

Trump XVIII or 18:

The Moon

Medicine

The Path of Folly

The Trinity of Polarity



Trump 18, in its simplest interpretation, represents all that is unknown, unknowable, irretrievably lost, hidden beyond any possibility of being found. The Moon-Sphere, whose holy number is 9, is the densest, most complex system within the solar system. It is too dense for Man, it escapes his total comprehension. By appearing simple, it hides its utter materialism, thus confronting Man with a riddle he is unable to solve.

Polarity, as the primal aspect of Creation, of divine Emanation, "descending from above" divides into three aspects, thus reflecting the trinity underlying all Creation. From 1 comes 2, which further "divides" into 3. As Trump 22 is also Zero and represents God, or also the "uncreated", Creation steps into the Tarot via Trumps 1 and 21. From above, 21 is seen as the primal manifestation, diversifying downwards; from below, 1 is seen as primal manifestation, diversifying upwards. Both reach a point of primal Polarity. For Man, seeking and searching upwards, this is Trump 2; for the Divine Emanation, steadily flowing downwards, this is Trump 20. Then each "primal Polarity" divides, splits into the myriad forms. These take a first, primal aspect of the Law of Three, thus adding Trinity to Polarity. So within the Tree of Life Kether and Binah and Chokmah are seen as first primal trinity. From below, this is more complex, as the primal trinity consists of Malkuth-Yesod, Hod and Netzach, thus showing a quadripolar aspect. This may be applied, in abstract form, also to Kether, Binah, Chokmah, Da'ath, but then the special sanctity of the primal Trinity is lost. So

we see Trump 20 as the last stage before overcoming the limits of Polarity, symbolised by Total Physical Creation, the double quadripolar aspect taken to its extreme, thus as Polarity itself: 2 x 10. Its three symbolic aspects, the "Trinity of Polarity", then reflect within Trumps 18 and 19. For planet Earth, these are also the most relevant primal energies and influences within the solar system: The Moon and The Sun. The most simple and ethereal is reflected by the most complex and dense.

Both also respectively govern the most elaborate and precise oracles, the oracle of the Moon and the oracle of the Sun. These are the main and most refined methods of applied Magic. They also represent the most fluid and ethereal aspects of Alchemy. For what is completed by the Sun must have passed through the sifting of unknown depths and heights. There the unknown dimensions beyond Man's comprehension act upon the ever more holy and divine "substances". The ascribed 16 dimensions of the solar system reflect as "double-lunar", for if number 9 is the holy number of the Moon, then number 8 is its unknown, unfathomable correlative. Also, the mental-noetic complexity of Mercury, whose holy number is the 8, maximised, "condensed" by Creation as number 10, reaches the Moon before reflecting on the terrestrial plane. Thus the fathomable complexity of Mercury turns into the unfathomable complexity of the Moon. As both are united in a mental-noetic field, they may be said to "turn around each other", as is also the case of the intertwining Trumps 7, 8 and 9. Again, this is the Life Energy, Shakti, in rapid, dynamic motion, whorling through the Microcosm as much as through the Macrocosm. Thus the Moon-Sphere "originates" with Trump 2, is sublimed and processed through the action of Trumps 8 and 9, reflects in the psychic-astral wheel-hub of Trump 11, and "resurfaces" as its whole "triple-image" as Trump 18.

This surely is the mystery of mysteries, in more than one way the inscrutable, impenetrable gaze of the Sphinx is reflective of this deep symbolism.

