



## AN ALCHEMY OF ALPHABETS - INCLUDING HEBREW, RUNES & OGHAM

This a book about several magical alphabets including ancient Hebrew, Germanic Runes, and Celtic Oghams also known as the Celtic Tree Oracle. My interest is in why specific symbols were chosen to represent the letters of these alphabets. Why, for instance, was an Ox (Aleph) chosen as first Hebrew letter while ancient Celts chose a Birch tree? Why does Mercury, the youngest (and oldest) of Greek gods, initiate a pack of Tarot cards promising enlightenment while an androgynous Vulture leads an Egyptian alphabet? And why does a fey Bull (Fe) promise money as the first rune?

The choice of ancient alphabet symbols lies in a pattern inherited by numerous traditions: They include the alchemy of turning a dark earth to gold, a black night into a shining new day. Unlike other scholars of early alphabets, I found the choice of symbols was never arbitrary. Comparison of mythic attributes of a number of alphabet and divination traditions reveals the commonality of a widespread numerical placement of symbols. Number truly underlies everything.

Once the alphabet was invented and transmitted, simple people used the new technology to record business transactions. The deeper reason for the ordering of objects in ancient alphabets was forgotten. The secrets underlying the symbols, the number magic, was passed on only to a few. As the alphabet spread widely throughout the ancient world, Mystery Traditions followed along.

For the wise, travel through the unfolding Spell of letters promised the initiate the wealth of the material world as well as an enlightened return from the dark.

"Heaven rained down ripe grain the day that (letters) were first invented." (H. N. Humphreys, *Origin and Progress of the Art of Writing*, 1853)

The choice of each alphabet letter was determined by its numerical placement in the series. The pattern was faithfully followed by many later alphabets and divination traditions. I juxtapose traditional sayings, poems, and stories from the various cultures to show they are using the same number magic, though not necessarily toward the same ends. Our oldest alphabet, patterned upon the seasons of Earth mirrored by her reflection in the Sky, contain the promise of resurrection empowering what became later heresy. "I am a son of Earth and starry Heaven." (Orphic tradition promising a return into the circle)

Closely related in time and space, our oldest alphabet Phoenician c. 1050 BCE, is ancient Hebrew. Preceding Judaism's One God, it shares the memory of the world being created through the correct use of the alphabet. Using Hebrew/Phoenician as the original template, each letter has a number of themes specific to the number of each symbol. There seem to be three families of letters: the world of Earth, the Underworld, and the Heavens.

## PART ONE

Part One introduces several ancient alphabets and traditions associated with divination and magic. I compared them to unravel stories of resurrection hiding among our letters. My interest is on how peoples remember the origins of writing rather than its linear history. I include original quotes from a number of ancient texts describing qualities attributed to each symbol.

Introduction p. 7

1. Alphabet Calendars as Rosaries p. 13

2. Astronomy & Calendars p. 18

3. Anatolian, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, & Early Semitic Scripts p. 27

Anatolia (Catal Huyuk c. 7500-57000 BCE, Vinca c. 5500-45000 BCE)

Proto-Sinaitic/Phoenician (c. 1800 BCE)

4. The 24 Hieroglyphic Alphabet p. 37

5. Phoenician (c. 1050 BCE) p. 45

6. Hebrew, Kabbalah, & Various Western Traditions p. 50

Kabbalah (c. 200 CE)

Tarot (c. 1300 CE)

Alchemy - Six Keys of Eudoxus, (c. 350 BCE)

Misc. traditions including palmistry and Mother Goose

7. Celtic Ogham (c. 300 CE) p. 57

Lists Of Ogham Series: Tree, Bird, Assistant, Fort, & Water (Lin)

Comparison of Phoenician and Milesian Scripts

8. Germanic Runes (c. 150 CE) p. 67

9. India's Brahmi (c. 200 BCE), Sanskrit, & Chakras; Japan's Hiragana p. 74

10. China. p. 81

### I-Ching and the Tao Te Ching

11. Transition Between Part I And Part II p. 88

## PART TWO

### FIRST EIGHT LETTERS - THE WORLD OF EARTH

The first family describes the natural year: an undivided earth splitting apart, being purified and plowed, planted, delivery through the delta of the 4th position, a sharing of the harvest, and finally a dying back before rising through the gate (Heth/gate) of the eighth letter.

1. Aleph (Ox) - A Guide At The Gateway p. 89

2. Beth (House) - Adolescence & The Purification of the Virgin Spring p. 106

3. Gimel (Camel or Rope) - Impregnation & The Bonds Of Time p. 126

4. Daleth (Door) - Deliverance From Knots & Bonds p. 142

5. Heh (Aspirate H or Window) - Teachings, Pupils, & A Gift Of Tongues p. 154

6. Vau (Hook/Nail) - Marriage of Heaven and Earth & The Throne of God p. 171

7. Zain (Weapon) - Floods, Apocalypses, & Pregnant Pauses p. 180

8. Heth (Gate) - Happy Gate of Heaven p. 192

### NEXT EIGHT LETTERS - THE UNDERWORLD p. 203

These letters guide the hero's journey through the Underworld. It begins with

9th letter, the labyrinth of Teth (translated coil or clew as ball of yarn) and continues through judgments and death, hanging upside down until finally the serpent-fish of the 14th letter (nun) travels safely over the waters of death of Letter 13 (Mem/water). After growing stronger, he once emerged into the light of day through the opening eye of the sun (Ain/16th letter).

9. Teth (Coil or Ball of String) - Entering The Labyrinth p. 205

10. Yod (Hand) - Judgments Of Fate p. 216

11. Kaph (Palm of hand) - Visionaries And Payment Of Debts p. 225

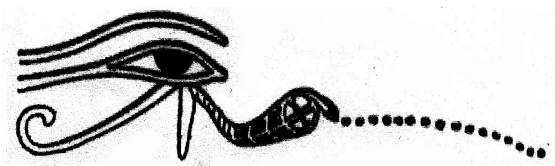
12. Lamed (Ox goad) - Upside Down Teacher & L's Name of God p. 234

13. Mem (Water) - Breaking Waters & The Deluge p. 241

14. Nun (Serpent-fish) - Return Of A Messiah & Allotment Of Fortune p. 249

15. Samekh (Prop or Fish) - Devas, Devils & Protection p. 258

16. Ain (Eye) - Opening Eye Of The Sun p. 266



Egyptian Eye of the Sun with emerging

serpent spitting 16 charms

#### LAST EIGHT LETTERS - THE HEAVENS

The last section hints at astronomical cycles, beginning with control of the North Star: Pi as 17th Greek letter, Pe (command), 17th Hebrew. The Star is 17th card of a Tarot deck.

17. Pe (Command or Mouth) - Pi's Control Of The Circle p. 275
  18. Tsade (Fishhook or Hunt) - Tsadiks, Moons & Midwives p. 284
  19. Qoph (Monkey) - The Number Of The Sun p. 288
  20. Rosh (Head) -New Year After Sun/Moon/Mercury 19 Year Cycles p. 293
  21. Shin (Tooth) - A Triangular Number Of A Potent Moon God (Sin) p. 295
  22. Tau (Mark) - A Return from Death p. 298
- FIRST & LAST LETTERS - A REVIEW p. 300

#### APPENDIX OF DIVINATION PATTERNS & CELESTIAL CYCLES p. 306

MOTHER GOOSE-BLACKBIRD DIVINATION

PALMISTRY - FIVE FINGERS

I-CHING TRIGRAMS- EARLY HEAVEN SEQUENCE

EMPEROR OF CHINA'S TWELVE SYMBOLS

CHINESE ZODIAC

CALENDAR CYCLES

TWELVE SIGNS OF THE WESTERN ZODIAC

BIBLIOGRAPHY P. 318

I have included a number of j-peg images to illustrate the stories. They are either common domain or I have received permission for their use. Tarot from Rider-Waite Tarot Deck reproduced by permission of U.S. Games Systems, Inc, Stamford, CT 06902 USA Copyright 1971 by US Games Systems, Inc.

## PART ONE

Our alphabet, the ABC's we learn almost as soon as we chant Pat-a-cake, may have begun life as a calendar for celebrating rituals: a star-guided mnemonic for the timing of seasonal chants. There remains a memory trickling down from this long ago world that by following the correct order provided by our alphabet, the proper sequence of the 'Spell' would renew both Earth and the fragile butterfly souls of her children. Charms spelling out this promise hold Earth's gift of life, her secrets of spinning new gold from worn straw if we can but remember their names.

Early alphabets used pictures to represent sounds: An ox head (Aleph) as letter A, for instance. I began wondering why creators of ancient alphabets chose their particular symbols to represent the orderly letters of our ABC's. Investigating physical and mythological qualities associated with each symbol, I uncovered a story. Before embarking on our journey through the alphabet, I must describe several traditions I compared to unearth this wide spread Mystery.

A picture is not confined to a single language. Each user can pronounce the word according to his language. Our numerals, for instance, are pictograms. Seeing the shape '3', we might say three, but a Frenchman would say 'trois'. The shape gives no hint of the sound, but if we write 't-h-r-e-e' we pronounce three. True writing is a way of visualizing speech: Sound represented by symbol. The magic of oral enchantments eventually evolved into the spells of writing.

Objects becoming our letters described a 'Spell' long before they began to write linear history. Our earliest alphabets recall verses sung for the creation and re-creation of each New Year. Although my journey is about the discovery of a path there are few literal paths to follow, only numerous clues derived from seemingly unrelated stories. They include Mother Goose rhymes and carefully guarded recipes for gold, magic, bread, and vinegar, which begin like all Earth's magic with a Mother.

Originally enchantment, letters were eventually engraved or inscribed: "Writing ... like incantation had magic power. The transference of this power from the chanted word into the written word represents the second stage."<sup>1</sup> Enchantments maturing with the magic of Time eventually evolved into proper Spells.

This is a book of measurements and calendars couched as myth and magic. I tease apart secrets of ancient sky-watchers marking the changing seasons passing over earth and sky. Recognizing as above, so below, observations led to measurements. Becoming more complicated, our ancestors needed a way to record their calendars. I believe these calendars were encoded into our alphabet and at its root, the order of our letters hide this spell. That is, objects chosen to represent ancient letters were determined by their position in the series: first, second, third, etc. A number magic underlies the revolving Creation associated with the alphabet. Proper spelling mandates letters follow a

---

<sup>1</sup> Maurice Boisson, *Magic*, E.P. Dutton, 1961, p. 99.



proper order. Adepts of Mystery traditions have long recognized the relationships between their various practices.

“Human society, the world, and the whole of mankind is to be found in the alphabet. Freemasonry, astronomy, philosophy, all the sciences find their true, albeit imperceptible, beginnings there: and so it must be. The alphabet is a wellspring.” (Victor Hugo, 1839)<sup>2</sup>

This is not a history of writing in the usual sense: a linear story of the transformation of speech into symbols to record that speech. I am more interested in why the symbols themselves were chosen. I found that there is wisdom and reasoning behind the choice of objects representing early letters. Evolving story rather than random selection mandated choice of symbol in each position.

I researched several early traditions and compared their symbols. I offer quotes from sources of such diverse people as alchemists giving obscure instructions for turning dross to gold and a god creating a glowing world out of darkness in six days. I include the orderly attributes of gods manifesting as the fingers of the hand and of gods regulating the days and months of our calendars. These comparisons helped me uncover the stories hidden in each position.

---

<sup>2</sup> Quoted, George Jeans, *Writing*, Abrams, 1997, p. 195.

At some point in time, a poetic genius ordered random symbols into a pattern. Order is important to our story: it is ABC rather than ZBD. In creating or adapting early alphabets, I found two things were considered. First, the symbol must represent a sound in the language: A is for Apple. But our first A is not for 'apple' rather it was for an (androgynous) ox as Aleph. As we shall explore, cows and sky bulls are associated with the gift of writing in many traditions. The second consideration is that symbols represent attributes determined by its order of appearance, by its number in the series. I will describe these qualities letter by letter in the second part of the book. First and last letters reflecting each other, the last symbol revolves back to the first

Many early adaptors of the alphabet chose from their own hoard of symbols to represent the sounds of their languages but they followed a common pattern. The traditions I compare appear in an unvarying order. The order and symbols of our alphabet were not chosen by chance; the order of a properly 'spelled' charm was never arbitrary. Early writing was too special, too sacred, for symbols to be carelessly determined.

"God drew the Hebrew letters, hewed them, combined them, weighed them, interchanged them, and through them produced the whole Creation."  
 (*Sefer Yesirah*, c. 500 CE)<sup>3</sup> Discussed later, Hebrew remembers a tradition that God created the alphabet (A-T) before creating Heaven & Earth (Genesis I).

---

<sup>3</sup> Gershom Scholem, *Origins of the Kabbalah*, Princeton, 1990, pp. 24-29.

Among its mysteries, our alphabet contains secrets of calendars and alchemic transformations lost when magic became hidden and then forgotten. Properly spelled, the letters in their proper order, a story of creation and re-creation unfolds. Alphabet charms once guided a dying Year along the path returning toward spring. Seed and Soul continuously emerge into a new Light of Day. Providing a key to understanding the story, ancient alphabets were represented by named and ordered objects. Our own ABCD arises from: Aleph, 'Ox'; Beth, 'House'; Gimel, 'Camel' or 'Rope', and Dalet, 'Door'.

Our original alphabet (Phoenician/Hebrew c. 1050 BCE) describes a revolving year of planting, growing, harvest and then, a seed's storage in the Underworld. This suggests our alphabet evolved alongside farming. Along with farming, people began storing and trading Earth's surplus. Myths about the gift of letters also hint at trade and wandering traders. Prior to farming the verses may have been sung, have been enchanted, to ensure the fertility of hunted animals and gathered plants.

Most scholars of alphabet history deny a conscious choice behind the order of letters. Though mine is not the usual approach, my insights about Spell as Alphabet are based on extensive research and documentation. My facts are easily checked: a simple Google search will find most information. Although citing scholarly opinions, I am not trying to translate ancient script nor spelling occult uses for its magic. Instead I am writing from deep in my belly and over my finger-bones as I trace Earth's order from her awakening in early spring through the

birth and death of her golden children. In her winter-cold womb, the seed will sleep until her Lover kisses her awake and she circles again with the Lord of the Dance. Once again souls will slip like words through the opening door (our letter Delta) of her warming womb.

## ALPHABET CALENDARS AS ROSARIES OF LETTERS

Historically, writing developed and spread with the need for record keeping by city storehouses. Symbols incised on tokens were used as counters to identify owners of stored and traded items long before the appearance of true writing. But my interest is not in the history, rather in the mythology underlying the objects chosen to represent early alphabet letters.

In addition to its early use of recording Earth's glowing treasures, our orderly alphabet hides other secrets. Describing a yearly Great Round of golden harvests, it also provided a path for a spiritual journey guiding the soul toward the light. Early writing was frequently associated with oracles and divinations helping guide the path through life and afterlife. Some of the patterns described in this investigation are therefore divinations associated with early writing systems.

Alphabet letters follow a pattern evolved long ago in the almost forgotten world of the Earth Mothers. Square, squat, deep-breasted and full-bodied, these charming goddesses brought wealth and peace to their people. The people in turn performed their part in the seasonal festivals insuring Earth's prosperity.



Pillar with necklace and breasts. Musee Fenaille<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Courtesy Anthony Weir, [Irishmegaliths.org.uk](http://Irishmegaliths.org.uk)

Earth goddesses were often depicted with their necklaces. The 'Zodiac' is the name of one such necklace; 'Cosmos' is another. Cosmos means both 'ornament' as cosmetic and 'universe'. Our universe is built from 'elements', a word the Oxford Universal Dictionary describes as meaning both 'building blocks' of the universe and 'alphabet letters'. Some cosmic necklaces were openly composed of alphabet letters or astrology's zodiac calendars.<sup>5</sup> Their goddesses possessed the proper spell, the correct order of revolving letters and stars, to return a dead Earth and her seed to new life. They provided the 'elements' to spell each new world into existence after the dying of the old.

When investigating alphabet symbols I found our alphabet represented a spiral, not a linear progression. Although alphabet stories hint at rebirth, eternal life was never promised, only motherly (material) help along the journey. After each harvest, it is Earth's seed that returns after passing through the dark.

In ancient Mysteries, the end is always imbedded in the beginning. Last letter of all the early patterns I investigated hints at this return. Our own ABC begins with a Bull's head as letter 'A'. Our oldest alphabet, Phoenician/Old Hebrew, ended with Tav ('mark') originally written T, X, or  $\oplus$ . This multiplying cross of resurrection, this plus sign of additional returns, promised Death was

---

<sup>5</sup> Discussed later, they include Diana of Ephesus, who wears a Zodiac as necklace. Norse Freya has a necklace of 'shining' stars; Kali of India wears alphabet letters around her neck (Varnamala).

never final. In its season, this mark of resurrection will circle back as the Bull (Taur) as letter 'A' or the pillar ('tor') as Number 1.<sup>6</sup>



A to T watermark

"The combination of A and T ... (is) the first and last letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The expression 'last' is generally misunderstood ... the truer implication being the end of the last days and the dawn of a new era."<sup>7</sup>

Before we can study the qualities associated with each letter, I need to describe several traditions appearing in this investigation. As our oldest alphabet, I use Phoenician/Old Hebrew as my template. Because the association of our alphabet with calendar magic is a broken tradition, I researched numerous other patterns to learn my story. Not all of these orders are true alphabets or even writing systems but each has a named symbol and each symbol is placed in a set order. This makes comparison possible.

Many are thought to have no common ancestor but I found an underlying pattern shared from as far east as ancient China, as far west as Ireland and Iceland. The pattern provides the template later Mystery traditions as well. In examples of these patterns and scripts I have tried, not always consistently, to use uniform spellings of symbol names. Coming from different languages they appear in numerous English spellings.

---

<sup>6</sup> Nishan translates 'Mark' (Armenian). Nissan marks the spring month of the Hebrew Calendar.

<sup>7</sup> Bayley, *Lost Language of Symbolism* (1912), Rowman & Littlefield, 1968, p. 72.

As we explore the symbols of various scripts and patterns, I cannot emphasize enough that you need to compare attributes associated with the MYTH of the symbol. Do not be fooled by the shape occupying each numbered position. There is almost no correlation between shapes or sounds of the letters (using the word loosely) of these various traditions. However, each position in an ordered series contains certain powers inherent in that placement. All symbols in the same position share a family resemblance of qualities. Looking at what each ordered object represents provides a clue to the alphabet's evolving story. The traditions I explore emerge from a common source though not necessarily a common use of the powers inherent in each symbol's position.

I pull apart secrets from the most luminous soul journey of a Jewish mystic or Taoist adept or from the more prosaic calendars of a farming year. I also include ill-tempered uses of letter magic by Norse hags and Viking warriors. I am not putting a value on use. I simply compare wide spread traditions to demonstrate there IS a pattern: that each letter contains a group of 'powers' associated with its position in the progression. Although various peoples chose symbols from their own word-hoard, it is the number placement of each letter, its position in the sequence that determines the choice of symbol.

This is surface exploration only. I am neither competent to discuss the deeper uses of alchemy and Kabbalistic Mysteries nor to determine an ultimate origin for secrets hidden in our alphabet. I am not considering how a particular



people used the Mystery. I only claim they share a common ancestor. I start my investigation with one source for the numbers that underlie the alphabet magic:  
The Heavens.

## 2. ASTRONOMY & CALENDARS

"And now men see not the light which is bright in the skies" (Job 37:21, quoted in the *Bahir*, an 11th C. Kabbalah text describing Hebrew alphabet secrets)

After eons spent watching the changing sky, people began to recognize and ultimately record repeating patterns. Planets migrate past fixed stars at regular intervals. Fixed stars revolve over earth marking the changing seasons. Stars circle a seemingly fixed pole star but, slowly, they too change position. These patterns underlay the discovery of mathematics and measurements and influenced the choice of symbols in our alphabet. Calendars recorded in our early alphabets remember the ordered cycles of constantly revolving seasons.



Hungary, c. 5500 BCE<sup>8</sup> Magician touching Above and Below

Time measured by revolving lights in the sky mirrors the seasons changing the face of Mother Earth. Because 'As Above, So Below' this relationship between earth and sky empowers the celebrations of our calendars. Seasons on earth mirror the changing bodies of all her children: plant, animal or man. Seed, man, or rising and falling stars share not only the same atoms of creation, but also the cycles of birth, growth, and fertility. In addition, they share

---

<sup>8</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, Harper & Row, 1989, p. 16.

Five thousand years later, the shape linking earth and sky becomes Hebrew letter Aleph א.

the cycle of old age followed by death. With each death, a disappearance into the dark and then, a rebirth: Energy and light return to the circle from out of nature's black womb.

Note: a cycle can begin either with the shadows of a gentle Eve or the brightness of Earth's returning Sun. Reflecting this, we find most of the first symbols of the mercurial hermetic patterns we explore are black, white, or black and white.

Numerous circles guide the paths of stars and planets crossing our skies. One is a narrow band of stars, the ecliptic crossing another starry circle: the path of our Milky Way. Along the ecliptic travel the Zodiac stars, the sun, moon and 5 wandering planets seen by the naked eye. The Zodiac circle of 360 degrees has by our time been divided into 12 astrological houses spanning 30 degrees each. Helpful in my study, each house in the series has certain specific attributes useful in comparison to other ordered patterns.

Each house is named for a constellation of fixed stars that, rising with the sun, rules for one month. After their period of morning rising, they disappear into the glow of the sun. Circling earth over twelve months, they should return to their proper season each year. The wandering planets, sun and moon should also rejoin the fixed stars at regular seasonal intervals.

## A PRECESSION OF STARS

But earth has a faint wobble in her body. Like a spinning gyroscope, she

slowly changes the orientation of her north pole and hence the pole star visible to her northern gaze. Observed from earth, all our stars revolve around the command of the Pole Star: the Nail of the North, an apparent whirlpool, eye, or mouth. About 6000 years ago, the pole star was among the stars of a Dragon, a humpbacked camel-serpent covering much of the north sky.

Shifting slowly Earth's northward gaze drifted towards the Wagon stars, also known as the Dipper or Great Bear. In time, she will turn back, reclaiming her former pole star. The cycle takes about 13,000 years in each direction, an entire passage taking 25,800 years. The year 2012 was halfway through the cycle. We are now heading slowly back toward the lost stars of a Golden Age.

This migrating North Pole has the added effect of "Precessing the Equinoxes," a slow backward movement through the Zodiac. This movement occurs on an average rate of one degree every 72 years. This is one source of a number that appears numerous times in our study of alphabet myths. Because of the Precession, every 2200 years the Zodiac sign rising with the New Year sun changes, its Age passing. As each Age ends, the nature of the world also changes. Around 4000 BCE, the farmer's Bull of Taurus rose with the Spring Equinox. By 2000 BCE, warlike Aries ruled the spring sky. Finally, we entered the Age of Pisces, which now 2000 years into the present era, is moving toward the unsettling Age of Aquarius.

A tower built to mark the rising of a star in the sky or to predict a seasonal rising of the sun or planet against a fixed star (on the Solstices and Equinoxes,

for instance) ultimately goes out of kilter. The tower's calendar can no longer be trusted; the center no longer holds and Ages shake apart. While the faithful sun will continue to rise in its proper season, the ruling stars change, losing their command of the sky. The Fallen Tower will reappear in our story.

Descriptions of Zodiac time concentrate on the New Year of the Spring Equinox (March 21). I believe our pattern developed much earlier than the above dates suggest. Oral traditions have long memories extending back thousands of years before the advent of written history. Around 10,500 BCE, a date Plato (c. 400 BCE) declared the lost Golden Age, the Twin stars of Gemini and nearby Giant of Orion rose on the Winter Solstice. This was the period (c. 9000-8000 BCE) settled villages appeared in the Near East and around the Black Sea area of Anatolia.<sup>9</sup> This was the period an even older hunter-gather people created a ceremonial center of stone pillars richly carved with animals (Gobekli Tepe, c. 10,000 BCE).

## ORION AND THE WOMB OF THE WORLD

The Giant will play a large part in our mythic history. His journey through the sky is just outside the zodiac circle. In a calendar used by astronomers in ancient Egypt, 36 bright stars traveling the same path as Orion were identified. Known as Decan stars, they appeared in the morning sky for 10 days. After disappearing into the light of the sun, they finally reappear to set in the west.

---



<sup>9</sup> Ian Wilson, *Before the Flood*, St Martins, 2002, pp. 108 ff.

After 70 days they are born into the night sky. Orion and his faithful star Sirius were important markers of Egypt's calendars and their measurements.

Closely connected with alphabet symbols and the measurements of heaven, some of Orion's many names include Algebra; Saturn (Ruler of the Rings of Time); Bull of Heaven; Frigga spinning stars with her spindle; Lao Tsu returning order to a corrupt world; Tammuz dying after fertilizing his Lady of the Dates; and Osiris, both Bull and (dying-rising) Barley of Egypt,<sup>10</sup>

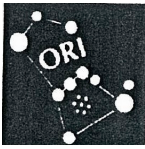
Orion is also known as El. Among early Semites, the son of this Ancient of Days was Baal. Early protean gods became more concrete, more static, as our world aged. The Bull of Heaven as Baal ('lord') and the supreme El may originally have represented the same being. Ancient gods once changed aspects with the seasons. Harvested in their time, they returned young, re-emerging as the Virgin Springtime of each new world.

In our alphabet, El appears as 'L' our twelfth letter, a number associated with (12 inch) rulers, wise kings and measurements. As 12th letter, **L** dies upside down on Twelfth Night. We will first meet him in the form of an alphabet letter as potent third letter, Gamma **Γ** (Greek); then again as aging ruler of the 7<sup>th</sup> charm.

In Phoenician, ancestor alphabet preceding Greek, third letter is  (Gimel); twelfth is an upside-down teacher  (Lamedh). The belt stars of Orion's constellation, the 'el-wand', contain L's shape.

---

<sup>10</sup> Allen, Richard, *Star Names* (1899), Dover, 1963, pp. 303 ff.



Constellation of Orion

180 degrees away from Orion is the constellation of Scorpio. Between them runs a river, a road of stars, a Milky Way marking the path of a wandering cow goddess consorting with the Bull of Heaven. During the Golden Age (10,500 BCE) this star road touched earth on the Winter and Summer Solstices. Touching earth, the road once allowed giants, dead ancestors, and angels to wander and merry among the Children of Man.<sup>11</sup>

Eventually (c. 6000 BCE) the Precession brought the rising of these stars to the Spring Equinox. The Road of Souls still touched earth on a Quarter Day but World Ages and star measuring Towers continued to topple. With the backwards shifting of the Zodiac, the Star Path running between Scorpio and Orion eventually lost contact with earth on the important corners of the year.<sup>12</sup>

## THE WOMB OF THE DARK GODDESS

The stars of the Scorpion are associated with myths about the death of Orion, the Giant dying in the West when the Scorpion rises. This Black Goddess

---

<sup>11</sup> Winter & Summer Solstices, Spring & Fall Equinoxes are the Quarters Days marking the corners, of the year. Orion has also been associated with the Nephelim.

<sup>12</sup> To further explore the traumatic myths concerning this loss of stability between earth and sky, see: DeSantillana, *Hamlet's Mill* (1977), Godine, 1992.

has important implications for stories of birth and rebirth. The actual womb of earth lies among the stars of Scorpio-Sagittarius. This Navel, this Root Star, our Galactic Center, opens directly across the sky from the Bull of Heaven.



Ur, c. 2400 BCE -Scorpion Goddess opening her womb

The Galactic Center is where our cosmos physically originated. This is where the stars of our galaxy began to sing as the sounds of energy first became light and then coalesced into the world of matter (mater, mother). The constellation of Scorpio is where tradition places the fierce form, the Hag form, of the goddess. Numerous peoples describe the Black Goddess taking her dying consort's seed into her womb to store until another Creation.

In the long ago Golden Age of 10,000 BCE this Queen of Heaven rose on the Summer Solstice (June 25) as her dying Lover began his journey toward the dark. Summer marks the prime of Earth's sun. After Midsummer his days grow shorter and he must die to be reborn. Six months later on the darkest night in the dead of winter Orion returned with her Sun. Due to the implacable Precession, Scorpio's Hag now rises around Halloween; her Lover on May Day.

The Bull of Orion disappears from the sky when Scorpio's receptive womb appears. After traveling the night of Heaven's underworld, he reappears in the morning sky. Each time, he returns to bring fertility to his Land. The Hag also renews, growing young with each spin of Time's Wheel. Thousands of years after the above Scorpion goddess was painted, her image still appeared over the



doors of medieval churches. Like her ancestor, she stretches wide her labia to offer protection, a place to rest until resurrection. Along with her young Sun, the Hag once returned as the young Bride of each Virgin Spring.



Shiela Na Gig, Herefordshire, England, 9th century<sup>13</sup>

The stars of the protean Bull as Orion have also represented a hunter. It is not beyond imagination that this image of the hunter, penis connected to the womb of his Lady of Animals depicts Orion, the path of the Milky Way, and the Goddess of the Womb (Galactic Center in Scorpio) 180 degrees and six months away from the stars of Orion. From Black Earth's fertile womb multitudes of plants and animals emerge when pleased by her Giant.



Paleolithic Algeria<sup>14</sup>

## BULL OF HEAVEN

Bulls and wandering cows, domesticated c. 6000 BCE, are associated with both the gift of writing and of calendars in several cultures. Needing to track earthly cattle may have led to symbols as brands predating the tokens of early storehouses; tracking the Sky Bull led to measurements of calendars. Cattle were associated with the (measured) material wealth Earth's womb provided her

<sup>13</sup> Photograph, John Harding, GNU Free Documentation. Shielawiki.jpg

<sup>14</sup> Erich Neumann, *Great Mother* (1955), Bollingen, 1991, p. 114.

children. The bovine shape of letter 'A' is equally the shape of a woman's womb, intensifying the association of the material world that will emerge from 'A'



Paleolithic Spain c. 12000 BCE<sup>15</sup>

This Bull covering a fecund Earth is a giant Aurochs, predecessor of domestic cattle. Starwatchers of Mesopotamia, c. 3000 BCE, a long way in time and space from Spain, tell a similar story. The Sky was known as 'The Bull of Heaven'. His semen falling as rain fertilized his earth. Early gods not yet solidified, he was also female, her breasts poured forth their nourishment.

This Bull was "the basis for the calendar since it heralds through its changing constellations the times of the year."<sup>16</sup>

---

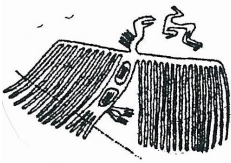
<sup>15</sup> Elinor Gadon, *Once & Future Goddess*, Harper Collins, 1989, p. 11.

<sup>16</sup> Thorkild Jacobsen, *Treasures of Darkness*, Yale, 1976, p. 95.

### 3. ANATOLIAN, MESOPOTAMIAN, EGYPTIAN & EARLY SEMITIC SCRIPTS

Farming, metallurgy and the art of the Vine originated near the Black Sea of Asia Minor. History is continually pushed back as archeologists discover ever more ancient civilizations. One such find is the Anatolian complexes of the hunter-gathers of Gobekli Tepe. Massive stone pillars covered with animals and people were carved around 10,000 BCE, the date of Plato's lost Golden Age. One of the carvings depicts a vulture by a headless man, a motif appearing again as our story unfolds. At some point in prehistory, the builders buried their temples and left them. The need to feed and house these wandering hunters while they returned over many years to carve the shrines may have influenced the formation of area's early farming communities.

The Black Sea area has long been associated with mother goddesses, giant bulls, black vultures taking the dead into their bodies, and early script-like symbols. Centuries later, both Celts and German gods claimed they learned the divining art of letters in these lands of the Goddess Asia. Feathered bird-maidens also carry off the dead of these later peoples.



Catal Huyuk, Anatolia c. 6000 BCE<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> Marija Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 188. I have uncovered no information on where the heads were placed. Perhaps they were placed in niches of stone like later Celtic heads. If exposed, they would have furnished calcium to pregnant squirrels and mice.

Catal Huyuk's peaceful farming and trade city is one possible source of the oldest Mystery traditions. The cosmopolitan civilization, showing no history of violence, included extensive trade routes, city planning, weaving, metallurgy, farming, and animal husbandry. The inhabitants disappeared from their city about 6000 BCE for unknown reasons, to unknown destinations.<sup>18</sup>

Their shrines contained bullheads incorporating the beaks of vultures as well as multiple paintings of vultures consuming the dead. The cleaned bones were then buried within the homes for company. I will elaborate on motherly vulture goddesses when we discuss the Egyptian 'alphabet' below. Unfortunately, although hundreds of their script-like symbols exist, there is no ordered pattern available. Therefore, I am unable to include them in my study. In researching an evolving 'spell', order is of utmost importance.

"These people (of Catal Huyuk) also painted representations of the goddess of fertility, showing her as a young girl, as a mother giving birth, and then as an older woman."<sup>19</sup> In our unraveling of alphabet Mysteries this repeating cycle of the seasons of life represented by young, maturing and aging deities will prove important.

---

<sup>18</sup> Ian Wilson, *Before the Flood* (2001), suggests it was a climate change that affected farming. Necessitating a move, the people of Catal Huyuk might have gone to the then fresh water Black Sea. When the Mediterranean Sea broke through the land bridge (c. 5600 BCE), it caused a Great Flood, destroying their new cities and sending the survivors wandering again.

<sup>19</sup> Sanford Holst, *Phoenician Secrets*, Santorini, 2011, p. 14.

The early scripts of China, Mesopotamia, and Egypt did not appear for another 3000 years after the symbols of the Black Sea communities. Developing true writing systems about 3200 BCE, their scripts were composed of images and included of hundreds, if not thousands, of characters.<sup>20</sup> The cuneiform script of Mesopotamia, Chinese kanji, or most hieroglyphs of Egypt were not ordered so I cannot include them directly in my study of an evolving story. Myths and divinations of these starwatchers, however, are relevant in uncovering the calendar stories unfolding among later alphabet traditions.

#### EARLY PHOENICIAN & THE DEBT TO EGYPT

Phoenicians, eventual source of all western alphabets including ancient Hebrew, settled the area south of Anatolia now known as Lebanon. They began trading with Egypt around 3200 BCE. Between 2000 -1600 BCE, large groups of Western Semites, including Phoenicians, Jews and other Canaanites, settled in the Black Land of Egypt. Peoples from Anatolia were among the mix. Some of them became known as the Hyksos, 'rulers of foreign lands'. Leaving the famine of the desert to seek the fertile lands of Egypt's Delta, they came as slaves, settlers, traders, and warriors. Before their forced exodus (c. 1500 BCE), they even ruled briefly as Pharaohs.

---

<sup>20</sup> Mesopotamia has a long history of developing symbols, from storehouse tokens (c. 8000 BCE) to true writing (c. 3200 BCE). [www.archaeology.org/9903/newsbriefs/egypt.html](http://www.archaeology.org/9903/newsbriefs/egypt.html)

As early as 3000 BCE, Egypt's Sinai contained turquoise mines worked by combinations of people, including Phoenicians and other Canaanites. Around 1800 BCE an early Semitic alphabet developed in this area. The script, Proto Sinaitic, simplified a few hieroglyphs and adapted them to represent sounds in their own language. No longer needing years of training to learn, common men could now write. It eventually became the Phoenician and early Hebrew alphabet. Despite the usefulness of this phonetic script (simple symbols to represent single sounds), it was not openly employed for hundreds of years.



This early alphabet eventually evolved into the 22 Phoenician letters. Phoenician, developed from simplified Egyptian letters, is the source of the first true alphabet. It is the ancestor of all alphabets including Hebrew, Aramaic, Korean, Sanskrit and Greek. As transmitters of an alphabet, their city of Byblos provides us with such words as bibliotheca (library) and Bible. Early inscriptions found in Egypt were dedications to Balaat, cow goddess of Byblos.

The West Semitic Phoenicians dwelled in the north coast of Canaan from c. 3000 BCE. By convention although their seafaring culture quickly became distinct from other Canaanites, they were called Canaanites before and

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.codex99.com/typography/11.html>

Phoenician after 1200 BCE. Their own name is Canaan (ki-na-ah-na or Kn'n). Greeks gave them the name of a resurrecting Phoenix two thousand years later.

Unlike those of the other West Semites including the early Hebrews, their cities (primarily Byblos, Tyre, Sidon, and Ugarit) were seaports confined to narrow strips of land by harbors. Usually preferring the wealth of trade to the spoils of war, these traders eventually sailed as far as Scandinavia, Britain, around Africa, and possibly to the Americas. Descended from Cain (whose mark saved him from death), Phoenicians were master craftsmen: builders and metal workers, weavers, and dyers with the secret of a deep purple craved by royalty. They traded their own handiwork along with the wealth of the known world.<sup>22</sup>

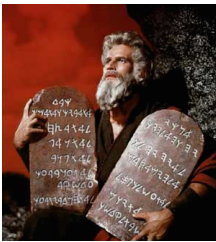
The earliest Semitic alphabet letters began appearing in Canaan and Egypt around 1800 BCE. After a hiatus of several hundred years, around 1050 BCE the Phoenician alphabet suddenly spread across much the world visited by their traders. The spread of this alphabet after 1050 was also associated with numerous Mystery Traditions. I believe while the alphabet was simmering for several hundred years in a temple, the final order was not only a way of writing the sound of a language, but had become a mnemonic for astronomical secrets of measurements and a return, a resurrection after death.

---

<sup>22</sup> The name 'phoenix' is applied to 'purple dye' or as the resurrecting Phoenix bird or the Phoenix Palm with its dates of each new world, but the "word has no known equivalent in any of the languages of the ancient Near East." Mark Woolmer, *Ancient Phoenicia*, Bristol Classical Press, 2011, p. 12,

Phoenician deities included a Bull and his consort Baalat, known as Hathor or Isis in Egypt. Although the related Hebrews eventually demonized these Baal-El worshippers and their golden calves, originally their ties were close. The early Hebrew alphabet was essentially identical with Phoenician. Craft-wise Phoenicians even supplied the architect and cedar to build King David's home<sup>23</sup> and then the temple of Solomon. Phoenician queens once married the kings of Israel.

Abraham (c. 2000 BCE), Patriarch of Jews and Muslims and traveller in Egypt, was said to know the mysteries of the alphabet including its power to create new life.<sup>24</sup> There is another story that Moses (c. 1200 BCE), after leaving Egypt and ultimately wandering 40 years in the Wilderness of Sinai, received the script inscribed on the Tablets of the Law (Torah).



Carleton Heston as Moses shows the old script on his tablets.

---

<sup>23</sup> "Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David. <sup>12</sup> Then David knew that the LORD had established him as king over Israel and had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel." (Samuel2, 5-11)

<sup>24</sup> See Letter 14. Abraham studied the mysteries with Enoch, ancestor of Noah who saved the arcana in his ark. I have also seen he studied with Shem, son of Noah.



Important to our own alphabet story, which begins with the cow's head of letter 'A', the turquoise mine at Serabit el-Khadim in the Sinai had a temple to the cow goddess, Hathor.<sup>25</sup> Like Orion, she has multiple names. The only Sinaitic word that has been translated is her Semitic name 'Balaat' (Lady). Greek myth attributed Egypt's alphabet to a gift of a Cow.

Reminding the reader of the frequent association of star cows and sky bulls with the origins of writing, the cow as the goddess Hathor is also known as Isis. As a far-wandering cow goddess, she is associated with the stars of Sirius, Orion and the Milky Way. “As for the Egyptian alphabet, Queen Isis... coming from Greece to Egypt, brought them with her and gave them [alphabet letters] to the Egyptians.” (Isidor of Spain, c. 600 CE)<sup>26</sup> Isis, having as many names as her Bull Orion, is also known as the White Cow Io. Her descendant Cadmus carried the Phoenician alphabet and its hidden mysteries to Greece.

For unknown reasons, the script from the Sinai simmered underground unused until, according to the Greeks, Cadmus stole the secrets from the White Cow. His ancestors include cloud goddesses and the River Nile. His original home was the Egyptian city of Thebes, another place associated with early alphabet letters derived from hieroglyphs (Wadi El Hol c. 1800 BCE). Around

---

<sup>25</sup> Orly Goldwasser, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Mar/April 2010 (bib-arch.org). Note: Cow goddesses being widespread, Bull/Cow worshipping Canaanites simply claimed the Cow Hathor as their own.

<sup>26</sup> Robert Graves, *White Goddess* (1948), Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1966, p. 232.

1050 BCE, 22 Phoenician letters burst upon the world to mother all western alphabets. Because there are multiple spellings for Phoenician letters, I am (technically incorrectly) using Hebrew and Greek names for letters in the text as most accessible to the reader. Hebrew retained Phoenician objects naming letters (Aleph/OxI, etc.). Hebrew also retained a memory of the magical luminous qualities of the early symbols; it never forgot the Mystery inherent in each of its 22 letters.

Phoenicians are closely associated with the Mystery traditions of Greece. They include the number secrets of Pythagoras, the Mysteries of Dionysus and the metal working Cabieri.<sup>27</sup> The secretive Mysteries all include a passage through the dark before returning to the light.<sup>28</sup> The enthusiasm with which Greeks welcomed this foreign tradition may have roots in the Greek concept of death: listless shades wandering aimlessly about a sad grey Underworld.

