

**Trump XVII or 17:**

**The Star**  
**Growth and Healing**  
**The Essence of the Soul**  
**Harmony**

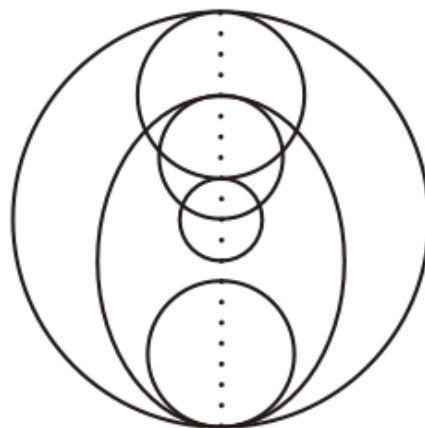


The symbolism of the Tarot becomes ever more grandiose. The life-giving spring, the well of rejuvenation has opened up to form a lake. This is also the significance of the upper Trigram of the higher Hexagram, Lake over Mountain. This lake is the life-giving property of Prana, the food for the higher body. It enters into the higher mental-noetic body via the hub or axle of the mental-noetic wheel or Rota. The Tarot-image shows an angelic Being taking water from this lake. Prana is both ethereal Air and cosmic Energy. Abstractly, we may say that Akasha enters the human body. This applies to the 6th and 7th Chakras, which are the cosmic conduits. Their higher cerebral channels or Nadis lead outside the physical human body, not only upwards but enveloping the whole double-luminous Being. Thus this energy also enters the body via the Muladhara and Visudhana Chakras, the first and second. Then it is called the universal vital energy, sustaining from below all processes which will transmute these energies, now turned into Shakti, the life-force within, to eventually "exhale" and "inhale" via the highest and lowest Chakras. Man is here placed as a Cosmic Being. Thus the Soul, the eternal "spark of God", may be seen to essentially reside within this sphere. As it is doubled via the lower Chakras, the Soul is traditionally placed at the centre, at the Heart, thus giving the image of a Self centered in the heart. This of course is also true. But Man has now, ideally, developed a "boddhisattvic" mental body. It is yet in a youthful, developing stage, but this body also has a centre, its own "soul", the extension of the central Soul. This

Soul, forming one single "double-soul", as reflective of the double-luminous human body, has its centre at the hub of the higher mental-noetic Rota. Its organs are the "fontanelle" or pineal gland, and the pituitary gland. The essence of this Soul, representative of Man as a "triple-luminous Being", the highest state a human being is able to achieve in physical life, resides above the head, is actually placed in space. Thus Man has a certitude of his or her "extraterrestrial" origins, the very highest essential organ is placed beyond the confines of the physical body!

It must nevertheless be borne in mind that the bodhisattvic Body of Light is not yet wholly developed, only its inner state, status and station is beginning to be known. If the whole triple symbolism of the 8 as the first whole body, the 16 as the double-luminous body, is carried to the end, then the third Body of Light is only completed beyond the confines of the 22 Trumps, namely at "Trump 24". This, by totally abstract analogy, may be seen as the Ace of Wands, representing the "root-forces of Air". It is a very "young" concept, for that would mean to carry the Tarot, in all their significance, all the way to their "end", the 78th card. This is a possibility, yet most likely not to be associated with our time and place. Still, thus the figure of the Tarot hieroglyphs is typified by a young person, and, as Prana is absorbed and Man so again receptive of cosmic, vital energy, as a young female. This is wholly in keeping.

We have mentioned the ethereal "vehicle" of Man, the Mer-Ka-Ba. It began to unfold at the station of Trump 7, expanded to Trump 13, to include the whole double-luminous Being that is Man, and now reaches its subtle centre, Trump 17. The Flower of Life, the whole symbolism of the Mer-Ka-Ba, will become whole, within a double circle encompassing 19 inner circles, at Trump 19. Yet Trump 17 is its very centre.



Prime number 17 is highly abstract. Within initiatory rites, it directly reflects Sirius, the Sun's twin-star within the Orion-arm of the Milky Way. Homo Sapiens sapiens has a link with Sirius, either as direct transmigrator from the Sirian planet-system, or through contact with this system about 340.000 years ago. The "Brotherhood of Sirius" is said to watch over the solar system, it is said to accept highly evolved humans within its ranks. In Theosophy this is said to be possible, after Man has passed through the sixth "solar initiation". Unfortunately we, the authors, have never met a human individual belonging to this high "brotherhood". Yet we believe that this is possible, for a Man with a perfectly developed Mer-Ka-Ba vehicle, able to "travel space", may be able to accede to this sphere. This is then truly extraterrestrial.