This leads us to the mystery of the "undecoded" second and third Pyramids. They are said to represent the knowledge of all medicine and the knowledge and technique of the "boddhisattvic" Body of Light. But, as far as they have become "decoded", only the exact measures for Earth, Venus and Mercury, and their distances from the Sun, have appeared. It is to be assumed that a complete decoding of the second Khafre pyramid will show it to include all basic knowledge of the Moon, which is mainly of ethereal, "astral" and mental importance. As the Moon governs all biologic life on Earth, its intrinsic "wisdom" must relate to the proper use of the vital and psychic components of the binary Earth-Moon sphere. Fortunately, the wisdom-schools and traditions of the Orient have kept some of this

knowledge intact. In the Occident, this was all but lost. Within the hieroglyphic images of the Tarot, these correspondences were lost or shrouded in obscure symbolism that only a very few select "chosen ones", if any at all, could decrypt. We were able to reconstruct some of this through the Mer-Ka-Ba and the Sino-Tibetan traditions, which show the way of healing and "medicine", and the development of the ethereal Body of Light. Within published decks of Tarot-cards, these higher symbols rarely appear, if at all. Still, we shall not falter and ascribe the correct values as best we can.

With Trump 18 we are within the highest mental-noetic spheres, yet here, as Man is "one and whole", the highest reflection of the psychic-astral sphere is also found. The Moon is itself a symbol of the astral sphere, all psychic phenomena are ascribed to its influence. The Moon is also seen as "bi-sexual" all over the world, either as uniting both masculine and feminine qualities, "it", or variously more masculine or more feminine. The more southern cultures preferred the female, receptive, aspect, thus ascribing various Goddesses to this sphere. Luna, Isis and others are representative of this. The northern cultures preferred the masculine aspect, thus ascribing "cold" mental qualities to the Moon. Therefore, as also the Sun, the Moon all by itself reflects polarity. The oracles followed suit: the most complex oracles are those that use the Moon as main denominator. Thus the qualities of each day take a double-aspect, including night and day, and combining the "masculine" Sun-forces with the "feminine" Moon-forces. By their interplay, the most propitious times for sowing and harvesting, for feast-days and special days with special characters were determined. Of course, the Moon has direct bearing on the female menstrual cycle, on fertility as such, on the qualities of the earth, on the Earth's crust, inclusive of the sea-tides, on wind and weather, on all mineral, plant and animal life.

The northern Moon oracles stressed the propitious times of movement, for the Moon also directs the herds of animals to move at certain times, thus also changing the quality of the land. This change of quality, of the Earth's variable density, repulsion and receptivity, lead the northern oracles to ascribe more mental qualities to the Moon's influence. The I Ching variant composed of 81 signs, based on the magic square of the Moon, included a separate, third line to reflect the Moon. Thus Yin is Earth, Yang the Sun and the unnamed double-broken line represents the Moon. Taoism, the most highly "mental" form of meditation, leading to Zen, embraced this "Moon I Ching", thus also pointing to the mental-noetic aspects of the Moon.

The Occult, Occultism, which takes its name from the impenetrably hidden aspects of life, has the Moon as its prime symbol. This is indeed a very highly complex system: the Sun's rays reflected and made highly complex, extremely dense through its penetration of the

Moon-Sphere. The ancients were able to penetrate many of its secrets, Man today stands largely ignorant and fascinated by such a manifestation, it even inspires fear. "Lunacy" is the psychic outcome. Even though Man has walked the surface of the Moon (if this is actually true, as some doubt has been cast upon the reality of this exploit), he cannot comprehend the real physical influences exerted by this satellite of Earth.

Still, the quabbalist virtue associated with the Moon is independence, and the magic image associated with this is a "naked man of strength". Of the Ethers, it is the chymic-vital, of the Fires, it is the liquid, cold fire, of the Airs, it is the freezing breezes, of the Waters, it is the deepest, darkest, most still water, and of Earth it is its own mirror-image, in the invisible psychic-astral and mental-noetic spheres.

The Moon's measure, as laid down in ancient times, is reflected by the number of miles of its radius: 1080. Therefore all analogies referring to this number are "Moon-inspired". Thus we find: 108 is the atomic weight of silver, the "metal of the Moon". The ideal number of breaths taken in one hour is 1080. The vedic text Rigveda has 10800 stanzas, the Hindu fire altar in the temples is made of 10800 bricks, and the traditional Hindu, Buddhist and Tibetan rosaries are all made of 108 beads.