A few Greeks were lucky enough to learn those "awful mysteries which no one may in any way transgress or pry into or utter ... Happy is he among men upon earth who has seen these mysteries; but he who is un-initiate and who has no part in them, never has lot of like good things once he is dead, down in the

---

<sup>27</sup> See MYSTERY RELIGIONS, MASONS & ANCIENT ALPHABET RUNES, Academia.edu

<sup>28</sup> Miners bring light to the dark underworld shafts of their mines, returning with their shining metals. Secrets of metal working and smelting, like all Mysteries, were closely guarded










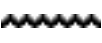















darkness and gloom."<sup>29</sup>

In addition to promising enlightenment if not actual resurrection, Mysteries transmitted such skills as wine making, metallurgy, alchemy, mathematics, masonry, astronomy and calendars. Before further discussing the Phoenician/Hebrew letters, I would like to introduce a 24 symbol 'hieroglyphic' alphabet.

---

<sup>29</sup> Hymn to Demeter, verse 470 (c. 7-6th century BCE),

<http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomericHymns1.html> Although I am following the Mysteries connected to alphabets, the Cadmean Letters, some were directly associated with Egypt. An Egyptian king of Athens established the Mysteries of Eleusis after Demeter saved the citizens from drought-induced starvation. After drought-mourning the disappearance of her daughter into the Underworld, she celebrated her return by allowing earth to bloom once more. Richard Poe, *Black Spark, White Fire*, Prima Publishing, 1997, 1999, p 129.

1.  Vulture (A)
2.  (I) or  Reed (Y)
3.  Arm (Cubit) (L)
4.  Quail (W)
5.  Leg (B)
6.  Seat or Throne (P)
7.  Cerastes Serpent (F)
8.  Owl (M)
9.  Water (N)
10.  Mouth (R)
11.  Reed Shelter (H)
12.  Wick (Used for Torches) (H)
13.  Placenta (B)
14.  Belly of Animal and Teats (H)
15.  Bolt (S)
16.  Folded Cloth (S)
17.  Lake (Sh)
18.  Hill (K)
19.  Basket with Handles (X)
20.  Stand for Jugs (G)
21.  Raised Bread (T)
22.  Hobble for Cattle (T)
23.  Hand (D)
24.  Resting serpent (Dj T)

#### 4. THE 24-HIEROGLYPHIC ALPHABET

Seagoing Phoenicians and Mesopotamians began trading with Egypt early in their history. Egypt's Temple of Hierakonopolis (c. 3200 BCE) was built with 4 large pillars of cedar. Phoenicians continued to trade their Cedars of Lebanon to the treeless Egyptians during the next 3000 years. A thriving city since 3500 BCE, Hierakonopolis, contains the first known painted tomb. "On the tomb walls are images of Mesopotamian-like boats, attesting to Pre dynastic contacts with the eastern Mediterranean."<sup>30</sup>

The development of writing in Mesopotamia has a long documented evolution of storeroom tokens into pictographs into true script as cuneiforms (c. 3300 BCE). These wedge-forms were engraved in wet clay and dried. When writing appeared in Egypt (c. 3200 BCE), it arrived as a mature system. It is possible the idea of writing arrived from the east and was translated into a uniquely Egyptian format of sacred script. It is equally possible the fragile paper used by Egyptian scribes has been lost to time. Known as hieroglyphs, they represented a "nearly complete panoply of alphabetic and multi-consonantal signs" along with numerous other shapes and images determining the meaning.<sup>31</sup>

Egypt began writing with hieroglyphs around 3200 BCE. The hundreds, eventually thousands, of complicated hieroglyphs could represent pictographs, sounds, modifiers, etc. At some point in history someone ordered 24 out of

---

<sup>30</sup> <http://archaeology.about.com/od/hterms/qt/hierakonpolis.htm>

<sup>31</sup> Maria Carmela Betro, *Hieroglyphics*, Abbeyville, 1996, p. 11.

hundreds of possible hieroglyphs into a phonetic (mono consonantal) alphabet. This became known as the 'hieroglyphic alphabet'. Traditionally provided in order, each symbol naming an object, I can thus compare it to other ordered alphabets including Phoenician.

Although the hieroglyphs used for this 'alphabet' are among the earliest, I have been unable to find a date for the first appearance of the order as it appears in scholarly books. The 'alphabet' was probably placed in this order about 100 years ago, but I have never been able to find a proper reference. As it represents the unfolding story of death and resurrection appearing in the Hebrew/Phoenician alphabet, I believe the scholar creating the order was aware of hermetic alphabet Mysteries. As I discuss below, the ordering of the 24 letters is extremely unlikely to be a random choice. Caveat: I have often seen the hieroglyphic script pulled out of its original order to follow the ABC sounds of our alphabet. This destroys the pattern, obscuring the story.<sup>32</sup>

Despite the development of this simple script (24 phonetic letters rather than hundreds) to write speech, it was not commonly used. Egypt continued to use the more elaborate hieroglyphic script for their tombs, temples, and descriptions of gods. Eventually, rather than using the existing 'alphabet', slightly simpler scripts developed, Known as Demotic and Hieratic they were used for non-sacred writing but were still complex and difficult to write or read.

---

<sup>32</sup> I use Betro, *Hieroglyphics*, 1996, p.22. Also Diringer, *Alphabet* (1948), p. 63

Ignoring the democratic simplicity of being able to write with a few phonetic hieroglyph letters, the 'alphabet' was used mostly to write foreign names.<sup>33</sup> It was probable a later scholar referencing his own hermetic tradition ordered the 24 available mono-consonant hieroglyphs into the 'alphabet'.

## BLACK MOTHER GODDESSES AND RISING SERPENTS

A vulture leads this script of 24 hieroglyphs (p. 21). A serpent sleeps at its base. Snakes, renewed by yearly shedding their skins and becoming briefly blind in the process, symbolize regenerating life. Described above, the circular patterns we explore promise a return into life. The use of a Vulture as first letter, a Serpent as last, makes it impossible to suppose the choice of symbols random. The association of Bird Goddesses with emerging Serpents has a long and widespread history.

The alphabet's first hieroglyph 'Vulture' represented sound 'A'.<sup>34</sup> The serpent, usually sounding Dj, can also sound 'T'. That is, this script begins with 'A' and ends with a 'T' as do Hebrew and Phoenician's Aleph to Tav: "The resting serpent (djT) "is the word for cobra. It is pronounced DjT and can be spelled out with a T sign, and maybe another determinative sign showing a cobra."<sup>35</sup>

---

<sup>33</sup> The earliest appearance of the name 'Israel' was written in this hieroglyphic alphabet.

Merneptah stele, c. 1200 BCE

<sup>34</sup> David Diringer, *The Alphabet*, Philosophical Library, 1948, p. 63, glosses the vulture with 'aleph'.

I can't find if this is his own gloss or from an earlier source. Most sources simply use 'A'.

<sup>35</sup> Personal correspondence from Jim Loy [www.jimloy.com](http://www.jimloy.com)



A-T



"The father is terrestrial (the snake), the mother is celestial ... a vulture. ... [To] the Egyptians it embodied the most excellent mother... although she is celestial, the mother vulture does not hesitate to dismember carrion and transform death into a vital food so as to transmit life."<sup>36</sup>

This particular hieroglyph represents the White Vulture (Neophron percnopterus), sacred to Isis.<sup>37</sup> As mother, she was chosen to sound 'A' as first hieroglyph. The sound of 'A' as first Phoenician letter will also mother the letters of all later alphabets. The color of this particular vulture is black and white and she was considered to be androgynous.<sup>38</sup> Later I will elaborate on hermaphroditic black and white symbols appearing in the first position.

Egypt preferred to preserve their dead but Canaanites, like the peoples of Asia Minor, were no strangers to vulture rituals. Excavations of a site (c. 4500-3500 BCE) in the Golan Heights revealed stone rings that may have been observatories. They may also have been places to feed vultures as well as offering homes for rock dwelling serpents. Archeologist "Rami Arav argues that "Rogem Hiri was a ... sanctuary, built specifically for the purpose of ...exposing the bodies of the dead to vultures... [It] was widely practiced in cultures and

---

<sup>36</sup> Christian Jacq, *Fascinating Hieroglyphics*, Sterling, 1998, p.106

<sup>37</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EgyptianVulture>

<sup>38</sup> Betro, *Hieroglyphics*, 1996, p. 103.



civilizations that for one reason or another were interested in saving the bones of the deceased and not their flesh."<sup>39</sup>



Griffon Vulture

Eventually, the black Griffon Vulture replaced the White Vulture (A's hieroglyph) as Egypt's protective mother. The huge black Griffon Vulture is the vulture depicted on the walls of Catal Huyuk (above, p. 27). Associated with the goddess Mwt (mother), her worship arrived in Egypt with the Semitic Hyksos. She merged with the older vulture goddess to become the sister of the Cobra. Between them, the two sisters encircled and protected the crown of the Pharaoh.



The Two Sisters

As the sound 'A' gives birth to all following letters, the Vulture was Egypt's mother goddess. As a Black (or white) Goddess, she gives birth to each new generation after taking the bodies of the dead into her womb. In time, that seed, her serpent-sun-fish-fetus, will rise again from her watery womb. (13th hieroglyph is 'placenta', a position associated with womb symbolism).<sup>40</sup>

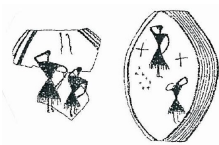
---

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/mysteries-of-the-chalcolithic-age/Excarnation,FoodforVultures>

<sup>40</sup> 13th Hebrew letter is the watery womb of Mem/water.

The large serpent as final hieroglyph is one of the aspects worn by ancient earth gods. Last Hyksos ruler of Egypt, was named after the Apophis serpent.<sup>41</sup> The Apophis, also known as Apep, ultimately became an evil serpent-dragon in Egyptian mythology. More to the point of a possible Semitic influence on the ordering of the 'alphabet' hieroglyphs: "The etymology of his name ('3pp) is perhaps to be sought in some west-semitic language where a word root 'pp meaning 'to slither' existed."<sup>42</sup> Phoenicia's Bull God (Baal) also appeared in the form of a snake or as a bull-headed serpent.

The Apophis serpent came to represent the Canaanite god Set (also identified with Baal El).<sup>43</sup> Set, an early Egyptian storm god worshipped by the Canaanites/Hyksos was, like other serpents, ultimately demonized (see Letters Three & Fifteen).



Ukraine, c. 3800-3000 BCE

This image shows serpents rising above heads of feather-skirted women "Many authors have interpreted such figures as 'mourning figures' which I think, does not reflect the real meaning...they witness energetic regeneration rites, not

<sup>41</sup> Bob Brier, *Ancient Egyptian Magic*, Quill, 1980, p. 18. The Apohis as foreign Pharaoh was presumably a powerful, not yet evil, dragon-ruler. One of the very early Egyptian Pharaohs also used the resting serpent as his name. (Djet).

<sup>42</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Apep](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Apep). His myth melded with the Semitic Seth/Set. See Letter 15 Samekh, The Devil, Bolt of Set. The. Apep arrived in Egypt with the Hysksos.

<sup>43</sup> Betro, *Hieroglyphics*, p. 113.

mourning or wailing of women."<sup>44</sup> The vulture and cobra represent cycles of life and death. They imply rituals of a Great Round of regeneration.<sup>45</sup>

Thousands of years later, the Black Mother and her serpent are still associated with letter magic. In India, the resting serpent is awakened to ascend the 24 vertebrae of the human spine to emerge, enlightened, through the crown of the head. She encounters alphabet letters along her journey.

Germanic tribes were another group finding magic among their 24 letters. In the Norse saga of Bosla (c. 1300 CE), one of the hero's tasks is to locate a vulture's egg covered with golden letters. From this egg emerged a serpent. Note: Ancient symbols derive from close observation of nature. Serpents are not above feeding upon Vulture eggs.



Orphic Egg, 1774 *Mysteries of Orpheus* promised a return from Death.

## EGYPTIAN CALENDAR

Egypt measured her 24-hour day by choosing 36 Decan Stars. Each of these 36 Righteous Ones ruled for one hour of 12. They were visible for 10 days before disappearing into the light of the sun ( $36 \times 10 = 360$ ).<sup>46</sup> They begin their

---

<sup>44</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, 1989, p. 242.

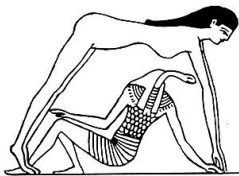
<sup>45</sup> As I noted, I cannot find a date for the first appearance of the order, it is possible a Rosicrucian, Kabbalah, Masonic or Secrets of the Golden Dawn practicing Egyptologist may have created it.

<sup>46</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Decans](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Decans)

cycle with Sirius, the star associated with Isis/Hathor, Mother Goddess of Egypt. That is, like letter 'A' as Hebrew Aleph (Cow/Bull), a mothering cow leads the circle of resurrecting Egypt's year.


Included among my patterns are 5 Egyptian gods chosen to rule five holidays. The Great Round of the sky measuring 360 degrees, these five were needed to make a calendar of 365 days, closer to the actual sun's cycle of 365.25 days. The attributes of the five gods fit closely those of our first five alphabet letters. Myth following the reality of a calendar regulated by the changing sky and seasons on earth, Egypt's Sky (Nut) and Earth (Geb) gave birth to these gods. In order, they are: (1) Osiris (2) Horus (3) Set (4) Isis, and (5) Nephthys.

The Egyptian sky, usually depicted as a woman arching over her Earth, was also depicted as a Cow. Her consort sometimes appears as a serpent, an ancient form of the Earth Gods. To allow the creation of the world, they were separated by their offspring, the young Air.



Geb as serpent and Nut

## PHOENICIAN ALPHABET (c. 1050 BCE)

1.		Aleph - Ox
2.		Beth - House
3.		Giml - Camel or Rope
4.		Dalet - Door
5.		Hey - Window
6.		Wau - Nail
7.		or Z      Zain - Weapon
8.		Heth - Gate or Fence
9.		Tet - Wheel or Coil
10.		Yod -Hand
11.		Kaf - Palm of Hand
12.		Lamd - Ox goad/Rod of the Teacher
13.		Mem - Water
14.		Nun - Serpent or Fish
15.		Samekh - Prop or Fish
16.		Ain - Eye
17.		Pe - Mouth or Commandment
18.		Tsade - Hunt or Fishhook
19.		Qopf - Monkey
20.		Ros - Head
21.		Shin - Tooth
22.		Tau - Mark

These are identical to the shapes of early Hebrew (*Ketav Ivri*)

## 5. PHOENICIAN

Phoenicians from the seacoast of Canaan traveled and traded everywhere their increasingly sophisticated boats could sail. Despite tales that Phoenicians carried an alphabet to all their ports built around the Mediterranean, they left few writings beyond accounts of trade items and storehouse records. This secretive, cosmopolitan people began a lucrative trade with Egypt as early as 3200 BCE.<sup>47</sup>

Their alphabet (1050 BCE) descended from the letters associated with the cow goddess Balaat as Isis/Hathor in Sinai. Ultimate source of all Western alphabets including Hebrew, Greek, and Arabic, it also influenced later syllabaries (consonant and vowel) including India's sacred scripts of Sanskrit and Brahmi (c. 300 BCE), and Japan's Lady's Hand (Hiragana c. 800 CE).

Its brilliance is that each letter represents a simple sound. Other writing systems used hundreds if not thousands of symbols to write language, limiting its use to elite scholars. Democratic Phoenician could write any language with only a few simply drawn letters. Written with less than 30 symbols, it could be quickly learned. Traveling along the trade routes, it was rapidly adapted for use by numerous unrelated languages.

According to the Greeks, Cadmus "a man from the east" (Kdm) carried Phoenicia's alphabet to Greece and established his city after following a cow. He was not the inventor, having stolen the letters from his grandmother, the White

---

<sup>47</sup> Holst, *Phoenician Secrets*, p. 22. He states they destroyed all documents each time they were forced to abandon their cities

Cow Io. While myth is a vastly underutilized source of linear history, it is not clear on the ultimate source of the Phoenician spell. One of Cadmus ancestors is the River Nile; another is Isis/Io. This hints at the Phoenician connection with Egypt. His heredity may refer to the script that appeared c. 1800 BCE at the temple of the cow goddess Hathor. Then again, perhaps a wandering Phoenician bequeathed an older order from Anatolia to the early alphabet.

"Kadmos was the son of Agenor, king of the Phoenician city of Tyre. Yet according to Diodoros, Kadmos was also a citizen of Egyptian Thebes; which implies that he lived in Egypt..."<sup>48</sup> Wadi El-Hol where examples of the early Canaanite script ((c. 1800 BCE) appear is located just NW of Thebes, Egypt.

Cadmus married Harmonia. Like many earth goddesses, she owned a necklace of stars. "It was a snake shot through with stars, a snake with two heads, one at each end."<sup>49</sup> Harmony implies music, but the vibrations of musical notes like the mathematics of masons orienting temples toward fixed stars, contain measured mysteries outside this investigation. In a fusion of alphabets, cows, bulls, and serpents, Cadmus and Harmonia, like the last of 24 hieroglyphs, become serpents at the end of their days.



Cadmus and Harmonia as serpents.

<sup>48</sup> Richard Poe, *Black Spark, White Fire*, Prima Publishing, 1997, p. 158.

<sup>49</sup> Robert Calasso, *Marriage of Cadmus and Harmonia*, Knopf, 1993, p. 386

Cadmus' sister was Europa. Dropping alphabet letters along her path, she was carried to Crete by a great Bull. Cadmus can translate 'East' or 'orient'; Europa has several translations suggested: a broad shining cow goddess related to Hathor or from Akkadian '*erebu*' meaning 'to set' (opposite her rising sun).<sup>50</sup> She married a king of Crete, Asterion, the starry one.

The earliest Cretan script, Linear A, is not yet deciphered, its language unknown. I don't have an order for the pictographs so can't include the symbols. Note: ancient dates are somewhat slithery. Linear A (c. 1900 BCE) may, or may not precede Proto-Sinaitic (c.1800 BCE). Few archeological dates are truly firm. Descendent pictographs, Linear B, wrote a Greek language. Mycenaean Greeks conquered Crete c. 1500 BCE, sending wandering Phoenicians back to their cities in Canaan.<sup>51</sup>



Vulture goddess with emerging serpent - Crete, c. 1500 BCE<sup>52</sup>

After the collapse of the Mycenaean empire, Cadmus carried the Phoenician script to Greece. Phoenician begins with a simple picture of the bull 'Aleph' representing sound 'A' and finishes with Tau's cross. Each letter, named

<sup>50</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europa\\_%28mythology%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Europa_%28mythology%29)

<sup>51</sup> According to Holst (*Phoenician Secrets*, pp. 94ff) Phoenicians were the sea-going Minoans, having deserted their cities of Byblos and Tyre for the 500 years they lived in Crete. Weakened by earthquakes, they left, returning back to Canaan when the Mycenaean Greeks arrived. p. 112

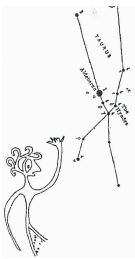
<sup>52</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 37 (First & Last Hieroglyph of Egypt's alphabet)



for an object, appears in an unvarying order. It also includes a number magic inherited by its descendants.

We no longer have an intimate knowledge of the sky, but if we are to understand ancient traditions, we must learn some of their astronomical knowledge. The myths are not simply star myths, but events in the sky cannot be ignored when studying ancient traditions. Linear history, like our own Camelot, often conforms to mythic templates. The constellation Taurus, as well as giant Orion, are both Bulls of Heaven. With the Precession, Taurus replaced Orion as ruler of spring before eventually moving into a May Day rising. May Day was when cattle arrived in Ireland, owners of a later script promising resurrection. (Ogham)<sup>53</sup>

Taurus, usually depicted by the Bull Head as letter A, has also been depicted as Tav's mark of Renewal (written X, T or +). Promising a return into the Circle, Tav is last letter of Phoenician/Hebrew. That is, the Last shall be First.



Taurus linking Heaven and Earth & Magician, Crete c. 1500 BCE

See Tarot Magician and square Hebrew Aleph א (First Letter).

<sup>53</sup> This is according to an Ogham myth. Historically, domesticated cattle arrived c. 3500 BCE.

## 6. HEBREW, KABBALAH, & VARIOUS WESTERN TRADITIONS

"There exists an occult and sacred alphabet which the Hebrews attributed to Enoch, the Egyptians to Thoth or Mercurius Trismegistus, the Greeks to Cadmus and Palamedes. This alphabet, which was known to the Pythagorians, is composed of absolute ideas attached to signs and numbers."<sup>54</sup>

Followers of the Mystery traditions never forgot the association of the alphabet and number magic but the knowledge was hidden from common men. During Europe's Inquisition, hiding the Mysteries became a matter of preserving one's very life. Modern scholars attempting to interpret ancient practices are often handicapped by their ignorance of the natural world, astrology, palmistry, and number magic.

### KABBALAH & SQUARE HEBREW LETTERS

"...Hebrew words and the letters from which they are formed are much more than mere symbols. Each letter is like an element of the periodic table with individual properties of density and conductivity."<sup>55</sup>



Hebrew, keeping the same names and order as Phoenician, originally used the simplified hieroglyph shapes of ancient Phoenician. About 250 BCE,

---

<sup>54</sup> Eliphas Levi, (*La Clef des Grands Mysteres*), *Transcendental Magic* (1896), A.E. Waite, trans, 1992, p. 95 There is a tradition that the Patriarch Abraham (c. 1750 BCE) studied the mysteries with Enoch who created the alphabet saved by Noah from the Flood (Enoch is ancestor to Noah, but possessed an eternal life). Another tradition has him studying with Shem, son of Noah.

<sup>55</sup> Rav P. S. Berg, *The Essential Zohar*, Bell Tower, 2002, p. 53.

Jews began abandoning the shapes of the original Phoenician alphabet to adapt the Aramaic shapes learned during their exile in Babylon (Ketav Assri, the Assyrian script).<sup>56</sup> I believe there were both political and a religious reasons for this change of script.

Primarily, the older shapes gave overt homage to the Golden Calf of Baal worshipped by the Phoenicians: . Despite the shape change, the new letters of Hebrew still reflect the qualities inherent in each original symbol. Aleph  (c. 200 BCE) is now formed from 2 hands (י yod/10th letter) attached to a line linking heaven and earth. The line as letter Vav ('nail') linking heaven and earth first appears in the Torah as 22nd letter when God created heaven and (vav) earth. (Genesis 1:1). Preceding this Creation, God spoke the letters A-T into existence.

Now known as square Hebrew, it remembers the extensive tradition of meditation and magic of the older 22 letters eventually known as the Kabbalah. The Patriarch Abraham (c. 1750 BCE) is said to have received this wisdom. Born in Ur of the starwatching Chaldeans, he traveled north toward Anatolia and eventually to Egypt following the commands of his One God. The first known

---

<sup>56</sup>"According to Pritchard's ANET and A. Mazar's *Archaeology Of The Land Of The Bible* "they have NO surviving Land of Israel inscriptions from before the Babylonian conquest - royal inscriptions, letters, jar handles, grave markers, you name it, that are NOT in the Ivri script". <http://judaism.stackexchange.com/questions/15420/which-alphabet-were-the-original-torah-scrolls-in>

book of the Kabbalah, *Sefer Yitzerah*, is attributed to Abraham and since "Abraham was the greatest mystic and astrologer of his age, it is natural to assume that he was familiar with all the mysteries of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia."<sup>57</sup> I find extensive travels and genealogies of the ancestors denote awareness of cultural debts rather than literal history.

Transmitted orally for generations, this book on alphabet mysteries appeared in written form early in the Common Era. Further elaborations and commentaries on the Kabbalah appeared in Spain after the 7-8th Centuries. Spain during this time blossomed with the Golden Age of learning under the Arabs. Keeping with my insight that it is numerical placement in an order, its proper 'spelling' that empowers each symbol, *Sefer* includes the meaning of counted 'order' as does the term for a scribe (*Sofer*) properly and faithfully transcribing the letters in a Torah scroll.

Included among the Kabbalah's teachings are "Astrology, physiognomy ...palmistry."<sup>58</sup> It also includes transmigration of souls. "The Cabbalists created images and symbols; perhaps they revived an age-old tradition."<sup>59</sup> Kabbalah includes a Tree of Life composed of 10 lights and the 22 letters of the alphabet. The tree is manifest in body of the Primal Man, Adam Kadman. Kadman is the

---

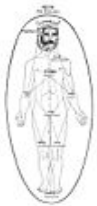
<sup>57</sup> *Sefer Yetzirah*, Ayreh Kaplan, trans, Weiser, 1997, p. xiv

<sup>58</sup> Erich Bischoff, *The Kabbala* (1910), Weiser, 1998, p. 65

<sup>59</sup> Scholom, *On The Kabbalah And Its Symbolism* (1960), Schocken, 1996, p. 96

Phoenician name for Cadmus (Greek name). The Semitic root 'kdm' means east, but east implies 'orient', a guide as well as the luster of a Pearl of Wisdom.<sup>60</sup>

There is a prayer, the Akdamus (also, Akdamut, c. 1095 CE) celebrating the gift of the Torah. Written during a period the Jews of Europe were being massacred, it may also have been a wish for a return to a better life. Each verse ends with T-A. That is, as soon as the letters finish (T as last letter), they circle back to A. I think it outside of chance the similarity of names is accidental.



Isaac Myer, Qabbalah, 1888. Adam Kadman as Tree of Lights

By Greek times, Phoenician Cadmus had become a rather ill tempered human. Given his lineage, which included shining cow goddesses, clouds, rivers, and sacred serpents, I suspect, like Adam Kadman, Cadmus originated from a far more celestial source.

Again, I wish to emphasize that I am not implying the extensive traditions of Jewish mystics, alchemists, ancient musicians, Druids, Phoenician-born mathematicians from Anatolia, Viking warriors, Taoist scholars or Hindu saints seek the same goals through the magic contained in our letters. I am merely

---

<sup>60</sup> In China great dragons, another form of serpent gods, are depicted carrying the glowing Pearl of Wisdom. Dragons are associated with the fifth charm belonging to virtuous priest-kings transmitting Law (See Letter Five).

unraveling threads from an ancient pattern to demonstrate such a pattern exists and that the pattern included a return into the circle.

## TAROT

"The Tarot is an alchemical revelation, revealing the descent and ascent of Hermes, Mercurius Thoth."<sup>61</sup>

The 22 Tarot cards are among my resources. Playing cards, they were also used for divination. Tarot, a name linked to both Torah and Rota (a revolving Wheel), includes 21 numbered Major Arcana cards plus a Zero, the Fool. Like Orion, whose Hebrew name is Kis'l (Fool), Zero now wanders outside the circle; but the appearance of the Fool still promises his Mother's material wealth. Each time he returns, he brings a tenfold increase (1-10-100). As hidden cipher (zero) remembered for his measurements, one of Orion's names is Algebra.<sup>62</sup>

The illustrations I include in the book are from a set designed at the end of the 19th century. The designer A.E. Waite and illustrator Pamela Colman Smith had connections with mystery cults whose symbolism reflected by the cards (Rider Waite deck).

The Tarot is attributed multiple origins, including the secrets of Jewish magicians, gypsies from India, Arabs, and Egyptians. My own investigation

---

<sup>61</sup> Joseph Campbell and Richard Roberts, *Tarot Revelations*, Vernal Equinox, 1982, p. 41

<sup>62</sup> Geometry includes the measurements of his Mother (Ge).

indicates a mystery pattern so wide spread and so ancient, all of the above are possible.

Packs of cards began appearing in Europe in the late 1300's, shortly after the destruction of the Knights Templar (1312 CE). While I am not attempting to write a linear history, that history "leads us to the underside of Christianity...(which) is viewed as heresy...The diverse groups include the Gnostics, the Cathars, the Knights Templar, the Cult of the Holy Grail, and the Church of Mary Magdalene."<sup>63</sup>

During the crusades, these knights headquartered at the Temple Mount of Jerusalem. Located above a possible site of the Temple of Solomon, they may have discovered hidden secrets. Accused of heresy by later popes, tortured and executed, their riches seized by the Church, their secrets disappeared underground. They have been linked with numerous Mystery traditions including Masonry, masons from Egypt having built Solomon's Temple. I repeat. I am not aiming for literal history. Only following myth to uncover trails left by a Mystery.

Templars like Masons and witches were heirs to the measurements of ancient magic. "There are unquestionably mysteries associated with the Templars, and secrets.... Symbolic carvings in the Templar preceptories ...[suggest they] were conversant with...astrology, alchemy, sacred geometry and numerology as well, of course, with astronomy."<sup>64</sup>

---

<sup>63</sup> Gadon, *The Once & Future Goddess*, p. 216

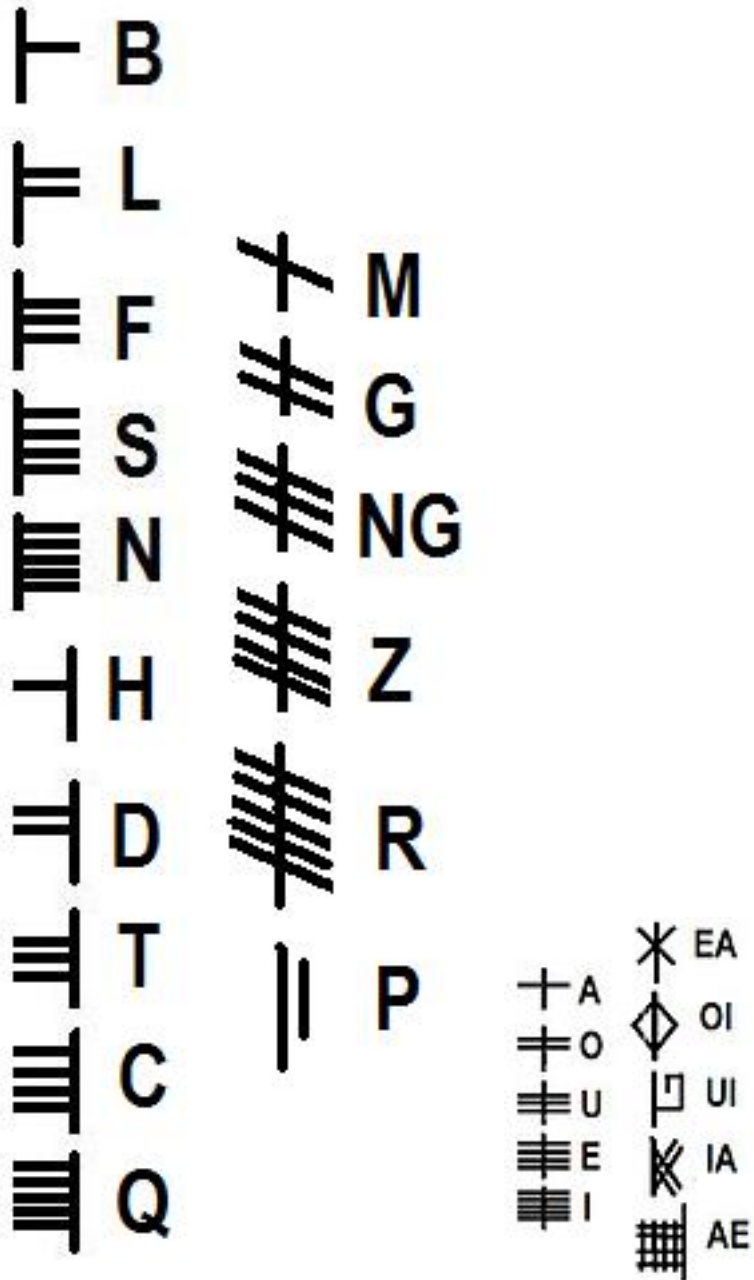
<sup>64</sup> Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, Henry Lincoln, *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, Delcourt, 1982, 54

I also include quotes from such diverse traditions as alchemy, palmistry, and Mother Goose rhymes. The alchemy text is The Six Keys of Eudoxus of Cnidus, c. 400 BCE. He was a Greek philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer and student of Pythagoras, teacher in another mystery school. Like the Creation myth of Genesis<sup>65</sup> and later rune magic, the cryptic keys follow the symbolism present among our ABC's. Pythagoras, like Cadmus, was born to a Phoenician.

---

<sup>65</sup> In the first Genesis, God creates the entire alphabet Aleph-Tav (et) before beginning Creation.





CELTIC OGHAM SCRIPT - (The Beth-Luis-Nion) These shapes are used for all the Ogham series, letters named after Trees, Forts, etc. The name gives BLN as the order. All known written scripts use BLF. Diphthongs were a later addition to original 20 letters (B-I).

	TREE	BIRD	ASSISTANT	FORT	LIN /water
1	Beth/Birch	Besan Pheasant	Babel	Bruden	Banba Barrow
2	...	...	...	...	...
3.	Luis/Rowan or Fire	Lachu /Duck	Loth (Lot)	Liftey	Lumneach Shannon
4	Fearn/Alder	Faelinn/Gull	Foraind	Femen	Foyle
5	Saile/Willow	Seg/Hawk	Saliaaath	Scolae	Shannon
6	Nion/Ash 'Hook'	Naescu/ Snipe	Nabgadon	Nephin	Nith
7	Huath/ Hawthorn	Hadai/ Night Raven	Hiruad	h-Ocha	Othain
8	Duir/Oak	Droen/Wren	Dabhid (David)	Dinn Rig	Dergderg
9	Tinne/Holly or ingot	Truith/ Starling	Talamon	Tara	Teith
1	Col/Hazel	N/A	Cae	Cera	Catt
11	Quert/Apple, Oak or Bush	Querc/Hen	Kaliap	Corann	Cusrat
12	Muin/Vine 'Neck'	Mintan/ Titmouse	Muriath	Meath	Muintin
13	Gort/Ivy Garden	Geis/Swan	Gotli or Gad	Gabur	Gavel
14	Ng/Reed or Guelder Rose	Ngeigh/Goose	Gomers	nGarman	Graney
15	...	...	...	...	...
16	Straif/ Blackthorn	Stmolach/ Thrush	Stru	Streulae	Sruthair
17	Ruis/Elder	Rocnat/Rook	Ruben	Roigne	Rye
18	Ailm/Elm, Palm or Fir	Aidhircleog/ Lapwing	Achab	Ae Cualand	Aru
19	Ohn/Furze or Ash	Odoroscrach/ Cormorant	Oise	Odba	Eobul
20	Uhr/Heather	Uiseoc/Lark	Urith	Usney	Uissen
21	Eodha/Aspen	Ela/Swan	Essu	Navan	Erbus
22	Ioho/Yew	Illair/Eagle	Iachim	Islay	Indiurnn

Note: there is some controversy on the names of the trees. These are common.

## 7. CELTIC OGHAM

Ogham is a Celtic script of 20 stick symbols appearing early in the Common Era. Ogham undoubtedly existed as an oral tradition long before physically appearing in Ireland around 300 CE. A secretive code script, it was not used for general writing. Rather, it appears primarily on tombstones and boundary markers suggesting the scribes remembered the alphabet's ancient promise of resurrection and travel between the worlds.

The letters are composed of groups of 5's arranged in a vertical line intersected by 1-5 cross lines at various angles, the shapes give no clue to their meaning. However, each ogham represents an object and has a set order to the script. Thus I can study the myths associated with each ogham object and compare them to other ordered traditions. Comparing myths representing each ogham to other patterns, I found either the first or second letter must be skipped to keep the pattern consistent. I chose to skip the second. My reason will become clearer as we explore each letter in the second part of this book. (Spoiler alert: the second position is associated with Apollo, sacred to early Celts. The name of G-d cannot be spoken).

"It seemeth that they had them (the letters) from the nation that came out of Spaine." (Spencer, 1596) Although no physical oghams have been found in Iberia, they may have been taught as an oral tradition until after arriving in Ireland. Adding weight to the tradition Ogham came from Spain, I included illustrations of several scripts I term Milesian (Table, end of chapter). Among

them is a script from Spain (Iberian) that drops letters, 2nd and 15th, from the 22 in the Phoenician script. Using this as template, I also skip the second and fifteenth when describing the ogham symbols. This keeps Ogham's myths congruent with symbols from other traditions.

History often ignores the convergence and divergence of peoples sharing and developing traditions to make them uniquely their own. The Anatolian city of Miletus, later ruled by the Greeks, was the first to use letters as numbers necessary for the later Greek practice of Gematria. Colonists from Crete, they claimed a lineage from Cadmus: " Milesian nobles traced their descent back to the Phoenician or one of his companions."<sup>66</sup> Pythagoras, also claimed as a Greek, further developed the number Mysteries. Son of a Phoenician, Pythagoras was born and later studied in that country. He also studied the Mysteries of both Egypt and Babylon, which had their own forms of number/word magic. Sons of Mil arrived in Ireland along with the alphabet's promise of reincarnation.

Known popularly as the Celtic Tree Oracle, the earliest oghams were named after trees. Stories associated with each tree fit the story unfolding through other alphabet symbols. That is, qualities associated with the 20 oghams mimic qualities associated with objects chosen for the same position in other alphabet patterns. There is some disagreement about the original trees, but all the choices seem to relate to the unfolding Creation myth as original template.

---

<sup>66</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadmus\\_of\\_Miletus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cadmus_of_Miletus) It, was settled by people from Crete which was closely involved Phoenicia. First (mythic) queen of Crete was Cadmus' sister.

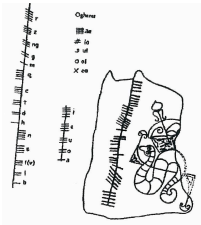
After the Tree alphabet, a number of later ogham series developed. Named for other collections of objects (Assistants, Birds, Colors, Arts and Crafts, Forts of Ireland, Pools of water (lin), etc.), each collection uses the same initials as the Tree script. These later oghams seem simple mnemonics, not containing the richer qualities inherent in the original tree symbols. The full ogham script is given in the charts attached to this chapter. All collections begin with symbols whose names start with a B, L and end 20 letters later with a word starting with I.

Ogham stories often refer to events around the Black Sea, an area of early scripts. This was the location of Troy, Militus (settled by people from Crete), and the tale of the Golden Fleece. First Bird Ogham, for instance, is Besan, 'pheasant'. A bird from the Black Sea area: "Pheasant, the phasian bird, the Phasis, a river of Colchis" (OD). Colchis hosted the adventures of the Golden Fleece, another story associated with golden mysteries, metallurgy, great goddesses, and astrological serpent-trees. 72 languages were spoken in that land. Note: Ancient Iberia, in addition to Spanish Iberia, is a kingdom located next to Colchis.

Oghams constantly hint at shared mysteries and measurements. B & I, first and last letters bookending all Ogham scripts, are the initials of two masons: Boaz and Iachim. They were brought from Egypt by Phoenicians to build the Temple of Solomon. Their initials were inscribed on the Temple's pillars flanking the door into its mysteries. Known for both his knowledge and material

wealth, "Solomon obtained in Babel's Tower all the sciences of Asia's land."<sup>67</sup>

The lands of the fate goddess Asia included Anatolia and the Near East, home of carved temple complexes dating back to 10,000 BCE.



Oghams and (sapient) serpent Brandsbutt, Inverurie, Aberdee

## INVENTION OF OGHAM

A honey-tongued Hercules as Ogmios<sup>68</sup>, a giant laboring like Orion through the sky, invented Ogham. Associated with alphabet-donating Phoenicians, Hercules is the Greek name for Phoenician god, Melquart (King of the City). Pillars being a mark of Phoenician temples, the Pillars of Hercules once stood in temples built in SW Spain. Cadiz was one of the many trade cities established (c. 1100 BCE) by Phoenicia's sea-going traders.<sup>69</sup> Their temples are long gone but two rocks marking the passage from the sheltered Mediterranean into the wide Atlantic still bear his name.

<sup>67</sup> *Mabinogian, The Red Book of Hergest*, Lady Charlotte Guest, trans, 1877, p. 427. sacred-texts.com

<sup>68</sup> Hercules is a descendant of Io, the cow goddess associated with alphabet letters.

<sup>69</sup> The historian Herodotus (c. 450 BCE) traveled to the city of Tyre in Phoenicia to visit a temple of Hercules. He saw the temple's two pillars. One was made of gold; the second was a green emerald. The Pillars of Hercules in Cadiz were bronze.

## BATTLE OF THE TREES

Another name for Ogham is Beth-Luis-Nion, The oldest letters are based on the names of trees (Birch (Beth), Rowan (Luis), and Ash (Nion). All written oghams, however, use Beth, Luis, Fearn (alder). Some point in time before Ogham became a written script, the Ash tree traded places with Alder. Robert Graves, in his book *The White Goddess*, discusses this Battle of the Trees and their fight for the coveted position<sup>70</sup>. I will offer reasons for the Battle when I discuss the fourth and sixth letters.

A variant tradition about the creation of Ogham attributes the script to Scythians, warriors traveling between the Black Sea, India and China. According to medieval texts<sup>71</sup> "Ogham was first invented soon after the fall of the Tower of Babel ... by the legendary Scythian king, Fenius Farsa. ... Fenius journeyed (with) ... a retinue of 72 scholars ... to study the confused languages at Nimrod's tower ...After ten years ... Fenius created ... the Beithe-luis-nuin."<sup>72</sup> (Ogham). Fenius also written as Phoeniusa, hints at his connection with the Phoenicians. His wife, Belait, recalls Baalat, feminine form of Phoenicia's Baal. In this version, his stepson was Hercules.

---

<sup>70</sup> Graves, brilliant as he may be, has the irritating habit of rearranging ancient patterns and insisting that this is what the author really meant.

<sup>71</sup> *Lebor Gabala Erenn* (11th c.), & *Auraicept na n-Eces* 14th c.)