281	120	265	104	249	88	233	72	217	56	201	40	185	24	169	8	153
136	264	103	248	87	232	71	216	55	200	39	184	23	168	7	152	280
263	119	247	86	231	70	215	54	199	38	183	22	167	6	151	279	135
118	246	102	230	69	214	53	198	37	182	21	166	5	150	278	134	262
245	101	229	85	213	52	197	36	181	20	165	4	149	277	133	261	117
100	228	84	212	68	196	35	180	19	164	3	148	276	132	260	116	244
227	83	211	67	195	51	179	18	163	2	147	275	131	259	115	243	99
82	210	66	194	50	178	34	162	1	146	274	130	258	114	242	98	226
209	65	193	49	177	33	161	17	145	273	129	257	113	241	97	225	81
64	192	48	176	32	160	16	144	289	128	256	112	240	96	224	80	208
191	47	175	31	159	15	143	288	127	272	111	239	95	223	79	207	63
46	174	30	158	14	142	287	126	271	110	255	94	222	78	206	62	190
173	29	157	13	141	286	125	270	109	254	93	238	77	205	61	189	45
28	156	12	140	285	124	269	108	253	92	237	76	221	60	188	44	172
155	11	139	284	123	268	107	252	91	236	75	220	59	204	43	171	27
10	138	283	122	267	106	251	90	235	74	219	58	203	42	187	26	154
137	282	121	266	105	250	89	234	73	218	57	202	41	186	25	170	9

Horizontals, verticals and diagonals each add up to 2465, quabb.: 17! In the center lies 145. As every "5er-number" can only be divided by 3 or 5, a division by 5 = 29, a prime number, quabb.: 11. 29 is also a prime number, Both 17 and 29 are extremely complicated prime numbers, almost without any visible repetition within their core values. Considering the central hub function of the upper noetic-mental wheel revolving around Trump 17, the numeric symbolism is apt, either by normal computation or by quabbalist comprimation : 5, 8, 11 (as central hub or axle), 17 and even 29.....

The inner core of prime number 17 reads: 0,0588235294117647, and these numbers keep repeating in this order, towards infinity. They add up to 72 ! The holy 6 x 12 that governs the precessional movement, the inner working of Man's body, the measures of the planets

and the Sun, the length of the day (24 x 3), etc., etc. Thus, again, we have the 72 Genii of Mercury or "Man's holy guardian Angels". We have an allusion to the world-age of three precessional cycles of 25.920 years each, thus 77.760 years (almost 77.777 years, which is the favorite of the Quabbala, by a margin of 17 years). We may almost say that Trump 17 equals Trump 21, The Universe, for number 21 is 7 x 3 or, abstractly, 777. This is indeed the higher symbolism and wisdom of the uppermost Trumps. Between 17 and 21 stand The Moon, The Sun and The Judgment, there are no more "human" influences, all has become space-related or, abstractly, cosmo-karmic related. If Trump 7 stood for Saturn, then here Saturn is shown to be a symbol for Sirius. Or: "On the way to Sirius, Man has to pass the judgment of purity, of Karma, acquire his whole completed Body of Light, and thus break the shackles of the 16 dimensions of this solar system centred on the Sun."

We believe the supposed 16 dimensions said to apply to this solar system to really add up to 17, whereby, as number or better: sphere 7 is inaccessible to Man, so also the 17th sphere is inaccessible, as it already relates to outer space, symbolised by Sirius. Trump 19, by the unfolding of the whole Flower of Life, will serve as a guide, for it is certainly via the sphere of the Sun that Man can accede to the spheres beyond the solar system.

The traditional significance of Trump 17 is condensed into the words: "Divine intervention". Thus it represents a sphere that can be actively invoked. Within its inner value of 72 all protective, angelic, devic, spiritual and ethereal agents and intelligences can be called upon. Of course, this would have been possible to say straight away concerning Trump 1, but then the study and integration of the other spheres would have been by-stepped. The still undeveloped being beginning his or her journey or quest towards knowledge, integrity and harmony, towards the light, would have been hindered by such a lofty assumption. Indeed, no Chakras would have been worked upon, no inner equilibration and harmonisation undertaken, all would possibly have been thrown up to "God help me, I can't and won't change, I am unable to make any effort, so help, Divine Absolute Agent, whom I don't understand but to whom I turn in my need." That resembles the Christian dogma, as all other dogmas too, which place "Faith in Allah" and subservient devotion to substitute any personal striving. This is then indicative of a very low station, not much higher than any intelligent animal.

