Chakra, the "heart of the higher body of Man". It is the point where all energies mingle and are purified, the sacred station of the holy, inner well, fed by the waters of divine emanation. The central, upper Yang line reads: "The well is pure, the cold spring is used for drinking." Again, the bounty and richness of the outer and inner worlds are stressed, the necessity for giving, giving and receiving, the higher action of transforming the "akashic" cosmic waves within oneself (drinking) and the spring (emanating towards the outside), which is meant to serve one and all.

The 4th Anahata Chakra has been associated with the element Air. This is a separate, different Yogic tradition from India, Tibet and China. There, the Chakras as attributed in following manner:

The first Muladhara Chakra, the Root Center, uniting masculine and feminine, thus Lingam and Yoni, forming the base of the coiled "snake of Kundalini", Shakti, is associated with element Earth, its colour is yellow and its symbol is a square. The second Svadhistana Chakra, the Abdominal Center, reigning over the plexus hypogastricus and all processes of secretion and reproduction, giving vital, "astral" power to the energy of Shakti, is associated with element Water, its colour is white and its symbol is the crescent (Moon). The third Manipura Chakra, the Plexus Solaris at the navel, whereby mental power is added to the energy of Shakti, is associated with element Fire, its colour is red and its symbol a triangle. The fourth Anahata Chakra, the Plexus Cardiacus or Heart Center, governs over the circulatory system, the blood, thus adding "emotional vital" energy to the energy of Shakti, is associated with the element Air, its colour is grey-blue or green and its symbol is the hexagram. The fifth Visuddha Chakra, the Plexus Cervicus at the throat, governs over the respiratory system, whereby "vital air" or Prana is added to the energy of Shakti, is associated with the element Ether (associated with the quabbalist "Power of the spoken Word"), its colour is white or "akashic violet" and its symbol is the circle. The sixth Ajna Chakra, the "non-volitional nerve system", associated with the pineal gland, governing all nerves and subtle energies within the body, located between the eyes as the Third Eye, whereby all

psychic forces are added to the energy of Shakti, is associated with Akasha, as "higher than the akashic manifestation of Ether", thus a higher Ether, has no visible colour and so stands for the invisible colours of the astral and mental spheres, its symbol is a triangle with two lotus petals left and right, thus symbolising Polarity as first manifestation. The seventh Sahasrara Chakra, the thousand-petalled Lotus, associated with the brain, yet not within the physical body anymore, governing the pituitary gland and the volitional nerve system, is situated at the crown of the head, where Shakti moves outwards in a spiral movement, only to return inwards again and repeat its flow. There is no colour or symbol attached to this Chakra, as it stands for "God in Man" and "Man in God".

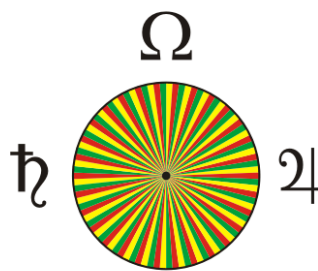
As this system of the Chakras, certainly very ancient, was not easily to be realigned with the Tarot and other wisdom-teachings, we only give the full description here, in relation to the "perfect, mental body", the Body of Light.

The element of Air associated with the Heart Chakra will here be maintained, for the Tetragrammaton formula begun with Trump 13, Yod, and continued with Hé (Trump 14), Vau (Trump 15), here correctly, though inversed, again closes with another Hé, which means both Earth and Air. This adequately symbolises the constant flux within the energies, Sephirot or Chakras, mingling and entwining in an everlasting spiral flux.

A long-lasting reflection on the eternal moving flux, the observation of Dharma as an ever-turning wheel, the mill grinding out the qualities of the ages, the constant change of zodiacal signs, the slow movement of the universe, this all gives rise to a profound sense of transience. All things must pass. Joy is followed by sorrow, sorrow by hope and faith, this leads again to joy, as enlivening impulses continue to enter our awareness, and so on. Life is followed by death, this proceeds within the higher spheres as life, and will most likely return to become life again as material, physical manifestation. Therefore it is said that all manifestation leads to sorrow. But it is a sublime cosmic game. Karma is sublimed to Lila, action becomes selfless, the laws of retribution are rarefied, in the end no blame attaches to the individual who does no longer sow reactive impulses.