<sup>72</sup> Wikipedia/ogham. Also, see Graves, *White Goddess*, 1948, pp. 121, 236

Nimrod's legends include knowledge of astrology, measurements, and building the Tower of Babel. This ties him to legends of Masonry, another group inheriting the hidden secrets of measurement: "At ye making of ye toure of Babel there was a Masonrie first much esteemed of, and the King of Babilon yt called Nimrod was a Mason himself and loved well Masons."<sup>73</sup>

Giant Nimrod is yet another name for Orion, the measurer god who lost control of his circle with the implacable precession of fixed stars. Numeral 72 as described above, is the rate (1 degree every 72 years) of the Precession of the Equinoxes. This precession eventually caused star-gazing towers and pyramids aligned to a fixed star to fail and fall out of sync with Heaven's calendar. Knowledge of astronomy was an important part of the training of the secretive Celtic druids.

Returning to Fenius Farsa, he was a "grandson of Magog and the King of Scythia," Magog, grandson of biblical Noah, was mythic ancestor of Germanic tribes and Celts.<sup>74</sup> Myth claiming relationship, homeland of the wandering Scythians was north of the Black Sea extending toward China, another source of mythic patterns bequeathed by bull-headed serpent gods (see China chapter). "These drinking, hemp-inhaling lords of the steppes north of the Hellespont...had been well known (to the Greeks) since the fifth century BC"<sup>75</sup>.

---

<sup>73</sup>York MS No. 1 [wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimrod](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Nimrod)>

<sup>74</sup> Magog is also ancestor to a Jewish warrior kingdom of Huns, Khazaria (c. 600-1200 CE). near the Black Sea. Descendants of Attila the Hun, they converted to Judaism,

<sup>75</sup> Renate Rolle, *World of the Scythians*, U. of Calif. 1989, p. 8.



In addition to these mythic ancestors the Irish also claim descent from Scotia, an Egyptian pharaoh's daughter, and the sons of Mil. Milesians came from the city of Miletus settled by people from Crete located south of the Black Sea near Troy. After arriving in Spain (Iberia), they sailed to Ireland to conquer the Fairy race. Discussed at the tenth charm, Celts also claim descent from Israelites, the Kabbalah tradition linking alphabets, number magic and other mysteries coming into the open about the time of Ogham's appearance.<sup>76</sup>

One final note about Ogham's script hinting at a return after death: When a person dies, his soul remains. The more I research ancient patterns, the more sympathy I have for those who believe Earth spoke a common language before the Fall of Babel's Tower. Below is an ancient image of Alpha's Cow Head. This is equally the shape of a woman's womb and a shape used for ancient graves (see Letter One). Next to it are the prints of the Prince who has left his sole behind as he stepped off the earth.



Grave shapes with Soles, Paleolithic Spain<sup>77</sup>

The necessity for the new Prints to be able to fill his father's shoes is very old. Last returning as first determines the choice of Islay as final Fort Ogham (all

---

<sup>76</sup> Cae of the Fair Judgments,, Eugene O'Curry (1873) *On The Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish*, pp. 20 ff., Goggle Books. The Kabbalah was expanded in Spain and Gaul.

<sup>77</sup> Ernest Dobhofer, *Voices in Stone*, Viking, 1961, p. 21.

letters naming a fort rather than a tree). Islay is a small western island northeast of Ireland. A ceremony "took place on the Council Island when appointing a Lord of the Isles. (There is) a large rock with a depression shaped like a human foot, into which the elected chief placed his foot, denoting that he should walk in the footsteps ... of his predecessors'."<sup>78</sup> There is also a stone circle, the Stones of Cultoon, aligned to the Winter Solstice, the day the sun dies and then is reborn as days once again grow longer.

### COMPARISONS OF PHOENICIAN, OGHAM AND MILESIAN ALPHABETS

























Scripts from David Diringer, *Alphabet*, 2 vol., 1968

	PHOENICIAN	OGHAM	MILESIAN	ETRUSCAN	FALISCAN	ARCADIAN	N. IBERIAN	S. IBERIAN
1	alf (ox)	Beth (birch) 𐤁	𐌆	𐌆 𐌆	𐌆	𐌆	𐌆 𐌆	𐌆 𐌆 𐌆
2	bet (house)	...	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	giml (camel)	Luis (rowan)	𐌇	𐌇 𐌇	𐌇 𐌇	𐌇 𐌇	𐌇 𐌇 𐌇	𐌇 𐌇 𐌇
4	delt (door)	Fearn (alder)	𐌈	𐌈	𐌈	𐌈 𐌈 𐌈	𐌈	𐌈
5	aspirate H	Saille (willow)	𐌉	𐌉	𐌉	𐌉 𐌉	𐌉 𐌉 𐌉	𐌉 𐌉 𐌉
6	wau (nail)	Nion (ash)			𐌊	𐌊	𐌊 𐌊	𐌊 𐌊 𐌊
7	zai (weapon)	Huat (hawthorn) 𐌋	𐌋	𐌋 𐌋 𐌋	𐌋 𐌋 𐌋	𐌋	𐌋	𐌋 𐌋
8	het (gate)	Duir (oak)	𐌌 𐌌	𐌌	𐌌 𐌌 𐌌	𐌌	𐌌 𐌌	𐌌 𐌌 𐌌
9	tet (coil)	Tinne (holly)	𐌍	𐌍 𐌍	𐌍 𐌍	𐌍	𐌍 𐌍 𐌍	𐌍 𐌍 𐌍
10	yod (hand)	Col (hazel)	𐌎	𐌎	𐌎	𐌎	𐌎 𐌎	𐌎 𐌎
11	kapf (palm)	Quert (apple)	𐌏	𐌏	𐌏	𐌏	𐌏 𐌏 𐌏	𐌏 𐌏 𐌏
12	lamb (goat)	Muin (vine) 𐌐	𐌐	𐌐	𐌐	𐌐 𐌐	𐌐 𐌐	𐌐 𐌐
13	mem (water)	Gort (ivy)	𐌑	𐌑	𐌑 𐌑	𐌑	𐌑 𐌑	𐌑 𐌑
14	nun (fish)	Ng (reed)	𐌒	𐌒 𐌒	𐌒 𐌒	𐌒	𐌒	𐌒 𐌒
15	samk	...	𐌓			𐌓		
16	ain (eye)	Straif (blackthorn)	𐌔		𐌔	𐌔	𐌔 𐌔 𐌔	𐌔 𐌔 𐌔
17	pe (mouth)	Ruis (elder)	𐌕	𐌕	𐌕	𐌕 𐌕	𐌕 𐌕	𐌕 𐌕 𐌕
18	sade	Ailim (palm) 𐌖		𐌖	𐌖		𐌖 𐌖 𐌖	𐌖 𐌖 𐌖
19	qof (monkey)	Ohn (furse)	𐌗	𐌗 𐌗	𐌗 𐌗	𐌗	𐌗 𐌗 𐌗	𐌗 𐌗 𐌗
20	ros (head)	Uhr (heather)	𐌘 𐌘	𐌘 𐌘	𐌘	𐌘 𐌘	𐌘 𐌘 𐌘	𐌘 𐌘
21	sin (tooth)	Eodha (poplar)	𐌙	𐌙 𐌙	𐌙 𐌙	𐌙 𐌙	𐌙 𐌙	𐌙 𐌙
22	tau (mark)	loho (yew)	𐌚	𐌚	𐌚 𐌚	𐌚	𐌚 𐌚 𐌚	𐌚 𐌚 𐌚

Note missing second letter, the Deus/Deuce. Most also drop the 15th letter, a letter associated with a Devil, a demonized deva (god). Other traditions place the unspoken One God as the silent Aleph.

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.indigogroup.co.uk/edge/finlaggn.htm>

## ELDER FUTHARK RUNES

- |     |   |   |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|
| 1.  |    | Fehu, Fe - Cattle or Money  | 14. |    | Perth - Lot or Dice Box   |
| 2.  |    | Uruz, Ur - Aurochs, Ore or Rain                                     | 15. |    | Algiz - Elk, (A Horned Deity) also Protection or Elk-Sedge  |
| 3.  |    | Thurisaz, Thurs - Thorn or Giant                                    | 16. |    | Sowilo, Sol - Sun   |
| 4.  |    | Ansus, Oss - High God or Mouth                                      | 17. |    | Tir, Tiuwaz - God associated with North Star, Mars  |
| 5.  |    | Raido, Reidh - Wheel or Ride (also related to a word for 'fairies') | 18. |    | Berkan - Birch  |
| 6.  |   | Kenaz, Kaun - Torch or Ulcer, Cancre                                | 19. |    | Ehwaz - Horse   |
| 7.  |  | Gyfu - Gift   | 20. |   | Mannaz - Man  |
| 8.  |  | Wunjo, Wynn - Joy   | 21. |  | Laguz, Logr - Lake or leek  |
| 9.  |  | Hagalaz - Hail, Hel, Heal   | 22. |  | Ingwaz - an Earth god (also Ingvi-Frey). The symbol is used in alchemy to represent lead. Like Saturn (lead), Ingvi was responsible for fertility. Like Precressed Orion/Saturnus, he went 'east over the waves'. |
| 10. |  | Naudiz, Nyd - Need  | 23. |  | Dagaz - Day (This is sometimes placed last)   |
| 11. |  | Isaz - Ice  | 24. |  | Othala - Homeland or Inheritance  |
| 12. |  | Jera, Ger - Harvest or Year   |     |   |   |
| 13. |  | Ihwaz - Yew Tree  |     |   |   |

## 8. GERMANIC RUNES

"The country east of the Tana Kvisl (River Don) in Asia was called Asaland (God's Land) and the chief city in that land was called Asagaard (God's Garden). In that city was a chief called Odin."<sup>79</sup> The River of the Goddess Don, running into the north Black Sea, separates the lands of the goddesses Asia and Europa. Asia in the ancient world included Anatolia and the Near East.

The Germanic script known as runes or Futhark began appearing around early in the Common Era. It provides further clues uncovering the secrets hiding in our alphabet. Among the definitions of 'rune' is 'mystery'. Odin, a warrior aspect of Mercury, learned these mysteries from a dead god while hanging on a tree by a well near the Black Sea.

A blend of Roman gods, Mercury/Hermes and Mars, Odin is also known as Irmin, Jormunr, or Hermann. As Hermann, he is patron of both war and trade. As Mercury/Hermes, he has been associated with Tree like Pillars (herms). Thousands of years after the vulture goddesses of ancient Anatolia carried their dead to heaven, Odin's bands of bird women, the Valkyries, performed the deed. Arriving as swans, ravens, or riding on flying horses, they carried away warriors slain in battle.

Odin did not acquire a Mason's skill along with the runes. He hired a giant to build the great walls of his city, Cyclopean geometry being one of the skills of older earth giants (cyclops). After learning the runes, and after killing his mason

---

<sup>79</sup> Snorri Sturluson, *Yglinga Saga* (Samuel Laing, trans.)

to avoid paying him, Odin traveled north from Anatolia with the Vanir (Wagons), captured earth gods including Frey and his sister Freya.


Like many ancient goddesses, Freya owned a necklace of stars. Known as the Brisingamen (jewel of flame), it was forged by 4 dwarves, the number of the corners of the year (solstices and equinoxes). A goddess from a much earthier era, she slept with each of the dwarves as payment.

## FUTHARK FAMILIES

The runic alphabet's name, Futhark, derives from the first six letters of the spell: the Hex. These are: F-U-Th-R-K. The Elder Futhark of 24 letters appeared about 150 CE. Other Futharks (including the Younger Futhark and Anglo Saxon) developed after 650 CE. These later traditions have varying number of letters and shapes. Like other alphabets, each rune represents the initial sound of an object: e.g. 'F' from Fehu ('cattle' or 'wealth').

The various users (Norwegian, Icelandic, etc.) use variant names and spellings for the runes but the symbolism is similar. Because I am only interested in uncovering the attributes underlying each letter, I do not emphasize the source of various rune names. Although the stories unfolding through runes follow closely the magic hidden in Phoenician, the shapes and sounds of most runes derive from Germanic sources. Each peoples adapted the pattern to suit their own culture. Repeating the important caveat, when comparing mythic alphabets, one must consider the story, NOT the shape or sound of each letter. This is not

the tale of an epigrapher. My interest is in why the symbols were chosen to represent the orderly number position of each letter.

Like all circular scripts, first and last symbols reflect a promise of Return. Last of 24 runes is cow-shaped Othala (earth, inheritance, homeland) . They begin with the promise of Earth's wealth (Fehu). Like Ogham, runes were not used for general writing; rather they were primarily inscribed on boundary markers, tombstones (another boundary) or to work magic. But like other ancient alphabets, runes if properly spelled include the promise of resurrection, the power to return the dead to life.

The 24 Runes are arranged in 3 families of 8 (Aettir, a word meaning both 'eight' and 'compass direction'). The families include those of the fertile earth god Frey, the Goddess Hel and finally, the sky god Tir. This division seems to reflect the creator of runes having the same feeling I did: There were at least three separate families of the ancestor Phoenician. The first eight symbols reflect a cycle of fertility, growth and harvest, and then a Rising Up into a new Light. In the North these powers belong to Frey. Under his golden reign earth knew peace and good harvests.

Second family begins with Hel, goddess of the Underworld. Her eight runes, as well as the letters of other alphabets, describe a soul-journey after death and emergence once more into the light of day (sun, 16th rune; eye, 16th letter). Hebrew begins Hel's family with ninth letter Teth ('coil'), marking the entrance into the Underworld of Tethys, (see 9th Letter for Labyrinth myths).

Last rune family begins with the sky god Tir as 17th rune. Associated with the command of stars spinning around the North Star, Tir's family seems to include astronomical data. Greek Pi ( $\pi$ ), commanding the area of this circle, and Hebrew Pe ('mouth' or 'commandment') also appear as 17th letters.

Like the alphabet, each rune has a set place in the order. Additionally helpful for my search are poems describing the runic attributes: The Old English Rune Poem also known as Anglo Saxon poem (29 staves, recorded 10th century), Norwegian Rune Poem (16 staves, c. 13th century), and Old Icelandic (16 staves, c. 15th century). The OIRP is especially helpful since its riddles were answered with glosses beneath each verse.

There are other briefer mnemonic poems and magic spells in the sagas. The Old Play of the Volsungs "tells of the origin of Runes and seems to contain another fragment relating to the signs of the Heavens and the mysterious characters which they trace on the black vault of a moonless night, a fancy which the Jewish cabalists shared."<sup>80</sup> The study of astrology was, of course, linked both to divination and to alphabetic calendars.

In Grimner's Lay "whose subject is Celestial Geometry," Odin describes twelve Halls each occupied by a god. As we shall explore, the attributes of these numbered symbols illuminate those of other traditions.<sup>81</sup> In another text, The High One's Words (Havamal, collected 13th c.), Odin is taunting a dying dragon with

---

<sup>80</sup> Vigfusson & Yorke, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, 2 vol., Clarendon Press, 1883, vol. 1, p. 29.

<sup>81</sup> Vigfusson & Yorke, *Grimnismal*, pp. 69 ff; *Havamal*, pp. 23 ff.

his knowledge of 18 charms. The Dragon, once commander of the pole stars, lost control to the Wagons due to the Precession.

There have been numerous attempts to understand the meaning of the cryptic rune poems, curses, and less frequent blessings appearing in Norse poetry and sagas. I find the empowerment of each rune derives from the number magic present from its earliest Phoenician appearance. It may be that runes once included the deeper soul journey still present among the 22 letters of Hebrew but if so, they were not passed on. I have found only a simple practical magic present in the rune charms available to us. We shall unravel those charms in the second part of this book.

"It was the belief in former days that people were reborn after death; but this is now called an old wife's tale." (Second Lay of Helge Hundingsbane)<sup>82</sup> By the time of this saga, last rune is no longer womb shaped 'Othala' (Homeland) hinting at rebirth. It has become 'Grave'.

"Grave is hateful to every noble when steadily the flesh begins --- the corpse --- to become cold to choose the earth palely as a bedmate; fruits fall, joys pass away, bonds of faith dissolve." (Old English Rune Poem, c. 800 CE) Older traditions recall a gravid grave, from which the dead once returned in their season.

---

<sup>82</sup> Elsa-Brita Titchenell, *Masks of Odin*, Theosophical Press, 1985, Chapter 8



Y Rune for 'Grave" (See seventh letter for discussion of the Pedi-gree, literally 'crane foot' of a Soul stepping off the world.)

Note: This version of the Younger Futhark, the *Abcedarium Nordmanicum* (c. 825 CE), glossed the last rune with letter 'A', hinting at the older return into the circle. First rune is glossed Earth and Tir (arrow), the arrow that will fertilize Earth with the third charm. The rune for grave has been flipped over and translated 'yew'. Intensely poisonous, the Yew, which represents the last Tree Ogham, was planted by graveyards. The poem declaims: "Yew holds all." Yew vats once held the Blood of the Vine King (wine). In this shape, it usually indicated death rather than rebirth. The King dying for his Land, it eventually came to represent our Peace Symbol.

Y  
 Y feu forman Nur after Þthuris thaitten Fos isthemo R rat end  
 (?) PRYT stabu oboro os uuritan  
 Y chaon thanne H \* hagat t naut habet lis far Yendi sol  
 cliuot  
 ↑ tiu Bbrica Yendi man M ligo the leokto A yr al bi habet  
 midt

Abcedarium Nordmanicum<sup>83</sup>

<sup>83</sup> *Abcedarium Normannicum*, c. 825 CE, Ms 878, St. Gall. Here, the symbol for 'grave' is translated as Yew, which was the coffin of the Vine. Reproduced R. Derolez, *Runica Manuscripta* (1954), p. 78; also, Hans Jensen, *Sign, Symbol & Script* (1969), p. 562.

## 9. INDIA'S BRAHMI, SANSKRIT & CHAKRAS, JAPAN'S HIRAGANA

“There are said to be shrines in Southern India where the same secrets are taught under binding pledges as are communicated to us in the Craft.” (Masonic tradition)<sup>84</sup>

In India c. 2500 BCE the cosmopolitan cities (Mohenjo Daro and Harappa) traded with Mesopotamia. Their script-like symbols may have represented an early writing system. Like those of the ancient Black Sea cities of Asia Minor, they are not in a physical order nor do we know the names associated with the symbols. Therefore, I am unable to include them in this comparison of mythic journeys. Noted above, it is the numerical placement of each letter that empowers it. Each symbol in the shared mystery traditions has been chosen to illustrate the story inherent in its placement in the unfolding series.

Although many symbols used for later Indian scripts undoubtedly came from indigenous images, the idea of the alphabet and some letter shapes came from Phoenician. Preceding India's sacred Sanskrit is the wisdom of Brahmi (c. 300 BCE) eventually becoming the 50 letters of Sanskrit. Letters have been scientifically divided into groups of 5's by the sound's formation in the mouth. It begins with potent A as first vowel and Ka as first consonant. Last letter is 'Ha.



---

<sup>84</sup> C. W. Ledbetter, *Ancient Mystic Rites* (1926), Quest, 1985, p. 4.

"First letter 'A' represents Siva. When the letter A is aspirated...it sounds Ha, the letter symbol of Sakti (female energy) as well as the last letter of the Sanskrit alphabet...the two letters embrace the entire range of the Sanskrit alphabet...the whole of creation in its subtle aspect as sound."<sup>85</sup> Shiva, like Hermes, is represented by a pillar, a herm, a lingam, a number 1.

Mother Kali and her consort Shiva are creator and destroyer of each world. After he dances his own destruction, she takes his seed into her womb to deliver each new generation. Ultimate form of the Creatrix she too dances, wearing a necklace of skulls representing alphabet letters (The Varnamala). "She has a garland consisting of human heads, variously enumerated ... (50 or) 51, which represents ...(a) Garland of letters of the Sanskrit alphabet...Hindus believe Sanskrit is a language of dynamism, and each of these letters represents a form of energy, or a form of Kali. Therefore she is generally seen as the mother of language, and all mantras (sounds)"<sup>86</sup>

I will discuss first vowel 'A' and first consonant 'K' with the first letter (See Letter One). For now, consider the sound 'Ma'. In India, the cow is 'our mother'.

Brahmi 'ma'  appears as the cow head of early Aleph . Ah is the mother (or father) of all ensuing alphabet letters.

---

<sup>85</sup> Madhu Khanna, *Yantra*, Thames & Hudson, 1994, p. 43. Note, first letter can be black or white; male or female. Shiva is often depicted as a pillar (linga) like numeral 1.

<sup>86</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Kali](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Kali), citing *Tantra in Practice*, David Gordon White, Princeton Press, 2000, page 475.

Because I must draw the line somewhere, I only briefly discuss Japan's Hiragana, the Lady Hand script descended from Brahmi. Each Syllable letter, Ah Ka, Ga, etc derives its Japanese shape from Chinese characters but its order from Brahmi/Sanskrit. Because I claim there are mysteries involved in the choices of the letters, it is relevant that the kanji (Chinese) symbol representing sound 'A' is a character for a menstruating woman. "Old forms reveal that (kanji for woman) does not derive from the normal kneeling woman, but a woman sitting on a thin flat item. It referred to a woman using a napkin during menstruation."<sup>87</sup> Her fertility, like other owners of first position, is still potential. It will manifest after impregnation with the third charm. This is a fertile woman, capable of mothering the other letters. This would be a peculiar choice of symbols if the letters were not hiding a story of material Creation.

## CHAKRAS

The serpent resting at the end of the 24 letters of the hieroglyph alphabet from Egypt mimics the serpent energy of India's Black Goddess. In the form of a sleeping serpent, Kali resides at the base of each human spine. A Hindu seeker of enlightenment is directed to awaken that power, the 'Awakening of the Kundalini'. Guiding the serpent along her ascent are the sounding of syllables attached to each of seven energy vortexes (Chakras). Awakened, she will

---

<sup>87</sup> Henshall, *Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters*, p. 64. Hiragana 'ka', p. 231, comes from signs meaning 'to add or join'. See Letter 11 for more on 'ka'.

ascend the Chakras located along the 24 vertebrae of the spine-tree until emerging from the Crown. She travels through the sounding of 50 alphabet letters scattered among the petals of each chakra.

Qualities of the seven Chakras mirror those of the first seven letters our alphabet. Each Chakra contains resident deities, colors, and sounds to aid the unfolding stages of a soul journey toward the light. Exploring and comparing the attributes inherent in each position among multiple alphabets, I quote from an ancient text, *Shat-chakra Nirupana*, c. 1577 CE.

Tantra, an esoteric, mystical tradition of India, "correlates sound, form and colour. Sound produces form, and form is associated with color...Kundali...is the source from which all sound or energy manifests. That sound...when uttered in human speech assumes the forms of letters...the same energy which produces these letters... produces the universe."<sup>88</sup> That is, Tantra, like Kabbalah, is another tradition using alphabet letters to produce a colorful Spell of Creation.

India's astrology dates back thousands of years. The Vedic zodiac of 12 constellations is further divided into 27 or 28 mansions visited by the moon. The mansion located in Scorpio/Sagittarius is Mula, the root (mula) of all life, the foundation, and the recognized womb of our cosmos. Discussed above, this Cosmic Mother, our world's Galactic Center, still gives birth to new stars.

Kali resides in this Root Star. At the end of time, black Kali associated with calendars, time and fate will take the seed of her spouse Shiva (Death, colored

---

<sup>88</sup> Arthur Avalon, *Serpent Power* (1919), Dover, 1974, p. 165.

white with the ashes from the cremation ground) into her womb. At the end of each World, she will generate another universe. Although we constantly underestimate the intelligence and sophistication of ancient scientists, I find it utterly amazing early sky watchers could identify this insignificant looking dark area of the sky, our Galactic Center, as the womb of Mother Time (kala).

"At the end of each cycle during which one creation lasts, she (Kali) gathers ... the seeds of the universe that is extinct, out of which a fresh creation is started."<sup>89</sup> Like other black goddesses of fate, she is associated both with the origins of writing and the measurements of time and chance.

Kali: "The game of dice personified."<sup>90</sup> As a 'throw of a dice' Kali is sometimes illustrated riding a horse, the dice attached to her saddle. 64 fairies (dakinis) attend her.

"The number 64 is always related in some way or another to play and fate."<sup>91</sup>

---

<sup>89</sup> Great Britain Imperial Records, *Feasts & Holidays of the Hindus*, 1914, p. 45 Her festivals are celebrated late October/November during which Scorpio now rules the sky.

<sup>90</sup> Benfey, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary* (1866), Asian Educational Services, 1991, p. 168,

<sup>91</sup> Anne Marie Schimmel, *Mystery of Numbers*, Oxford, 1993, p. 259.

a	ā	i	ī	u	ū
e		ai	o	-ṃ	
ka	kha	ga	gha		
ča	čha	ja	jha	ña	
ṭa	ṭha	ḍa	ḍha	ṇa	
ta	tha	da	dha	na	
pa	pha	ba	bha	ma	
ya	ra	la	ḷa	va	
sa, śa	ṣa	śa	sa	ha	

BRAHMI (c. 300 BCE, predecessor of later Sanskrit)

## HIRAGANA SCRIPT (with Kanji characters next to hiragana shape)

## 平仮名 (ひらがな) hiragana

a	あ	安	i	い	以	u	う	宇	e	え	衣	o	お	於
ka	か	加	ki	き	幾	ku	く	久	ke	け	計	ko	こ	己
sa	さ	左	shi	し	之	su	す	寸	se	せ	世	so	そ	曾
ta	た	太	chi	ち	知	tsu	つ	川	te	て	天	to	と	止
na	な	奈	ni	に	仁	nu	ぬ	奴	ne	ね	祢	no	の	乃
ha	は	波	hi	ひ	比	fu	ふ	不	he	へ	部	ho	ほ	保
ma	ま	末	mi	み	美	mu	む	武	me	め	女	mo	も	毛
ya	や	也				yu	ゆ	由				yo	よ	与
ra	ら	良	ri	り	利	ru	る	留	re	れ	礼	ro	ろ	呂
wa	わ	和	wi	ゐ	為				we	ゑ	恵	wo	を	遠
												n	ん	无



## 10. CHINA

Chinese culture arose in what is now North Central China. "It is significant that this is where the trade routes across Central Asia from the West enter China ... (there is) a theory attempting to find in Central Asia of common source of both the earlier Mesopotamian and the earliest Chinese civilization."<sup>92</sup>

While early pictograms were in use c. 4000 BCE, the first known Chinese script written on oracle bones appeared about 1500 BCE. The thousands of characters, representing sounds, syllables, and images needed to write Chinese left it in the hands of a trained elite. As far as I know, the symbols were never placed in order like the ABC's.

Chinese history equates writing with images derived from observing changing Heaven and Earth. Invention of writing is attributed to the first of China's Three Mythic Rulers, Fu Hsi (2953-2838 BCE). Possessing a bull's head like first Phoenician letter 'Aleph' or the Sky Bull as Orion or Mercury, he has been depicted twining like a revolving DNA strand (64 codons on 3 bases) around his spouse, the serpent Nu Kua.

"His mother was Lao-Mu, Old Mother, who conceived him on seeing a falling star. He instituted the calendar, invented musical instruments ... and is one of those given credit for the invention of writing."<sup>93</sup> Fu Hsi and his wife Nu Kua, a musician like Cadmus' wife Harmonia, stretch between Earth and the

---

<sup>92</sup> Diringer, *The Alphabet*, 1948, p. 100.

<sup>93</sup> Anne Goodrich, Peking *Temple of the Eastern Peak*, Monumenta Serica, 1964, p. 80.

North Star. Because they measured the world after the Flood, they carry a compass and T-square. The same symbols identify modern Masons, another group associated with measurements and ancient Mysteries.

Fu Hsi and Nu Kua as serpents spinning among the stars, China c. 200 BCE



"The craftsman god and his paredra...measure the squareness of the earth and the roundness of the heaven ...the intertwined serpent - like bodies of the deities indicate clearly ... circular orbits intersecting each other at regular intervals."<sup>94</sup>

Nu Kua, usually depicted in her snake form, has also been depicted with the head of an Ox. "Nu Kua ...is the wife of the legendary Fu Hsi, credited inventor of the trigrams and first emperor of China. Nu Kua is actually a goddess ... imported from pre dynastic China where she was revered as a principal creation goddess and wife of Pan Ku... Nu Kua is said to bring order into chaos...There is evidence to suggest that the I Ching may have actually evolved in pre dynastic China under matriarchal influence."<sup>95</sup>

<sup>94</sup> De Santillana, *Hamlet's Mill*, 1992, p. 273.

<sup>95</sup> <http://www.abrahamadabra.com/nukua01.htm>. Pan Ku, another bull as cosmic man, created the world from his body. Note: Hiragana 'ku' is shaped like Orion's el-wand.

There is a set of divination patterns from a Book of Changes (I-Ching). Like divination by a hex of Germanic runes or a throw of a six-sided dice, 64 patterns in groups of 6's are created. These hexagrams are determined by selecting among 50 arrows (yarrow wands). The casting of arrows evolved after the original tradition of reading cracks in heated shells or bones. My interest is myth rather than history, so continue with the Bull and his serpent wife associated with the gift of the I-Ching and writing.



Fu Hsi as a bull with Pa Kua, 18th C illustration

The I-Ching is the earliest known book of divination. Oracles are determined by reading descriptions of possible 64 Hexagrams. Each hexagram is derived from 8 Trigrams (the Pa Kua) chosen by chance from the patterns formed by casting yarrow wands.

"Some scholars assert that the I-Ching originated as a dictionary of the Chou variant of the Chinese script."<sup>96</sup> That is, the I-Ching, like Germanic runes or the Kabbalah, provides another link between divination, 'spells', and writing.

The 8 Trigrams are each given a name, a compass direction, and a season. Attributed to a much earlier period, the I-Ching appeared in written form 6th century BCE. The Trigrams can be laid out in an Early Heaven sequence (Fu Hsi) or into a Later Heaven sequence. I use the Early Heaven group. This the

---

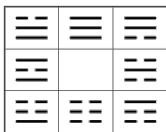
<sup>96</sup> Tod Harris, "The Word Made Flesh", *Parabola*, vol. XX, #3, August 1995, p. 20.

pattern denoting the ideal world, the Later Heaven Sequence depicts the less than perfect world of reality.

“It is well known ... that there are two arrangements of the eight trigrams ... the Fu Hsi ... and the ‘modern’ ... The Fu Hsi arrangement ... follows a mathematical sequence.”<sup>97</sup> The Early Heaven Sequence represents the world in perfect balance: Heaven (1) balanced against Earth (8), Lake (2) - Mountain (7); Fire (3) - Water (6); Thunder (4) - Wind (5).

The Trigrams correspond to the unfolding story hidden in our Alphabet symbols and to the Creation as described in Genesis I. The sequence begins with a yet undivided Heaven ☰ and ends with the totally receptive female Earth. Like the Shiela Na Gig and Kali described above, receptive Earth ☷ takes the seed of a dying land into her open womb to create another generation.

"The...attributes (of) the eight trigrams are made from the constituents of the universe...Eight Trigrams together with the Sixty Four Hexagrams formed by their combinations...represent all the possible situations and mutations of creation, a universe in miniature."<sup>98</sup> Again, a recognition that symbols can re-create a world.



8 Trigrams. See Appendix for further description

<sup>97</sup> Derek Walters, *the Alternate I-Ching* (1983), Aquarian Press, 1987, p. 20.

<sup>98</sup> James Legg, *I Ching* (1899), University Books, 1966, p. xix

The similarity between shared themes from China to Scandinavia is clear. I think Earth's measurements developed far back in history. Whether true history or myth, "Casting rods by which the diagrams of the I-Ching are calculated was known to the Greeks as a Scythian practice, suggesting that the art may have been introduced into China by Mongol seerers."<sup>99</sup>

Appearing in history c. 800 BCE, Scythians rode their horses on the north plains between China and the Black Sea. China's oracle script originally written on turtle shells and bones preceded the wandering Scythians by a thousand years, but they may have suggested the use of sticks for casting. Both Celts and Germanic tribes have cultural and physical ties with the Scythians

I include the quote to show a recognized kinship, not to suggest the historical origins of writing and divination. My exploration is simply to show that there exists an ancient and widespread pattern of unfolding earth magic; and that Hermetic mystics recognized a kinship between their various traditions.

## 12 SYMBOLS OF THE EMPEROR'S ROBE

The Emperor of ancient China, receiving his mandate to rule from the heavens, wore 12 symbols on his robe. Each ordered symbol will be discussed as we proceed through the stories of the alphabet letters. Like our other symbols, each has attributes fitting our ancient pattern.

---

<sup>99</sup> Derek Walters, *Alternate I-Ching*, Aquarian Press, 1987, p.7.

## TAO TE CHING

Another Chinese source that helps unravel the alphabet Mysteries comes from an alchemical text, the Tao Te Ching (c. 550 BCE). Containing 81 verses, the

, like our own alphabet, hides a guide to the path (Tao) through life. At various times in its history, it was outlawed for being too earthy. The meaning described in the first seven verses fit closely to those of the alphabet symbols. The following Letter Chapters will make the relationship between the traditions clearer.



The author of the Tao was Lao Tzu, the 'Old Baby'. By tradition, he was born 604 BCE, 13 incarnations after Fu Hsi. Reborn old, he was one of Three Pure Ones. They descended from the stars of Orion to remind a corrupt world proper way to rule the world.<sup>100</sup> Recalling Orion's ancient role as Bull of Heaven, Lao Tzu is often depicted riding a bull (ox or buffalo) and is associated with a

---

<sup>100</sup>Jacques Lemoine, *Yao Ceremonial Paintings*, White Lotus, 1982, pp. 54, 60,

tiger and a dragon. The serpentine Milky Way runs past Orion's feet, the Dragon of the North Star by his head.

#### CHESS BOARD AND DIVINATION

As final note on another Chinese game, chess is laid out on 64 light and dark squares. "Chess has a far greater symbolic significance than a mere pastime...it has been connected with mental training, military strategy, complex mathematics, divination, astronomy and astrology... (also) Chinese diviner's boards which were the forerunners of ...the magnetic compass [were played with dice]."<sup>101</sup>

---

<sup>101</sup> Nigel Pennick, *Secret Games of the Gods*, Weiser, 1989, pp. 186-7 (Parentheses, mine).

## 11. TRANSITION BETWEEN PART I AND PART II


In the next section, I explore qualities attached to each letter by position. The first eight letters tell a story of the readying of Earth for planting, the birth of her children, the sharing of their harvest, another planting and a final harvest. Then occurs a rising up on the eighth day. I think this was the original 'Spell'. A later tradition seems to have added letters to guide a soul journeying through the Underworld represented by the following letters, with a return through the eye of the sixteenth (ain/eye). The last few letters reflect astronomical knowledge. Last letters in all the scripts imply a return that is ultimately judged a heresy and its believers to be heretics. I apologize in advance for the repetition of several illustrations. Few in number, I repeat ancient images to reinforce the qualities of the symbol under discussion.

I juxtapose quotes from various ancient traditions to show the similarity of the underlying pattern. Because of the complexity of my story, I will concentrate on the first sixteen letters, with short references to later letters when relevant. Again, I must emphasize I do not mean to trivialize the numerous traditions of luminous soul journeys that emerged from the original Spell. I am mixing and matching vastly different cultures simply to demonstrate that there IS a pattern. To do so, I must simplify or ignore deeper mysteries. This is a journey over the surface of deeper waters.



## PART II - FIRST EIGHT LETTERS

## FIRST CHARM

1. Phoenician/Hebrew	ALEPH (OX)	
	Greek - Alpha	
	Ogham - Beth (Birch)	
	Runes - Fehu, Feoh, or Fe (Cattle, Wealth)	
	Tarot - The Magician	
	Hieroglyph - Vulture	
	Palmistry - Little Finger, Mercury's finger	


Our oldest alphabet, Phoenician (c. 1050 BCE), gave its order and letter names directly to Hebrew. I began this book by looking into the mythology of the symbols representing each Phoenician/Hebrew letter. Then I began comparing traditions with a reputation for magic, including Germanic runes (c. 150 CE), Celtic Ogham (c. 300 CE) and a 24 hieroglyphic 'alphabet' from Egypt. Realizing their histories are broken traditions, their meanings hidden, I explored other ordered patterns that are not alphabets.

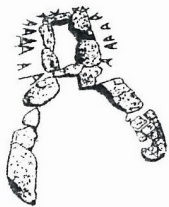
I quickly realized they all followed the same hermetic pattern. Expanding my search to include such diverse traditions as palmistry (each finger named for a god representing certain qualities), astrology, the path of the Tao Te Ching, the I-Ching of China, Tarot cards and alchemy among others, the story hidden in the alphabet letters began to clearly reveal itself. Each

letter/symbol/verse has a number of related attributes determined by the placement in the order. I will try to act as the pathfinder and guide through these multiple traditions. We begin with an undivided One.

## LETTER ONE - A GUIDE AT THE GATEWAY

"A way can be a guide, but not a fixed path... (Heaven and Earth) ... come from the same source but differ in name. Both are considered mysteries. The mystery of mysteries is the gateway of marvels." First verse of China's Tao Te Ching (Thomas Cleary, trans.)

First and last symbols of all early scripts (using the world loosely) promise a come-around-home. Our tale begins with a gateway, a promised entrance into the world of time. It ends by marking the path of return after each rest. The alphabet starts its journey with 'A'. Written  in Phoenician and ancient Hebrew, this bull's head is also the shape of a woman's birth-giving womb and the shape of ancient graves to which the dead return. Tau ('mark') as last letter was once written either with the X of multiplication or with a plus  $+$  of addition, signs promising a good return after each gravid pause.



Grave in form of letter 'A', Yugoslavia c. 6000 BCE<sup>102</sup>

<sup>102</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, 1989, p. 156.

Symbols representing a thousand words, multiple themes hide within the letters of our oldest alphabets. First letters includes such characters as a guide standing by the Gate, a pathfinder, a psychopomp traveling between the worlds of light and dark. Promising the wealth of the material world, he helps travelers, merchants, and thieves along their journey. He then guides them home at the end of time.

"The first charm I chant thee...Let thyself be thy guide" (*Svipdagsmal*, c. 1500)<sup>103</sup>

One key to our Mystery is an alphabet prayer, Psalm 119, each section beginning with a letter. For Aleph the poet, remarking on the path, declaims: "Happy are those whose way is perfect." "There is a tradition that King David used this psalm to teach his young son Solomon the alphabet—but not just the alphabet for writing letters: the alphabet of the spiritual life."<sup>104</sup> David's use of the poem suggests that in his time the pathway of the alphabet Mystery was not yet hidden. In time, that path became: "Heresy: Middle voice, to take for oneself, choose [one's own path]" Oxford Dictionary

First symbol represents both a Gate Keeper standing at the entrance between the worlds and a Guide. Giving help to the traveler, he is propitiated at new beginnings. As guide, he marks boundaries. He also bestows

---

<sup>103</sup> Vigfusson, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, *Swipdagsmal*, vol. 1, pp. 92ff.



<sup>104</sup> Wikipedia, Psalm 119.

measurements of an ordered, a properly spelled, alphabet to help Earth's people along their path.

"Those songs I know...the first is Help which will bring thee help in all woes and in sorrow and strife." (Havamal, the High One's Words). In this poem, c. 1200 CE, the Viking god Odin, a Germanic incarnation of the pathfinder god Mercury, chants his rune magic. He learned his letters near the Black Sea.<sup>105</sup> Like other first symbols, this first rune offers a guide.

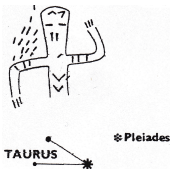
#### BLACK AND WHITE MERCURY AS FIRST SYMBOL


"My [left] hand has founded the earth, and My right hand has spread out the heavens." (Isaiah 48:13)

Hebrew c. 200 BCE adopted a new shape to replace the older Phoenician  Aleph, becoming . Like this Magician appearing thousands of years earlier, the original bull's head became a line arching between two arms. One hand reaches toward the sky, the other touching earth. We will encounter this shape, a shape recognizing events in heaven reflected on earth, multiple times on our journey through time. Thousands of years after this symbol from Old Europe, the Magician-Guide indicating 'As Above So Below' will become a deity known as young Mercury.


---

<sup>105</sup> *Havamal, Poetic Edda*, c. 1200 CE Odin chants 18 rune poems to a defeated Dragon Most quotes from the Havamal from: *The Elder or Poetic Edda, : The Mythological Poems*, edited and translated by Olive Bray (London: Viking Club, 1908), pp. 61-111.



Bulgaria, c. 5800 BCE and constellation of Taurus as 

(Taurus is also depicted as an X shape.) Note: 15 dashes may represent the 7 Rainy Hyades and 6 stars of the Pleiades flying before Taurus.

First symbol as Aleph represented an ox. Numerous sky bulls and cows have been posited, not incorrectly, as the source of Aleph's bull. They include the entire Sky as Bull, the stars of Taurus, and the bull of Orion.<sup>106</sup> The Magician as Mercury, first of 5 wandering planets, must also be included. His astrological symbol is yet another bull .

The Magician Mercury, also known as Hermes, is “one of the younger gods in myth. In reality, he is probably one of the oldest and most ... primitive in origin.”<sup>107</sup> Although he will eventually mature, at this stage of creation as Number One (1) he is yet undivided. In first position his potential has not yet evolved. As Quick Silver Messenger of the Gods, Mercury guides spirits between the worlds of dark and light. In time, the young Bull will mature, become potent, then grow old, but for now his circle through time is just beginning; his potential not yet unfolded.