1	308	16	310	14	312	12	314	315	10	317	7	319	5	321	3	323	18
36	20	291	33	293	31	295	29	298	297	26	300	24	302	22	304	35	289
271	53	39	274	50	276	48	278	279	46	281	43	283	41	285	52	272	54
72	254	70	58	257	67	259	65	262	261	62	264	60	266	69	255	71	253
235	89	237	87	77	240	84	242	243	82	245	79	247	86	238	88	236	90
108	218	106	220	104	96	223	101	226	225	98	228	103	221	105	219	107	217
199	125	201	123	203	121	115	206	207	118	209	120	204	122	202	124	200	126
144	182	142	184	140	186	138	134	189	190	137	187	139	185	141	183	143	181
162	179	160	177	158	175	156	155	172	171	170	151	168	149	166	147	164	145
163	161	165	159	167	157	169	173	154	153	152	174	150	176	148	178	146	180
198	128	196	130	194	132	192	188	136	135	191	133	193	131	195	129	197	127
109	215	111	213	113	211	205	119	117	208	116	210	114	212	112	214	110	216
234	92	232	94	230	222	102	224	100	99	227	97	229	95	231	93	233	91
73	251	75	249	239	85	241	83	81	244	80	246	78	248	76	250	74	252
270	56	268	256	68	258	66	260	64	63	263	61	265	59	267	57	269	55
37	287	273	51	275	49	277	47	45	280	44	282	42	284	40	286	38	288
306	290	34	292	32	294	30	296	28	27	299	25	301	23	303	21	305	19
307	17	309	15	311	13	313	11	9	316	8	318	6	320	4	322	2	324

Horizontals, verticals and diagonals each add up to 2925, which adds up to 18. The core numbers give 650, which equals 325 x 2. 2925 = 325 x 9, or 225 x 13, or 117 x 25, or 13 x 9 x 25. This is apt as concerns this over-complex sphere, whose quabbalist numbers vary from 3 to 9 to 10 to 13 and 17. Any further exploration, as mentioned elsewhere, is deemed too complex, uselessly over-profound.

The fusion of the Moon (1080) with the Sun (666) gives the number 1746, which quabbalistically adds up to 18 or 9, again the numbers of the Moon. Within Alchemy, when Mercury and Sulphur are fused, thus uniting Yang with Yin, again the numeric symbol is expressed by 1746. Here this means: "The wedding of the Earth with the Sun", in the sense of the earth-spirit, the Demiurgos, the living entity, in fusion with the spirit of the sun, then called Metatron. Number 1080 is also the numeric value for the Holy Spirit. Even though the secrets of the second and third pyramids at Gizeh are evoked by Trump 18, the actual physical measures of the Great or Khufu Pyramid align with the numbers of Moon and Sun in actual feet-measures.

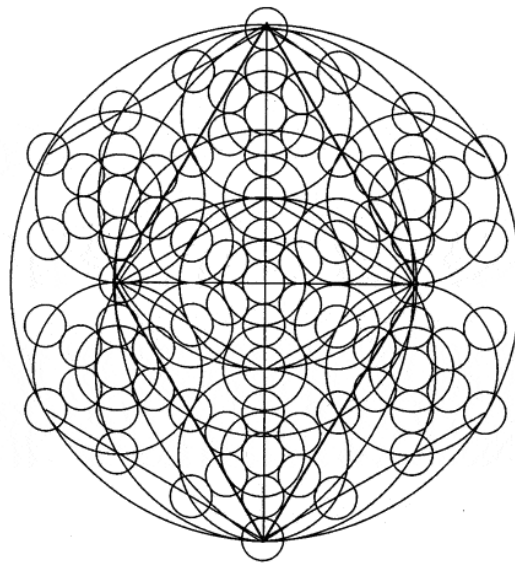
Emphasis should be put into the acquisition of healing powers, comprehending the medicinal qualities of the mineral, plant and animal world. A correct study of the Moon-cycles should open the way for a fruitful understanding of the seasonally variable possibilities of comforting the ill and needy, of applying the correct medicine at the correct time.