Should this realisation strike an individual as: "O God, what have I done all my life?", then indeed the old symbolism of the Tower being struck by lightning may apply. But purification and harmonisation of oneself and of the body was the original impulse of the Book of Wisdom. Not only this, even the first ecumenic sacrament in almost any church of the world consists of a form of baptism, thus declaring the purity of the new-born. The sacraments attached to the rites of puberty also follow a cleansing process, the ripening

individual is reminded of his or her pure original state. Why should Man then go onwards and sully his mind and feelings, why does he fall victim to the passions, which are only normal emotions turned violent and destructive? Why does "evil" enter the lives of those who were placed under divine protection, for nature herself does not disseminate any ungracious gifts? Finally, it is only Man who does any evil at all. Man hunts Man, does damage, steals, slanders, sodomises his heritage, turns good to evil, virtue to passion, and thus loses all Grace, Compassion and Virtue. It is for the higher agents to judge, for Man should not and cannot be the judge for Man. Each individual may only judge him or herself. So the application of the universal law is placed with the "Masters of Karma", the highest sphere of Saturn, unknowable, unreachable.



Karma through its main agents.

Trump 16 closes another whole Tetragrammaton formula. The four major emanations of Akasha are developed until their four-fold value. 16 spokes is the double wheel of Dharma, eight are visible, eight invisible, they are the astral-mental doubles of the physical, material manifestation.

Within the higher body of Man, the fourth Skandha fulfils, completes itself, it is called Concept. From the previous Perception-Impulse Man now moves onwards to an awakened perception of his inner feelings, thus giving rise to the development of sharpened intellect. Human intelligence begins to realise its connection with "primordial intelligence", the Logos. Positive, constructive work on the perfection of the Self and of the surroundings now begins. Thus, even at a high level, there is always a new beginning. It will lead to the fifth Skandha, called Consciousness. Depending on the level of personal evolution, this consciousness now encompasses all lower processes and turns to purify and sublimate them, or opens up to cosmic consciousness, thus entering the realm of Akasha, seeking to find the truth ruling the principles of Duality and Polarity which gave rise to manifest Creation.

Here also the secondary, higher meaning of elemental might, rank or station, and step or elevation emerges: they correspond to the "Three Principles of the Path", as laid down by the great Tibetan Holy Man, Tsong-Kha-Pa: Renunciation, Bodhi-Mind (Light-Body), Right

View. Thus elemental might must be renounced, yielded to the elements. The inner rank gives way to the birth of the Body of Light, and inner elevation, the Soul, becomes the seeing eyes of the Body of Light.

Trump 16 generally has a negative, violent image in the great majority of Tarot decks. This we have already discussed above, yet now nevertheless we will try to find the hidden meaning for such associations. They are not borne out by the symbolism of the card at all. In that sense, we prefer the older, renaissance name of Trump 16: The House of God. This at least leaves the choice open as to the setting. The House of God, though also struck by lightning, could be a temple, a place of worship. This would again change the symbolism completely. The hidden meanings of this card, if they have a place within the dynamics of human life, then they must relate to a different set of circumstances, for which the general symbolism makes no allowance. It is not the complexity and above all denseness of the Moon-Sphere, for this is related to Trumps [2](#), [9](#), [11](#) and [18](#). Of course, a wrong attitude or misguided practice of Yoga or meditation can have disastrous consequences. But we do not believe that the negative symbolism of Trump 16 is related to imbalanced practice.