<sup>106</sup>By Greek times, Orion was a human created from a bull skin buried in Earth.

<sup>107</sup> *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 2nd edition, 1972, p. 502.

“Aleph never occurs as a suffix, while as a prefix it indicates the first person future -- ‘I will’ ... this statement indicates his yet unrealized potential.”<sup>108</sup>

Palmistry is another ordered tradition helping unravel our story. Of the fingers of our hand, first finger, little finger, belongs to Mercury/Hermes. His name bestowed the word 'hermaphrodite'. A ring worn on the little finger is a badge of 'gayness'. In this youthful form, Gaia (meaning both earth cow and gay hermaphrodite) has not yet split into male and female. Sun and moon, heaven and earth, the waters of male and female have yet not separated nor matured; the potential of Creation has not yet been realized.

Continuing this theme, first Germanic rune 'Fe', meaning 'cattle' or 'wealth' of the Mother's material world, is related to the word 'fairy'. Combining both sexualities, he/she is at this stage of manifestation still fey, still able to travel between spirit and material worlds. In palmistry, the rare line of fey intuition runs from the palm toward the mercurial little finger. “I have noted this mark in the hands of celebrated spirit mediums.”<sup>109</sup>

Old traditions allowed deities to change form for the One God once wore many masks. He can appear in multiple places at one and the same time and can acquire different aspects with passing time and cultures. Like gay Earth changing her face with the seasons, mercurial Aleph's shining young Bull will

---

<sup>108</sup> *The Bahir*, c. 1100 CE, Weiser, 1990, commentary Ayreh Kaplan, p. 25.

<sup>109</sup> William Benham, *Book of Palmistry* (1900), Newcastle, 1988, p. 624.

divide and evolve into all the other letters of the alphabet. Passing from undifferentiated child into adolescent, he will father his people, marry his Land, and finally, age black into dark Saturn (Cronus). As female after birthing a new generation, she will ultimately age into a Hag, a black Crone, a dying Moon. Renewing after each menopause the fey bull/cow will rise again, brightly white.

As first symbol quicksilver Mercury begins each of his journeys shining white. Mercury painted behind glass forms a mirror, mirrors reflecting his double image. As it ages, the mirror darkens. Mirrors, like the spirit guide as Hermes/Mercury, stand at entrances into the Other World and so at death they must be covered to prevent the dead soul from losing his way on the journey to the stars. Although I must introduce it here, the quality of duality's Mirror-like Wisdom does not actually appear until the second charm.

## HERMS & SUNDIALS



Rider-Waite Tarot #1 The Magician

Tarot is yet another tradition helping our exploration. As Magician of the first Tarot card, mercurial Hermes gave his name to hermetic traditions hiding secrets. Given my assumption that alphabets reflect the measured stars moving over the earth, the Guide-as-Magician should also mark the passage of time. As

marker of boundaries, he should appear as a tor, a herm, a sundial or a pillar in the shape of our numeral One (1).

Hermes began his journey through time as a simple pillar, a herm. At first, ancient gods had no feet. As simple herms, they were bound to their Land. Eventually gaining feet, they began to wander away, necessitating being chained to their temples. Norse tradition, chasing the wealth of their wandering cattle (Fe, first rune), agreed: “Without bounds, Fe wanders off, aimlessly dissipating wealth.”<sup>110</sup>

This early stability was a somewhat mixed blessing. Early gods were bound to their land so travelers had to adapt to the gods of each new land they passed through. Each Canaanite Baal ('lord') was simply the Lord of that town, each Baal being a different lord. His secret name was not spoken. In time, pioneered by wandering Jews, God could eventually be found in his 'Word' and was no longer bound in place.



Hermes of Siphnos, c. 520 BCE, Greece<sup>111</sup>

In this depiction, Mercury's coming role in his Land's fertility is obvious. The earliest herms housing gods (Beth El) were simple standing stones.

The illustration of the Tarot's Magician depicts the symbol of infinity ∞

<sup>110</sup> *Uncle Thor's Magazine*, vol. II, Trollwise Press, May 1993, #3

<sup>111</sup> Ricardo André Frantz, photographer, GNU Free document



above his head. When Hermes as a herm, a standing stone, a taur/tor as numeral 1 mirrors the shining sun's black shadow over a year, he marks out the figure 8 of infinity. In patterns ending with the seventh symbol, the eighth charm sings a rising up into a new octave.

The herm's shadow, dark twin of a white sun, moves from a north position in the sky, crossing the zenith (highest point) at midsummer; then continues south towards winter. Returning after the Winter Solstice, it moves north towards summer once again.



Sundial tracing a year's shadow

Multiple calendars have been created during the thousands of years this story developed. I don't suggest any specific calendar as original; only that the owner of first place stands at the Gate between the old year and the new, between the day and night. He looks forward as well as back. January, our first month, is named after two- faced Janus. Gatekeeper like Hermes, Janus was the god of Roman doors. Western calendar celebrations matching the alphabet's seasonal pattern, I include them as our letters evolve with the seasons.

## BULL GODS OF CHINA

Like Mercury credited with inventing alphabet letters, a Bull as First Mythic Emperor of China gifted the Book of Changes, the I-Ching. Associated both with early writing and divination, it includes six ordered charms known as Trigrams. First is 'Heaven' (Chien). In this stage of evolving creation, Heaven like Aleph and

gay, fey young Mercury, has only potential. It has not yet begun to divide. Active movement cannot occur until coming Duality supplies two points to travel between. "Heaven represents yang energy as a whole and cannot be sub-categorized."<sup>112</sup>

## INDIA

"The Hebrew aleph is identical with the eleph of elephant."<sup>113</sup>

India's gatekeeper associated with new ventures, wealth, and literature, is elephant-headed Ganesh. He rides a rat, first animal of the Chinese Zodiac (which does not correspond to the western zodiac). Like Hermes, rats and Lord Ganesh are associated with both merchants and thieves of the material world. When Ganesh was first born, people became so interested in wealth, they stopped going on pilgrimages.

In the sacred Sanskrit script of India, 50 letters are ordered scientifically by their formation in the mouth. Because I have yet to discover an object named by each letter, I am unable to include this ordered script in my investigation. First vowel, however, is 'A'.

"This letter is a symbol of the deity ...that was before everything. (It) is formed in the lowest ... of the organs of speech, being produced by the opening

---

<sup>112</sup> Hua-Ching Ni, *The Book of Changes*, Seven Star, 1983, p. 33.

<sup>113</sup> Harold Bayley, *Lost Language of Symbolism* (1912), Rowman & Littlefield, 1968, p. 350.

of the glottis ... all speaking depends on and is rendered possible only by a previous opening of the glottis." (Jaschke, *Tibetan English Dictionary*, 1881) That is, 'A' mothers all later letters.<sup>114</sup>

Jewish tradition agrees: "Why is the letter aleph at the beginning: Because it was before everything, even the Torah."<sup>115</sup> Which begins Creation with the blessing of B. Because this tradition worships the One God, whose name is not spoken, aleph is a silent sound. (Ogham's contrasting tradition hides the Deus as Deuce).

## MAGIC CROWS MARKING TIME

Sanskrit is divided into groups of consonants and vowels. First consonant is 'ka', the sound of a crow. The Brahmi script, a syllabic alphabet (c. 300 BCE) preceding Sanskrit, writes ' ka' with the plus sign (†).<sup>116</sup> Plus implies addition, a return on both profits and souls. Ancient images of crows stand, like Tarot's Magician and Hebrew's Aleph **א**, one wing toward heaven; one toward earth.



Crow, Crete c. 1500 CE<sup>117</sup>

<sup>114</sup> See p.40 for 'A' depicted by hermaphroditic black & white mother vulture

<sup>115</sup> Ari Kaplan trans., *The Bahir*, (c. 1100), 1990, p. 1.

<sup>116</sup> Examples of Brahmi, in David Diringer, *Writing*, 1967, p. 146 (see Introduction)

<sup>117</sup> Gimbutas, *Civilization of the Goddess*, p. 240. Ancient symbols being very specific, there may be an occult reason that some magicians raise the right arm, others the left.

Calendars and alphabets can begin either with the dark shadows of evening or with the rising of the white sun. The first symbol can therefore be black, white, or like the mothering vulture of the Egyptian alphabet, black and white. As Numeral 1, 'Ka' is another herm, a tor, or pillar: It also represents the black shadow soul. According Jaschke, *Tibetan English Dictionary*, 1881: Ka represents "letter K, excrement, crow, pillar, one as a number." For those calendars that begin at night, 'ka' will be purified by the dawn of the second charm. (See 11th letter 'K' for further information about the twin I-I, the dark shadow soul as Ka).

Magic crows are white when young. In China a white three-legged crow once carried the sun across the sky. The heat burning him black, each sunset he entered the womb of night to heal and brighten before the next day's journey. First of 12 symbols worn by the ancient Emperor of China was a 3-legged crow. Though I have emphasized the bull as a common first symbol, the mercurial sun with its black shadow ('ka') is yet another white/black symbol associated with first position: Bright Sun-day initiates the first day of our seven-day week.

## DARK AND LIGHT REVOLUTIONS

Alchemy's hermetic tradition transmutes black earth to gold. It follows the promise of ancient alphabets returning the dark toward a golden day and guiding the blackened soul toward enlightenment. I include quotes from the Seven Keys of Eudoxus, an Anatolian astronomer alchemist c. 350 BCE. He begins the path

with a black bird needing to be polished shining white: "The first key is that which opens the dark prisons... What is born of the Crow is the beginning of this art. He must cut off the raven's head, whiten the black, and vivify the white."<sup>118</sup>

The first Creation story of Genesis, closely following an older spell, echoes this theme of black and white separating out from Chaos. On the first day of creation, only dark and light appear. The sun and moon have not yet appeared nor the waters separated. Yin and Yang still circle each other. Although I discuss the separation of the dark from the light as the first stage, as soon as the first thread of light appears, that act of creation itself implies the beginnings of duality and the ensuing cascade toward material formation.

## OGHAM

Ogham is a Celtic script appearing in written form c. 300 CE. Beth (Birch) is first of the Tree Oghams (all letters named after a tree). I repeat the important warning. When comparing ordered patterns, one must investigate the MYTH associated with the symbol, NOT the shape or sound. Underlying reality does not lie in the external form of an object. Time is ever a shape changer.

Like Mercury, Birch is a black and white tree. Young trees are intensely white against the shadows of the dark woods. As they age, white birches darken. Like Hermes, the tree contains both sexes, not needing a partner to propagate.

---

<sup>118</sup> M.A. Atwood, *Hermetic Philosophy* (1850), Julian Press, 1960, p. 500 ff. All quotes of the Keys come from this text. (First Key of Eudoxus)

Like wandering quicksilver, birch is a pioneer, moving into foreign territory before other trees. Mercury is considered one of the inventors of writing. The first ogham message was written on Birch, further tightening the connection between the symbols for a scribe basing his oghams on an ancient alphabet mystery.

## ILLUSIONS OF THE MATERIAL WORLD AND DEATH

"One for Sorrow, Two for Joy" (Mother Goose)

When potential energy begins moving, creation begins: energy becomes material. The world of the Mater (mother) is a world of form, of material wealth. But entering this world, one also enters the world of time and Time's fey measurements always include fatality. 'Fe' (first rune) is the name of a ruler measuring the Irish dead for their coffins; 'fey' is one who travels beyond the illusions, the maya of this world.

Mother of Mercury/Hermes is Maya, a name implying illusion and magic. In India she is the mother of Budha (Mercury in a female form), wife of elephant-headed Ganesh. India's Maya wed the Bull of Death, Yama. Her name written in the Brahmi script (c. 300 BCE) is: Ma- Ya (𑀢 ↓). Her spouse is Ya-Ma (↓ 𑀢).

That is, the world of Life and Death mirror each other. The arrow of Yama's name has a downward pointing arrow, a depiction of death (as opposed to an arrow pointing toward the sky). Entering the world of illusion, of maya, the world of the Mother brings wealth. In time it also brings death.

India's Maya, in the form of a serpent, sleeps at the base of each spine in the first of seven chakras aligned along the 24 vertebrae of the human spine. Chakras are wheels of energy, stages of manifestation guiding a soul on the path towards enlightenment. "Over Shiva-linga shines the sleeping kundalini. She is Maya, the bewilderer of this world." (First chakra, *Shat-chakra Nirupana*, c. 1577 CE) <sup>119</sup>A linga is a pillar, a herm like number one. As Aleph-phant, the elephant Ganesh also resides here. Seed sound of this Chakra is 'Lam', the 'path' on which the pathfinder of Mercury now initiates our journey.

#### RUNES - ONE FOR THE MONEY

"They worship as their divinity, Mercury in particular... and regard him as the inventor of all arts, they consider him the guide of their journeys and marches, and believe him to have great influence over the acquisition of gain and mercantile transaction." (Caesar, *The Gallic War* 6.17)



Cash Cow as Aleph to Tau<sup>120</sup>

Germanic Runes (c. 150 CE) selected Fe (Money or Cattle) in place of Mercury as first symbol. The Rune tradition has mnemonic poems for each position. In addition to offering help along the path, first rune represents the

<sup>119</sup> Motoyama, *Theories of the Chakra*, Quest, p. 167. *Shat chakra Nirupana*

<sup>120</sup> Bailey, *Lost Language*, p. 120.

promise of wealth in a material world. "Feoh id est pecunia", i.e. Mother Goose's "One for the Money."<sup>121</sup> Like Fe and black-white Mercury, Ogham's (black and white) Birch also promises money: "Birch... if he be laid low, promises abiding fortune"<sup>122</sup>

Cattle represented money among ancient herders. Mercury, whose symbol is a bull, guides hermetic traditions and traders seeking gold. "In the Celtic world, Mercury was first and foremost a deity of commercial prosperity."<sup>123</sup> A trickster, he also helps thieves.

"Babel: the man who brought cattle to Ireland on May Day." (First Assistant Ogham) "Babal was one of two merchants, the other being Bibal, ...Babal is described as 'the white'. Babal brought cattle to Ireland, and Bibal brought gold."<sup>124</sup>

Although it is associated with wealth, I believe the first symbol originally possessed a far more luminous meaning than that of mere cold metal. The cow is not any cow but the womb of both earth and sky: the Bottomless Pit. Black fertile

---

<sup>121</sup> Cotton MS, quoted by R. Derolez, *Runica Manuscripta*, U. of Ghent, 1954, p. 7.

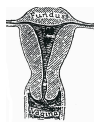
<sup>122</sup> Song of the Forest Trees, *Poem-book of the Gaels*, Eleanor Hull, ed., p. 99.

<sup>123</sup> Miranda Green, *Symbol & Image in Celtic Religious Art*, Routledge, 1992, p.55.

<sup>124</sup> R.A.S. Macalister, trans. *Lebor Babala* (Book of Taking of Ireland), Vol. 2, p. 267: From Index compiled by Michael Murphy, 2008. Letter One includes Wealth and Cattle.



source of returning life after each death, each spring she will be kissed awake by the warmth of her white sun.



Woman's Womb in the shape of cow-headed Alpeh



## SECOND CHARM

The pathfinder hermaphrodite of this first symbol will evolve into the frenzy of male and female adolescence with the coming of duality. After maturing and mating with the fertile third letter's magic, they will give birth to a new world through the Delta of the fourth. With the virtuous fifth magic, Earth will share her Laws as well as her harvest. As six's King, he will marry his Land, once again storing his seed in Earth's welcoming womb before dying south toward the dark.

2. Phoenician/Hebrew      BETH (HOUSE)      



Greek - Beta

Ogham - hidden

Runes - Uruz (Aur Ox/wild bull) or (Ur/water)

Tarot - The Priestess

Hieroglyph - Reed (from which houses were built). This is a twin letter.

Sometimes appearing either as one reed.  or as two 

Palmistry - Ring Finger, Apollo's finger. In Chinese palmistry, this finger is the 'unnamed' finger. Its name, like that of the second ogham, is not to be spoken.

## LETTER TWO- ADOLESCENCE AND THE VIRGIN SPRING

Symbols representing the second stage of manifestation contain such stories as the budding adolescence of a Virgin Spring, purification, initiation rites,

and duality arising with the onset of adolescence.. They also describe an opening Underworld, an opening with both sexual and mystical connotations. Because of the association with the opening Underworld, Two's magic contains 'spirits', prophecy, brewing and healing medicines. This entrance to the spirit world will close after adolescent Earth matures.

Like bovine second rune Uruz (Wild Bull), Earth is an earth cow. In Greece, Gaia is Mother Earth. In India, 'gai' is the cow that is 'ma', our mother. As mother, the sound 'Ma' in India's ancient Brahmi (c. 300 BCE) was written with a cow's head. But the owners of the second position are not yet a mother nor yet patriarch of his people. Returning young each springtide, they are now young virgins.

Ireland's sacred cow is the Caillech Beare. This Black Hag of winter once transformed into a young Bride each year. Ireland, having never forgotten, still celebrates the Return of the Bride in February. Her poem, written in the 8th century when old traditions were being forgotten or outlawed, laments how she longer returned young to her lovers. "I am Buí (cow), the Old Woman of Beare; I used to wear a smock that was ever-renewed."<sup>125</sup>

Ireland claims some of its ancestors are the Sons of Mil and an Egyptian princess. Mythic heredity evokes transmission of wisdom rather than true genealogy. After traveling widely the Milesians, originally from Anatolia, sailed

---

<sup>125</sup> Gerard Murphy, trans, *Early Irish Lyrics* (1956), Oxford, 1960.

from Spain to conquer Ireland's Fairies. Before sailing the king married a Pharaoh's black daughter Scotia, identified as Caillech Beare.

The Caillech is associated with the Irish land of Munster. I hope by now, you begin to recognize the numbers associated with this description. "Munster is associated with the dead ... five-sixths of the ogham inscriptions on memorial stones ... are located in Munster... (It is) is pre-eminently the province of female supernatural personages ... The Caillech ...had fifty foster children in Beare. She passed into seven periods of youth so that every husband used to pass from her to death of old age."<sup>126</sup>

As Caillech, her name is cognate with India's Maya-Kali dancing her dance of Death and Renewal with 50 alphabet letter-skulls around her neck. As Beare, her name recalls Greek Artemis, both nurturing Mother and hunter-virgin (artio/bear). In her aged aspect, Artemis is black Nemesis, that Fate awaiting everyone at the end.<sup>127</sup> But again, we are getting ahead of our story. With the second charm, the Virgin Spring has just renewed herself.

In comparing various alphabet patterns, Ogham's symbols do not fit unless I skip either the first or second letter of the series. This will become clearer when we reach the third letter. Included in the Introduction are a number of

---

<sup>126</sup> Rees, *Celtic Heritage*, Thames & Hudson, 1991, pp. 134-135.

<sup>127</sup> Suidas s.v. Adrasteia (trans. Suda On Line) (Byzantine Greek Lexicon C10th A.D.) :

"Adrasteia: Some say she is the same thing as Nemesis, and that she took the name from a particular king, Adrastos . . . Demetrios of Skepsis says that Adrasteia is Artemis

<http://www.theoi.com/Daimon/Nemesis.html>

alphabets: Milesian (western Anatolia), Etruscan, Faliscan (Italy), Arcadian (Greece, home of Pan), N. Iberian and S. Iberian (Spain) that also hide the second letter.

I suspect there was a religious reason. Perhaps Deus as Deuce, like G-d's name or the deity of the 'unnamed finger', second finger of Chinese palmistry, was not pronounced. The Tao elaborates: "I do not know its name. I am forced to call it Tao." (2nd of 24 verses, *Tai Shang Lao Chun* (Lao Tzu), c. 200-589 CE)<sup>128</sup>

## TWINS AND DUALITY

With Two's magic, the duality of Twins arrives. Each young Bride has her mate: the young sun opposite the crescent moon. Apollo a sun god, and Artemis the moon, is one such set of young twins. The moon is one of many faces worn by the owner of the second position (Moon day, Monday being our second day).<sup>129</sup> The maiden moon cow grows horns as a young crescent. As full moon she relates to the fertility of the third symbol, and then horns reappear as she wanes into Seven's dying crone. After each menopause, moon pause, she returns young again.

The Great Mother of Artemis and Apollo wore many aspects, including that of a bird goddess. The shape of our number 2 would seem to suggest her aspect

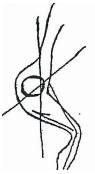
---

<sup>128</sup> *Cultivating the Stillness*, E. Wong, trans. Chinese text attributed to Lao Tzu, 1992, p. 11.

<sup>129</sup> Second of 12 symbols the Chinese Emperor wore on his coat is a Moon Hare pounding the Pill of Immortality. Healing is one of the attributes of the second charm.

seduced by a swan. Turning into a goose, she laid an egg, giving birth to the Gemini, youthful twins traveling between the light and the dark. Astrological symbol for Gemini's Twins is Roman numeral two **II**.

Mother Goose, whose son was Jack Orion, is another of these ancient bird goddesses. 14,000 years ago, she appeared on a rock wall in France. Across her egg is Tau's X of promise of fertile multiplication. The aimed arrow (prick as third symbol) will eventually impregnate her egg with coming March's arrow magic.



France, 11,000-9,000 BCE<sup>130</sup>

By astrological tradition, Mercury rules Gemini. Mercury, Venus and the moon are three lights orbiting between sun and earth. Each has both an evening and morning aspect, sometimes rising just before the morning sun, other times late afternoon. All three grow horns as they wax out of the earth's shadow, become full grown, then assume horns again as they fade into the shadow. They disappear twice in their cycle when seen from earth: when they pass in front of the sun, again when passing behind.

Rising just after sunset, the evening star of Mercury was known as Hermes. When rising with the morning sun, he was known as Apollo and is associated with the second position. Apollo, like young Mercury (Hermes), is

---

<sup>130</sup> I have seen dates as early as 18000 BCE (Johnson, *Lady of the Beasts*, p. 17) to 11-9000 BCE (Gimbuas, *Language*, p. 168)

always depicted as a youth. Originally a god of wild forests and animals, Apollo became a sun god and twin to his reflection, the virginal moon as Artemis (Diana).

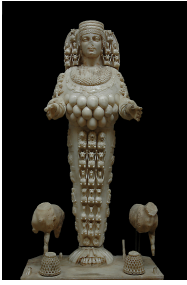
In the hopeless tangle of aging, shape-changer myth Nemesis, fateful mother of Apollo and Artemis, was a wolf as well as a bird goddess. Wolves mate "in January or February ... after 63 days of gestation, the birth takes place from mid-March to mid-April."<sup>131</sup> The Romans held their wolf's festival, the Lupercalia, in February.<sup>132</sup> Our second month of February, the month wolves, birds and virginal valentines choose their mates, celebrates the 'estrus' (februa) of the wolf. When the Winter Hag turns young with the year, her red waters, her menses, her adolescent moon measurements begin to flow.

Nemesis, wolfish mother of the midwife Artemis and healer Apollo, gave birth to her twins under a palm. Also known as Diana, Artemis has been depicted as a many breasted Palm Tree (Diana of Ephesus). She wears a necklace of the Zodiac around her neck, and the nourishing dates of the New Year on her chest. Scorpio, location of the Galactic Womb, is the center medallion (see Introduction, Astronomy). This womb, the Galactic Center remember, mothered the stars of our universe. Reflecting the resurrection promised by ancient Earth mothers, the 'scientific' name for the date palm is 'Phoenix'.

---

<sup>131</sup> Roger Caras, *North American Animals*, Meridith Press, 1967 (p. 75). This is very close to 64, a number associated with Fate deities and games of chance.

<sup>132</sup> *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 2nd ed, 1972: Lupercalia, held 15 February, "The name suggests ... propitiation of a wolf god." (p. 626).



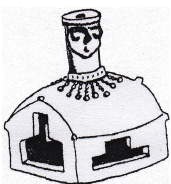
Ephesus, Asia Minor, Werner Forman Archive

"She wore a flower wreath, a zodiac necklace, and a lunar headpiece."<sup>133</sup>

## SECOND LETTER BETH AS 'HOUSE'

Second Phoenician symbol is Beth, 'house'. Because of the sacredness of early writing, this dwelling is not any house, rather a special dwelling, an altar, a temple. Ultimately it is the storehouse as Mother Earth. With the second charm, the storehouse of the maturing adolescent will be purified, anointed and prepared for her coming wedding.

Earth is now waking in early spring. Renewed in the spring of her youth, Her home will now be swept clean and purified. Her Temple will be readied for her to receive her King. If he makes her happy, the fertility of the land ensues.



Goddess as house<sup>134</sup> Macedonia, c. 6000-5800 BCE

<sup>133</sup> Patricia Monaghan, *Encyclopedia of Goddesses*, 1980, p. 389 The breasts have been described as testicles. But young Inanna, Lady of the Storehouse from Mesopotamia, is dressed with her dates (Thorkild Jacobson, *Treasures of Darkness*, 1976, p. 37)

<sup>134</sup> Archeologist Marija Gimbutas has recorded numerous images of goddesses as houses (Beth). *Language of the Goddess*, plate 3,



In Rome, Vestal Virgins tending the sacred flames of the goddess were young virgins, their festival celebrated in February. Their goddess Vesta derives her name from Indo European '*Heus*'. The young Bride of Ireland also kept a flame within her sacred enclosure. Her February festival, like those of Rome's Virgins, is celebrated by the home's hearth as she trades places with the Hag of Winter.

#### SERPENT ENERGY AND SAPIENCE

Gods as well as historical figures enact old stories. Ancient Bull gods once assumed the form of serpents.<sup>135</sup> With the changing of World Ages, they often lost their position as ruler of Earth. Apollo took rule of the oracle of Delphi after defeating a Python. Phoenician Cadmus founded his city in Greece after killing the Dragon by a sacred spring. Jacob's angel is sometimes identified as the archangel Samael. He is (or rides) a serpent-camel associated with the north star of crooked Draco (Dragon). After 3000 BCE Draco lost his position as ruler of the Pole stars of Heaven

Despite their celestial defeat, serpents still appear with the second charm. In China, the dragon revered as a symbol of the Emperor returns each February to dance in the New Year's Parade. Scottish serpents, like Chinese Dragons,

---

<sup>135</sup> See earlier description of Fu Hsi and serpent spouse (p. 81); Apophis serpent and Baal as serpent bulls (p.42); Cadmus as serpent (p. 47).

arrive in February. "In Scotland, a serpent was supposed to emerge from the hills on Imbolc, the Day of the Bride."<sup>136</sup>

"With wisdom the house [beth] is built, with understanding it is established, and with knowledge are its chambers filled. (Kabbalah tradition, c. 1100 CE)<sup>137</sup>

A serpent whispered sapience into the ears of a shadowy young Eve, convincing her to eat from the Tree of Knowledge. This began the cascade of Time leading to the birth of her children. Evolving into sexual beings red Adam and Eve mate, seeding Earth with the third charm. Entering the world of Time, a world leading to death, she will give birth to the world of man.



Serpent in Shape of letter B listening to his tail. (English Miniature)

Serpents reflect a budding male sexuality, as do stone pillars and rising sap dripping from trees in early spring. In Judaism, February signals the New Year of the Trees (Tu B'Shevat). In India, the worship of the rising pillar of the male (linga) and female yoni (ring as vulva), the Shivaratri, is also held early February.<sup>138</sup>

<sup>136</sup> Herder, *Dictionary of Symbols*, 1986, p. 14. Imbolc, Day of the Bride, is February 1.

<sup>137</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, 1990, p. 6. The original storehouse (Beth) would have been filled with the harvest of food.

<sup>138</sup> Great Britain Imperial Records, *Feasts and Holidays of the Hindus*, 1914, Shivaratri, pp. 75-6

"The milky-sapped trees whose sap also produces hallucinogenic drinks are "the most appropriate timber source for making wood lingas ... (this connects) sacred trees, cosmic pillars that are temple thresholds, and ambivalent notions of sexuality, ascetic meditations, and the warriors vanquishing power." <sup>139</sup>

This rune poem links the Initiation rites of adolescents to the symbol of the second rune, Aurochs (Ur): "The Aurochs, a dangerous untamable cow and courageous animal." (Old English Rune Poem for second rune). According to Julius Caesar (Conquest of Gaul, 50 BCE), they were hunted during the initiation of Germanic youths.

#### SEPARATION OF WATERS, PURIFICATION, AND PLOWING

"The Second Key dissolves the compound of the Stone, and begins the separation of the Elements..." Second Key of Eudoxus)

Separation of Earth's waters occurs in this second stage of our Spell. With adolescence, the red salty waters of the female and the male's sweet white appear as the hermaphrodite child of Letter One matures with puberty. "And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ... And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day." (Genesis)

---

<sup>139</sup> Napier, Masks, *Transformation & Paradox*, U. California, 1986, p. 160

In the young spring of the now adolescent Earth, sap rises up in the trees, dripping their milky dew. Young animals also produce their first red or white waters. Following the appearance of these emissions, many cultures mandate purification. Second verse of the alphabet Psalm 119 asks: "Wherewith all shall a young man cleanse his way?" (Beth)

February is, according to the dictionary, the 'month of purification'. As letter Aleph is not any bull, so Beth (house) is not any house, rather the house of Earth as sacred space. Dark earth after the death of winter is now renewed (at least in more temperate seasons where the script developed). Her womb must be purified and prepared for marriage; her furrows are swept clean with a new broom. The Virgin Spring is readied for first plowing. The rising pillar of her youthful consort stands ready: "As for me, Inanna, Who will plough my vulva? Who will plough my high field? Who will plough my wet ground?" "Great Lady, the king will plough your vulva. I Dumuzi the King, will plough your vulva."<sup>140</sup>

Mesopotamia's Inanna, Lady of the Date Clusters, Lady of the Wild Bulls, is literally a storehouse, the temple (Beth) like second Phoenician/Hebrew letter. Her symbol was simply the door of that temple, made from the reeds of the second hieroglyph (Reed).<sup>141</sup> Physical celebration of their marriage bed occurs at the Spring Equinox, our third charm.

---

<sup>140</sup>Wolkstein, Kramer, trans., *Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth*, Harper & Row, 1983, p. 37.

<sup>141</sup> Jacobsen, *Treasures of Darkness*, p. 36 Twin to Phoenician's 'beth' is 11th hieroglyph (Reed House). See Letter 11 (1-1).



The symbol depicting this Great Goddess (also known as Istar, Astarte, and Venus) is a doorpost ring to her storehouse. To ensure the fertility of her Bottomless Pit, a sacred marriage, a seeding was celebrated every spring between the Lady and the Sumerian King.

There are multiple traditions hidden in our alphabet. A brewer, an alchemist, mason, or maker of iron might use different mnemonic poems from the farmer, sailor or herdsman to recall the pattern. For farming people, after Earth is purified her furrows must be opened, made ready to receive the seed arriving with the alphabet's next charm. Ireland's February Festival of the Bride marks the official day of plowing.

China's Second Mythic Ruler is Shen Nung, the Divine Farmer. Ox-headed like the Aurochs of the second Ur rune, he was "... said to have invented the plough," Educated in the mysteries, he knew secrets of medicine, immortality, and the secret of making gold. As healer: "There is little doubt that Shen-nung is considered to be the Founder of Birth of Medicine ... he is credited with being the first to discover medicinal herbs." <sup>142</sup> And, in ancient China, the Moon Hare pounding the pill of Immortality is second of the 12 symbols worn on his gown.

#### HEALING, BREWING, AND MEDICINE

"A second I know, which the son of men must sing, who would be healers."

---

<sup>142</sup> Anne Goodrich, *Peking Temple of the Eastern Peak*, 1964, p. 82.

(Havamal)

Healing belongs among the powers of the second symbol. The Bride of Ireland, young Artemis and Apollo are all healers. A virginal High Priestess is Tarot's second card. She is "a wise woman ... she heals the body, knows fertility potions ... (and is) a midwife."<sup>143</sup> Ireland's February Bride is "associated with springs of water, healing and childbirth ... for this reason she became the midwife ... of Jesus... though some scholars have doubted her existence."<sup>144</sup>

Apollo is associated with prophecy and oracles. His son is Asclepius, god of medicine whose symbol is a snake wand. Apollo's finger is our second finger, "the ring finger because the ring is worn on it. This finger is also medicinal because the common eye-salves are applied with it by doctors." Also called the leechman, ringman or lickpan it was used for tasting medicines.<sup>145</sup> There is said to be an artery that runs up the palm to this finger, connecting it directly with the heart. Thus, the taster could immediately sense the presence of poison.

The great Aurochs horn (Uruz/Ur, second rune), sometimes confused with a unicorn horn, possessed this same power. This would have been of immense use to the Vikings, given the lethal habits of their drinking buddies. "Most important among its powers was that of neutralizing poison and protecting one using the vessel from any contaminated drink."<sup>146</sup> The horn will actually shatter

---

<sup>143</sup> Sergius Golowin, *World of the Tarot*, Weiser, 1988, p. 206.

<sup>144</sup> David Hugh Farmer, *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, 1987, p. 62.

<sup>145</sup> T.H. White, trans., *Book of Beasts* (c. 1100), Putnam, 1954, p. 219.

<sup>146</sup> Robert Beer, *Unicorn*, Mason & Carter, 1977, p. 11.

when poison is present if ale runes were inscribed. Note: Only a virgin could catch a unicorn.

## METALLURGY

Although the pattern of a farming year has been easier for me to uncover, other traditions hid their secrets within the alphabet pattern: Alchemy and the chemistry of Metallurgy, for instance. Brigit, young Bride of Ireland, midwife and brewer of ale, was also a metal smith. In the second month of February, during her festival the fires of the Smith were blessed.

A frenzied Earth spills out red flowing ore (Ur, second rune) from her maturing womb. It will now be mined and purified. Because there are multiple overlapping meanings to words in a language developed before the fall of Babel's Tower, Ur (Aur-ox) as second rune can also mean light, ale, fire, water, ore, and primal. Ur is not limited to these definitions: "Slag (Ur) comes from bad iron; the reindeer (also 'ur') often races over the frozen snow." (Ur, 2nd rune, Norwegian Rune Poem). When Ore (Ur) is purified by fire (Ur) and water (Ur), slag (Ur) remains.<sup>147</sup>

Alchemical secrets of our alphabet include metallurgy, masonry, as well as medicine and wine. Alchemy comes from a word meaning 'black earth' as does

---

<sup>147</sup> Like the making of Alcohol and Alchemy, the making of good Steel from iron involves the transformation of black earth (carbon). If the slag is not totally removed, the steel shatters. See Letter Thirteen (Death resulting from brittle weapons, p. 244).

alcohol (al kohl). Fire is married to Water to ultimately produce their auras. In this second charm, the aura is blue. "There are multitudes of reports that healing energy can manifest visibly, through blue emanations, tongues of blue color and lights...it is clear that blue light, emanations, shamanism, and altered states of consciousness are somehow connected. Blue light and healing energy are, perhaps one thing."<sup>148</sup>

#### DIVINATION AND BLUE SPIRITS

"On the second day ... the purified element of water will shine and ...(a Buddha) will appear...from the blue eastern Realm of Complete Joy."<sup>149</sup> In Tibet, the Buddha Family of Mirror-Like Wisdom from the blue land of Joy arrives on the second day after death. 'Tui' as I-Ching's second Trigram is 'Joy'. Mother Goose also sings after One for Sorrow, 'Two for Joy'.

The joys of wine and other Waters of Life (Aqua Vita) are associated with blue burning spirits that awaken in early spring. "Within this locus is ... Varuna in the shape of a crescent... Hari ... is in the pride of early youth...the young goddess Rakini is... the color of a blue lotus...her mind is exalted from the

---

<sup>148</sup> Holger Kalweit, *Shamans, Healers and Medicine Men*, Shambhala, 1992, pp. 237-239.

<sup>149</sup> *Tibetan Book of The Dead* (14th century), Francesca Freemantle & Chogyam Trungpa, trans,( 1975), Shambhala, 1987, p. 4.



drinking of ambrosia." (Description of deities residing in the Second Chakra, c. 1500 CE)<sup>150</sup>

In February Hermes as conductor of awakening spirits was evoked to release them from the wine jars.<sup>151</sup> Their shades were harvested in fall from the blood of a dying Vine King.

Alchemy's Key of Eudoxes, continues its second instruction: "The vine of the wise becomes their wine, which by the operation of their Art produces their rectified Water of Life."<sup>152</sup>



Hermes releasing sprits from Wine Jar

Ireland's Bride is a brewer as well as a smith. She was also seen as the great inspiration behind divination, prophecy and the source of oracles. It is during the virginal, adolescent stage, that healing and divinatory powers emerge. They weaken with the onset of sexual activity, not returning until haggard old age and the cession of menses.

---

<sup>150</sup> Motoyama, *Theories of the Chakras*, p. 169. "It will be recalled ... the sacred white cow Io of Argos who ... became the Goddess Isis is recorded to have made visits to India." (Robert Graves, *White Goddess*, p. 411)

<sup>151</sup> Jane Harrison, *Prologomena* (1903), Princeton, 1991, p. 42-55.

<sup>152</sup> Atwood, *Hermetic Philosophy*, p. 502. All quotes from the Key come from this text.

## THE MOIST SHADOWS OF SPRING

Moist early spring, out of which cloud dragons and blue burning shades emerge along with awakening serpents, is when winter's Black Hag transforms into the Bride of Spring. 'Hag' is a word that has the meaning of 'enclosure'. She keeps the seasons confined within her Great Round of the Year. Hag is equally a boggy marsh where methane spirits flit while reforming into returning shades. "Hag: witch ... enclosed field, hedge... marsh or bog". (Oxford Dictionary)

In spring, the shadows of winter coalesce into a foggy world of rainy showers. Second verse of the Old Icelandic Rune Poem states: "Drizzle (Ur) is the weeping of clouds." Under the poem is the gloss "shadow/?shower." These moist clouds are linked to Skade ('shadow'). Giving her name to her land of Scandinavia, she traveled on skies. Like dark Nemesis, wolves ran at her side.

China's I-Ching script, fashioned from observations of heaven and earth, describes Tui (Joy): "When the airs of spring begin to blow from the collections of water on the earth the moistening vapors rise up and descend again." As second trigram, Tui represents marsh water or lake.<sup>153</sup> It also represents spring. When the moist areas, the swampy areas of the Hag warm up after winter, the ghostly blue spirits of Will O the Wisps appear to commune with men. Tui, "means ... spiritual medium between men and the gods."<sup>154</sup>

---

<sup>153</sup> James Legg, *I-Ching*, (1899), 1966, p. 193

<sup>154</sup> Derek Walters, *Chinese Geomancy*, Element Books, 1989, p. 46.

In the forming of China's divinatory Trigrams, first symbol is an unbroken line of male Yang representing the potential of Heaven \_\_. Second is earthy Yin \_\_ \_\_. With the opening created by duality, shades and spirits now reenter the world.

Moist, dark Yin represents female earth associated with water, shadows, and the direction north. The pictogram for Yin means "shady side of the hill."<sup>155</sup> Like Yin and Skade as Shadow of Scandinavia, shadowy Eve of Genesis, descended from a much older aspect of the goddess, was also from the north. "This is the reason why the serpent followed Eve. He said her soul comes from the North."<sup>156</sup>

#### OATH TAKING AS ATTRIBUTE OF SECOND LETTER

One last aspect of the second magic concerns rings and oaths. The ring finger, obviously, recalls one oath. The ring is placed on the second finger when our maturing virgins betroth. Var (Truth), a northern goddess of oaths and pledges is, like Nemesis, a wolf. Another name for Skade, the Bride of Scandinavia is "bow-string-Var."<sup>157</sup> She is associated with another bowstrung god, Ullr (Woldor, Ullr almsíma).

---

<sup>155</sup> Harriet Beinfield & Efram Korngold, *Between Heaven and Earth*, Ballentine, 1992, p. 51.

<sup>156</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, pp. 60 & 80

<sup>157</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Vár](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Vár). cited in the poem Haustlong, Prose Edda

Among the Germanic gods, the glorious Uller (Wuldor) is given ownership of the rainy Second Hall of the Gods (*Grimnismal*). He was keeper of the temple rings on which Vikings swore their oaths: "By the southing sun, the Great God's rock, the lintels of the bed-chamber, and the ring of Wuldor." (Atli Lay)<sup>158</sup>

He was also a healer and possessed nine healing twigs borrowed by Odin: "Then took Odin Nine magic twigs (wuldortanas); then smote the serpent that in in nine bits dispersed."<sup>159</sup> (See Letter Nine for other deities associated with nine healing twigs).

In most traditions, the keeper of oaths and rings is the Hag form, the wolfish goddess of the Mouth of Truth, the saturnine ruler. We continue her discussion at the seventh charm. But be aware, re-entry into the world under the watching eye of Fate is here at the opening Gate of Duality. The undivided One God offers no opening for returning spirits.

One final note about the white first symbol and blue second symbol: Various traditions place the One God as primal; others prefer the Deuce as Deus. A Kabbalah commentary from the Zohar (c. 2nd Century CE, transcribed by Moses de Leon, 1279 CE) values both.

---

<sup>158</sup> Vigfusson, *Corpus Boreale*, p. 422.

<sup>159</sup> Rohde, *The Old English Herbals* (1922), Dover, 1989, p. 18.

"Nothing is aroused above before it is aroused below. Before the blue flame of the candle is aroused, it does not hold the white flame. But as soon as the blue flame is aroused, the white flame immediately rests upon it." (Vol. 3, pp. 15-16)<sup>160</sup>

---

<sup>160</sup> Rav Berg, *The Essential Zohar*, Bell Tower, 2002, p 58.