Apart from the lofty goal of developing the Body of Light, now Man is slowly becoming capable to translate the message of the second Pyramid, the Chephren Pyramid of Medicine and Healing. From the alchemy of Trump 14 onwards, the healing powers should have developed in parallel to the unfolding of the higher Chakras. Man must always serve,

serve the outer world of the binary Earth-Moon-Sphere, serve humanity and nature. Healing is the main instrument of service. As true healing, also called spiritual healing, emanates from the mental-noetic body, having passed through the purifications of the 4th Heart Chakra, so theoretic healing is the task set by the "theoretic, abstract" card 17. Why only theoretic? Because healing, as applied to the human, terrestrial, physical body, needs the benediction of the complex Moon-Sphere, which governs all plant- and animal-life. Together with the transmuting powers of the Sun, healing relies mainly on practical work with very physical agents. These, it is suggested, should first be studied closely within the mental-noetic sphere of Trump 17. Their practical application must be inclusive of the psychic-astral complexities of the Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone, which rules, together with the Sun, all physical manifestation.

The lower bodies of Man, lower Man him or herself, reflect the action of the Macrocosm on the Microcosm, the "outside", and how it influences the "inside". Thus all Tarot Trumps up to Trump 16, basically, have called upon Man to "know thyself", ever deeper and ever more pervasive. The possibilities for Man's intervention within the outside, the Macrocosm, have slowly grown and become more tangible. But his or her ability or capacity to actually serve only now reaches a level of practical application. That is: serve humanity as such, not only transmute elements and rarefy ethereal substances.

Within the oracular function of the Tarot, Trump 17 evidently takes a special place. Man is yet within Polarity. The limits of this state are becoming less restraining, Creation is seen as truly cosmic, Man, the planets and the Sun, each a macro- and microcosmic mirror of each other, in the end one single whole "system", Being or Body. Such must needs be apply to at least our galaxy, the Milky Way, maybe its mirror-image extends even to the furthest reaches of the Universe. In the application of the laws governing the Macrocosm within the Microcosm, a sense of "not fitting" of "misplacement" must arise, otherwise all were already perfect and no healing were necessary. Thus Trump 17 also reflects some problems associated with the Sino-Tibetan Skandhas and the Chakra-system. As there is no need to repeat the absolutely divine attributes and the "good luck" necessarily associated with Trump 17, which we sincerely hope to "carry the day" and be directly applicable to any human undertaking in progress, we will inspect the other possible "side-effects" of having reached such an elevated station.

The Buddhist Dhammapada, in chapter 17, states: "Forsake Anger." "Overcome evil by good. Overcome the mean by generosity. Speak the truth, yield not to anger, give what you can." And: "Who would dare to blame the man, whose life is pure and full of light? Even the

gods praise such a man, even Brahma the Creator praises him." But: "Watch for anger of the mind. Let the mind be self-controlled and use it well."

The "Secret of the Golden Flower" adds: "All separate shapes appear as bodies, united with a true source. The shapes formed by the spirit-fire are only empty colours and forms. The light of human nature shines back on the primordial, the true. The imprint of the heart floats in space; untarnished the moonlight shines. The boat of life has reached the shore; bright shines the sunlight". This, taken from chapter 7, called "The face turned to the wall", reflects not only the higher station of the head, but also The Star in relation to The Moon and The Sun. It takes the view of the "bodhisattva body" in its developing stages.

The fourth Skandha, seen from a Tibetan standpoint, is called Volition. It is associated with the creation of mental forms. Thus it corresponds to the forces and tendencies of the will, the active principle of consciousness, the whole span of an individuals' character. Interestingly, it is symbolic of all karmic consequences, as these are seen to mainly arise from the "pre-action" and "pre-contemplation" mental imaginative sphere. Therefore the Buddha and also the Hebrew Talmud state: "Watch you thoughts, for they will turn into words and actions."

The 17th chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, the Song of the Lord, is called: "The Threefold Division of Faith." It explains the nature of tama, rajas and sattva. It is yet another analogy to elemental might (tamas), rank or station (rajas), and step or elevation (sattva). It is said that "austerity based on foolishness" is of the nature of tamas; austerity "practised in order to gain respect, honour and reverence" is of the nature of rajas; austerity "practised with serenity of mind, in gentleness and silence, and purity of heart" is of the nature of sattva. Thus, even in the higher developing stages of the Body of Light, attention must not waver, inner watchfulness never ceeds.