The sphere of the Moon rules the combined 1st and 2nd Chakras, extending from the Root Centre to the Navel. All the functions of secretion and reproduction, combined into the Generative System, make the 3rd Chakra able to absorb the "mental" energies of physical air, as reflective of Prana (thus called the Fire of Air).

The Moon may stand for "all that is up is really down", "right is left", "left is right", "upwards movement really moves downwards", etc., etc. This is its special quality, therefore it has been called the "agent of confusion". From this stem all ideas of evil creatures, demons and devils: the confounding agents of confusion. Yet, through the dynamics symbolised by Trumps 11 and 13, which stand in relation to this sphere, the right-turning psychic-astral or vital-emotional wheel or Rota, the left-turning mental-noetic wheel or Rota, and the more or less violent dynamics of Time and Fate, this sphere should not be seen as awe-inspiring. It is not so extremely dense as not to have at least half a beneficial, constructive aspect. If it also destroys and confuses, then that is the fate of all manifestation within the flow of time.

Within the oriental school commonly called Sufism, the Path of Folly was and is an acceptable form of conduct. The crazy dervish, the satiric clown, the court fool, the accomplished "Master" or Sheik, who do seemingly idiotic things, which turn out to have been the only course of action possible, the pupil pouring self-ridicule upon himself, etc. There are various reasons for this path of action. For this is really Karma-Yoga, the Yoga of action. Apart from the idiosyncrasies of life, the intricacies of human conduct and the dangers the physical person confronts "out on the road", the main reason underlying the Path

of Folly is to have totally understood that from a certain point onwards, this is the only possible behaviour towards the outside world. Why? The number of the Moon gives a large part of the answer. 18 is 666. This means that the manifest physical life is both dense and of negative persuasion. We will not discuss The Beast of the Apocalypse and other horrors, yet they may loom ominously (lunatic) over the path of the slowly self-perfecting individual. We know personally of two cases, where the student of the Book of Wisdom, the Tarot, had reached the sphere of Trump 18, and subsequently died, one of sudden illness, the other by an inexplicable accident. Therefore the advice is not to engage the own mental sphere, the individual mind, in the complexities of this sphere. In any case, they are by definition too dense to enter, too complex to completely fathom, too psychic-astral to be of longstanding interest.



The most delicate task of Man is the absolute control of his mind, the small mind of his physical, reactive body, and the higher mind of his evolved "boddhisattvic" body. As the origin of all ideas, as the primal sphere from where spring images and applications, the mental sphere must be treated with utmost delicacy. Man's Karma takes its origin from there. Within the highest realm of the "Trinity of Polarity", the quality of ones' ideas is of very succinct, of highest importance. Therefore, "calm your thoughts and mind" even takes precedence over the calming and harmonising of the emotions and psychic reactions. Certainly, psychic reactive emotions can turn to vicious passions, which harm body and mind to a high degree, but psychic reactive mind-forms are even much worse, for they are retributed by merciless Karma. Therefore, we have stressed Lila as an alternative, intuitive way of action, which carries no karmic burden, but if confronted by an ignorant outside world, perhaps ever more decadent, then it is the minds' actions which need to be restrained and curbed above all. "Think no evil", even if all inputs point to this, "do not react, drop all

reactivity", even if you are confronted by violent behavior. If in doubt, then play the fool, go crazy, step on the path of "controlled folly". Thus the clinging outside world will let you go, it cannot keep in step with conscious folly - that is the last way out of any trouble, other than total seclusion.