### THIRD CHARM

"The intimate union of the soul with the body...(is) the essential point of this (third) operation...which terminates in the Generation a new substance..." (Third Key of Eudoxes)

With the magic of this charm, the red and white rivers that began flowing in the youth of the Virgin Spring are now bound. Dry land appears with the binding while an expectant Earth awaits delivery by the fourth charm. With impregnation, death and time enter the world. Among others, third symbols include:

- |                      |   |   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| 3. Phoenician/Hebrew | GIMEL (CAMEL or ROPE)                                     | 1 |
|                      | Greek - Gamma   |   |
|                      | Ogham - Luis (Rowan, the Quicken Tree)                    |   |
|                      | Runes - Thurisaz , Thurs (Foolish Giants), also Thorn     |   |
|                      | Tarot - The (pregnant) Empress                            |   |
|                      | Hieroglyph - Forearm                                      |   |
|                      | Palmistry - Fool's finger, Saturn's finger, middle finger |   |

### LETTER THREE - IMPREGNATION AND THE BONDS OF TIME

Her womb plowed, his rising pillar purified during the second stage of manifestation, it is time for planting the seed. According to Mother Goose, after Two for Joy, it's Three is for a Wedding followed by Four for a Birth. Returning Life will emerge out Earth's Delta, our fourth letter 'D' (∇). With the third charm,

the sweet waters of serpentine rivers join the salty waters of the red sea. With the fourth, new land will emerge from her delta.

Letter Three's story, like much of life, contains both a blessing and a curse. Its magic is one of red knots, binding, knitting, and overt sexuality. It is not until an undivided Universe has sung herself apart, the red waters of the female separated from the male's white by the second charm, that she could mate. Signified by 'Three's the charm' and 'Three on a match', waters flowing from C's fertile crescent are now bound. They cease to flow while expectant Earth carries her lover's seed.

Sex makes a fool of us all. Third finger, fool's finger, cursing finger, belongs to earthy Saturn. The reader need only consider the middle finger while folding the others to recall its powers of re-creation. This is not an aged aspect of Saturn retiring at 50; nor Old Father Time turned upside down on Twelfth Night. Third position belongs to the potent sower of the seed in his prime. The three stars of the Fool, also known as Orion, now pleasures his Earth: "Saturnus has been another title (for Orion) but its connection here I cannot learn."<sup>161</sup>

"The third is the middle finger by which the pursuit of dishonour is indicated."<sup>162</sup> This description comes from a far more puritanical time than that of the exultant goddess of the previous chapter rejoicing in the plowing of her fertile



---

<sup>161</sup> Allen, *Star Names* (1899), 1963, p. 308.

<sup>162</sup> T. H. White, trans, *Book of Beasts*, 12th c., 1954, p. 219.

vulva. A more kindly memory recalls: "To wear a ring on the Fool's finger naturally expressed a hope of resurrection."<sup>163</sup>

Gypsy charms as late as the 1880's invoked the Fool on the Hill to bind the red flood flowing from a woman's womb. For an angry (sterile) womb: "Tumbo (dumb) sat on the hill with a stupid child in arms, Dumb the hill was called. Dumb was called the child. The holy Tumbo, heal this wound."<sup>164</sup> Which tumescent healing hopefully resulted in a swelling tummy.

Thorn, a 'prick', is third rune. The Thorn rune  borrowed the shape of 20th Phoenician letter Ros ('head') . 'Head' has a sly double meaning with both upper and lower aspects.<sup>165</sup> Leading with the lower head provides the world with new children as well as fools.

Tree Ogham having hidden the Deuce places Rowan, also known as the Quicken Tree, in this position. A quickened womb is a pregnant womb, a gravid womb. "... Earth was barren and devoid of all plants when (the goddess) came down from heaven and took the form of a Rowan tree. After ... intercourse with ... the God of Thunder, the result ... was the creation of all the plants of the earth. ... All plants and trees are descended from the Rowan tree as a result of it having

---

<sup>163</sup> Graves, *The White Goddess* (1948), 1966, p. 198.

<sup>164</sup> C.G. Leland, *Gypsy Sorcery*, (1889), Anthony Naylor, 1993, p. 104.

<sup>165</sup> This may explain the myth of the Greek Fool Baubo. Depicted only as a head with a vagina, she made a sorrowing Isis laugh. With her laughter, earth began to bloom again. Renewed fertility is one role of Three's Fool. Lomna (Lumneach) 3rd Lin Ogham, was Fionn Maccumhail's Fool.





been struck by a mighty bolt of magical lightening."(Finnish creation myth)<sup>166</sup> Lest we feel too superior about ancient creation myths, Lightening troubling the waters of Earth is our 'scientific' explanation for life emerging on our fertile planet.

Gamma Γ third Greek letter writes 'gamete', a sexual being "capable of producing a third after conjugation." (OD); English 'C' is the shape of Earth's (and a woman's) fertile crescent at the entrance of her womb. Seeding Earth by this potent third charm will result in a birth. With this deliverance of three's the charm, the wealth of the material world emerges: "Deal bountifully with thy servant." Gimel, Psalm 119)



The El-wand in Orion's belt

Greek's Gamma is written Γ, shape of Orion's El-Wand. In time, the owner of the third charm will age and die, his letter upended as 12th letter 'L'. Tarot places an (upside down) Hanged Man as 12th card; Ogham employs Vine in this position. The harvest of the Vine King has its own association with transubstantiation and Mystery Religions. In third position this ruler will measure and fertilize his Land. As El's aged king, his own life has been measured. Twelve's ruler is a dying king, his seed waiting a new dawn. But for now, he is still young and virile. It is time to celebrate his marriage.

Gimel  (c. 1050 BCE) acquired a Thorn's prick by the time of square Hebrew . "Gimel draws from above through its head and dispenses through its

<sup>166</sup> www.angelfire.com (Rowan)

tail."<sup>167</sup> Like other owners of Three's charm, the actions of this potent tail once dried a red flood to produce a new Generation.

With impregnation, the waters of the womb are bound. The God of Genesis, closely following an older Spell, also dries Earth's waters. Fertile plants appear. "...Let dry ground appear ... Let the land produce ... seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it...And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day."

#### CAMEL-SERPENTS AND BLIND FOOLS

Male symbols seeding dark Earth can be Serpents, Earth's Bull of Heaven, or one-eyed Fools. Third Rune, a Thorn-god, is a one-eyed (cyclopean) giant. Thurisaz, are "marked ... by their stupidity. Thurses, too, are of great age."<sup>168</sup> The sexual symbolism of the foolish one-eyed 'heads' should be as obvious as those of thorns, rampant bulls and lightening-serpents striking a moist receptive earth.

Mother Eve, whose name means 'life' is also connected "...with the Semitic words for serpent, a possibility that is especially interesting in light of the fact that the hieroglyph for woman was also the hieroglyph for snake."<sup>169</sup> Eve and her serpent descend from far older deities than the personae they wear in Genesis.

---

<sup>167</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, p. 8.


<sup>168</sup> Edred Thorsson, *Runelore*, Weiser, 1988, p. 189. Gloss OIRP is 'Saturn' & "Ruler of the Thing'

<sup>169</sup> Buffie Johnson, *Lady of the Beasts*, Harper, 1988, p. 190

"This is the reason why the serpent followed Eve. He said, her soul comes from the North and I will therefore quickly seduce her. And how did he seduce her? He had intercourse with her."<sup>170</sup> According to a variant story their son was farmer Cain, owner of a mark saving him from death. The serpent's actions begin the formation our material world. Time, death, nor children existed in the heavenly stasis of Eden.

"He descended with all his host and sought a suitable companion of earth. He finally found the serpent which looked like a camel and rode on it."<sup>171</sup> Third Phoenician letter is Gimel (Camel). A blind or one-eyed devil known as Samael has been identified either as Eve's serpent or as a deity come a-riding the serpent. His name translates as 'blind'. Serpents, renewed by shedding their skin, become briefly blind in the process. Devilish archangel in Jewish legend, the serpent's actions resulted in the introduction of both free will and the birth of generations following dark Eve into a new day.



Horned Draco as humpbacked serpent In the ancient alphabet composed of 22 letters, he returns out of the floodwaters of 13th letter (Mem/water) as 'N', 14th letter  ('nun'/'Serpent-Fish').

Stories can be read on multiple levels: from the simplest, most literal

---

<sup>170</sup>Kaplan, *The Bahir*, p. 80.

<sup>171</sup> *The Bahir*, p. 81. Sami meaning 'blind', according to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Macmillan 1971, vol. 14, pp. 720-21, he has one long hair (as does Old Father Time).

interpretation to consideration of their most secret meanings "that offer insight into the structure of the universe."<sup>172</sup> I am only discussing surface patterns. But for every simple reading, there are eons of deep thinkers who have used the stories in this map of letters to guide souls toward illumination.

#### BINDING RED WATERS: THE DROUGHT OF MARCH, & BONDS OF ORION

An elderly Norse witch, called from her grave, enchants her magic: "This Third I chant thee: if great waters threaten to overwhelm thee, may flood and foam turn back to Hell the while and dry up before thee."<sup>173</sup> The witch, Groa ('growing') is wife to Aurgelmir, yet another name for Orion/Saturn, owner of the Bonds of Orion. Like Samael ('sami'/'blind'), Greek Orion became briefly blind before being healed by the returning Dawn.

"Syriac word corresponding to camel is gamlo which means 'camel.' However, gamlo has other meanings as well, one of which is given by the Syriac lexicographer Bar Bahlul (10th century). In his Syriac dictionary: "gamlo is a thick rope ... used to bind ships."<sup>174</sup>

---

<sup>172</sup> Rabbi D. Cooper, *God is a Verb*, Riverhead, 1997, p. 47. For a deep story of Samael, Gimel, & Eden, see pp. 42ff.

<sup>173</sup> *Svipdagmal*, Vigfusson trans., *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, p. 94. Phoenicians being far-farers probably hid other travel magic among the letters.

<sup>174</sup> www.Syriac Orthodox Resources, Syriac Bible. Written in Aramaic, which is related to Phoenician and Hebrew. In Greek, the words are kamilos (camel) and kamilos (rope).


Young Eve's belly will be growing fuller as her waters dry with the binding of her womb. A pregnant Empress sits as third Tarot card. A symbol being worth a thousand words, three's charm allows multiple uses of these bonds. Rowan, the Quicken Tree representing a pregnant (quickened) womb, once saved Thor, male owner of the third rune (Thorn), from a flood peed by a giantess. The peaceful Golden Age having passed, Thor hanging onto a Rowan threw a boulder at her crying: "Floods must be dammed at their head."<sup>175</sup>

This third symbol shows clearly the overlapping and changing myths as arrow shooting hunters, warriors on horseback and sky gods throwing lightning bolts mixed with the traditions of farming and hunting communities several thousand years ago. Runes belonged to a later culture, a far-faring warrior culture. They used the magic differently from farmers seeking abundant grain or women, full wombs.

Odin who learned his runes in the lands of Asia possessed a triple knot, the Volknut. This "sign of Woden showing his craft of binding a loosening, and his might over the knots of Wyrð."<sup>176</sup> In the Havamal, Odin sings: "A third know if need be that can fetter any foe." That is, the magic bonds that knotted a quickening woman's womb in pregnancy eventually morphed into war fetters.

---

<sup>175</sup> H. R. Ellis Davidson, *Scandinavian Mythology*, p. 64. The symbol for Thorn is taken from the

shape of Ros  ('head', 20th Phoenician letter). Ros is both a 'head' and the rosey waters now being dammed by and at the 'head'.

<sup>176</sup> Gundarsson, Kveldulf, *Teutonic Religion*, Llewelyn, 1993, p. 366.

Egypt's storm god Set also owned locking bolts and fetters. Third of five extra days regulating their calendar belongs to Set (Seth). A red serpent-bull eventually associated with the Devil he could also wear the aspect of a phallus, the head capable of seeding a new generation. "The bonds of Seth which restricted my mouth have been loosened." (Papyrus of Ani)<sup>177</sup> Loosened, he will be able to speak through the mouth of the fourth charm. BY Hebrew tradition, keeping an older number magic, Seth was third child of Adam and Eve.

#### FIERY OWNER OF THIRD LETTER & THE KNOTS AND BONDS OF TIME

China's third Trigram is Li, Lightning or Fire. Li, 'The Clinging', taught an Emperor the art of knots. "(Fu Hsi) knotted cords to make nets and baskets for both hunting and fishing. The idea of this was probably from Li ...(which) means 'attached to'".<sup>178</sup>

Orion being The Fool, "The Fool's French name, Le Fou, is cognate with ... fire."<sup>179</sup> Gods taking multiple forms, the Bull of Heaven can equally project the fire of serpent-striking lightning. Red haired Thor, whose wife is a Rowan, is a thunder and lightning god as is Egypt's stormy-red Set. Arrow shooting Mars, fiery ruler of the third month of March, third planet seen from earth, also belongs to this charm. Astrological symbol for red Mars is another prick ♂.

---

<sup>177</sup> quoted inside cover, *Paraabola* Vol. XX, Number 3, August, 1995, Note: 15th hieroglyph is 'bolt', 15 being associated with devils as well as the third symbol..

<sup>178</sup> James Legg, *I Ching* (1899), University Books, 1966, p. li

<sup>179</sup> Nichols, *Jung and the Tarot*, 1980, p. 30.

In India, third of seven Chakras is the Navel Chakra: An archer, who won his wife by shooting a winning arrow resides here: "... the seed mantra of Fire, Ram himself ... Meditate upon him seated on a ram...he is of ancient aspect and three-eyed."<sup>180</sup> The Ram of Aries, ruled by Mars, replaced the Bull as World Ages changed with the Precession. Ram's wife is Sita ('furrow').<sup>181</sup> We meet her again at the ninth charm when she is stolen away to a labyrinth in fall, Letter, Teth (9th letter), translating 'coil'.

Three's primary magic includes the seeding the dark moist furrows of Earth, which seeding bound Red Rivers flowing from her womb. Ancient sowers included serpents and lightening gods were later demonized into silver-tongued devils. With impregnation, Death and Time entered the world. "The serpent in the form of the mystical figure 3 represented in the Pythagorean philosophical system, TIME -- Past, Present and Future."<sup>182</sup>

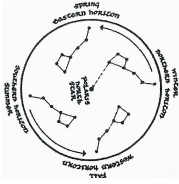
The World of Time begins with the bonds of the third charm. The Spinner of Time spins the stars circling the North Star, creating a clock in the sky. One can tell the time of night or season by the directional position of the handles of the Dippers. Preceding these stars, a Dragon ruled the circle.

---

<sup>180</sup> Motoyama, *Theories of the Chakras*, p. 170. Thurs, the Foolish Giants of third rune can have one, two or three eyes.

<sup>181</sup> His giant bow of stone lies in the jungles of southern Nepal near Sita's home in Janakpur.

<sup>182</sup> Harold Bayley, *Hidden Symbols of the Rosicrucians* (1903), 1988, p. 16.



Pole Stars as Clock pointing toward the seasons

Tuesday, our third day, is named for red Mars (Tiwaz, Mardi). The Spinner of the Pole stars is associated with Mars (though probably not as the planet). Norse god Tir, another name for Tius/Mars reappears as 17th rune. His rune is the arrow  $\uparrow$  which still indicates North on maps. See Letter 17 (pi-  $\pi$ ) for Command of the Circle.

Time measured by the spinning stars begins when the seed has been planted, the womb quickened. Mars' quickening arrow still provides the hands on clocks measuring circling time. March, third month of Mars, begins time for the Western Zodiac. Each zodiac year starts on March 21 when Aries, ruled by Mars, rises over his Green Witch in England.

## CHINA

"... the Sage's way of governing begins by emptying the heart of desires, filling the Belly with food." (Tao Te Ching, 3rd verse, Wu, trans) Like all wise rulers, the Tao, an alchemical tradition adhering to the ancient mystery pattern, fills an empty belly with the magic of the third charm.

Third of China's zodiac animals is a black and white Tiger whose stars correspond to our Sagittarius (Arrow). "Tigris the Tiger gets his name from his speedy pace; for the Persians, Greeks, and Medes used to call an arrow'



tygris!."<sup>183</sup> That is, Mars with his arrow of Time is not unlike the arrow's Tiger of the East. The black and white stripes of the tiger include it among the symbols of revolving time. In addition to belonging to the stars of The Arrow, the Tiger also represents stars of Orion: "...the Goddess of the Wind rides a tiger and the animal represents Orion in Chinese astrology."<sup>184</sup> Remember, the River of Time runs between Orion and the Womb of his Black Goddess in Scorpio.

Through the actions of characters associated with the third charm, the world of human time begins. Third Emperor of China, Huang-Ti, is the first human emperor. The previous two emperors have bull's heads. Huang-Ti introduced the horoscope, a measurement of circling time. Pricks and Thorns being aspects of the third magic, he also invented Acupuncture. Unfortunately, his smith introduced the art of war. War and Death entered the world along with Time with the iron arrows belonging to Mars. ♂.

中

Symbol for China, An arrow piercing Land of Middle Earth.

One further verse describing Li (Lightening, third Trigram) is especially fascinating when comparing it to the image of a far dreaming shaman painted on the walls of Lascaux, France during the Paleolithic period. An arrow pierces the womb/balls of a giant bull, while a rhinoceros, potent with deep symbolism, drops

---

<sup>183</sup> Walters, *Chinese Geomancy*, p.155. This was also how the swift Tigris River of the Fertile Crescent received its name. Orion's constellation has also been depicted as an arrow

<sup>184</sup> J. C. Cooper, *Symbolic & Mythological Animals*, Aquarian, 1992, pp. 226-227.

a hex (six) from his rear. That this is symbolic is evident in the paired droppings. Stools come out in a ribbon, not neatly two by two.



Paleolithic France, c. 15,000 BCE

Li: "In the South-East, shooting forth; the she-rhinoceros. In the North West, an arrow...Killing and begetting Are mutual arrows. Central Harmony is the way."<sup>185</sup>

This oracle being firmly connected to astronomy, the sunrise in the Southeast each Winter Solstice begins a new year. In the Northwest, the sun sets at Midsummer, falling toward the death of the year. The oracle uses a later sequence of Trigrams, Li placed sixth (See Letter Six for Midsummer myths of killing and begetting).

## THE FOOL OF TIME

The Fool of Time as Orion was ultimately replaced by the martial Aries as leader of the year He became a cipher, a zero, a hidden mystery. The oldest use of a zero as a mathematical symbol was in Babylon, c. 500 BCE. It was in a "table of squares (with) four cases of a zero written exactly like 30."<sup>186</sup> This is the

<sup>185</sup> Derek Walters, *The Alternate I-Ching*, (1983), Aquarian, 1987, p. 68.

<sup>186</sup> O. Neugebauer, *Exact Sciences in Antiquity* (1952), Dover, 1969, p. 27. I assume this was a magic square, like the Square of Saturn described p. 141.

number of years taking the Fool as the planet Saturn to circle the Zodiac. The Bull as Moon travels his circle in 30 days.



0-The Fool, Rider Waite Deck

The spinning Fool lost his place as leader of the Zodiac, but he was too important to be forgotten. Instead as cipher and secret the no account Zero still wanders the sky, his faithful dog star at his heels. But each time he returns, he increases Earth's harvest ten fold: 1, 10, 100, etc.


## MEASUREMENTS AND MATH

I have been concentrating on seasonal magic, farming magic, because I understand it more easily. But other technical secrets are hidden in the alphabet pattern: Measurements needed to build temples and lay out boundaries after Floods dry and recede. Once you have three points, triangulation is possible. The square corner of a pyramid can be determined with three knots on a rope, spaced 3, 4 and 5 equal measurements apart. Adding up to a proper ruler's 12, bending the ropes at the knots will always produce a right angle shaped like Orion's L-wand, the T-square.

There are other measured secrets: from the Tao Te Ching (verse 42) "Tao gave birth to One, One gave birth to Two, Two gave birth to Three. Three gave birth to all the myriad things."  $(1+1=2)$ ;  $(1+2=3)$ ;  $(1+3=4)$ ;  $(4+1=5)$ ,  $5+1=6$ ,

6+1=7, etc.)

The measurements of El can also represent a cubit, an el, a unit of measure between the elbow and tip of the Fool's finger. This may explain 'forearm' as third hieroglyph. Egypt was so concerned with exact measurement that stone arms, elbow to Saturn's finger, were carved so there would be no variation of cubit measurements due to body size.

 Third of 24 hieroglyphs

### ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LETTERS 3, 5, & 15

The Third Charm is a charm of bonds, fetters and drying of floods. Male aspects owning third position include Set, Mars, Saturn, Orion and devilish Samael, also known as Samekh- Mem.<sup>187</sup>

Devils, dragons and great serpents of the Deep of the third charm reappear at letters 5 and 15 (Samekh/'fish' or 'prop'). Because this is relevant to understand these later letters (5 & 15), I digress to offer a connection. The association between 3, 5 and 15 may derive from the use of magic squares. In the Magic Square of Saturn, potent Fool of the Third Charm, numbers 1-9 are placed in groups of 3, 5 at the center. Every row adds up to 15.

In this example from China, Saturn's square is associated with the ability of Three's charm to bind the Flood. Mentioned in Chinese literature c. 650 BCE,

---

<sup>187</sup> Rabbi Geoffrey Dennis, *Encyclopedia of Jewish Myth, Magic and Mysticism*, Llewellyn, 2008, p. 228.

this square was undoubtedly known in an earlier age. The Chinese square of Saturn (Lo Sho Square) appeared when King Yu (c. 2200 BCE) confronted a great flood. Of especial relevance to the drying action of the Third Charm: "This pattern ... was used by the people in controlling the river."<sup>188</sup>

Note: Every 15 years of his 30-year cycle around the sky, Saturn is close to earth and shines especially bright in the sky.

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

---

<sup>188</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic\\_square](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_square). The Great King Yu instituted flood control. He also divided China into 9 provinces, the number of positions in a Saturn square.

## FOURTH CHARM

"When April with her showers sweet, the drought of March has pierced to the root." (Chaucer, Canterbury Tales, c. 1300) With the powers of the fourth charm, we loosen the bonds and fetters binding the waters of the third.

4. Phoenician/Hebrew      DALETH (DOOR) 

Greek - Delta

Ogham - Nion (Ash) or Fearn (Alder)

Runes - Ansus, Ase (Emperor God) or Os (Mouth)

Tarot - The Emperor

Hieroglyph - Quail

Palmistry - Jupiter's finger, Fourth Finger, Pointer

## LETTER FOUR - DELIVERANCE FROM KNOTS &amp; BONDS

Secrets hidden in our fourth charm are, perhaps, the most straightforward and least tangled by the multiple cultures using the pattern. This is Mother Goose's "Four for a Birth" as Earth bursts free in all her glory. A Fool bound the waters of Earth with Three's arrow. Now her womb opens; Birth waters moisten the land; her children emerge through the generous Door as fourth symbol.



Delta as cuneiform for 'woman', ancient Mesopotamia

Although numerous months can begin a calendar, I am following our Western Calendar. It's seasonal celebrations fit nicely with the alphabet pattern. Four's charm has a freeing, birthing magic. The name of our fourth month, April, derives from 'aperire' to 'open'. Whether this is true or folk etymology, I don't know: only that the fourth magic contains the unbinding of fetters and bonds imposed by the third. Her womb opened, Earth's Delta now pours forth life.

"Canst thou bind the sweet influences of the Pleiades or loose the bonds of Orion?" (Book of Job, Ch. 38) Three's magic of knots and bindings are freed by the fourth charm. We must now loosen the fetters to release the seed growing in the womb. Each mother's hair will be combed, her furrows groomed to prevent any knots impeding delivery into the sprouting world. "Untangle the knots." (Tao Te Ching, fourth verse)<sup>189</sup>

Rome's goddess Juno, wife of Jupiter ruler of our fourth finger, was, like other Brides, a midwife. Knots were forbidden in her worship "because the presence of a knot ... could hinder delivery."<sup>190</sup>



Comb charm of woman with Delta, Switzerland, c. 4000 BCE<sup>191</sup>

"A fourth I know ... I can sing a charm that will make me free." (Havamal)  
Alphabet magic was transmuted into rune magic in the far north, a land

<sup>189</sup> Lao Tzu , Man-jan Cheng Lectures, 1981

<sup>190</sup> Grimal, *Classical Mythology*, Penguin, 1990, p. 231.

<sup>191</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 301.

possessing a climate unfriendly to peaceful farming life. Earth Magic was adapted for a warrior's need. More useful to a Viking out pillaging for a living, the complete quote of the fourth charm is: "A fourth I know: if men make fast in chains the joints of my limbs, when I sing that song which shall set me free, spring the fetters from hands and feet."(Havamal)

As seafaring people, another use of the fourth rune was for travel: "Os (Estuary) is the way of most journeys." (Old Norwegian Rune Poem, fourth rune). The mouth of a river is, of course, a delta. Earth delivers land at her deltas where the sweet rivers meet the salty mother sea. 'Os' is equally the 'mouth' (os) of Earth's now opening womb.

## MOTHER'S DAY

Egypt also followed the pattern of the alphabet charms. Adding 5 days to regulate their calendar of 360 days, each holiday was assigned to a god. Osiris, Black Earth and Bull, was first; Healer and young sun god, Horus, was second. Third is given to Set, red god of storm and death associated with bolts, phalluses, and bonds. Fourth belonged to Isis, Egypt's mother goddess.

According to the Greeks Io, the White Cow from Phoenicia dropping alphabet letters along the route of her travels ended her journey in Egypt as Isis. Set, having killed her husband Osiris, also planned to kill her son. She protected her young sun god in her Delta until he grew more powerful, the power of her sun increasing as we move towards midsummer. Continuing this theme, on the fourth



day the god of Genesis also produced his Sun and Moon to rule.

Around 6000 BCE, Cancer rose with the sun in April, early May. Although she still rules the Fourth House of Astrology, she precessed into a Midsummer rising by the time the Western Zodiac was frozen, I will discuss her myths with the sixth charm, but for now, know Cancer is considered a Mother sign. Among her stars is a sun king's Manger.

Fourth hieroglyph is 'Quail'. There are multiple myths attached to quails, so am not certain which key suited the sage ordering the hieroglyph code. Cancer's constellation was a 'Quail' in China. Mother of the Greek sun and moon turned into a quail before laying her egg. "Apollo (sun) ... Artemis (moon)...were children ... born on Quail Island off Delos"<sup>192</sup> Their father Jupiter/Jupiter, also assumed a quail shape. In the palmistry tradition, Jupiter owns the hand's ruling 4th finger.

Equally fitting, "A Quail in a cage was a symbol of the soul imprisoned in the body and longing to escape."<sup>193</sup> Manifestation, the 'terrification' of the soul into a physical body occurring with Four's birth, is echoed by an alchemist: "The terrification of the Spirit is the only operation of this Work." (Fourth Key of Eudoxus)

The ancient Bird Goddess's colorful eggs still appear at Easter on the full moon four weeks after the Spring Equinox. Her egg is eaten with salt, a square

---

<sup>192</sup> Graves, *White Goddess*, p. 390. Parentheses mine

<sup>193</sup> J. C. Cooper, *Mythological Animals*, Aquarian, 1992, pp. 186-1.87

(four-sided) crystal, at this season's Passover. Earth's gravid womb once again frees her sun from the grave. "The festival of Passover is ... the Season of Our Freedom. Its central theme is release."<sup>194</sup> The binding of a Red Sea preceded that escape.<sup>195</sup>

In the western calendar, this season encompasses mid-April to mid-May, during which we celebrate Mother's Day. The Precession of the Bull/Cow as Taurus through these months has left his shadow on the myths, as have earlier constellations. I won't further confuse the reader, but someone with an interest in astrology can easily uncover ghosts left by earlier stars. The Brahmi script of ancient India used the mothering cow's head for numeral four **𑀓**. The origin of this script, appearing fully developed c. 300 BCE, is obscure. As consonant, this shape sounds 'ma', the mother now birthing her returning sun.

#### MERCURY AND THE FOURTH CHARM

"Ah, something seems to exist there; I do not know whose child it is. It seems to have existed before the ancestor." (Fourth verse, Tao Te Ching,)<sup>196</sup> The Tao ('path') like the Spell hidden in our alphabet implies a continuous return into the Great Round of Time.

---

<sup>194</sup> Theodor Gaster, *Festivals of the Jewish Year*, Quill, 1952, p. 31.

<sup>195</sup> The actual translation is Sea of Reeds. I believe the firm memory of its being a Red Sea relates to mythic rather than historical memory. Egypt's Reed Sea was in the Nile delta.

<sup>196</sup> Man-jan Cheng, Lao Tzu lectures

The returning sun is associated with the fourth magic. But recall, ancient deities assumed numerous names and forms, often at one and the same time. It was only late in history that magic solidified. Each charm also contains both male and female aspects.

Fourth day of our week is named after various incarnations of Mercury: Wednesday being Woden's day (Odin, Woden as Mercury), Budhvar, or Mercredi being some of the mercurial names for the fourth day.



Chinese Buddha as magician speaking the First Word.<sup>197</sup>

His mother is Maia, now one of the stars in the Pleiades. A magician, magi, illusionary (maya) goddess, she also birthed India's Budh (Mercury). Mother of the historical Buddha (Gautama), who was born early May, is Mahamaya. Fitting with the planet Mercury's attributes, when the historical Buddha was born, he took 7 steps in each of the four directions.<sup>198</sup>

"The root of 'four' in Semitic is built on 'rab' found also in words for 'lord,' 'captain' and lookout sentinel."<sup>199</sup> As Rabbi, Four is a great Lord of the Word, along with Buddha and Mercury. Lordly Jupiter (given the fifth day to rule) is

<sup>197</sup> Alice Getty, *Gods of Northern Buddhism* (1914), Dover, 1988, p. 10. Note similarity to Aleph

<sup>198</sup> As planet, Mercury spends just a little over 7 days in each of the zodiac houses during his 88 day cycle around earth. During a lunar year, each cycle is in a different quarter (4x88 =352).

<sup>199</sup> Morris Swadesh, *Origin and Diversification of Language*, Aldine, 1971, p. 186.

another ruler associated with Four's position.

## CREATION BY THE WORD

"Give me life according to your word." (Daleth, Psalm 119)

At some point in history, creation moved away from the Mother's Delta and became The Word. Spoken from the mouth (Os/4th rune) of a royal god. Tarot (c. 1400 CE) placed an Emperor as fourth card. Having learned the Word, he is "the embodiment of the Logos."<sup>200</sup> Like Jupiter, Tarot's Emperor is a warlord and sits on a square throne to rule. In Brahmi, the shape of the square throne (□) sounds 'ba' (father).

Jupiter/ Zeus was ruler of the Roman/Greek gods. Fathering his children on every possible form of maiden and beast or plant, his astrological symbol is our numeral four 4. Old magic endures. As late as the Renaissance, thousands of years after the origin of the Alphabet's numbered Mystery, Michelangelo depicted Jehovah creating Adam with his 'four' finger (Sistine Chapel).



Fourth chakra is the 'Heart' chakra, Rulers ideally ruling from their hearts.<sup>201</sup> In palmistry, the line of the heart begins under the fourth finger,

<sup>200</sup> Sallie Nichols, *Jung & The Tarot*, Weiser, 1980, p. 103.

<sup>201</sup> The forth chakra is also known as the 'unstruck' sound (Anahata).

Jupiter's finger. A prominent Jupiter's finger implies ambition and a strong desire to rule. A thunder god, he speaks after the lightening flash of the previous letter. Early Heaven Sequence of China's I-Ching also decrees the sound of Thunder as fourth symbol.

"Ase (Odin) is the olden-father and Asgard's chieftain and leader of Valhall." Underneath the Old Icelandic Rune Poem for the 4th rune are glosses 'Jupiter' and 'point leader'. Fourth finger, Jupiter's finger, forefinger is the creative 'pointer'.

Germanic Odin partakes of the transition of the sower of the seed evolving into Creator by the Word as it replaced the Mother Magic of four's Delta. Fourth rune is Ansus (supreme god) or Os (mouth). "The element of Odin ... is behind this rune ... the esoteric feature ... (includes) sound as a medium of communication."<sup>202</sup> Odin shares the fourth of twelve halls of the Northern Gods (Grimner's Lay) with Saga (story).

In India, seven Wheels (chakras) lie along the 24 vertebrae of our spine. A verse describing the Fourth chakra states: "This (chakra) is ... the abode of Shiva... He who meditates on this (chakra) becomes like the Lord of Speech" (Shatchakra nirupana),<sup>203</sup> Shiva once traveled to Tibet. That Buddhist country not needing a Hindu king, Shiva remained as the doorkeeper (delta, dalet/door) for the Buddha. His wife, black Kali, became an oracle speaking to the Dalai Lama.

---

<sup>202</sup> Freya Aswynn, *Leaves of Yggdrasil*, Llewellyn, 1990, p. 25.

<sup>203</sup> Motoyama, *Theories of the Chakras*, 1981, p. 173.

In time, Kings fought for rule over the fourth or sixth positions. We shall once again encounter kings and their battle for the throne at Letter Six. Although warlords came to rule Mother Maya's Magic, "Ritual is always tenacious ... at Delphi, Apollo may seat himself on the (throne) but he is still forced to utter his oracles through the mouth of the Priestess of Gaia." <sup>204</sup>

### OGHAM AND THE BATTLE OF THE TREES

Ogham scripts are known as Beth-Luis-Nion after the trees, Birch, Rowan, and Ash. However, all existing scripts place Fearn, the Alder tree in this position (Beth-Luis-Fearn). Robert Graves, *The White Goddess*, discusses a "Battle of the Trees" in which the red Alder (Fearn) is defeated by the white Ash (Nion), a battle ready spear tree. Nion/Ash then moved from 4th to 6th ogham position. Fearn/Alder is demoted to fourth (Hiding the 2nd, Nion is physically 5th).

The victorious Ash fit nicely on Four's Emperor throne, his original position. In harmony with fourth rune 'Os', Ash (Old English aesc) is derived from Indo-European 'os'. In Norse mythology, the first man was formed from an ash, befitting 'four for a boy'. Ash and his wife, an Elm tree, birthed the first humans after the Deluge. Genesis, however, doesn't create man (aish, Hebrew) until the sixth day, the position Ogham's Ash commandeered after his victory over the red Alder.

---

<sup>204</sup> Harrison, *Prologomena* (1903), 1991, p. 338.

No ancient symbol was ever lightly chosen. Elm is a jug-shaped tree whose bark is a nourishing food. The Mother constellation of Cancer is also jug shaped, Y-shaped group of stars. Within her constellation are stars known as the Manger. "It is the most inconspicuous figure in the zodiac ... yet few heavenly signs have been subjects of more attention."<sup>205</sup> Having migrated with the Precession, we will rejoin Cancer and her Y shape at the sixth letter along with the Ash tree.

An Irish tradition may explain why the victor might have left this important fourth place associated with the Word of Kings and Emperors. A Celtic king could not rule by power alone. He must marry the Land herself (Sovrainty) after proving his ability to make her fertile. Mounting her Throne of Glory occurs among the honeymoon myths of Letter Six.

Fearn, the red alder tree, is associated with a defeated giant named Bran. Bran can mean alder, grain or raven. The word 'alder' ultimately derives from Proto Indo-European 'el'. We have already met giant El several times. Most of Bran's stories come from the Welsh since the Irish having killed this giant erased his memory.

In a Welsh epic, The Mabinogion, Bran is killed in a war with an Irish king. His head was cut off and carried singing and storytelling around the land. Ultimately buried under the Tower of London, his rooks (ravens) still circle,

---


<sup>205</sup> Allen, *Star Names*, p. 107.

protecting the Tower, also 'rook'. (See Letter 17) As symbols of kings, either Ash or Alder fit the attributes of fourth or kingly sixth positions.

Ogham had several letter series, each position starting with the same letter (B-L, etc.). Fearn/Alder's Fort Ogham is Femen. Another quote from the Hag of Beare who no longer renewed each spring into a Bride: "I envy no one old, excepting only Feimen: as for me, I have worn an old person's garb; Feimen's crop is still yellow. The Stone of the Kings is in Feimen." (Gerald Murphy translation)

## MATHEMATICS

Three seeding all later numbers, Four represents material manifestation: the spirit made flesh, the 'terrification' of the soul. Four contains the first complete round of numbers:  $1+2+3+4 = 10$ . After the decimations of 10, numbers, like returning souls, fin-again, begin again on their orderly through the material world:  $1+10 = 11$ ,  $1+11=12$ , etc.

"Solid space ... is 4...Since material things exist only in space, they too are number and the tetrads generates them all" <sup>206</sup> The concept of the tetrad (four) is attributed to Pythagoras, a descendent of the Phoenicians. It is depicted in the shape of fourth letter D's generating delta. 

---

<sup>206</sup> Bell, Eric, *Magic of Numbers* (1946) Dover, p. 163.





### Pythagoras's Tetrad

Like Irish Oghams, a gift of Phoeniusa Farsa, the mysteries of mathematics have links to Phoenicia's Spells. Son of Apollo and a Phoenician mother, Pythagoras studied 22 years in Egypt. "Others have him wandering ... all over Egypt, Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, India and even Gaul ... (absorbing) all the knowledge and wisdom of the Hebrews, Persians, the Arabs, and the blue Druids of Britain."<sup>207</sup> I include this quote to emphasize recognition of a widely shared Mystery tradition associated with wandering Phoenicians. In the next stage of Manifestation, both sprouted seed and wisdom will be harvested, shared and transmitted.

---

<sup>207</sup> Bell, *Magic of Numbers*, p. 85.

## FIFTH CHARM

"Too many words quickly exhaust; It is not as good as holding to the center."

(Fifth lesson, *Tao Te Ching*)<sup>208</sup>

Through the magic of this charm a harvest of seed and law is shared.  
Words now radiate, wheeling out from the centering heart. Breath as lungs  
enclosing our hearts, the still soft voice of the wind is also part of Five's magic.

5. Phoenician/Hebrew HET/HEY ('ASPIRATE H' the sound of rough breathing' or

WINDOW' from Anglo Saxon 'vindr eage', the 'wind's eye')



Greek - Epsilon The Quintessence

Ogham - Saille (Willow)

Runes - Rad (Wheel or Ride)

Tarot - The Pope

Hieroglyph - Leg

Palmistry - Thumb (around which other fingers circle)

## LETTER FIVE - TEACHING, PUPILS, AND A GIFT OF TONGUES

I believe the pattern of soul journey described by numerous widespread traditions indicates the path was present in the symbols from their earliest ordering; that each symbol encompasses a stage along a journey. The letters of Hebrew appeared on the stone tables of the Law (Torah) given to Moses on Mt.

<sup>208</sup> Lao Tzu, Man-jan Cheng lectures, p. 34.

Sinai. When Torah was finalized, the Jewish scholars of the Great Assembly (? c. 5th century BCE) placing Five Books of Moses into a final form were undoubtedly aware of the number magic inherent in their alphabet

First and last letters of the Torah spell 'heart' (LV). This fifth charm includes both heart symbolism and the transmission of 5 Books of Law (Torah). By enclosing the teachings of Five Books of the Law within a heart, they echo a very ancient tradition linking the wisdom of the centering heart, number five, and teaching of the Law: "Teach me Lord the way of your decrees" (Hey/fifth letter, Psalm 119) As wisdom was once located in the heart, we find heart symbolism associated with this letter. We also find a radiant sun and eye symbolism.



Astronomy's glyph for sun

Five's clear eye belongs to the young pupil, the kore centering each round eye. In this early summer season, pupils sit (in a circle) around the teacher who may appear as a bald priest-king. Shearing of both hair and grain conjunct in this charm with priest kings and gods transmitting laws. Learning and law is associated the clear eye of number five: In Iceland, the Law Court opened on the fifth day of Thursday; India's Thursday is 'teacher day' (Guru-var).

The pure wisdom inherent in this position was so important that of all the 22 possible letters of the alphabet, the God of the Hebrews commanded the first Patriarchs to add the fifth letter (Hey) to their names. Sara and Abram thus became Abraham and Sarah. This letter is literally the Quintessence, the Fifth Essence. The Quintessence is the purest or most perfect manifestation of a

being. After their perfection, Sarah and Abraham went on to bear the Children of the Book: "When God added this (fifth letter) to Abraham's name, He gave him dominance over the final five parts of his body, namely, the two eyes, two ears, and the sexual organ."<sup>209</sup>

Five's pure green magic follows a world set free by Four's. The Stone has been rolled back for a Resurrection. The Angel of Death passed over her Chosen People. The Pronouncements of Spring have once again thrown off the shackles and bonds of Death. Worlds and words having been reborn, the fifth letter's attributes include a sharing of the bounty delivered by the fertility of the preceding charms.

That harvest may be carried in baskets often made of willow, Tree Ogham's fifth symbol. Another name for 'basket' is 'riddle', a common method by which wisdom is transmitted: "A riddle, a riddle, as I suppose. A hundred eyes and never a nose." Mother Goose's answer, "a sieve," was a willow basket long before it was made from metal. In many traditions, this basket delivered the new teacher across the waters into a new life.

#### A CHASTE RISING UP AND PILGRIMAGE TRAVEL

"God said: 'Let the waters swarm with a swarm of living beings, and let fowl fly above the earth, across the dome of the heavens.'" (Fifth Day, Genesis)

---

<sup>209</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, p. 94. Note: The 5 books of the Torah, is itself enclosed in wisdom's pure heart (L-V, first and last letters of the Torah spell 'heart').