Beyond the fourth Skandha lies only the Skandha that "comprises, combines and coordinates all previous functions and actions. It is associated with the three highest trumps, where the highest alchemy of "total fusion" takes place.

The female "saviour-god", Tibetan Tara, is an object for meditation, for she offers to "unite with the sincere devotee", thus lending him or her the force necessary to heal and fuse. We will discuss this divine aspect further within Trumps 19 and 20.

Within the I Ching, in the middle of the upper Lake-Trigram, governing the whole Lake over Mountain hexagram, the messages for Man are: "Coming together is a joyful event and brings great success." And: "Be perseveringly modest, receptive and inviting, thus you will see your influence grow." And: "In a position of leadership, be careful not to act rigidly and strict. Thus you may avoid resistance."

The overall significances of I Ching signs associable with Trump17 are highly encouraging and positive. Any correspondences searched for by a combination of the numeric values possibly associated with number 17, all turn to success and increasing light and brightness. This then is the station reflective of the pure inner channels associated with the heart, in their meaning of increasing purity and light. All words of possible warning and caution associated with the appearance of Trump 17 within a spread of the cards, have been minimised, to simply mean:

Control your mental functions, for these are formative powers. Know also that anger and other states of the mind have an influence on the outer world, so do all to keep them under control.

Within the Tree of Life, Trump 17 takes the station between Binah-Chokmah and Tipheret. As we see Kether-Binah-Chokmah as a trinity, we may say that on the middle path Da'ath has ideally been reached. But this implies that there is no more higher station. Let us reflect: Prana enters and leaves the body via Chakras 6, 7 and 1,2. In the view of one central path within the Tree of Life only, then Trump 17 may be both Da'ath and symbolic of the whole central pillar, not the complete central path, but only from the uniting point of Hod-Netzach to Da'ath, the higher "point of unity" of the invisible Geburah-Chesed (Gedulah) triangle. The planetary images then correspond to Zodiac-Saturn, Sirius, Mercury-Venus. This largely corresponds to traditional symbolism (which was largely discarded within the symbolism of many previous Trumps). In a different quabbalist "language", we may say that Trump 17, together with Trumps 16 and 18, corresponds to "lucid, life-ether", beyond "chymical ether" and approaching the highest "reflective ether". Yet such is the play of Lila within Karma, the play of Shakti, that these four Ethers combine to form the "etheric double" that is actually the Body of Light. So we do not attach a "higher" or "lower" value to any, keeping in mind that Ether is the purest, least dense emanation of pure Akasha.

To allow a maximum of cross-relationships, and also with the ongoing formation of the Body of Light in mind, we will open another, last, Tetragrammaton formula, comprising Trumps 17 as Yod (mental), 18 as Hé (astral), 19 as Vau (psychic-transmutating) and 20 as

Hé (physical creation in its whole scope). Thus we have the Hebrew letter-possibilities of Zain, values 7 and 17, with the sword (Fire - Yod) and Gemini as its symbols; Tsaddi, values 90 and 900, attached to the zodiacal symbol Aquarius, thus Air, and Yod-Tau. Tau, normally attributed to Trump 21, the Universe, has values 400 and 32, thus reflecting the quadripolar Earth-Moon-Sphere or the higher Tetragrammaton, whereby 32 may be seen as "five-fold Duality" or the reflection of the Macrocosm within the Microcosm. 32 may also stand, in an endless continuation of the Tarot, up to card 78, as the double-double luminous body, as  $8 \times 4$ . As the triple luminous body may carry the number 24, in our view the Ace of Wands (not the 8 of Pentacles or other symbols), so number 32 would reflect the 3 of Wands. This is well-placed, "interactive", with the last tangible Trump, 21, yet may here be used in conjunction with Yod, which would then "limit" the highest sphere by the action of Fire: Yod-Tau.

Aquarius and Aries are commonly associated with Trump 17. Gemini is associated with the Hebrew letter Zain. If this can reflect the whole symbolism, this is acceptable, yet it must be born in mind that these higher trumps do not reflect any limitative aspects of the Zodiac anymore. The Body of Light is totally, uncompromisingly free, freedom was the very seed it sprung from, no outside influences touch this body. Only the dynamic moving vessel of the physical body is still under the influence of the changing spheres, their aspects and their dynamics. "Freedom leads to Freedom", as G.I. Gurdjieff said.



Rectified traditional card