We need to remember that Polarity is also made up of two main forces: attraction and repulsion. The faithful student of wisdom should shy away from both. Yet he or she will see in the outside world, how strong these impulses are. The weak cling to the strong, as if they themselves do not even exist. The strong refute and repulse the world of weaklings, or put themselves up as natural leaders. The strong lead, the masses follow. Therefore, perhaps as a last hope, some older decks of Tarot cards, ascribed the coming age of Aquarius to Trump 18. We will not follow that path, for now we suggest to weigh all that can be weighed, and throw the rest overboard. To see what can be seen, and discard the rest. To know what possibly is to be known, to maybe quietly speculate upon the rest, but to abandon any further search as soon as it becomes burdensome. We even suggest forgetting about Trump 18, at least as symbolic of the apocalyptic nightmare. There is no beast, the real beast is ones' own mind. Keep it docile, fasten its reigns, lead it to pastures where life-energy, Prana, abounds. In other words: there is a horror-movie in the cinema to the left, don't go. Maybe there's another cinema to the right. If not, forget about the movies, they are mostly a waste of time anyway. Don't waste your time with negative speculation, it harms both you and the world at large. So people get murdered in the "sign of the Moon" , especially on Mondays? Really? OK, but try not to get murdered yourself, if possible. Be aware that some black magicians and Fakirs of negative persuasion may "see" you for what you are: a double-luminous being. As their own embryo of mental-noetic development is frozen and petrified at an early stage, as their vital psycho-astral body vibrates with repulsive impulses of "martian" persuasion, inner violence seeping through the pores, their spontaneous, one may even say "intuitive, unreflected", reaction to a Body of Light is hatred and violence. An individual residing within the realms of shade and darkness cannot bear the sight of pure light. Even a bright attitude fills such a person with repulsion. So take care, for these are not real human beings. They pertain to a class of misguided souls that have taken riches for virtue, opulence for equanimity, power and might for compassion. Their karmic future lies hidden within the sphere of Saturn, it is better not even to ponder it. Abandon all thought of Evil, it is a waste of time, precious time.

"Thus ends an age of the world. The happy stars fall, darkness spreads. The quiet waves have turned to monsters of destruction. The gentle breezes fell the trees and rip out the grass by the roots. The World Esh Tree, Yggdrasil, is falling. The Gods abandon their station and fall into the abyss. Nothing remains but the howling of the wild wolves."

The Edda

Polarity, in its triple aspect, cannot have adequate Hebrew letters. We have begun a Tetragrammaton formula with a Yod at Trump 17, now we add a Hé at Trump 18. In this way we aim to show that even out of darkest density there leads a further path towards the light. We do not believe that the negative side of the Moon-Sphere has a station within the Tree of Life. Is it Netzach, all by itself? We have refuted this idea, stating that Earth and Moon are interlinked in a binary system. The Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone may be poisoned in its lower psychic-astral planes, but that is not symbolic of the whole sphere. Far from it, otherwise all the great creative forces in work on this planet were already subdued and silenced for ever. That may be the aim of the "shadow side". But it is missing its target, has always missed it, for they have forgotten that magnificence, benevolence is the main aspect of the Buddha, of all Gods, of the divine Emanation itself. Tao is clean and pure. Who may wish to go against Tao?

The Moon is described via [Trump 9](#), its magic square and correlative values and qualities are given within [Trump 8](#).

What letter is to be attached to the Hé, whose values are 5 and 15? Gimel, whose values, 3 and 13, would then add up to 18? Quoph, symbolic of Pisces, with values 100 and 29? The age of Pisces, from whence stem all the negative associations, is passing. Pé, values 80,800 and 27, associated with Mars. Or Thet, values 9 and 19, symbolic of a snake. A single element, as taken from Trump 12, is Water. Pisces, Water, Hé-Gimel? Hé-Pé? Hé-Quoph? Zain, evidently, carries numbers 7 and 17. "Retrieved" from Trump 6, The Lovers, it may also paradoxically apply, but its secondary symbolism of Gemini and the sword are not in keeping. In any case, the unfathomable complexity, obscurity should appear, therefore Pisces and not Aquarius. The single letters may be arranged according to inspirational intent. The intent should point towards the parting of the chaff from the wheat. May Man contribute to lessen the dense complexity of this sphere.

The Tattwas for the Earth-Moon-Belt-Zone are laid out by the arrangement of Trumps [1](#) and [2](#), they may be adjoined through an extra emphasis on Akasha, Ether.