Following our Western calendar, it is now late May, early June. This is the season of rising up, the season of dispersal.<sup>210</sup> Pupils are set free from school. Humming bees (having their own wisdom) begin to swarm though their honeymoon is not until Six's charm. At Pentecost occurring this season, King Arthur's knights set off on their Quests. Pilgrims went traveling to Canterbury; Wanderers in Sinai received Five Tablets of Law and a Gift of Tongues in Israel.<sup>211</sup> "Make me go in the path of your commandments. (Fifth letter Hey, Psalm 119)

Our fifth charm contains a rather chaste transmission of teachings and laws. Celibacy is inherent in this season's radiating magic. If the buzzing bees preparing to fly actually leave their hive instead of waiting until the kinder, more fertile sixth month, there will be no offspring. According to Mother Goose "A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay. A swarm of bees in June is worth a silver spoon."

The Jewish festival of Pentecost, Shavuot, celebrates both the early summer harvest and the transmission of the Five Books of the Torah in the hills of Egypt. Shavuot contains a fascinating connection between Fifth Hieroglyph 'Leg' and the chastity associated with this letter.

---

<sup>210</sup> The Fifth Key of Eudoxus concerns itself with the leavening, the rising up of bread.

<sup>211</sup> Shavuot, the Jewish Festival of late May, early June (50 days after Passover), celebrates both the Laws of the Torah and a harvest distributed in baskets. It is one of the Pilgrimage festivals.

"Shavuos, the time of the giving of the Torah on Har Sinai, represents the rejection of unchanneled lust. ...Inappropriate sexual thoughts fill the heads of those empty of wisdom.... It is noteworthy, therefore, that in preparation for the receipt of the Torah, the Jews were required to separate from their wives." <sup>212</sup>

The festival is one of three mandated Pilgrimage Festivals. Unlike other festivals, these are, rather obscurely, known as 'Legs' (ReGeLim). I have been unable to find if the 'Leg' hieroglyph has been associated with an Egyptian festival of law giving, or the concept with an early Mesopotamian one. The Jews who had a long association with Egypt and Mesopotamia did not become a people until at least 1000 years after the hieroglyph appeared. <sup>213</sup>



Leg - Fifth of 24 Hieroglyphs

Although chasteness associated with the virtuous pupils and priest-kings is an attribute of this charm, there is a conflicting quality of sexuality held in reserve. The earthy thumb (fifth finger), around which other fingers radiate, is a phallic symbol. As always, there is a constant tangling of mythic attributes. The thumb protruding from the fist protects against an evil eye, as do phalluses and five fingered amulet hands. A Thumb fist is a Ficus (a fig). While the fig's plump

---

<sup>212</sup> <http://www.aish.com/tp/i/sms/96558774.html>

<sup>213</sup> There are some claims that the receiving of letters in the Sinai was connected to Proto-Sinaitic script of the Temple of Hathor in the Sinai (pp. 32-33).

fruit is graphically sexual, the fig's leaves modestly cover the privates of shy statues.

“The most important finger is the thumb, which among other things, is strong in virtue and power.” (*Book of Beasts*, 12th c.)<sup>214</sup> And the Fifth Symbol the Emperor of China could wear on his imperial robe is a dragon: a “symbol of imperial power. It is symbolic of virtue in a ruler.”<sup>215</sup>

Earth goddesses were not known for their virtue or celibacy, but the chaste virtue of this fifth symbol is so widespread it must be an ancient attribute. Both male and female symbols associated with numeral five are modest. Perhaps earthy Nature is meditating (another centering fifth association) until her summertime marriage at the sixth charm. Or perhaps in her roles as teacher and pupil, she is now more interested in the insemination of knowledge than of seed.

## FIVE'S VIRTUOUS SYMBOLS AS STUDIOUS GODDESSES

India's restless goddess of fortune, Lakshmi, is a goddess of writing and intellect. Her siblings are Sarasvati, goddess of crafts and writing and Ganesh, the lord of writing we met at Letter One. Worshipped in the form of a basket of

---

<sup>214</sup> T. H. White, *Book of Beasts*, p. 219. The thumb is sometimes given to Hercules. Under the name of Ogmios, Phoenician Hercules transmitted the wisdom of Oghams to the Celts.

<sup>215</sup> Whitlock & Ehrmann, *Story of Jade*, Sheridan, (1949) 1965, pp. 56-59.

grain, Lakshmi is literally 'five', being known as Shri Panch (Lady 5). Worshipped on Thursdays (5th day) or on the fifth lunar day like Greek Minerva (Athena), she is associated with a great-eyed owl. We will meet her owl again at the 8th charm.

Celibate "Roman goddess of Wisdom, Minerva had 5 (written V) as her sacred numeral."<sup>216</sup> She is the patron of handicrafts, possibly the reason the Crafts Oghams chose 'sairsi' (handicrafts) as fifth ogham. Minerva's festival lasted five days,

Of the Five Holy Days regulating Egypt's calendar, the fifth day belongs to Nephthys. Another goddess associated with writing and wisdom, as Lady of the Books her fetish symbol (like Lakshmi as Lady 5) was a wicker basket. Married to red Set of the third charm, she never had children. This sterility may underlie her being known as a "goddess with no vagina".<sup>217</sup>



Symbol for Nephthys - Basket over House

Venal Venus, definitely not a chaste goddess, is another deity associated with the number five. I will explore her astronomical pentacle below. In this position, even Venus is more concerned with sharing than receiving knowledge's seed: "The emerald is the very essence of the fifth ray of healing and science and was brought to earth in a minute seed ... from the planet Venus."<sup>218</sup>

---

<sup>216</sup> Robert Graves, *White Goddess*, p. 274.

<sup>217</sup> [www.glyphdoctors/nephthys](http://www.glyphdoctors/nephthys)

<sup>218</sup> Barbara Walker, *Woman's Dictionary*, Harper Row, 1988, p. 510.



## MALE OWNERS OF GREEN 5 - TRANSMISSION OF LAW & WISDOM

Though I am separating the male and female aspects of the deities, earlier gods could appear in either male or female forms. Gay, fey Fairies wear green or yellow on Thursdays. If a human wears those colors on this (fifth) day, they are to be pinched. At least, that still occurred when I was growing up.

The green emerald, upon which the first book of Alchemy was written, belongs among this season's celibate symbols. The alchemist's Green Lion must first tame himself to produce gold with his potent stone and emeralds must never be worn while making love. Compelling their owner to chastity, they shatter with indignation if worn during intercourse. "If it (emerald) is good and genuine it will not endure sexual intercourse." (Albertus Magnus, c. 1300)<sup>219</sup> They are, however, good for improving eyesight, eyes being another attribute of this radiant charm.

Although most of the Norse rune poems for this position refer to ill-tempered voyagers and their radiating travels (Rad as ride or wheel), this one uses the clear sight of Letter Five. "A fifth I know: when I see, by foes shot speeding a shaft through the host, flies it never so strongly I still can stay it if I get but a glimpse of its flight." (Havamal).

## LITERARY LIONS, PENTACLES & CIRCULATION OF LEARNING

The Green Lion as the constellation of regal Leo rules the Fifth House of

---

<sup>219</sup> Albertus Magnus, c. 1300, *Book of Minerals*, D. Wyckoff, trans, Clarendon, 1967, p. 119.

Astrology. Deep within his stars lies the beating red heart of Regulus. A fire sign ruled by the sun symbolized by a circle with an iota, a dot, jot, a pupil in its center, Leo may have bequeathed his shape to our numeral 5.



Leo's stars

Concerned with law and knowledge, literary lions still guard our library steps and courts of law. Instead of 5's lions, the great library of Alexandria of Pharos embedded 5-sided figures in the pavement. It was here that 72 scholars translated the Five Books of the Torah (transmitted at Pentecost, 50 days after Exodus) into Greek. "Since Pentagons are inconvenient figures ... compared with squares and hexagons, the number five must have some important religious significance."<sup>220</sup>

This might be the place to teach the pentacle's astronomy. Numerals 5 and 8 are both associated with the planet Venus' path through the sky.<sup>221</sup> Each time she rises, she appears in a different zodiac sign. It takes 1.6 years between each heliacal rising. The entire cycle returning her to the original zodiac position takes 8 years ( $8/1.6=5$ ). During her journey she has five morning risings. Each appearance is in a different zodiac sign, tracing out a five-pointed star, a pentacle ☆ in the sky ( $360/5=72$ , each arc containing the important number, 72 degrees).

<sup>220</sup> Graves, *White Goddess*, p. 278. The island of Pharos was the harbor where Phoenician ships docked when trading with Egypt.

<sup>221</sup> She orbits Earth 13 times on that journey, also linking her with number 13..

Her 5 pointed star of law and order still graces the breasts of US Marshals. Her star associated with law and learning, it is always proper to give an apple to the teacher. When sliced open, inside the core (Kore/pupil) resides this pentacle. Egyptian hieroglyph for 'star' is always written with five points. This is the hieroglyph "which indicates a journey across the water, the pilot who guides the ship ... and above all, for the verb "instruct, teach."<sup>222</sup>

#### GREEN FIRES OF THE FIFTH SYMBOL

The planet Venus, circling between earth and her sun, has both morning and evening appearances. As evening star, she is the bright fertile female Venus. She spends 263 days as evening star, the length of a human pregnancy. Then she disappears from the sky. Dying in the West, like all circling stars, Venus must travel the dark before returning as the Light of Day. When she returns, rising just before the morning sun, she is Lucifer the Light Bearer who was thrown from heaven for his presumptive brilliance.

"The fifth is the great fire of the Blessed Holy One." (The Bahir, 12th century)<sup>223</sup> Another name for Lucifer is Phosphorus. Growing on rotten wood, it glows dark green in the same swamps that are home to the green willow tree (5th Tree Ogham). According to the dictionary, Phosphorus is "... extremely flammable, undergoing combustion at ordinary temperatures and hence

---

<sup>222</sup> Betro, *Hieroglyphics*, 1995, p. 154

<sup>223</sup> Kaplan, *Bahir*, p. 51.

...luminous in the dark.” (Oxford Dictionary)

Followers of the Old Way, meditating in circles on Thursdays (fifth day), were able to call up this phosphorescent green: “The Druidesses are all holding hands in a circle... now a cloud should appear ... Tradition calls it the green cloud.”<sup>224</sup>

Vikings, ever practical, use the fires of this fifth symbol as a warrior’s charm to burn off fetters. A witch called up from her tomb to advise her son sings: “I sing you the fifth spell, in case fetters restrain your arms and legs, then shall Leifnir’s flame be sung over your leg and your limbs be liberated, your feet unfettered.” (*Svipdagsmal*).

In keeping with the celibacy associated with the fifth position, the *Compendia of Materia Medica* of 1913 states Phosphorus was a treatment for “Impotence.... no remedy more efficient.”<sup>225</sup> Extremely poisonous, Phosphorus was probably not the most useful remedy.

## KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

“And the fifth angel sounded and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit.” (Revelations, 9) A Pope now owns the Keys of the Kingdom, which explains “primrose’ (Sodath) as fifth Color Ogham. This (5-petaled) flower is also known as Our Lady’s Keys and

---

<sup>224</sup> Umberto Ecco, *Foucault’s Pendulum*, p. 358.

<sup>225</sup> Samuel Potter, *Compendia of Materia Medica* (1913), Blakiston's, 1917, p. 50.

Keys of the Kingdom.<sup>226</sup>



Samekh, 15th letter & Tarot Pope as fifth card

Tarot places a Pope, The Hierophant as fifth card. This is not the Christian Pope rather a much older Patriarch, once the Papal Bull of his people. The Rider-Waite Tarot card designed by followers of a mystery tradition put The Cross of the Patriarch in his hands. This same symbol represents Phoenician 15th letter, Samekh, which Tarot equates with The Devil. The Iberian script uses the Patriarch's cross as fifth letter (see Ogham Chapter for samples of script). As described at Letter Three, there is a symbolic connection between the owners of the 3rd, 5th, and 15th letters.

#### SINGING WILLOWS AS FIFTH SYMBOL

Each symbol adapted from the Phoenician alphabet must contain a sound needed to represent the language. Adapting the hidden Mystery, the letter must also reflect the stories determined by its placement in the series. Tree Ogham's

---

<sup>226</sup> "They had a king over them which is the angel of the bottomless pit whose name... in the Greek tongue is Apollyon." (Revelation 9:11), In Apollo's Temple of Delphi, a large Letter E (our fifth letter) was inscribed over the door. (Plutarch, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delphi>. As second vowel (A-E-I-O-U), it was also associated with Apollo, written over Temple of Delphi.

choice of Willow (Saille) is such a symbol. Teacher-priests shave their heads to preserve their potency for wisdom. Willow seed also constrains potency. “If anyone drinks it, he does not have children, and it makes women unfruitful.”<sup>227</sup>

Willow is a green tree. Like Leo, it has a red core at its heartwood. The heart, rather than the head, was once considered the source of wisdom. A mother needing a husband for her child might wed a willow, but don't place your affection on a green willow tree for its red heart belongs only to his goddess. There can only be unrequited love for one who wears the chaste willow.

Connecting Willow's green magic to many of the above stories, its branches were used in a wiccan witches broom to draw circles within which they meditated on Thursdays, our fifth day. “The most important ... day to the Fairies and the witches alike was Thursday ... followers went out on Thursday nights.”<sup>228</sup>

Multiple traditions associated green circles and law with the fifth position. I include this one from Tibet. When a person dies, his migrating spirit meets each of Five Buddha families on his travels through the dark. “On the fifth day there is the karma family, which is the pure quality of air or wind. It is a green light.”<sup>229</sup> The previous four Buddha families follow our alphabet pattern. Each family is associated with a color and symbol. The symbol for the laws of Karma is a wheel



---

<sup>227</sup> T. H. White, *Book of Beasts*, p. 218.

<sup>228</sup> Judy Grahn, *Another Mother Tongue*, Beacon Press, 1984, p. 80.

<sup>229</sup> *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, Freemantle & Trungpa, trans.

while fifth Germanic rune is Rad (Wheel). Transmission of the laws of this circling wheel are breathed by gods and priest-kings and carried by the wind.

Fifth Phoenician letter, Hey, is usually translated as 'aspirate H', the sound of rough breathing. It may be a folk tradition, but I have also seen Hey translated 'window' which derives from the 'wind's eye'. The I-Ching places 'Wind' as fifth Trigram (Early Heaven Sequence). Continuing the theme of air movement and the resounding breath of God: Square Hebrew (c. 200 BCE) changed the Phoenician shape of the fifth letter  to give it a window, letting the letter breathe: . Also moving air, fifth verse of the Tao Te Ching describes: "The Tao is like a bellows."

Leading into the next section of qualities hidden in this letter, the green Willow is the slough tree, the sigh tree from the sound of the wind whispering through her hair. Poets touched willows for eloquence, but never tell secrets to a willow for she is a transmitter, not a keeper of the Mysteries. "(Wheel or Ride) at the end is written mouth." (5th rune, 'Rat end os uuritan', *Abcedarium Nordmanicum*, c. 800 CE)<sup>230</sup>

## THE SPEAKING GIFT OF TONGUES

"God created the great sea-serpents and all living beings that crawl about, with which the waters swarmed after their kind and all winged fowl after their kind."

---

<sup>230</sup> Codex Sangallensis 878, *Abcedarium Nordmanicum*

Now, you might wonder why I included this portion of the fifth day of Genesis. It may seem opaque, but the Creation closely follows the ancient Spell. The swarming beasts produced in the first section mesh nicely with this symbol of going forth, rising up, and radiating words or roads. The creatures of the Deep and Air fit with the Gift of Tongues received at Pentecost (50), with Five's thumb, and with wisdom once possessed by a silver-tongued devil.

“In many Indo European languages, the final part of several words meaning tongue also serve as terms for fish. This fish-tongue amalgam can be assigned to a very early date with tongue being derived from fish.”<sup>231</sup> I have no academic explanation for the association but thinking poetically both fish and tongue live in a moist environment, darting about as they go about their business. If the fish-tongue is removed from its moist home, speech (and fish) dies.

In Ireland, the wisdom inherent in the fifth charm was transmitted by that brain food as fish: There is a well where the hazels of wisdom drop slowly into the water. “And then the five salmon that were waiting there would eat the nuts ... and any person that would eat one of those salmon would know all wisdom and all poetry.”<sup>232</sup>

The fifth finger, the thumb, can also transmit wisdom. Celtic hero Finn gained his wisdom when he burned his thumb while cooking the magical fish.

---

<sup>231</sup> Michael Dames, *Mythic Ireland*, Thames & Hudson, p. 191.

<sup>232</sup> Lady Gregory, *Gods and Fighting Men* (1904), Macmillan, 1976, Part 1, Book 1, p. 2. The location of the 'brain' was once thought to be in the 'heart.'



Popping it into his mouth: “That is what gave knowledge to Finn, when he used to put his thumb in his mouth.”<sup>233</sup>

This Norse poem also refers to 5's thumb magic and a Gift of Tongues: “Riding is the worst for horses. Reginn forged the best sword.” (5th rune, Old Norwegian Rune Poem) Siegfried roasted the heart of a great serpent-dragon after killing him with a sword forged by the smith Regin. Burning his thumb he popped it into his mouth, gaining the ability to understand the speech of birds. After eating, he loaded the heavy dragon's gold onto his weary horse.



This 12th century carving of Sigurd (Siegfried) in the Hylestad stave church of Setesdal, Norway shows him sucking this thumb while roasting the dragon heart carved into five steaks. Regin sleeps nearby with the sword. (Werner Forman Archive)

Continuing the association of five, rulers, and great Serpent-Fish created on the fifth day of Genesis: Five toed dragons represent the Emperor of China, Dragon is fifth zodiac animal in the Chinese horoscope, and a dragon is the fifth symbol the Emperor could wear on his coat. Remembering the virtue inherent in this quintessential position, The Dragon is a “symbol of imperial power. It is

---

<sup>233</sup> Myles Dillon, *Early Irish Literature*, U. Chicago Press, 1948, p. 35.

symbolic of virtue in a ruler.”<sup>234</sup>



The 5 fingered Hand with its watching eye protects against the evil eye and promotes the fertility arriving with the next letter.<sup>235</sup> After sharing the harvest and receiving the wisdom of the Law during the chaste fifth position, we move toward the magic of Midsummer’s Night. The king will now marry his land and plant another sun before dying south toward winter.

"And God blessed them, saying Bear fruit and be many and fill the waters in the sea and let the fowl be many on earth... There was setting, there was dawning: fifth day. (Genesis) And on the sixth, Mankind, his kin and kine will appear.


---

<sup>234</sup> Herbert Whitlock & Martin Ehrmann, *Story of Jade*, Sheridan, 1949, pp. 56-59.

<sup>235</sup> Photo, Carles VA ca. wikipedia. public domain

## SIXTH CHARM

Myths of the sixth charm include the celebrations of a King mounting the throne of his Land and an underlying sadness reflecting the fall following the high point of summer.

6. Phoenician/Hebrew VAV - (HOOK OR NAIL)  The 'Vav of conjunction'

Greek - Vau or Digamma (F, 2 Gammas conjoined) This letter disappears from the Greek alphabet after Homer's time.

Ogham - Nion (Ash) or Nin (forked branch)

Previously, Fearn (Alder, now relegated to 4th position)

Rune - Kenaz or Ken ('King' or 'Torch') Ken, 'know' in the Biblical sense produces 'kin' also Kaun ('canker', 'sore')

Tarot - The Lovers

Hieroglyph - Seat (Throne as a goddess)

## LETTER SIX - THE THRONE OF THE GODDESS

Student hood is over. Now it's time for a King to wed his Land, the midsummer Sun to mate his Moon for they are in their prime, a word meaning 'six'. Tarot Lovers marry as well as kings, linking families to establish kin. Bees fly with their queen, their wedding flight producing children along with honey in their (six-sided) combs. In the honeymoon month of June, But after his marriage flight, the king bee will die by year's end.



Rider Waite #6 The Lovers

Midsummer's wedding represents a legal wedding. Legitimate kingship is invested in the one who quickened his Land, the fertility of the partners proved by Four's birth. The King must mount the Queen's throne with the sixth charm if he is to claim his kingdom. My original assumption, that 'Three for a Wedding' was Earth's only marriage, was ethnocentric. Among some country folk, it is after fertility has been established they formally marry. The Lovers, sixth Tarot card, now make their vows (Vau, sixth letter).

On the sixth day, Genesis creates humanity. Man (aish) is formed; also, his kin and kine. "She shall be called woman (aishH) because she was taken out of man (aish)." The Hebrew word hints at the Ash Tree from which a Northern people emerged. Kingly Ash is now sixth (formerly fourth) Tree Ogham.

Greek's Di-gamma mates two Gammas ( $\Gamma$ ) to form sixth letter F. Phoenician uses a forked Y to represent their 'Vau', The meaning is 'hook' or 'nail' which, of course, joins two objects. In Hebrew, this 'Vav of Conjunction' joins two words with the sense of 'and'.<sup>236</sup> Related Arabic also uses Vau to join words and to declare a vows: W-Allah "I swear by Allah." Six's marriage vows now legalize the passion of mating.

<sup>236</sup> Vav also marries the two equal parts of the Torah, appearing exactly in the middle of the text at Leviticus 11:42. First appearance is in Genesis when it joins Heaven &/vav Earth as 22nd letter.



Six pointed star joining the male spirit with the female matter

“In the north of England, an herb pudding in which the leaves of the passion-dock are a principal ingredient is an indispensable dish on this day (Friday).”<sup>237</sup> Sex being ‘six’,<sup>238</sup> couples join with the spell magic of this charm. Our sixth day of the week belongs to passionate Venus. It is time for the Friday night date; the night a good Jew is reminded not to neglect his marriage pleasures. Israel's Bride is welcomed with candles at dusk.

“Give me pleasure with your diamond scepter phallus. Look at my three petaled lotus, its center adorned with a stamen. It is a Buddha paradise ... Unite with my reclining form.” (Verse for Sixth Chakra)<sup>239</sup>

China also places a Bride to rule as sixth symbol. Sixth of the symbols ancient Emperors wore on their gowns was a pheasant representing the Empress; the virtuous Dragon of the fifth charm is her consort, the Emperor.

#### THE THRONE OF GLORY

“The sixth one is the Throne of Glory, crowned, included, praised and hailed. It is the house of the World to come.” (*The Bahir*, c. 1100)<sup>240</sup>

---

<sup>237</sup> John Brand, *Observations On The Popular Antiquities*, 3 vol, Bohns, 1849 vol. 1 p. 150.

<sup>238</sup> Noted by Barbara Walker

<sup>239</sup> Miranda Shaw, *Passionate Enlightenment*, Princeton, 1995, p. 155.

□ Seat - Sixth of 24 Hieroglyphs

Several of six's symbols refer to thrones, the lap of the land goddess the King must formally mount. Isis, mother goddess of Egypt's black earth is represented by the hieroglyph for 'throne'. 'Seat' is sixth hieroglyph. Egypt had a long association with Canaanite Phoenicians and Hebrews. In Phoenician temples the Goddess was present as a simple throne; her spouse as a pillar.<sup>241</sup>



Isis as Throne Symbol    Isis "probably meant 'seat' or 'throne' and was written with a sign identical to the one which she wore on her head."<sup>242</sup>    Note: Isis, as the star Sirius, rose with the June sun in Cancer c. 2000 BCE.

After her spouse Osiris was killed and dismembered, his coffin sailed to Byblos in Phoenicia. Faithful Isis followed her star of Osiris/Orion. His phallus being lost, Isis created one of gold and drew it into her to preserve his seed for the new Creation promised after each Flood. In Egypt, the rising of Sirius/Isis announced the annual Nile Flood coming soon to deluge the land.

In time, the Earth lost control of her Throne of Glory. "The outcome of the clash of Old European with alien Indo-European religious forms is visible in the

---

<sup>240</sup> *The Bahir*, Kaplan, p. 53.

<sup>241</sup> Holst, *Secrets of the Phoenicians*, p. 50.

<sup>242</sup> Manfred Lurker, *Gods & Symbols of Ancient Egypt*, Thames & Hudson, p. 7.

dethronement of Old European goddesses.”<sup>243</sup> The □ shape in Brahmi (c. 300 BCE) denoted 'Ba', 'Father' rather than a 'seat' as the Goddess.

Myths overlaying alphabet symbols reflect the changing social scene of many mother goddesses losing authority to a king. But the king must still mount her sweetly to assume legitimate power. “One could say that there existed between the king and his divine spouse a contract ... he who ignored custom and seized the throne ... courted the wrath of the gods.”<sup>244</sup>

#### THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE DARK AND LIGHT KINGS

Mother Nature accepting all her children as legitimate, it was possibly a concern for paternity that demanded a king legally marry his Land to produce his kin. “The King is of good kin.” (konungr. gloss, sixth rune, Old Icelandic Rune Poem)<sup>245</sup>

Earth and her young Lover first joined in the spring. As she prepared for June’s Honeymoon, a Dark King and Light King competed for her favors. Earlier, I discussed the Irish Battle of the Trees when the white ‘spear’ tree Ash (Nion) left the Emperor’s fourth position after defeating the dark Alder (Fearn). Originally the Alder (Fearn) occupied sixth place, Nion (Ash) being fourth

---

<sup>243</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 318.

<sup>244</sup> Ward Rutherford, *Celtic Lore*, Aquarian, 1993, p. 106.

<sup>245</sup> Thorsson, *Runelore*, p. 102, gloss of King as 'descendent of king.'

ogham.<sup>246</sup> I think the move among kings represented by ogham symbols was mandated by the powers associated with this sixth magic: Possession of the Queen. The following story describes an earlier victory before Alder (Fearn) lost his throne.

All oghams in a series begin with the same letter. Fort Ogham (all named after forts) for Fearn's position is Femen. Located in Tipperary, Femen holds the Stone of Cashel where the Kings of Munster were crowned. Color Ogham is Flann. "It was there (Femen) in 877, that Flann, High King of Ireland, sat nonchalantly after defeating King Loracan of Thomond in battle. To demonstrate the security of his superiority, Flann disdainfully began a game of chess."<sup>247</sup>

The game, which has the 64 black and white squares associated with Fate, is won when the opponent's king is taken. Although the name for the Ogham alphabet is Beth-Luis-Nion, indicating the original position, all written ogham scripts place Nion here, the F-oghams now occupying the earlier position. Both have been associated with Emperors and Kings, so the myths transferred smoothly. "I will tell of your decrees before kings." (Vav, 6th letter, Psalm 119)

The Nion/Ash tree (*Fraxinus*) winning the battle for sixth position is a white straight-grained wood. The saplings shoot up quickly with little branching, which makes them suitable for spears. It was also a wood suitable for making a queen's

---

<sup>246</sup> It is physically third, but as explained, Oghams and a few Italian and Iberian alphabets hide the second letter sacred to Apollo.

<sup>247</sup> Brian de Breffny, *The Land of Ireland*, Abrams, 1985, p. 135.




throne: “Ash when Green is fit for a Queen. As late as the 1500's, kingly Ash still pursued his Venus. In dowsing for copper, a metal associated with Venus, a forked stick of ash was used.<sup>248</sup>

## VIRGO AND CANCER

The Precession steadily moves the ruling stars backwards through the sky. Virgo, once rising the 6th month of Midsummer, influenced some of Six's myths. She carries her bright Grain child (Spica) in her arms. Virgo still owns the Sixth House of astrology, the house of contracts and housekeeping. The Golden Age of the Mother Goddesses ended when Virgo lost her throne.

By 2000 BCE Cancer, following kingly Leo, arrived at this season. This was the period Canaanite alphabet letters began appearing in the mines of Sinai. Among other qualities, Cancer is a water sign: Kaun “Water as in rain” is sixth I-Ching Trigram. Chinese Kaun, similar in name to Germanic sixth rune Kaun ('ulcer'), is also known as The Abysmal.

Cancer is a small, faint Y-shaped constellation in the shape of Phoenician's Vau  Between her legs is a faint collection of stars, The Praesepe. These are known as both The Manger, and The Beehive. Mating honey bees supply the gold for Six's honeymoon month of June but the King will die after his flight with the Queen.

---

<sup>248</sup> Bern Dibner, *Agricola on Metals* (1556 CE), Burndy Library, 1958, .p. 32.

The Ash as victorious ogham symbol winning the Queen's throne, many species of ash trees (Fraxinus, not Rowans) exude a sugary substance, which the ancient Greeks called méli, "honey". It has been suggested the sap was fermented to create the Norse Mead of Inspiration which fit nicely with Four's myths of saga and story, the position Ash (Os) originally occupied.

#### LAMENTATIONS OF THE COMING DEATH

Six's marriage is to the Land herself, both golden Sovereign and Housekeeper. As housekeeper, Earth expects the Children of Time to frolic at her party, but to clean up before they go home. At the end of their prime, Sun King, king bee or Jack of Hearts begin to die. The days grow shorter. New seed now rests in Earth's dark womb. The sun's yearly arrival in cankerous Cancer signals the coming of death. "(Kaun) Ulcer is fatal to children; death makes a corpse pale." (6th rune, Old Norwegian Rune Poem)



Symbol for House of Cancer, Astrology

The Sun in its travel through the sky moves from rising in the SE at midwinter to rising in the NE at Midsummer's Day. Then it slowly reverses, dying south once more. The Gate of Cancer, the Tropic of Cancer, being the furthest point the sun travels north along the horizon. The Gate of Capricorn, 180 degrees away, marks the southern most rising of the sun at the Winter Solstice.

I believe there was always some melancholy following the exuberant mating, the jumping over the Midsummer fires when Lovers meet and merry before growing old. But the darkness that now shadows this position's myths may also reflect the ending of Golden Ages of peace. War and warriors now control Earth's thrones. The pleasures of Venus have become venereal diseases and cancers, cancrs, and sores.

“Honey is sweet and so is he ... he's married with a gay, gold ring ... a gay, gold ring's a cankerous thing. About the Merry ma tanzie.” (Traditional song)<sup>249</sup>

The Land, however, remains a mothering land. Death has entered the world, but the seed of kings and their kin, regardless of the ruling stars, will rest in her womb until called forth to rise again: “The Spirit of the The Fountain dies not. It is called the Mysterious Feminine. The Doorway of the Mysterious Feminine is called the Root of Heaven and Earth.” (Sixth verse, Tao Te Ching)<sup>250</sup>

---

<sup>249</sup> Skelton, Blackwood, *Earth Aire, Fire, Water*, Arkana, 1990.

<sup>250</sup> Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, John Wu, trans

## SEVENTH CHARM

"How many miles to Babylon? 3 score miles and 10 (70). Can we get there by candlelight? Yes and back again. Here come's the candle to light you to bed, here comes the axe to chop off your head." (Mother Goose's fierce lullaby)

7. Phoenician/Hebrew      ZAIN - (WEAPON)      **I** or Z

Greek - Z

Ogham - Huath (Horrible, Purple, or Hawthorn)

Runes - Gyfu or Gebo (Gift) Gifts to Odin were made in blood

Tarot - The Chariot (The body of senses now being abandoned)

Hieroglyph - Cerastes (a poisonous serpent)

## LETTER SEVEN - FLOODS, APOCALYPSES, &amp; PREGNANT PAUSES

There are two diverging stories hidden in the seventh charm. One is a reflective pause, a quiet celebration and sharing of Sabbath Gifts: "The seventh Broad-Shining ... A blessed place, the best of lands, where evil runes are rare." (7th Hall of the Gods, *Grimnismal*)<sup>251</sup>

The second, associated with endings, deluges, and coming Apocalypses, is more common. This charm usually represents the fierce aspect of the Great God and Goddess. Numeral seven (7), written with the sign of his L Wand,

<sup>251</sup> 1967 W. H. Auden & P. B. Taylor, translation

belongs to an aging Saturn, his name literally 'seven'. Like the black goddesses of Time, he eats his children.

Saturn, El, Orion the ancient Lord of the Rings, represents Time himself. Death and endings are among the aspects he wears here. As maturing Mercury, he was among the lusty personae of the third charm. Now he is aging, his span of life ending. But after each end is the promise of another turn on his Wheel: "That attribute known as El appears in order to show mercy so that the world will not be destroyed...seventh name from the Holy Names is the one known as El."<sup>252</sup>

Death and endings lurk among Saturn's stories along with secrets of alchemy and metallurgy. The adolescent second charm produced both red and white rivers. Hardened, the ores (Ur) were eventually forged into Seven's weapons (Zain/weapon) of slaughter. Users of the Alphabet mysteries moving shapes around to encompass their own needs, the Z shape of Phoenician's seventh letter becomes sleepy final letter of English.

Earlier, we met Saturn/El as young Mercury glowing white; then as 3's Martial red Cinnabar, an ore producing mercury. Now dulling with age he appears as darkening lead, a metal attributed to Saturn. Shining Quicksilver mined from red cinnabar grows leaden, becoming heavy with age. Lead however can be transformed, creating a white (though intensely poisonous) paint.

Color Ogham uses 'Huath, purple' as code for this position. Purple is plumb, the formal name for lead (plumbum). The origin of the word is from an

---

<sup>252</sup> Rabbi Gikatilla, (b.1248), *Gates of Light*, Weinstein trans, Harper Collins, 1994, pp. 273-275.

unknown pre-Indo-European language, metallurgy originating in ancient Anatolia. It gives us the words plumber and plumb bob, a tool to measure the position of stars or sound the depths of a watery Abyss soon to engulf the land.

Huath, having many translations, is also 'hawthorn' (Tree Ogham). Blossoming 'the night he was born', in this location it represents the Hag aspect of the Black Goddess. Seven being a number of endings and pregnant pauses, the Witch of the Hawthorn supplied the sleep thorn that caused swan-maidens and princesses to sleep. They will arise when their returning lovers kiss them awake in the spring.

Huath, also translating as 'Horrible' appears in the tale of Niall of the Nine Hostages. Five sons were sent to fetch water find an old woman by the well: "She was as black as coal. Her hair was like a wild horse's tail. Her foul teeth were visible from ear to ear and were such as would sever a branch of green oak... her nose crooked and spread... You are horrible said the lad. 'Aye' said she." Each brother refused to lie with her until the youngest. When he lay with her she became "as fair a girl as any in the world." When Niall asks her identity, she replies 'Sovranty; and pledges his seed will be over every clan. "As he had seen her, horrible at first and beautiful in the end, so also is sovranty ... most often won by war and slaughter, but is glorious in the end."<sup>253</sup>

We now await the rising Flood. Although Seven's letter became associated with Death, I think an earlier association was with renewal rather than finality.

---

<sup>253</sup> Myles Dillon, *The Cycles of the Kings* (London: Oxford University Press), pp. 38-41.

Ireland's crone, Caillech Bear, laments the change that no longer allowed her to grow young with her lovers and their kisses: "... my arms ... all bony and thin! ... they used to be about glorious kings...It is well for an island of the great sea: flood comes to it after its ebb; as for me, I expect no flood after ebb to come to me... what was in flood is all ebbing."<sup>254</sup>

## DELUGES AND APOCALYPSES

Whatever the ultimate source for our alphabet pattern, various owners have left traces of their stories. Egypt's annual Nile Flood begins in our seventh month of July.<sup>255</sup> Signaled by the rising of Isis as the star Sept-Sirius (seven), the Deluge covers that Black Land to restore its fertility. In Ireland, a rainy St Swithin's Day (July 15) promises 40 days of rain and dry wells magically fill water.<sup>256</sup> When the Flood recedes, the carefully stored seed is again planted; new life re-emerges. "My flood has guarded well that which was deposited with me." (Caillech Beare)

Myths and World Ages change. Floods restoring the lands of farmers became a tale of blood. The Revelations of St John, written to seven churches of the people of Asia, declares only the sacrificed (but rising) son can open the Book of the Seven Seals. By this black period only a bloody sacrifice offered the

---

<sup>254</sup> Gerald Murphy, trans, *Early Irish Lyrics*, Lament of the Old Woman of Beare

<sup>255</sup> Sirius' appearance marks Egypt's New Year. Number 8 begins a new octave.

<sup>256</sup> Ann Pasko, personal information. She studied Irish wells with Earth Watch

chance of rebirth, not the watery womb of the Mother's blood. It was the Son of the Widow Woman who carried on the magic after the Virgin lost her Throne; her Arks and Grails stolen away.

With the opening of the Seventh Seal comes the Deluge. As always, pragmatic Vikings employ the charms to survive a harsh world. Odin, the High One, uses the rising waters to put out fires: "A seventh I know: if I see a hall high o'er the bench-mates blazing, flame it ne'er so fiercely I still can save it, --I know how to sing that song." (*Havama*)<sup>257</sup>

By the Western calendar, we have reached July and early August. These months in the Hebrew calendar are: "Tammuz and Av ...the low point of the cycle, marked by commemorations of tragedies that befell the Jewish people in several ages of their history...the three weeks...are marked by customs of grief."<sup>258</sup>

Hieroglyphic script places a deadly horned serpent, the horrible Cerastes, as seventh letter. "The sacred adders...are not friendly snakes. Rather than suggesting trusty guardians of the household treasure, they imply terror...and recall the death dealing side of the Goddess in whose mystery cult one must die to be reborn."<sup>259</sup>

---

<sup>257</sup> It may be they had a deeper Mystery tradition, but if so, it has been lost to us. Only simple rune magic, curses and charms remain.

<sup>258</sup> Strassfield, *Jewish Holidays*, p. 85. In Babylon, Tammuz is the dying and reborn Grain God. He is another deity associated with Orion.

<sup>259</sup> Johnson, *Lady of the Beasts*, p. 144.



 7th of 24 Hieroglyphs --Cerastes "Only the female has horns."<sup>260</sup>

The Horned Serpent is specifically linked, as is China's Old Mother living in a Purple Palace, to the circling Pole stars. By this late time they numbered seven. "The Mother of Measure is an alternate name for the Queen of Heaven...she has her seat among the stars which form the Great Bear."<sup>261</sup> Draco was the Dragon Lady until the Precession cast her from her throne. "One might almost, if fancifully disposed, recognize the gradual displacement of the Dragon from his old place of honor... to the downfall of the great Dragon...alluded to in the Revelation XII."<sup>262</sup> (See 17th letter for further Pole Star myths).

Earth and Sky change with the passage of time. Seven's magic promises a Gift (seventh rune) but gifts became bloody, a substance polluting an older Earth. Phoenicians use 'weapon' as seventh letter, Ogham selecting 'Horrible' (Huath). Ancient Jews circled the Temple altar seven times with the blood of sacrificed animals, until, in the month of Av, both Temples of Jerusalem were destroyed.

Ancient labyrinths had seven walls that must be toppled to reach the treasures hidden within (See Ninth charm, 'coil', for more Labyrinth tales). Jericho (c. 9000 BCE), possibly the oldest city in the world, had seven walls, as did Troy.

---

<sup>260</sup> E. A. Wallis Budge, *From Fetish to God* (1934) Dover, 1988, p. 94.

<sup>261</sup> V. R. Burkhardt, *Chinese Creeds and Customs*, So China Morning Post, 1966, pp. 56-57.

<sup>262</sup> Allen, *Star Names*, p. 203.

The Walls of Jericho were destroyed after Joshua's army circled seven times, blowing seven trumpets.



Seven Walls of Jericho, 14th century map of Jericho <sup>263</sup>

### KEEPER OF THE RINGS, PLEDGES, HUGS & KISSES (XXOO)

One wonders just exactly how old is our number magic. Neanderthals performing the oldest known rituals in our world left their dead lie sprinkled with life-giving flowers, healing herbs and blood red ochre. Seventy thousand years ago, in a cave above a Dragon's Lake (Drachenloch), they left a stone coffin containing skulls from seven bears "carefully piled on top on one another with their muzzles pointing toward the caves exit."<sup>264</sup>

As source of life after death, the Great Mother, who was also male, was guardian of pledges and Keeper of the Rings. Her Cosmos contained a promise of return, a Red Revolution of Time, for she had not yet become linear. Enclosed within the family, the clan, the village, her people had their own part to play in the wealth of their land. Although Earth owns the Wheel of Fortune grinding out wealth, it was the fulfillment of pledges and gifts between the Land and her people that kept her green circle rolling.

---

<sup>263</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Jericho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jericho). Common Domain. Farchi Bible Historical Jericho probably didn't have 7 walls.

<sup>264</sup> Ivar Lissner, *Man, God and Magic*, Putnam, 1961, p. 182.

"That attribute known as El. has mercy on those individuals who do not deserve it and bestows it...as a Gift..." (12th C, Kabbalah tradition)<sup>265</sup> Seventh Rune is Gift, written X. Variant dictionary meanings of 'gift' are 'lessen', to give way', and significantly for this letter of Deluges, 'to make moist'. Written with the promise of the mark of Tau (X), Gift's power magically linked men to a wider circle. By his gifts, man makes pledges with both fellowmen and with his gods.



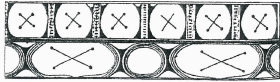
Osiris as Sacrificed Bull, Marked with XOXO

X's and O's came to represent our kisses and hugs. While X 'marks the spot' of various endings, Tav's mark (X), seven's Gift (X), and the 'decimations' Roman numeral ten (X) all promise the Circle's continuation. Thousand of years after the symbols for our hugs and kisses appeared in ancient Europe, they still offer sticky sweet promises of a returning spring's Hot Cross Buns.