In the development of the Body of Light the worst thing to happen is the intrusion of a darkening, obscuring agent. Thus: loss of light, loss of energy. I Ching Hexagrams 36 and 44 treat with such eventualities. 36, Ming I, "Darkening of the Light" is also called "Persecution". It is composed of Earth above Fire. Government and general conduct have been taken over by inferior men. The virtuous are advised to hide their light, even in the face of pervading hostility. This aspect of the life of "higher man" we have already discussed among Trumps [12](#), [13](#), [14](#) and [15](#).

*"When Illumination needs to be concealed, it is beneficial to be upright in difficulty".*

All must be undertaken to protect inner integrity. Even if a quick victory may be assured, this is not the aim, for a darkening of the light is a global symptom, not limited to one man or one place. Biding time, aware of danger, thus the inner light is protected. "The brightness of understanding is harmed by the severity of the probing, thus the masses may be wounded, for the severity of our pursuit has made us forget equanimity, compassion and temperance." Thus the individual is advised not to research with severity. The quality of Geburah comes to mind. Geburah, untempered can lead to great harm, it needs to be balanced with love and compassion. Let Man not forget that it is not Man who may judge Man.

Hexagram 44 is concerned with avoiding contact with people who will do us harm. It is composed of Heaven over Wind. It is called "Meeting", but also "Return of the dark force". It speaks of meeting, or encountering, opposing forces. These are all represented by actual human beings, thus showing human conflicts, meetings and common undertakings to be avoided. "A dangerous temptation is at hand. It depends on inner fortitude to counter it. You may be able to protect yourself, yet those with you may be harmed. Watchful care." Here, we remind again of the 16th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita: The Division of Divine and Demonic Treasures. The sage Atisha also adds: "It is not the time to rely on others, but the time to rely on isolation, renunciation."

In a spread of the Tarot cards, some of these meanings may apply. This is then due to the individuals' somehow incorrect course, attracting these obscuring agents. The real danger then resides in the fact that bright, accomplished Beings, even though they hide their achievements, can attract invidious characters, like the light the moth. These must be prevented from becoming insidious, from getting too close. Should they persist, then a well-calculated effort must be undertaken to dispel them.

The Taoist I Ching variant offers some supplementary information. There, it is stated that:

*"Names appear, when institutions begin. When names appear, know to retreat. To know the moment of halting, means being free of danger. The Tao of the Absolute has no name."*

And:

*"Don't further the big, further the small, multiply the little. Greet misdemeanor with equanimity. Plan the difficult, when all is easy. Do not make promises lightly, thereby you avoid mistrust. How easy it is to awake difficulties."*

Thus we should be aware that joy and pleasure, the basic ingredients of Venus' Alchemy of pure light, are not only transient but may also be found to be a main object of jealousy, not being willing to grant another the light and understanding oneself is unable to achieve. Apart from the transience of all things, this then is a particularly sad situation, for Man should further and help other Men, not envy them their achievement.



The Hebrew letters accorded by tradition are Hé, as Air and Earth, with numeric values 5 and 15, thus corresponding to the second Hé of the Tetragrammaton. More common, though, is the attribution of Pé, values 80 and 800 (thus half 16). Vau, of the Tetragrammaton as Water carries values 6 and 16. The common association is with planet Mars. All this, except He, we consider out of place. The Sun reflects via Venus, numeric values 6 and 7 respectively. The element Air is closest to central Mem, of Aleph-Mem-Shin, the triple name of God. Mem carries values 40 and 600, thus reflecting Creation (40) and the highest aspect of the Sun (600). Sun, sublimated by Venus, thus reflecting Trump 16, seems the most easy and logic choice. The astrologic correspondences must be harmonious, according with Sun and Venus, not in any way opposed. May Leo and Virgo ever marry? Does Gemini join Leo to sublimate into Virgo? We hope that such beneficial correspondences can be worked out, for they only stand for the pervasive harmony represented by Trump 16.

The invocation and evocation of the spheres of the Sun and of Venus, here maybe most profitably to be attempted and realised, are described within Trumps 6 and 8. The "Air of Jupiter", should he really bring luck and hope, can be sought following the advice within [Trump 4](#).