We will close Trump 18 by giving relevant passages from the I Ching and other sources.

Chapter 18 of the Dhammapada is called: "Hasten and Strive". "Make an island for yourself. Hasten and strive. Be wise. With the dust of impurities blown off, and free from sinful passions, you will come unto the glorious land of the great." And: "Life seems difficult for those who peacefully strive for perfection, who are not self-assertive, whose life is pure, who see the light." And: "There is no path in the sky, and the monk (Man) must find the inner path. All things indeed pass away, but the Buddhas are for ever in Eternity." Also: "Watch, Bikkhu (Monk or Man)! Be in high contemplation, and think not of pleasure, so you shall not have to think of pain."

I Ching hexagram 18 is called Decay or Degeneration. "By the action of the pure mind is decay arrested. Abandon the false and return to the true." "Correct, forgive, and correct again", thus showing the way to avoid degeneration and decay. By hexagram 36, it is stressed to conceal illumination and stand upright and faultless in difficulty.

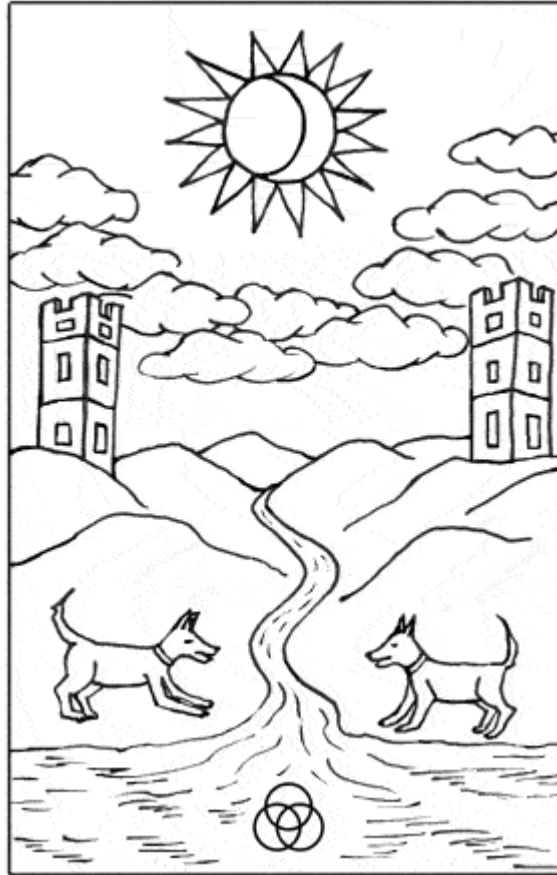
The Taoist "Moon I Ching", the Way of Power, says in "The Path": "Polarity is the movement of Tao. Receptivity is the way to use it. The world and all things issued forth from Being. Its own Being issued forth from Non-Being."

Chapter 18 of the Bhagavad Gita, the Song of the Lord, is called: "The Way to Liberation through Renunciation." It is the last chapter. It says: "Renunciation is understood as renunciation of works induced by desire, and as surrender of the fruits of all labor. Some say that all works should be relinquished as evil, others say that works of sacrifice, gift, and austerity should not be given up. But learn from me, O mighty Arjuna. It is indeed impossible for an embodied being to renounce action entirely. But he who renounces the fruits of action is regarded as one who has renounced. The Lord dwells in the hearts of all beings, and by His maya causes them to revolve. Take refuge in Him alone with all your soul. By His grace will you gain Supreme Peace and the Everlasting Abode."

Empty Infinity, chapter 8 (and also last) of the Secret of the Golden Flower, states:

"A halo of light surrounds the world of the law. We forget one another, quiet and pure, altogether powerful and empty. The emptiness is irradiated by the light of the heart and of heaven. The water of the sea is smooth and mirrors the moon in its surface. The

clouds disappear in blue space; the mountains shine clear. Consciousness reverts to contemplation; the moon-disk rests alone."



Rectified traditional card