With the Kiss of Death, the soul flying from its worn host was gathered into the Hag's welcoming womb to wait rebirth into the unbroken circle: "Osculate: To kiss. In mathematics, 'osculate' means to have contact with a higher order."

---

<sup>265</sup>Rabbi Gikatilla, *Gates of Light*, Weinstein trans, Harper Collins, 1994, pp. 273-275.



Sipenitsi, Ukraine, c. 3800 BCE<sup>266</sup>

Gypsies associated like the Scots with the Mysteries of Egypt, actually came from India, another home of Black Goddesses measuring out Fate and Time. As pragmatic as Vikings, they invoked this spell to fence their horses, painting X on one hoof, O on the other. Despite its great age, Earth's magic was still strong enough in the 1800's to keep unfettered horses from straying: "Round, round and round (go) not to any other man. Seven spirits of earth hear. I have seven charms...Protect this animal, ever and ever."<sup>267</sup>

"Seven's for a secret, n'ere to be told." (Mother Goose) Laying a finger long side of his nose means 'hush', 'a secret'. In the Mystery tradition of the Kabbalah, each letter is a physical manifestation of part of God's body. Seven, letter of oaths, promises, and mutual pledges, is His nose.<sup>268</sup> Good for sniffing out secrets, a long nose is a sign of a witch. It will also betray you if you tell a lie, as poor Pinocchio discovered. Seven demands the keeping of promises and truths. Note: a double cross unlocks the oath, fingers X-crossed behind one's back.

The charms following as the next several letters belong to the Hag aspect of Earth. As guardian of the circle, "...the witch was...the hagazussa, a being that

<sup>266</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 218.

<sup>267</sup> C. G. Leland, *Gypsy Sorcery* (1899), Anthony Naylor, 1993, p. 81.

<sup>268</sup> Gikatilla, *Gates of Light* (1248), p. 374.

sat on the Hag, the fence, which ...separated the village from the wilderness."<sup>269</sup>

We shall meet her as the Fence, the Gate (Heth) our eighth letter, when the soul enters the wilderness of the Underworld through the Gate.

## THE PEDIGREE OF THE PRINCE

Before the spirit passes through the opening Gate of Letter Eight, he must first exit through Saturday's ending after pausing to share his gifts. "Gift is for every man a pride and praise, help and worthiness and for every homeless adventurer it is the estate and substance for those who have nothing else." (Old English Rune Poem, Thorsson trans.)

This charm contains both a pledge and a pregnant pause. "The seventh day was SHaBaT (he rested)."<sup>270</sup> Harmonizing with this attribute, Seventh I-Ching Trigram is Ken (Mountain), the 'Keeping Still, Resting'.

Because this is such an important concept in understanding earth magic, I will try to elaborate for those who don't find it easy to think in bemusing images. Earth time is a mortal time, a measured time, and measured time eventually ends. The year, the span of life, the growing grain all end with the harvest of souls. In time they rise again.

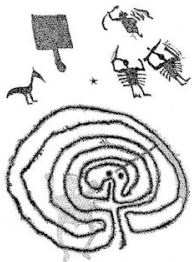
As Earth ages into a Crone, a Crane, she becomes a vulturine Hag of a dying year: Ogham's 'Horrible' is the 'Seven for a Witch' of Mother Goose. Her

---

<sup>269</sup> Terrance McKenna, *Food of the Gods*, Putnam, 1993, p. 224.

<sup>270</sup> Gikatilla, b. 1248, *Gates of Light*, p. 69.

child also ages for he is Kronus, Saturn, aged Saturday, literally seven. Like his Mother, Chronus is subject to his biological clock. His era over, Earth's heir deposits his seed within her labyrinthine womb. There it will sleep until his pedigreed Prince (ped-de-grus, literally 'crane foot') returns as a fresh Air.



Val Camonica, Spain, c. 13300-1800 BCE.<sup>271</sup>

“The clacking of cranes ascends. The self mounts the ancient stairway.”

(Seventh oracle, T'ai Hsuan Ching, c. 50 BCE)<sup>272</sup>

Crane and feathered birdmen dance over a giant resting within this ancient Labyrinth. The square with handle above may represent a winnowing fan for grain used in Mystery traditions. Threshing floors being sacred places, the Temple of Jerusalem was built over a threshing floor of earlier Canaanites. Here the seed of the Giant will sleep until the Messiah comes again.

The symbol for butterfly soul in Greek (psi) is  $\Psi$ , the same crane foot (pedi-gru) used to represent the harvested and threshed barley. Harvested and hung upside down, it becomes a symbol for peace. Further elaboration is outside

<sup>271</sup> Adrian Fisher, *The Labyrinth*, Crown, 1990, p. 27. I have also seen this image dated 700 BCE.

<sup>272</sup> Derek Walters, *Alternate I-Ching*, p. 70. This book of divination by 81 symbols, the same number as Lao Tzu's alchemical lessons, composed of 4 rods each stems from an older tradition than the 64 hexagrams of the I-Ching.

the intent of this study, but triple crane goddesses were, like black Nemesis, ancient goddesses of Fate.



Barley symbol



Peace Symbol<sup>273</sup>

After the Apocalypses and Deluges following the opening of the Seventh Seal, a Gate opens with the singing of the eighth charm. The eighth letter opens into a higher octave as the ascending scales begin anew.

"...The sage puts his person last and it comes first." (Seventh verse, *Tao Te Ching*)

---

<sup>273</sup> Jorgen Carlberg, Public Domain See Letter 14

## EIGHTH CHARM

"Dear Mother of God, Happy Gate of Heaven."

8. Phoenician/Hebrew      HETH - (FENCE or GATE)        or H

Greek - Eta

Ogham -Duir (Oak)

Runes - Wynn (Joy or White)

Hieroglyph - Owl

Tarot - Justice

## LETTER EIGHT - HAPPY GATE OF HEAVEN

At the eighth charm there is a branching, a parting of the ways. One path ended with the seventh charm; another tradition continues the journey, entering the coils of the Underworld. When feeling my way through qualities associated with the alphabet charms, the tale contained in the first seven letters flows smoothly. They seem to follow a seasonal ritual originating as a Spelling of each New Year.

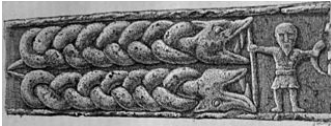
In a ritual composed of seven stages, Eight's charm has us rising up with Joy (Wynn, eighth rune) into the light of a bright new Sunday, a new octave, a new generation. After being judged and sorted, the soul returns through the opening provided by the duality of the second letter. Earth's Treasure has re-entered her Storehouse (Beth) to begin another season under the sun. This



eternal cycle is represented by numeral 8. Infinity described in the first charm, numeral 8's symbol represents this eternal cycling into infinity: ∞

The eighth charm straddling two stories includes either the promise of rising up into a shining new world or first stage of a journey through Earth's womb. This Norse poem hints at both possibilities: "Heavenmount is the eighth where Heimdall is said to rule the sanctuaries. The watcher of the gods with joy Quaffs good mead in this happy house." (Grimner's Lay, c. 1200)<sup>274</sup>

Heimdall, the 'whitest' of the gods, owns the Gjallarhorn blown to signal Ragnarok, the end of the world. He also guards an Ice Bridge, the Rainbow Bridge (Bifrost) spanning the Worlds of Men and Gods on the Road to Heaven.



Heimdall and horn, Cosforth Cross, England<sup>275</sup>

"G is the French horn."<sup>276</sup> The shape of English seventh letter 'G' suggests this horn blown to topple walls and worlds with the Opening of the Seventh Seal. The horn that sounds the Apocalypse signals the Rising Up on Judgment Day. Likewise it signals the each New Year (which can occur in several different seasons).

<sup>274</sup> Elsa-Brita Titchenell, *Masks of Odin*, Theosophical Press, 1985, pp. 159-173. Wynn, eighth rune means both 'white' and 'joy'.

<sup>275</sup> Public domain, [wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjallarhorn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gjallarhorn)

<sup>276</sup> Victor Hugo, *Travel Notebooks*, 1836, quoted George Jeans, *Writing*, 1992, p. 195.

Among Jews and Moslems, the New Year is timed by the first appearance of the crescent moon. "When this was sighted, it was announced with the sounding of trumpets."<sup>277</sup> With the New Year, people needed to make peace with their fellowman. At the eighth charm, the Horn has been blown. We now await the Rising.

"The earth, O' Lord is full of your love...At midnight I will rise to give thanks because of your righteous judgments." (Heth/8th Letter, Psalm 119) Midnight begins a new day.

Described at the Fifth Charm, five and eight are numbers associated with Venus. These positions don't evoke a lighthearted Venus flitting from lover to lover. In the fifth and eighth positions, she represents a much older, more powerful goddess dispensing Law and Justice (8th Tarot card). However, she still employs her winsome ways in resolving disputes: "An eighth I know: which all can sing for their weal if they learn it well where hate shall wax 'mid the warrior sons, I can calm it soon with that song." (Havamal)

At the eighth charm, she transmits loving judgments. Judgment Day arrives with the Resurrection; Justice traditionally is eighth Tarot card. In Iceland, the Law Court (The All-thing) opening on the fifth day of Thursday, was held mid July to August, our eighth month. "The purpose of the All-thing was the recital of

---



<sup>277</sup> Norman Davidson, *Astronomy & The Imagination*, Routledge, 1985, p. 68. In Egypt, the New Year followed the Nile Flood, usually the month of August (our 8th month).

law...the judging of disputes." Inheriting Venus' tradition of peaceful settlements, "there was a ban of arms."<sup>278</sup>

Duir (Oak) is Tree Ogham for this charm. Oak was the Council tree where druids held their summer courts. "Its roots...extend as deep underground as its branches rise in the air...which makes it emblematic of a god whose law runs both in Heaven and the Underworld."<sup>279</sup>

Almost with the sense of taking a deep breath, our alphabet continues. After getting past the diverging images of this eighth letter, the story becomes smooth for another eight letters. I will try to further separate the two possible paths.

#### THE GATE OF HEAVEN

With the eighth charm, the bodies of the dead are laid to rest in Earth's womb. If not immediately rising up, the soul must travel the dark before emerging later in our expanded Spell. Eighth Phoenician letter is Heth (Gate). As early symbol, Heth appears as  , H , or as the shape depicted on the womb of this Anatolian goddess. 

---

<sup>278</sup> HR Ellis Davidson, *Myths & Symbols of Pagan Europe*, Syracuse, 1988, p. 16. She notes the Law Court was held midsummer, Vigfusson, *Poetry of the Old Northern Tongue* (1883), vol. 1, notes Iceland's Midsummer was the two week period beginning mid July, p. 430.

<sup>279</sup> Robert Graves, *White Goddess*, p. 176.

Anatolia c. 2500 BCE<sup>280</sup>

Heth, was an ancient Mother Goddess. In her dark cave, Patriarchs Abraham, Sarah, and Jacob sleep. "The same is Hebron in the land of Canaan. And the field, and the cave that is therein were made sure unto Abraham for possession of a burying place by the sons of Heth." (Genesis, Ch. 23). This particular site, near the Oaks of Mamre where angels once came calling, was so important to Abraham the Torah stresses he paid full price rather than bargaining for a better fee.

One of the children of Heth is an almost forgotten goddess of the Anatolian city of Side. Side ('pomegranate') was one of Orion's many wives. Another goddess of the Underworld, she was placed there by a jealous Hera in Greek times.<sup>281</sup> I suspect these goddesses were once known for their fierce protection of Earth's dead.

Eighth and last I-Ching Trigram is the Receptive Earth. Depicted fully feminine ☷ she offers no impediment to entrance into her womb. Her opposite is the yet undivided Heaven ☰ (Chien) whose potential initiated our journey.

<sup>280</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 11.

<sup>281</sup> Grimal, *Dictionary of Classical Mythology*, 1990, p. 401 In Ireland, the women of the burial mounds are Ban Shee. In China, they are the Shi, also known as Thu.

This last trigram symbolizes both a Receptive Earth and the direction North, the direction of Earth's womb-tomb. North representing welcoming Earth, the north side of the medieval churchyard was "appropriated for the internment of unbaptized infants, of persons excommunicated, or that have been executed, or that have laid violent hands upon themselves."<sup>282</sup> Earth, unlike later rulers, accepted all her children.

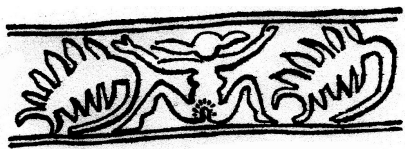
Eighth House of Astrology includes death, inheritance, other people's money, and regeneration through sexuality. Its ruler is the (8-legged) Scorpion associated with the fierce aspect of the goddess. Remember, Scorpio guards the star-producing womb of our Galactic Center.



Mesopotamia, c. 3300 BCE, Scorpions guard the 8-pointed star of

Venus<sup>283</sup>

That the fixed stars were slipping from their firm control of the heavens became obvious to our starwatching ancestors. Notice number of legs of the scorpions flanking the womb in this image.



Ur, c. 2400 BCE These scorpions guarding

Heaven's womb have nine rather than an anatomically correct eight legs. As no

<sup>282</sup> *Brands Antiquities*, vol. 1, p. 292.

<sup>283</sup> Mesopotamia, c. 3300 B.C. Brooklyn Museum

animal has an odd number of limbs I believe this was an attempt to reconcile the shifting of Scorpio as she precessed from a late summer rising into fall. No matter when she appears, the womb of the Black Goddess lies among her stars. After passing through what is now our ninth month the Western zodiac froze her into the Halloween skies of October, now our tenth month.<sup>284</sup>

### OWLS AS SYMBOLS OF THE WISDOM & POWER OF DARK GODDESSES

Venus as the Great Mother acquired multiple names and aspects during her long journey through time. In Mesopotamia, she was Inanna , Astarte, or Ishtar as goddess of the Morning Star (Venus). In Egypt, Ishtar was Neith, goddess of weaving, resurrection and protector of the dead. Neith has been further identified (Herodotus, c. 450 BCE) with Greek Athena.<sup>285</sup> This brings us to the next image: the Owl.



An owl appears as eighth hieroglyph adding to my certainty that the 24-hieroglyphic alphabet was not a random pattern. The cycle of the planet Venus links numbers 5 and 8, taking eight years to circle the zodiac. We first met several owl goddesses at the fifth charm. Those wise dispensers of the Laws of the Land include Athena (Minerva) identified by Roman numeral five (V) and by her owl; and Lakshmi, Lady 5 (Shri Panch) who travels by owl.

---

<sup>284</sup> Vedic (Indian) astrology continues to let the constellations move backwards. Their zodiac stars fit the actual sky (Sideral astrology).versus Western Astrology which froze with Aries in Spring.

<sup>285</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Neith](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Neith)



c. 500 BCE Athena's Owl on Coin.

Astrology's 8th House including money among its attributes, Athena's coins (known as 'owls') were the world's first international currency.



Burney Relief, Inanna flanked by two owls. (c. 2300-2000 BCE)<sup>286</sup>

Ancient images do not come with nice little brass identification tags attached. I have seen several bird goddesses naming this image: Ishtar, Inanna, and also Lilith ('Lil'/'air' or 'wind'). Demonized like Ishtar the Whore of Babylon, Lilith was either first wife of Adam or that of the Devil Samael. Goddess of the dark, she may have been an ancient aspect of the younger, more compliant Eve. "Seven for a Witch, Eight for a Whore" is another Mother Goose verse that doesn't appear in children's books.

## FAR TRAVEL, DEATH & DRUIDS

"Among Asiatic peoples the planet Venus excites unique reverence as the shaman's source of prophetic inspiration."<sup>287</sup> Wherever the Gates to the Underworld open, Far Travel and prophecy can occur. Although Shamans and Kings might sit at the gates of the Underworld to gain inspiration, this gate (Heth),

<sup>286</sup> British Museum, London, (Photograph, Manuel Parada López de Corselas).

<sup>287</sup> Nikolai Tolstoj, *Quest for Merlin*, Little Brown, 1985, p. 209.

unlike opening into the second charm, is a gate of exit not entrance. With the eighth charm, late summer's harvest is carried into Earth's Storehouse.

Eighth Bird Ogam is Droen, 'Wren'. The wren was the symbol of the druid: prophet, shaman, and lawgiver of the Celt. "The wren in particular was considered so great a prophet, that in an old life of St. Moling, one of its Irish names, drean, is fancifully derived from drui-en, meaning 'the druid of the birds."<sup>288</sup>

The wren, sacred to the oak king, was hunted down and slain at Midwinter. This may have been an adaptation of a late summer's harvest to a later sun king dying at midwinter. I have come across multiple references to stories of kings dying in the eighth year of their reigns, and other scholars asserting adamantly that no such evidence exists. I suspect that folk memory is at work.

Druids being female as well as male, the wren- as-ogham may also refer to Jenny Wren. She married red-breasted Cock Robin slain by the "sparrow with my bow and arrow." Instigator of the battle resulting in Robin's death was the cuckoo, spring herald of Earth's new lover. "Who'll dig his grave, I said the Owl, with my pick and shovel. I'll dig his grave." (Traditional nursery rhyme)

A fascinating link showing myth slithering into dry historical 'fact' is the death of English king, William Rufus (William the Red, d. 1100 CE). On Loaf Mass, in the eighth month of August, an arrow killed this unpopular king. "From

---

<sup>288</sup> P. W., Joyce, *A Social History of Ancient Ireland*, London, 1903, p. 232.



the moment it happened ...stories circulated that William Rufus' death...was ritual regicide in which he was compliant victim."<sup>289</sup>

His assassin, who stood by Tree Ogham's Oak, was Tirel with the perfectly proper first name of Walter. Tir ↑ is the owner of the Arrow rune. Loaf Mass is a harvest festival that includes chopping off the neck of the last sheaf of wheat. The eighth charm including the qualities of Treasure and other people's money, note that Henry, Rufus' brother, "rode straight for Winchester, seized the treasury."<sup>290</sup>

## SOWING HARMONY

Some of the other Oghams in this position may refer to the not always virtuous qualities of Venus. David, beloved of Jessie and his 'eighth shoot', is Assistant Ogham's choice (Dabhid). His role as a harper soothing to sleep a mad king may have inspired the choice of the Fort Ogham, Dinn Rig.

A slaughter occurred at that fort. Slaughter is not the usual quality associated with the winsome settlement of feuds inherent in the peaceful eighth charm. Digging deeper, I discovered the inhabitants of the fort were first lulled to sleep by the singing of a magic harp. Of the Dinn Rig harp it was said: "It

---

<sup>289</sup> Rutherford, *Celtic Lore*, 1993, p. 109.

<sup>290</sup> A.L. Poole, *From Domesday Book to Magna Carta*, Claredon, 1951, p. 114. It may be that in the loose fashion of ancient names, Tirel acquired his name after his feat of archery. August is still the British Bank Holiday.

brought a death sleep on the host." And befitting a symbol of Venus, "It sowed harmony between the lovers Moen and Moriath."

Recalling the Venusian link between fifth and eighth charms, the owner of the harp, Moen, had horse ears. Only his barber knew. The barber whispered the secret to a willow tree that was later carved into a harp. When played, the willow's harp sang out the secrets of the horse ears. Letter Five's qualities included the transmission of knowledge, willow being fifth Tree Ogham.

### NEXT EIGHT LETTERS - Part III

Our story now begins to unravel as various peoples expanded the alphabet journey to encompass their own magical choices. In the Third section, I will discuss the next eight letters. The first eight tell of the cycle of growing and harvesting. The next reflect an adaptation of a hero journey through the Underworld.

Discussing a few of the next letters, an historian of the alphabet writes: "While the majority of the names are easy to explain, the names of the letters considered as additions present difficulties...heth [8th] means fence or barrier; teth [9th] is explained...as ball or clew (for instance, of wool or cotton); lamed [12th] may indicate the rod of the teacher; samekh [15th] is generally explained as fish."<sup>291</sup>

For those not rising up into the light of a new day with Eight's new octave, the soul must journey the Underworld guided by an unwinding ball of thread received at Letter Teth. It travels past new Judgments and the decimations of the 10th letter. Crossing an Ice Bridge with the 11th rune, hanging (upside down) with the Ruler of the 12th, the alphabet's extended journey ends with the waters of the Deluge once again covering earth (Mem/water, 13th letter).

The Phoenician alphabet, along with its direct descendants, Runes, Oghams, and Hebrew scripts follow each other's stories fairly closely. The 24

---

<sup>291</sup> Diringer, *Alphabet*, Funk & Wagnalls, 1968, vol.1, pp. 168-169. Inserted numerals mine

symbols of the Egyptian alphabet also suggest the same pattern through the first 15th letters. Other traditions begin to diverge or fall away. Palmistry has used up its five fingers; the eight I-Ching Trigrams no longer provide clues. The Tao Te Ching contains 81 verses that soon leave the alphabet's path, but now follow along a bit further. Sanskrit and Hiragana have 50 letters. Along with the 64 Hexagrams of the I-Ching, they may include internal divisions that align them with our script but I haven't found a key.

The path provided by the alphabet symbols continues on. Earth's serpent-fish-Messiah will re-enter the New World. Soul as rising serpent-fish, 14th (nun/fish) & 15th (samekh/fish or prop) may once have returned through the eye of 16th letter 'O' (ain/eye). After that letter, a new family begins. The last family, possibly the most recent edition to the spell, ends with the promised mark of resurrection, the Cross of Tav (mark).

## LETTER NINE - ENTERING THE LABYRINTH

"When work is completed, it is time to retire." (9th verse, Tao Te Ching)

9. Phonician/Hebrew TETH (COIL or CLEW/'BALL OF YARN)   or 

Greek - Theta **θ** - Symbol of Death

Ogham - Tinne (Holly or Fire)

Runes - Hagalaz, Hail (Hell's rune)

Hieroglyph - Water

Tarot - The Hermit carrying a lantern to light his way through the dark

Germanic Runes divided their 24 runes in three families known as Aettir ('eight'). First family belongs to Frey responsible for Earth's fertility. The second family begins with the goddess Hel, her rune also translated 'Hag god'. I didn't understand the division until I spent more time following the path of our alphabet letters. I believe the creator of the runes, traditionally acquired by The High One as Odin in the lands of the Goddess Asia (Anatolia), also felt these later letters were an addition, an extended journey.

As noted above, the earlier soul/seed journey has branched into two paths. The oldest describes a rising up into the light with the eighth charm. With the addition of the next eight letters, the soul must now travel the Underworld. "According to Porphyry of Tyros, the Egyptians used an X within a circle as a symbol of the soul; having a value of nine."<sup>292</sup> That is, one of the shapes used as

<sup>292</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Theta](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Theta). Porphyrs is c. 300 CE

ninth Phoenician letter  $\otimes$  is the symbol of a soul continuing his travels toward illumination. Ninth House of Astrology, reflecting this, represents the House of long journeys.



Rider Waite #9 The Hermit setting off through the dark.

"In ancient Greece on the ballots used in voting a death sentence, Theta (9th Greek letter) stood for death." (Oxford Universal Dictionary)

This second family of letters belongs to a darker period than that of an Age enchanting a farmer's peaceful year. Droughts and Apocalyptic Floods have afflicted Eden. War and death appear in the stories as we move away from earlier traditions sung to keep a once fertile world turning in its seasons. The ninth charm tells bleaker, more militant tales. Walls are stormed and battles are fought. Our ninth letter  $\dot{\text{I}}$  is now "a war machine launching its projectile."<sup>293</sup>

In the ninth month of September, students re-enter school to seek knowledge; Tarot's Hermit with his lantern sets off into the dark. Others prepare for war. In ancient India, kings turned loose a white horse in September-October,

---

<sup>293</sup> Victor Hugo, *Travel Notebook* (1839) quoted George Jeans, *Writing*, pp. 195-196. I replaced Teth in the English alphabet.

following it until it brought them to another king's territory. Then a war was fought, the horse sacrificed.<sup>294</sup>

In China, the Emperor's proper actions insured the turning of the seasons. In the ninth month: "The son of Heaven...teaches how to use the five weapons of war and the rules for management of horses." This being the season to travel through the Underworld, the emperor also "eats hemp seeds."<sup>295</sup>

Describing the nature of the Underworld, tradition offers various possibilities for the ninth charm. Some tell a dark story filled with monsters, dangers, and of princesses stolen away to dark labyrinths. These attributes emerged from a bleaker time than the original spell. There, a golden Storehouse was readied to gift Her world with the bountiful harvests implied by the first family of letters. The first Spell, as an Enchantment, might even predate agriculture: Earth's gifts being multitudes of animals as well as plants.



Paleolithic Algeria<sup>296</sup> Hunter pleasuring goddess to produce animal

Memories of this lost Golden world remain. Once the dead ate rich food from golden plates after being welcomed by to the Dead Land. Yama, God of India's Underworld existed in such pleasant surroundings before it became an unpleasant Hell. In Norway a farmer looking out on his fields saw the old gods,

<sup>294</sup> Great Britain Imperial Records, *Feasts of the Hindus*, 1914, pp. 20-26.

<sup>295</sup> James Legge, trans., (Yueh Ling), *Li Chi*, NY University, 1967, pp. 292-294. Horses and Trojan horses were an important part of early wars. Martial Mars sometimes wears a horse head.

<sup>296</sup> Erich Neumann, *Great Mother* (1955), Bollingen, 1991, p. 114.

dark, hunched and covered with rags, disappearing into mountain caves. No longer worshipped, their golden world was fading.

#### WATERS OF THE DEEP AND SAILING MAGIC

The Underworld might be seen as the swirling Waters of the Deep, in which case sailing magic is useful. It might also be a dry, dark world of Hell. Depending on the climate of its owners, that Abyss may either hot or cold.<sup>297</sup> Ninth charm represents both aspects. Symbols for Teth ('coil') have been used to represent salt, the rim between sky and sea, or simply Earth herself.

"The feminine is the belly-vessel as woman and also as earth. She is the vessel of doom, guiding the nocturnal stars through the underworld; she is the belly of the whale dragon...(who) swallows the sun hero every night."<sup>298</sup>

Teth being 9th letter, Tethys is an ancient goddess who gave birth to the oceans and rivers including the Nile. Ninth Hieroglyph is 'Water'. Waters flowing as rivers in the starry sky as well as beneath earth emerge from her womb. When Egypt's pharaoh or sun died, the sky goddess swallowed him. He then traveled by boat through her belly waters until reborn into another day.

---

<sup>297</sup> Ogham and 12 Symbols of the Emperor of China place 'fire' here; 9th Hieroglyph is 'water'.

<sup>298</sup> Allen, *Star Names*, pp. 64-74 discussing Argo, which includes the way star Canopus (jar). She was another wife of Orion, but fled south after her marriage.



"Tet is the belly." A medieval Hebrew tradition agrees. The 12th century *Bahir* states the Ten Commandments "contain all 22 letters except Tet, which is missing...this teaches us that Tet is the belly...and is not included among the Sefirot."<sup>299</sup> In imposing order upon Chaos, the Waters of an ancient Leviathan were separated and contained.

Tethys may claim a kinship with the waters of the Babylonian goddess Tiamat. As the salty waters of a primeval world, she once mated with the sweet waters of Apsu to create men out of the resulting silt. Conquered, she was split apart like a clamshell and pinned to the sky by a victorious warrior.


Norsemen going a-viking used the magic of Tet's coiled womb to keep their horses of the seas safe. "Brimrunar (searunes) shalt thou grave if thou wilt save the sail steeds afloat. Grave them on the bow and on the rudder-blade and mark 'eld' (fire) on thy oar." (*Sigrdrifumal*)<sup>300</sup>

Brimer (Ymer), like Babylonian Tiamat, was a (hermaphrodite) Giant killed by a later people. His blood formed the oceans. "From Ymer's flesh was the earth formed, the billowing seas of his blood. From his bones the mountains, bushes from his hair, And from his brainpan heaven." (*Grimnismal*) Brimstone is the fiery rock of a dry Hell; Brine is the salt from the ocean. One of the shapes representing Phoenician letter Teth is an alchemeical symbol for salt: Θ

---

<sup>299</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, p. 47.

<sup>300</sup> Vigfusson, & Yorke, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, vol. 1, p. 42 Tein/Holly as Tree Ogham can also represent 'fire'.

A variant form of Teth's coiling symbol can represent the circling sun  swallowed into Earth's belly. As Teth, it also depicts the World Ocean circling Earth. Winds as well as rivers and oceans emerging from her belly, she could recall storms when so invoked: "A ninth I know: If I am in need to save my ship afloat, I still the wind on the waves and lull the whole sea." (Havamal).

Greek sailors, like Vikings, invoked her for safe voyages, throwing salt over their shoulders or drinking salt water before sailing. The powers of a woman's womb mirror the magic of Tethys to bind wind and water. Pliny, c. 50 CE, described the power of women in calming the sea. The witch exposed herself. This is presumably a polite reference to her powerful lower organ

## LABYRINTHS AND STOLEN MAIDENS

This brings us to the next depiction of the Underworld. Instead of great swirling waters, Earth could hide a coiled labyrinth within her belly. In Scandinavia, stone labyrinths kept the womb's power over the winds and sea. Fishermen walked through them in procession before setting off "...in the hope of controlling the weather, obtaining a good catch and ensuring a safe return. They would build a stone labyrinth if the weather was too rough to venture forth in the hopes of containing the force of the storm within the coils."<sup>301</sup>

Stories associated with this labyrinthine aspect of the ninth charm include heroes journeying into Hell to attack monsters and rescue maidens. Other

---

<sup>301</sup> Fisher, *The Labyrinth*, 1990, p. 144.

traditions have a mother seeking for her stolen child. A variant of ninth letter Teth represents the womb as earth: ⊕. Mother Earth as Demeter ('goddess-mother') is also known as 'Brimo'. Her child Persephone was among those maidens carried off to the Underworld.<sup>302</sup>



Maiden in Troytown maze Nyland, Finland c. 1400 CE<sup>303</sup>

One translation for Teth is 'coil'. Another is 'clew' a variant spelling for the 'clues' we have been following through the path hidden in the alphabet. A more relevant meaning for Teth/clew is 'ball of yarn'. Several dictionaries I consulted specifically link this clew to the ball given Theseus when he entered Crete's Labyrinth to slay a Minotaur, (grandson of the Phoenician cow Europa). The Oxford Dictionary more generically states the clew helps find the way through the maze.

Additional stories of labyrinths and 'clews', that ball of yarn spun by fate goddesses, come from the Orient. Mother of China's First Mythic Emperor was Lha Mo, The Old Mother. In India she was known as Kali. Fleeing warring demons, she travelled north from her Labyrinth in Ceylon. With her, she carried

---

<sup>302</sup> The Eleusian Mysteries of ancient Greece enacted the descent and re-emergence of Persephone. At the end, the priest calls out: "Holy Brimo has born a sacred child, Brimos." *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, p. 181.

<sup>303</sup> Image Labyrinthos, Jeff Seward

dice and a ball of thread "...on the rear flank of her mule hands a ball of magic thread...made from rolled-up weapons."<sup>304</sup>

The demon king of Ceylon's labyrinth kidnapped Sita ('furrow'), the 'earthborn' wife of the god Ram. We met them at the third charm when he won her in an archery contest. After her kidnapping, in the ninth month of September, Ram woke the sleeping Durga-Kali seeking her help. Durga was originally worshipped in spring. In memory of her aid to Ram, her festival, celebrated as a novena (nine) over nine days, was moved to the fall. She is worshipped in the form of a bundle of nine healing twigs.<sup>305</sup>

## HEALING MAGIC

Healing magic is included among nine's powers. The original ninth rune, the Hag god (Hagalaz), became 'Hail' the whitest of grains. Hel, an aging Bride, is the cold Hag of the north, the ruler of the ninth world. Hail grew in her womb and snow flew when Frau Holle shook her feather bedding. For those that couldn't ride on horses or sail, it took nine long nights to walk to Hel shod in special Hel shoes.

---

<sup>304</sup> Marilyn Rhie, Robert Thurman, *Wisdom & Compassion*, Abrams, 1991. Also see Alice Getty, *Gods of Northern Buddhism* (1914), 1988, pp. 149-50. Ceylon was where Buddha stepped off this world, leaving behind his foot 'marks', his sole.

<sup>305</sup> Great Britain Imperial Records, 1914, pp. 20-26. See Second Letter for nine healing twigs of Wuldor. p. 124.

A star shape replacing the H shape of the older Hag rune, the star of 'Hail' represents a healing star, the hale and hearty symbol of EMT's. Ice, brimstone (sulfur) and salt brine from her womb all contain healing qualities.



"You are good, you bring out good." (Teth, Psalm 119)

## OGHAMS

"Teven, Teven are you going to heaven. Shall you steal my little one: Troia, tra-la-la, Troia, tra-la-la, Troia, tra-la-la-la, Troia, tra-la-la. (Norwegian Troy-town song)

Troy's labyrinth manifests in the choices of oghams for this position. The ritual center of Troy hiding the stolen Helen fell to attacking Greeks. "The Walls of Troy were rebuilt by...architects of Crete after the model of the Cretan Labyrinth which was an exact representation of the stellar universe."<sup>306</sup> After the fall of Troy, one story has Helen traveling to Egypt to study medicine.

Fleeing the fallen city, Trojans carried Troy town mazes throughout Europe. Author of the first Grail story was Cretien de Troyes, France. Grails are other womb-like healing treasures carried off and hidden. Many peoples claim their ancestors among these fleeing Trojans: "The descent of the British people from Troy ...The only two national names acknowledged by the Ancient Britons are Kymry and Y Lin Troia, the race of Troy."<sup>307</sup>

<sup>306</sup> R. W. Morgan, *The Trojan Era* (1857), from Matthews, *Celtic Reader*, Aquarian, 1992, p. 104.

<sup>307</sup> R. W. Morgan, *op cit.*, p. 103.

Bird Ogham's Starling (Truit), hints at another captive princess. In the Welsh *Mabinogion*, sister of Bran the Blessed is unhappily married to an Irish King. Imprisoned, she sends a starling to tell her brother about her mistreatment. Bran, whom we met as the Alder King of the fourth charm, came to rescue her. Killed in battle, his head is cut off. Eventually buried at the Tower of London, while it remains London, once known as Troy town, is safe from capture.

Fort Ogham is Tara, named after a hot, lusty fertility goddess Tea. Among its treasures is a large megalithic passage grave c. 2500 BCE. Like the seven labyrinthine walls attributed to Troy and Jericho, Tara had seven ramparts from which Irish kings watched each morning lest the armies from Fairy take them unaware.

Assistant Ogham is Talamon (Teilmon). He sailed with the Argos in search of the Golden Fleece.<sup>308</sup> On the way home in the company of Hercules, whose own journey took him through the sky, Telamon stormed the walls of Troy. First over the wall, he took home a daughter of Troy as prize.

Holly (Tinne, later, Tein as Elder, Fire, or Sacrifice) is Tree Ogham for this position. Fitting to this charm of mazes and labyrinthine coils, is Ireland's Hollywood Stone found near Wicklow. It is engraved with a maze.

---

<sup>308</sup> Io, grandmother of Cadmus, was a goddess of Argos. Other descendants were the 50 daughters of Danaes, a number associated with both Ogham history and the 50 Sanskrit letters.



Hollywood Stone<sup>309</sup>

Winter Green Holly is sacred to the Hag goddess, known variously as Holle, Hel, or Hulda. In keeping with older memories of sacred cow goddesses, the Fey children of Hulda wear cow tails. Describing a rune list whose Hag rune is glossed with 'A', Derolez (*Runica Manuscripta*) notes that of all the glossed runes, only the Hag's rune is capitalized. "I admit there is no reason to have a capital H here."<sup>310</sup> Perhaps the scribe was paying tribute to Mother Earth. 'A', remember, is the shape of a woman's womb as well as of a cow goddess' head. Within her coiled womb, hidden treasures are kept safe for another generation.

Adapting early stories to later ones, Holly became the thorn crowning a sacrificed Jesus. "And at the ninth hour ...Jesus...gave up the ghost." (Gospel of Mark, Ch.15) And in the ninth month the sun finally loses its battle with the dark. Days become shorter after passing the Autumn Equinox.


---

<sup>309</sup> Image Labyrinthos, Jeff Saward

<sup>310</sup> Cotton Ms, Domitian A9, saec XI, Derolez, R., *Runica Manuscripta* (1954), p. 10.

## LETTER TEN - JUDGMENTS OF FATE

Decimate: Choosing one in ten by lottery for a sacrificial offering.

10. Phoenician/Hebrew	YOD - (HAND)	
	Greek - Iota	
	Ogham - Col (Hazel)	
	Runes - Naudiz, Nyd (Nyd Fires were set for funerals)	
	Hieroglyph - Mouth	
	Tarot - Wheel of Fortune	

With the tenth charm, we encounter both the pointing finger of Fate and the measurements of life as the moving finger writes in a book.<sup>311</sup> Ten is a spinning charm of fate, fire and judgment. In the Western calendar, we arrive at the tenth month containing such festivals of the dead as Halloween.

The Day of Atonement, celebrated ten days after the New Year of fall, is also here. Standing in the hand of Fate facing the compulsion of Time, we await Judgment measured by the actions of our life. "The end of Yom Kippur represents "the transformation from the stern judge of Yom Kippur to the sheltering mother of Sukkot<sup>312</sup>

"I know O Lord that your judgments are right." (Yod, Psalm 119)

---

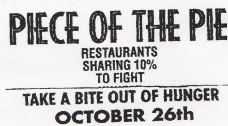
<sup>311</sup> In astrology, a Y-shaped formation is known as a 'yod'. Its pointing finger represents the compulsion of Fate.

<sup>312</sup> Strassfeld, *Jewish Holidays*, Harper Row, 1985, p. 145.



Time is a taskmaster, task being synonymous with 'tax'. Tithe is the one in ten due the gods and must be collected by the eleventh hour. Spells ending at midnight with life's debts about to be collected, the tenth month "is a good day to give alms to the poor. In Europe food is passed out to the poor at the gates of cemeteries."<sup>313</sup> The 10th hieroglyph is 'mouth'. Among the Egyptians, the dead man's mouth was opened in a special ceremony to enable the dead to eat during his stay in the Underworld.<sup>314</sup>

Earth magic has always demanded her gifts be shared. The judgment souls receive as they enter the Dark Land is determined by what they shared on earth. Gift, seventh rune, is written with the same X as Roman numeral ten.



Modern Advertisement for tithing (1/10)

"If ever thou gave either hosen or shoon, Every night and awle, Sit thee down and putt them on, And Christ receive thy sawle. But if hosen nor shoon thou never gave naen. The whinnes shall prick thee to the bare bane." The Lyke Wake Dirge, sung while keeping company with the dead body, reminds the living to be generous.

---

<sup>313</sup> Zsuzsanna Budapest, *Grandmother of Time*, Harper Row, 1989, p. 208.

<sup>314</sup> Book of the Dead: "My mouth is opened by Ptah, My mouth's bonds are loosed by my city-god. Thoth has come fully equipped with spells, He looses the bonds of Seth from my mouth." [wikipedia.org/wiki/Opening\\_of\\_the\\_mouth\\_ceremony](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Opening_of_the_mouth_ceremony) (See Letter Three for bonds of Time, p. 134).

### THREE FATES

With the help of the ninth letter (Teth as clew/'ball of yarn') we entered the Underworld family of Hel (ninth rune). Among the Greeks and Romans, first of three goddesses of Fate spun that yarn. Romans simply called the Fates Nona (nine), Decima (ten) and Morta (death). We are now traveling with Decima who measures and records the thread of life. It will be cut and collected at the next charm. These three Wyrd Sisters act together, their stories overlapping. Irish names for the Fates are Holly (ninth ogham), Spindle, and Bag. With Bag, as with Morta (11), final debts are gathered before midnight; Debt (Skold) is third of three Norse fates.

Depictions of the Fates from Roman times show the first with her spindle, the center goddess with her scroll in which the deeds of life are recorded, and the last with her distaff. A distaff, like Bag, is the tool that gathers up the threads after spinning and measurements are finished. Debts must always be paid in full before continuing on.<sup>315</sup>

The Fates are the Daughters of Necessity (married to Need, 10th rune). In her Greek form Necessity is a serpent married to Chronos (Time). Together, they keep the seasons circling the sky. Tarot places a spinning Wheel of Fortune as tenth card. The figures around the turning Wheel represent the cycles of the seasons.

---

<sup>315</sup> There is some variation in the symbolism. Some traditions place the spinner at 9th, some at the 10th position. Nonetheless, 10th is a place of final judgment.



Rider Waite #10 Wheel of Fortune

"Eight for Heaven, Nine for Hell, and Ten for the Devil's ain self." The tenth month being the season for witches to dance, Mother Goose sometimes states: "Ten will be a dance." Like spiders, witches heading for their revels travel out from their sleeping bodies attached to a long silver thread. If the thread was broken, they lost the way home. "A tenth I am able when witches do ride high aloft in the air: I can lead them astray." (Havamal)

The Hag of coming Winter now dances, shaking apart the dying world. As an aspect of Time, she is strongest of the goddesses for Time consumes everything in her fires. This season belongs to Nine's older sister. As Nemesis, she is divine retribution. The festivals of Kali, India's black Goddess of Fate and Time, are celebrated late October. "At the end of each cycle during which one creation lasts, (Kali) gathers...the seeds of the universe that is extinct, out of which a fresh creation is started."<sup>316</sup>

Hag sister of India's beautiful Luck (Lakshmi) is Alakshmi. She too arrives the tenth month, dressed in witches black to sweep up dying souls with her broom.<sup>317</sup>

<sup>316</sup> Great Britain Imperial Record, *Feats of the Hindus*, p. 45. Her festival is October/November.

<sup>317</sup> Great Britain Imperial Records, *Feasts*, p. 2. In northern fairytales, if the witch carries a rake, some escape between its teeth; if a broom, she sweeps everyone before her. See Letter Five for Lakshmi (Lady 5).

## JUDGMENTS OF FATE

"What Halloween inaugurates is winter, and much of the uncanniness of the night, when man seems powerless in the hands of fate, will prevail until the dawn of another summer."<sup>318</sup> Yod, the hand of Fate, is 10th Phoenician letter.

This is the month for the final judgments to be written in the Book. Among Ten's symbolism are the judgments of Life's Deeds. On October 31 (Halloween) the Feast Day of St. Earth is celebrated in Cornwall. "What ever he judged was rightly judged. Whosoever gives a just judgment shall receive the blessing of bishop Erc."<sup>319</sup>

Scandinavians knew the triple Fates as Norns: "Weird (Urd) they called the first of them. The second, Becoming (Verandi) they carved on a tablet...Should (Skold/Debt) the Third."<sup>320</sup> Originally the North had no fatal judgments, only gold and pleasure until Three Giant Women arrived along with runes and captured earth goddesses. Then, "Laws they made there and life was allotted to the sons of men and set their fates."<sup>321</sup> Henceforth, though the warriors might sail off to enjoy their battles, although their dead heroes might still be rewarded by a heaven filled with games, drink and war, they must now bear a lingering worry their actions will be judged.

---

<sup>318</sup>Rees, *Celtic Mythology*, p. 91.

<sup>319</sup> David Farmer, *Oxford Dictionary of Saints* (1983), 1991, pp. 143-144.

<sup>320</sup>Vigfusson, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale, Voluspa*, p. 184ff.

<sup>321</sup> Hollander, trans, *The Poetic Edda* (c. 1200 CE), *Voluspo*, p. 9.

"Glistener is the tenth...Here Forseti ('judge') lives every day, settling all causes." (Tenth Hall of German gods, Grimnismal) "Without exception, all who came to him in legal disputes go away reconciled. That is the best court known to gods and men." (Gylfaginning)<sup>322</sup>

Tree Ogham for this position is Hazel (Col). Tree of concentrated wisdom, it was a favorite wood for divining rods, for making magic wands and for passing judgments. "In England, a forked hazel-stick was used until the seventh century for divining...guilty persons in cases of murder and theft."<sup>323</sup> In Iceland, "The court was held on a level stretch of ground on which hazel poles had been arranged in a circle...Inside the circle sat the judges." (Egil's Sage, c.1230)<sup>324</sup>

Battering the reader to notice this charm includes among its attributes the measurements and judgments of Fate, written by the moving finger (yod) in a book, Assistant Ogham for this charm is Cae of the Fair Judgments. "It was the Mosaic law that the Milesians brought into Erin at their coming; that it had been learned and received from Moses, in Egypt, by Cae ... who was himself an Israelite."<sup>325</sup>

---

<sup>322</sup> *Deluding of Gylfi, Prose Edda* Jean Young, trans. U of California, 1984, p. 55.

<sup>323</sup> Graves, *The White Goddess*, p. 182.


<sup>324</sup> *Egil's Saga*, Hermann Palsson & Paul Edwards trans., 1988, p. 119.

<sup>325</sup> Eugene O'Curry (1873), *On The Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish*, p. 20, Reprinted Goggle Books. Mythic ancestors of the Celts denote cultural rather than physical heredity.

## MILLS OF FATE

The spinning Mill of Fate grinds slowly but exceeding fine as the gold of summer blood-reddens with winter's arrival. In earth magic, one must share Earth's blessings to avoid Retribution. What goes around The Wheel of Fortune comes around. The Old Icelandic Rune Poem states: "Need (10th rune) is the grief of the bondmaid."

A once generous King Frode ('prosperity') acquired two giant women as bondmaids and set them to turning a great millstone. They ground out gold, peace and good harvests. When they grew tired, he refused to let them rest despite their pleading. Daughters of ancient mountain gods, they then ground out an army to slaughter Frode. Carried off the victor, they were forced to continue grinding. This time they ground out salt, sinking their boat. At the site of the sunken mill is a whirlpool, a Maelstrom that continues to grind out salt into the North Sea. (Grottisongr)

The name of the handle by which the Mill was turned is 'Mundilfoeri. 'Mund' means 'hand' (as does 'yod, tenth letter). It also means a 'point in time.' That is, it can represent a point, a jot, an iota, a period. Yod, the pointing finger of Fate<sup>326</sup> written  in old Hebrew, became such a jot. Smallest of the letters in the Hebrew alphabet: ם, it remains powerful. Standing in the center of the circle, it

---

<sup>326</sup> As Hebrew 'yad', the pointing finger of Yod is a 'pointer finger and hand' object used to follow the words of the Torah scroll. In Astrology, YOD is a Y-shaped point symbolizing compulsion.

becomes the seed out of which new letters emerge after Time's decimations.

Every Square Hebrew letter (c. 200 BCE) contains a small yod.

In math, 10 allows the circle to continue after each decimation:  $1+0=10$ ,

$10+1=11$ ,  $10+2=12$ , etc.

### ALCHEMEICAL FIRES

After entering the Underworld, after having been measured and judged, the soul must continue its journey toward the light. After being swallowed by the mouth of a sky cow ('mouth', 10th hieroglyph), the soul might sail through the belly of the goddess in a grand boat. Others might be eaten by black vulture goddesses and flown through the dark. Color Ogham for this position is dark Cron. An early Irish goddess, she was "identified as swallower and personification of the pitch-black abyss."<sup>327</sup>

Less fortunate people needed to trudge the long weary way. And some eventually learned to set fires with the twirling of two Need sticks (10th rune), the fire sticks used to set funeral fires. Burning the dross off the dead allowed both souls and prayers to rise up with the smoke from these fires. Bird Ogham is Crane, (also 'Cron')."The liver of this bird is ...of such a fire that, when by chance it swallows iron, its stomach digests it."<sup>328</sup>

---

<sup>327</sup> Damas, *Mythic Ireland*, 1991, p. 35.

<sup>328</sup> Gerald Cambrensis (Gerald of Wales c. 1170) *Historical Works*, Google Books, p. 35.

The related Stork will eventually return the soul to earth, tenderly placing small babies under cabbages, a crucifer plant. Crucifers having four petals, the  $\oplus$  promising a proper return of soul or profit.




## LETTER ELEVEN - VISIONARIES AND PAYMENT OF DEBTS

11. Phoenician/Hebrew KAPH- (PALM OF HAND) 

Greek - Kappa

Ogham - Quert (Apple)

Runes - Isaz (Ice)

Hieroglyph - Reed Shelter (House) 

Tarot - Strength

"I have become like a bottle in the smoke...how much longer must I wait?"  
(Kaph, Psalm 119). Third Roman Fate (Morta), like her sisters Nona (9) and Decima (10), rules death and divination. Her number (11) mandating a pause before continuing on through the Underworld, Morta according to Isidore of Spain meant 'time out'.<sup>329</sup>

The eleventh charm is a charm of icy stasis, death, and visionary Deep Dreaming. It also mandates a final collection of debts before the soul continues its journey. In the western calendar, the season includes November and early December. In the frozen months of late fall we pause to balance ourselves after the spinning magic of the preceding Fates. Standing exactly half way through the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet Kaph, usually translated as 'palm' of a hand, has the additional meaning of the pan of a balance scale.


<sup>329</sup> T. H. White, *Book of Beasts*, p. 208.

Eleven's aspects including those of stasis and death, in England on Martinmas Day "No beame doth swinge, nor wheel go round, Upon Gurguntum's walled town."<sup>330</sup> The town had 11 gates to the city. Martimas, celebrated November 11 (11/11), signals the final slaughter of animals before winter freezes the land. On Armistice Day, also 11/11, we remember the sleeping dead with the same blood red poppies this dreaming priestess from Crete wears on her head. Out of her dream state come visions to determine future actions.



Crete, c. 1350 BCE She raises her palms (11th Hebrew letter)

Eleven, a tricky number mirroring one (1-1), also represents two (1+1). We met the undivided Twin at the first charm and the divided Twin at the house of the second. Eleven is a moment where the Bright Twin and his Shadow stand in perfect balance. "K is the angle of reflection equal to the angle of incidence."<sup>331</sup> That is, a twin and his shadow are identical. In Hebrew, 11th letter 'kaph' added to words keeps this twin meaning, signifying 'like'.<sup>332</sup>

In Egypt, the shadow twin of man and god is literally the 'Ka'. Leaving the body at death. Ka  is depicted, like the dreaming priestess above, with raised

<sup>330</sup> *Brand's Antiquities* 1849), vol. 1, p. 404. Gurguntum became Norwich, England.

<sup>331</sup> Victor Hugo, *Travel Notesbooks*, quoted George Jeans, *Writing*. 1992. As twin number, 11th hieroglyph is a reed house, the shape of Phoenician letter (beth/house). Reed is 2nd hieroglyph

<sup>332</sup> Variant Greek letter kappa  Note shape of Magicians and Aleph  $\aleph$ , as Letter One

palms. An African tradition provides another link between eleven (11) and visionary dreamers: "... number Eleven is one of the most dangerous ... the number of wizards and demons. It is also the number associated with ... speaking with the dead."<sup>333</sup>

Morta (11) as icy Death "gets its name ... from 'morsu' that bite of the first man when munching fruit from the forbidden tree, he merited death."<sup>334</sup> Apple is Tree Ogham's choice of symbols. The Celtic King of the Sea owned an apple branch. Ringing the three gold apples on its bough caused the listener to fall into a deep, healing sleep. "So delightful was the music of the branch that the sick, the wounded and women in childbed would fall asleep when they heard it."<sup>335</sup>

Color Ogham is Quiar, 'Mouse'. It implies the same stillness of deep sleep implicit in these other symbols of death and visionary travel through the Underworld: "In some areas, the mouse...is the visible separable soul of a sleeper."<sup>336</sup>

---

<sup>333</sup> Ulufudu, *Zulu Bone Oracle*, Berkeley, 1989, p. 68. Libya was granddaughter of Io and the Nile River. She is Grandmother of Cadmus and Europa, half-sister of Europa, or, sister of Asia. Libya was also home to Athena who later moved to Greece.

<sup>334</sup> T. H. White, *Book of Beasts*, p. 225.

<sup>335</sup> Rees, *Celtic Heritage*, p. 310. According to EC Krupp, the three apples, which are present in numerous myths, was one way to regulate solar and lunar calendars. Every eight years, three additional months must be added:  $8+3=11$ . (*Beyond the Blue Horizon*, Harper, 1991. p. 150)

<sup>336</sup> Allison Jones, *Larousse Dictionary of World Folklore*, NYC, 1996, p. 311.

## FAR-SIGHT AND DIVINATION

"Ice is very cold and exceedingly slippery; it glistens, clear as glass, very much like gems." (11th rune, Old English Rune Poem)

Eleven's number magic continuing the journey through the Underworld, many symbols refer to vision and visionary far-sight of dreamers. Hardened crystals of Ice produce the crystal ball of fortunetellers.<sup>337</sup> Quartz crystal was also used to correct eyesight. Many of the saints of early winter evoking this theme, St Lucy, eyeballs in her hand, wanders the world early December. St. Matthew (November 16), a tax collector associated with the sign of visionary Aquarius (11th House of astrology), wears spectacles when he comes to collect his debts. In Rome, Aquarius is represented Juno's peacock, peacocks bearing multiple eyes on their watchful tails.<sup>338</sup>

"An eleventh I know: if haply I lead my old comrades out to war, I sing 'neath the shields, and they fare forth mightily safe into battle, safe out of battle, and safe return from the strife." (*Havamal*).

Quartz crystals as unripe diamonds were, according to Pliny the Elder (23-79 CE), formed from ice; Like cracking ice, crystals sing like bells. Held to the light, they produce rainbow bridges leading to the Otherworld. Each time the soul

---

<sup>337</sup> Albertus Magnus, *Book of Minerals* (c. 1300), 1967, p. 83 from Pliny

<sup>338</sup> Saint's Days from Farmer, *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, Allen, *Star Names*, Aquarius, p. 46

travels through the Otherworld, it gains vision as well as Strength (11th Tarot card).<sup>339</sup>

"Ice is the rind of the river and the roof of the waves and a danger for fey men."  
(Old Icelandic Rune Poem) It's glossed with 'one who wears the boar-helm'.



Watermark<sup>340</sup> Boar with Apple in mouth bearing K upon his back

A fey man is both traveler through the Underworld and one facing death, that final fee collected from every mortal passing through the world of time. Norse earth god, Frey originally from Anatolia, owned a magic boar-helm. His twin Freya, who rode a golden boar into the Otherworld, taught the art of Far-Seeing to northern gods. Their kings, having learned to far travel like witches, wore the boar helm while communing with spirits. This helmet, like the Ice rune, protected warriors: "In the poem Beowulf the boar is said to protect warriors who wear it on their helmets."<sup>341</sup>

---

<sup>339</sup> Japanese Hiragana shape for 'ka' derives from two symbols meaning 'add strength to an argument.' Eventually it just became 'addition.' Kanji 431, Henshall, *Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters*, p. 131.

<sup>340</sup> Bayley, *Lost Language*, p. 89.

<sup>341</sup> H. R. Ellis Davidson, *Myths and Symbols in Pagan Europe*, Syracuse, 1988, pp. 49-50.

## FAR TRAVEL AND SAILING MAGIC

"Ice we call the broad bridge. The blind need to be led." (Old Norwegian Rune Poem) Remember, it is the broad path paved with good intentions that leads to Hell. Here the Milky Way branches near Scorpio, the Hag's womb



Branching near Galactic Center<sup>342</sup>

A River of Stars flows between the constellations of Orion/Gemini and Scorpio/Sagittarius. After pouring over star maps I realized the Milky Way splits into a broad and narrow path near the Galactic womb, necessitating a choice: "The road which they travel ...divides and they must chose which to take. Forked ways in the Land of the Death are to be found in the Mystery Religions and were known to the Pythagoreans..."<sup>343</sup>

The celestial river may have reinforced 'Apple' (Quert) as choice for Tree Ogham. Forty Days before the Winter Solstice (December 21), Adam picked his ripe apple and was expelled from the Garden of Eden, his mythic Fall occurring in late fall. Weeping, he stood forty days in the River Jordan until the sun's rebirth gave him hope to live and ultimately to die. Among many incarnations, Gemini

<sup>342</sup> Photo, Man Vyl, Creative Commons

<sup>343</sup> Rutherford, *Celtic Mythology* (1987), 1990, p. 117.

(II)/Orion at one end of the River and Scorpio/Sagittarius on the other, represent Adam and Eve, the apple forever stuck in his throat.

There are many ways to travel the Underworld. For those that don't want to ride, walk or fly, a ship will sail the River of Stars. It is docked at the 11th quay. "Noatun (Ship's Rest) is eleventh. There, Njord has built him a hall" (Grimnismal). Skade, Bride of Scandinavia, was once married to Njord. She wanted to live in her mountains, he by the sea. "They had an agreement they should be nine nights in Thrymheim (Storm-home) and then three at Noatun."<sup>344</sup> The unhappy marriage did not last. As Bride, she later married the kings of her land. Originally from Anatolia, Njord has been identified as an aspect of Saturn. His son Freyr owns the Boar Helm discussed above.

Sagittarius now rules the late November, early December skies. The River of Stars intersecting the zodiac near that constellation, saints of early winter include sailors as well as eyeglass wearing visionaries and tax collectors. In addition to a pawnbroker's three apples, St. Nick's emblem is an anchor. He protects sailors, as do St. Jude and bespectacled St Matthew. Another sailor saint of early winter is Andrew (November 30).

St. Nick who rises up chimneys to fly through the sky is associated with Eleven's icy stasis. "A curious practice...refers to this patron saint. When a boy is hard pressed in any game...he cries out Nic'las, upon which he is entitled to a

---

<sup>344</sup> Snorri Sturluson, *Prose Edda*, J. Young, trans, (1954) pp. 51-53.

suspension of the play for a moment."<sup>345</sup> His Saint's day is the early December of Sagittarius.

## COLLECTION OF DEBTS

Fierce Nemesis, who lives behind the right ear whispering morality along with mortality, also carried an apple bough. Her name translates as 'what is due'. By the eleventh hour, the hour of the wolf, debts must be paid in full. 'Debt' is an alternate translation for Skold, third goddess of the Germanic Fates. Death's younger sisters are Nona and Decima (9 and 10). Other debt collectors are associated with the 11th charm.

St Matthew's Day is celebrated during November, our eleventh month. One of Four Apostles associated with the cross of the year, the Christian Zodiac associates him with Aquarius, Eleventh House of astrology. "Matthew was a publican." i.e. a tax collector.<sup>346</sup>



On December 6, St Nicholas travels Europe on his white horse. Like wolfish Nemesis, he rewards the good and punishes the bad. St Jude (October 28) arrived earlier to help hopeless causes. In Tibet, the Buddha of Compassion wears eleven heads. His single head broke apart as he mourned the suffering of the world. From his tears sprang the beneficent Tara (Star). Like St Lucy, White Tara carries eyes in the palms of her hands.

---

<sup>345</sup> *Brand's Antiquities* (1849), vol. 1, p. 417.

<sup>346</sup> Farmer, *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, p. 294.



One final comment on 11th letter Kaph ('palm of the hand'): This is a moment along our path where we pause on our journey. What is due is now collected. As cup of the hand, an empty palm makes it useful. A 12th century Kabbalah text calls Kaph "the pan of Merit" after discussing a foolish man who brought no container to market and thus lost both his food and his money.<sup>347</sup> That is, it is an empty palm that possesses merit. Note: Square Hebrew, emphasizing their own spiritual needs, changed the twin shape of reflective Phoenician Kaph  to , the empty space of the useful palm.

"We made a vessel from a lump of clay. It is the empty space within the vessel that makes it useful." (11th verse, *Tao Te Ching*, John Wu, trans.)

---

<sup>347</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, pp. 73-74.

## LETTER TWELVE - UPSIDE DOWN TEACHER &amp; NAME OF GOD

12. Phoenician/Hebrew LAMED - (OX GOAD or ROD OF A TEACHER) 

Greek - Lambda



Ogham - Muin (Vine, Bramble, or 'neck')

Runes - Jera , Ar or Ger (Year or Harvest)

Hieroglyph - Wick (drawn upside down, used for torches)

Tarot - The Hanged Man

Because we have grown far away from our roots in the natural world, we must be "aware of the regional Calendar Customs, deeply rooted in tradition...(which) spring from prehistoric attempts to control and stimulate the processes of Nature to give strength to the New Year, to call on the Dead to help the growth of the buried seed, to reinforce the power of the Sun."<sup>348</sup>

In the twelfth charm El, the potent sower of the seed of the third charm now harvested, hangs upside down:  (Gimel) becomes  (Lamed). Roman numeral 50 (7x7 +1), also written 'L', is the proper number of years to retire from work. But earth magic always implies a return after traveling the dark. The journeying soul cast off his mortal coil earlier in our story. Here we find him sacrificed again on Twelfth Night. El's Saturnalia is celebrated the 12th month when the world turns upside down and kings serve their slaves.

<sup>348</sup> Katharine Briggs, *British Folk Tales*, Pantheon, 1977, p. 2.



Rider Waite #12 The Hanged Man

Explanations for the Twelfth Tarot card emphasize this is not a card of death, rather the hanging is voluntary; the rope is not tied. "I see that all things come to an end, but your commandment has no bounds." (Lamed, Psalm 119)



Twelfth hieroglyph, also upside down, is a wick for lighting torches.

Frayed edges burning, they are extinguished by plunging upside down into water or wine. Bird Ogham (all letters named after birds), Titmouse (Mintan), continues this theme: Tom Tit, the tufted titmouse with his kingly crown of feathers is "extremely active, hanging upside down...in the busy search for insects."<sup>349</sup>

#### HARVESTED RULER'S WISDOM OF INSPIRATION

The Christian saint inheriting Orion's L-shaped Mason's square was Doubting Thomas. His stories "Gnostic or Manichean in origin" tell of the mason-saint traveling to India. After building a golden temple he died, like the sun and twelfth letter El, on the twelfth month of the Winter solstice.<sup>350</sup>

Square Hebrew (c. 200 BCE) is properly scribed with the letters dropping down from an invisible line. Among their letters, only the ruler El (Lamed) rises

<sup>349</sup> Roger Tory Peterson, *Field Guide to The Birds*, Houghton Mifflin, p. 119.

<sup>350</sup> Farmer, *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, pp. 406-407.

above this line: ל. The literal meaning of the letter Lamed (root 'LMD') denotes the acquiring of knowledge.<sup>351</sup> As twelfth letter, it represents a (12 inch) Ruler's wisdom shared with his people. As preposition L means 'to', 'a moving toward.'

Note: Although a broken and long hidden tradition, the alphabet's mysteries resurface in surprising places. In Arabic, another Semitic language who acquired its script from Phoenicia's Egyptian hieroglyphs, Allah derives from El: "According to the reconstructed Proto-Semitic (P-Sem)lexicon the name of God in Proto-Semitic religious traditon consisted of two letters, 'l ... These letters are in Western scholarship conventionally (and somewhat arbitrarily) vocalized as El or Il. More recent data allows us to be more precise. It is the second letter which is actually the 'nucleus' of the divine name/<sup>352</sup> That is, L names the High God.

As L (El), a High King bequeaths inspiration and good harvests for his peoples. Fort Ogham (all oghams named after a fort) Meath hints at the kingly owner of this position. Around 130-160 CE, King Tuathal the Legitimate became High King of Ireland. He took Meath as the personal estate of the High Kings.<sup>353</sup>



Albania, c.4500 BCE "Whirls and four corner designs are symbols of becoming and the turnings of cyclical time."<sup>354</sup> The whirling symbols on this

---

<sup>351</sup> Persians likened the belt of Orion's stars to "the letter of the Persian alphabet that was similar in form to the Greek lambda." hese being the El-Wand. Allen, *Star Names*, p. 319.

<sup>352</sup> Wesley Muhammad, *Origin and Meaning of Allah*, p. 7 Academia.edu

<sup>353</sup> Peter Ellis, *Irish Mythology*, Oxford, 1987, p. 168.

<sup>354</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p 295.

plate echo the shape used thousands of years later as 12th rune Ger (harvest).

↳ A variant of twelfth rune, Ger/harvest is Ar/year. Our year, of course, has 12 months. The term 'Ar' is "early used for the dead patriarchs who are supposed to give good seasons."<sup>355</sup>

Advice of these ruler-kings was often sought from beyond the grave: "A twelfth I know: If I see a halter-corpse swinging high on the tree, I can so grave and paint in signs that the man shall come down and talk with me." (Havamal))

Witches and magicians traveled the Underworld at will. Eventually, royalty learned the secrets of otherworld flight. Kings as well as poets sat on burial mounds to commune with the dead. "There are...scattered references ...to kings and seers sitting on burial mounds, not only in order to make a claim to the title of a former king after his death, but also when they desired to seek inspiration."<sup>356</sup>

Referring to the secrets of Otherworld travel, Color Ogham is Mbracht, 'variegated' while Assistant Ogham is Murrath. These suggest the 'speckled' colors worn by Celtic magicians. After a slaughter of the Battle of Moyrath (Murrath), a poet-king Sweeney (Suibhne) went mad, growing feathers and flying among the trees. There is also a druid named Mog Ruith (Irish names come in multiples of spellings). "Mog Ruith's skin of hornless dun-colored bull was

---

<sup>355</sup> Vigfusson, & Yorke, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, vol I, 1883, p. 418.

<sup>356</sup> H.R. Ellis Davidson, *Scandinavian Mythology*, Peter Bedrick, 1988, p.81

brought to him then and his speckled bird-dress with its winged flying...and he rose up in company with the fire, into the air and the heavens."<sup>357</sup>

#### JOHN BARLEYCORN AND VINE KINGS, ELIXIRS AND SPIRITS.

The twelfth charm continues the soul's travel through the Underworld entered through the Gate of the eighth (Heth/gate). The journey is taken yearly by John Barleycorn and Vine Kings (Tree Ogham, 'muin/vine). It is taken daily as well as yearly by the sun.

Described above, there are multiple ways of traveling. In Mesopotamia Gilgamesh, in his search for the elixir of immortality, sails rather than flies along the cosmic River to the end of the world. "Along the road of the sun he went. (Gilgamesh) meets Siduri the divine barmaid...in short...she had the ritual intoxicating beverages which comport the dreary souls who are denied the drink of immortality."<sup>358</sup>

Twelfth House of Astrology belongs to watery Pisces, a sign representing Deep Dreaming, Alcohol, and Endings. Its ruler is traditionally Jupiter, High King of the Gods. This Ruler takes 12 years to circle the Zodiac. In time, Neptune came to rule Pisces, winning control of the waters in a lottery game. Spirit-blue Neptune as a planet is identified by the same symbol  $\psi$  that represents Barley.

---

<sup>357</sup> Tolstoj, *Quest for Merlin*, 1985, p. 145.

<sup>358</sup> DeSantillana, *Hamlet's Mill*, p. 294. Norse Aegir and his wife Ran also live at the bottom of the sea. Known for their hospitality, they serve alcohol to drowned sailors and visiting gods.


The Greek alphabet, adapting symbols from older cultures, uses this letter (psi) to represent the butterfly souls (psyche) of psychic far travelers.<sup>359</sup>

Like all of Twelve's symbols, Barley will be sacrificed and hung for his people. "Tell me, then Allwise...How is the Seed which the sons of men now called in each of the worlds: Big among men, Bear (barley) among Gods...in Hell they call it Hnipinn (Hanging)." (*Allivismal*, Vigfusson translation)

"Then sayde the trees unto the vyne. Come thou and be oure kinge." (Coverdale Bible, Judges IX, 12)<sup>360</sup> Wine is associated with Poseidon also known as Neptune. Vine being Tree Ogham for this position. Ancient Greece's wine festival was celebrated in the month of Poseidon (December) in honor of Dionysos. His mother, daughter of Phoenician Cadmus and Harmonia, was the grain goddess Semele. Burned to a cinder, her son was snatched from her dying womb by Zeus.

Dionysus "possessed himself of the festivals of Demeter, took over her threshing floor and compelled the anomaly of a winter threshing festival."<sup>361</sup> Wine was a major trade item of the Phoenicians; Phoenician descendent Dionysus became a wanderer traveling from India to Britain transmitting his Mysteries. The Temple of Solomon was built upon a threshing floor.

---

<sup>359</sup> In time, psi became 23rd Greek letter. The 23rd rune, written with a butterfly shape  is the returning Dag ('day).

<sup>360</sup> *Oxford Universal Dictionary*, 2nd edition, Vine.

<sup>361</sup> Harrison, *Prologomena*, (1903), 1991, pp. 146-50.

Al-Kohl, like Al-Khema (Black Earth) was an important Mystery tradition. The spirits aided the flights of such High Kings as Old King Cole (Coal) along their journeys through the Underworld. Christmas Revels included cards, gamboling, gambling and drink. The merriment associated with the Twelfth Month was so strong that even during the puritanical years of late Christianity, the Church never banned their celebration.

"The weapon-blessed Odin lives on wine alone." Twelfth Hall, Grimnismal)

The Mystery of the Vine was literally life saving. Wine has the godlike power to purify water by killing disease causing germs. Mixed 50/50 with polluted water, it can destroy E. Coli in three minutes, cholera within fifteen, Typhoid germs within 24 hours. "The effect of wine is...truly bactericidal, not bacteriostatic. " That is it kills off the bacteria. Dr. Manjo notes the property is specific to wine rather than the alcohol, wine vinegar also being beneficial.<sup>362</sup>

"Apres moi, le Deluge." spoken by a Sun King.

---

<sup>362</sup> Guido Manjo, *The Healing Hand*, Harvard, 1975, pp. 186-189.



## LETTER THIRTEEN - BREAKING WATERS AND THE DELUGE

13. Phoenician/Hebrew MEM - (WATER) 

Greek - Mu

Ogham - Gort (Ivy) or Gart (Garden)

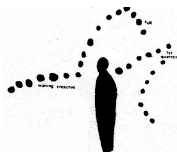
Runes - Ihwaz - Yew Tree

Hieroglyph - Placenta

Tarot - Death

"The Sumerian term for year, usually twelve lunar cycles, sometimes thirteen, was MU."<sup>363</sup> Myths of Mu, like those of Atlantis, include an Island of the Wise disappearing under water.

We are now nearing the end of our journey. Thirteenth charm, like the second, is associated with the moon. As a moon number, we will re-cross myths of water, blue spirits, Underworld openings leading to wisdom, endings and rebirth. Stories of the 13th moon are darker than those of the Virgin Spring awaiting her purification and plowing at the second charm. Although including many of the same themes, Death dwells among the stories of our 13th letter M.



Moon god, Abris de las Vinas, Paleolithic Spain c. 9000 BCE

<sup>363</sup> Mark Cohen, *Cultic Calendars of the Ancient Near East*, CDL Press, 1993, p. 4.

Unlike the faithful sun shifting slowly northwest toward the Summer Solstice and back to a southeast rising at midwinter, the inconstant moon rises at different sites along the horizon each rising. This traces out the shape of our English M. It takes 13 lunar months to match the sun cycle of 12. The 13th moon, occurring twice one month of a solar year, is a Blue Moon.

Knowledge of lunar magic appeared thousands of years before a Spanish moon c. 9000 BCE described his sinuous passage against the horizon. The stones of France hold the Venus of Laussal (c. 20, 000 -18,000 BCE). Full breasted and saggy, one hand caresses her full belly; the other cheerfully raises a drinking horn. "Thirteen marks on the horn may symbolize the nearly 13 cycles of the moon...or the number of days of visible waxing moon."<sup>364</sup> Moon cycles match the menses of fertile women.

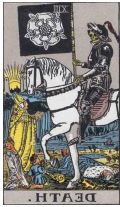


Musee de'Aquitaine, Bordeaux France

13th Tarot card shows Death come riding on his white horse. Most interpretations describe this card as being the end of a cycle prior to regeneration rather than a physical death. "You need to let go...of what is stagnant...New possibilities, perhaps a rebirth will result."<sup>365</sup> The sage ordering Egypt's 24 hieroglyphs placed a delivering woman's 'Placenta' in 13th position.

<sup>364</sup> E. C. Krupp, *Beyond the Blue Horizon*, Harper, 1991, p. 71.

<sup>365</sup> Golwin, *World of the Tarot*, 1988, p. 180.



Rider Waite #13 Death

Like 13th hieroglyph's 'Placenta' and the full bellied Venus with her horn of 13 notches, esoteric tradition associates 13th Hebrew letter Mem ('water') with the womb: "What is Mem. Do not read Mem, but Mayim (water). Just like water is wet, so is the belly always wet. Why does open Mem ׀ include both male and female, while the closed Mem ׀ is male...The opening was then added to it for the sake of the female...Just like the female has an opening with which to give birth, so can the open Mem give birth."<sup>366</sup>

The motherly Waters of Life offered salvation from death long before Christians adopted its blessings: "Thirteenth I know; If I sprinkle water on a young lord, He shall never fall, though he go in battle, He will be proof against the swords." (*Havamal*)

Water, whether salty, bloody, or clear from a 'well' was protective. Practical knowledge was once contained in riddles and poems before degenerating into mere verbiage. Vinegar, brewed by adding a 'mother' to wine (another Aqua Vita), when used in make felted shirts resulted in a fabric that

---

<sup>366</sup> Kaplan, *The Bahir*, p. 31. Square Hebrew has some dual shaped letters.

"resisted the blow of a sword and was even some defense against fire."<sup>367</sup> Boiling wool in 13's protective water results in a thick felt fabric.

"I will pluck the gracious yew. Through the nine fair ribs of Jesus...Against drowning, against danger, against fear."<sup>368</sup> Yew, 13th rune, an intensely toxic tree traditionally planted by graveyards, is "the keeper of the Fire." (Old English Rune Poem) As people adapted the alphabet symbols to their own needs, Yew wood "the coffin of the Vine" used to store wine became last rune of the Younger Futhark, (c. 800 CE) and final Tree Ogham (c. 300 CE), the position Phoenician marked the resting spirit's return from death (Tav/mark).<sup>369</sup>

Celts and Norse warriors emphasize the Death aspects of this letter, though not totally ignoring the promise of protection and rebirth Yew's fumes are hallucinogenic, its strong flexible wood prized for making lethal long bows. "Yew is a strung bow and brittle iron and Firbauti of the arrow." (13th rune, Old Icelandic Rune Poem) The glosses added to the riddle poem answers 'Rainbow' and 'descendent of Yngvi'.

Yew bows and brittle iron weapons, which break easily, lead to a warrior's death. Firbauti is father of a trickster god, the 'wildfire' Loki whose demon children were responsible for the death of the northern gods at Ragnarok. 'Rainbow' is either the glittering Ice Bridge over which trolls and giants traveled to kill those

---

<sup>367</sup> Pliny, in James Logan, *The Scottish Gael*, Harford, 1846, p. 155.

<sup>368</sup> Alexander Carmichael, *Carmina Gadelica* (1899), Lindesfarne, 1992.

<sup>369</sup> Pliny, in Logan, *The Scottish Gael*, 1846, Yew vats for wine, by "Pliny's time had lost their repute from the poisonous nature of the wood, by which some had lost their lives." (p. 377).

gods or the promise of Noah's, rainbow that life would continue after the destruction, that the wisdom of the Arcana would return over the Waters.

Yngvi , second gloss, is also known as Frey. An earth god responsible for Earth's fertility, his descendants died in various crop-significant ways: His son drowned in a cauldron of ale; his grandson, after marrying a daughter of Snow, was crushed by a nightmare; other descendants were sacrificed after bad harvests, hung until dead by the daughter of Froste, or killed by peasants wielding hayforks.<sup>370</sup>

Fort Ogham for this position is Gabur. In the Battle of Gabhara, hero Finn MacCumhail's army was slaughtered. This was "the last great battle in which the Fianna took part and in which they were exterminated."<sup>371</sup> Finn, son of the Sun, was already dead, drowned while jumping over a river. His son was away in Fairyland so Finn's grandson led the troops into their final battle. After the destruction, Finn returned over the waters of Death to mourn their passing.

## TRANSMISSION OF WISDOM AFTER DEATH

As in the myths of the moon/water stories of the second charm, we find blue spirits aiding far travel in the thirteenth. Mirror-like wisdom reappears here with hints of knowledge transmitted after each Flood. By this later time, however,

---

<sup>370</sup> One descendant, King Dag ('day') was "so wise...he understood he language of the birds." His bird messenger was killed in Reidgotoland, Reid being the fifth rune, the Speaking-in-Tongues described at that position. Sturluson, *Heimskringla Saga*, 1200 CE. Samael Laing, trans, pp. 14 ff.

<sup>371</sup> Ellis, *Irish Mythology*, p. 130.

the wisdom of the old ways is fading: "I have more understanding than my teachers. I am wiser than my elders." (Mem, Psalm 119)

Tree Ogham is either Gart ('garden') or Gort ('ivy'). Plautus, according to Pliny, gave custody to all gardens to Venus.<sup>372</sup> Venus like the moon has 13 cycles through the sky.<sup>373</sup> Garden as symbol recalls Death entering the world after the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge was eaten. Another story remembers Seth, third son of Adam and Eve, was given a branch of the Tree of Life growing in that garden. His descendants included Enoch who did not see death and Noah who sailed out of a Flood carrying secrets of astronomy and alchemy. Noah's arcana included the knowledge of winemaking.

Ivy (Gort) as symbol of learning names our university's Halls of Ivy. Supplying the hallucinogenic drink used in the Dionysian revels, the Ivy Bush came to symbolize taverns.<sup>374</sup> Blue 'Gorm' is Color Ogham's choice, and drinking too much Blue Ruin made one gormless (witless).

Blue is the color of the spirit world, the color of coats worn by underworld travelers, the color flames burn when spirits draw near, the color of the 13th moon. It is also the color of the Kobalds (cobalt). According to the dictionary, Kobalds represent both dragons and metalworking miners. Gaibneacht, 'Smithwork' is Arts and Crafts Ogham for this position.

---

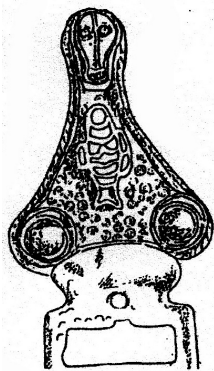
<sup>372</sup> H.N. Wethered, *Mind of the Ancient World* (Pliny), London, 1937, p. 119.

<sup>373</sup> During the eight years it takes Venus to travel the zodiac, she circles earth 13 times.

<sup>374</sup> Graves, *White Goddess*, pp. 183-184.

Thirteenth symbol's attributes of wisdom, metallurgy, astronomy, brewing, and death come sliding together in this ninth century Irish poem, *The Ivy Spray* (which does not mention Ivy). Attributed to St. Govan, "My little hut...a mansion would not be more ingenious, with the stars to my wish, with its sun, with its moon. It was Goban that made it...God of Heaven was the thatcher that roofed it. A House in which rain does not fall...as open as if in a garden without a wall."<sup>375</sup>

Brigit, Bride of Ireland was the midwife-smith who brewed ale. Goban (Goighiniu, Gobhan) was a later Indo-European smith god arriving in Ireland with his brothers. Keeping with 13's Water of Life's protective magic, Goban "presided over the Otherworld feast ... at which he served a special ale that rendered all who drank it exempt from disease and death." He killed Brigit's son, occasioning the first lament to be heard in Ireland.<sup>376</sup>



Hag with Fish child in belly, France c. 600 CE

By the western calendar, we have completed a year of twelve months. After Letter Twelve's December Capricorns, we have arrived at 13's Waters of Aquarius. The fish of Pisces follows.

<sup>375</sup> Kenneth Jackson, trans, *Celtic Miscellany*, Harvard, 1951, p. 51.

<sup>376</sup> Ellis, *Celtic Mythology*, 1992, p. 115.

After the Deluge of ancient Mesopotamia the Goddess cries out "like a woman in travail. How could I...order the...destruction of my people when it is I myself who gave birth to my people."<sup>377</sup> A new generation now arrives out of the breaking Waters of Death. Following the path of our alphabet calendar, Nun (serpent-fish) arrives as the Messiah of the 14th letter.

After the Deluge, Temperance

---

<sup>377</sup> James Pritchard, *Ancient Near East*, Harvard, pp. 69-70.



LETTER FOURTEEN - RETURN OF A MESSIAH & ALLOTMENT OF  
FORTUNES

"God the serpent...exists at both ends of time, when the world emerged from the waters and when, at the end...it is engulfed in them once more." <sup>378</sup>

14. Phoenician/Hebrew NUN - (SERPENT/FISH) 

Greek - Nu

Ogham - Ngetal (Reed) or Pethboc (Guelder Rose)

Runes - Peorth, Perth (Lot or Dice Box for casting lots)

Hieroglyph - Belly of Animal with Teats (i.e. a nursing mother)

Tarot - Temperance

The serpent-fish-son-Messiah now arrives in his ark. Phoenician 'Nun' (serpent-fish) is written with the shape of Draco, defeated ruler of the North Stars. South Iberian even shows the horns on their letter (See Milesian scripts, Ogham Chapter). In Arabic 'nun' still means Leviathan.<sup>379</sup> Equally, the twisting serpent appear as the stars of the Milky Way winding and thrashing through the skies to be ridden by Orion out of the womb of his Black Goddess.

<sup>378</sup> R. T. Rundle Clark, *Myth and Symbol in Ancient Egypt*, Thames & Hudson, 1978, p. 52.

<sup>379</sup> In the biblical story of Moses, that greatest of prophets never entered the Promised Land. It was Joshua, the 'son of Nun' who made the crossing over the River Jordan. Jesus (Joshua), son of a female Nun, is the Christian Messiah.



Draco



Yugoslavia c. 4000 BCE



So. Iberian 'N'

After each Deluge, a hero must carry the accumulated wisdom of the previous world over the Waters of Death. It will then be bequeathed to a new generation. Noah in his Ark was one such hero. "...This Art was first imparted to Adam...and He prophesized... the world must be renewed, or, rather purged with water. Therefore his successors erected two stone tablets, on which they engraved a summary...in order that this arcanum (might be preserved)... After the Flood, Noah found one of these tablets at the foot of Mount Ararat in Anatolia."<sup>380</sup>

Like Moses and Noah, the poet Taliesin was set sailing over the waters to safety. Like other Gnostics, he knew the names of all the stars "from the North to the South." The poet hints at arcane alphabet secrets of reincarnation: "Johannes the Diviner I was called by Merddin [Merlin]. At length every king will call me Taliesin ... I was in the ark with Noah and Alpha."<sup>381</sup>

The speed of Noah's ark was once measured in increments of fourteen. To calculate a boat's speed, a rope was knotted at equal distances along its length and tied to a ship's log. Thrown overboard, the speed at which the knots played out behind the moving vessel was measured against a sand glass marked by 14 notches (28 for a slow moving boat).<sup>382</sup>

<sup>380</sup> Edward Kelly, *Theatre of Terrestrial Astronomy* (16th C.), Alchemical Publishing, 1988, p. 9.

<sup>381</sup> The History of Taliesin, quoted in Robert Graves, *The White Goddess*, p. 91.

<sup>382</sup> This was described in an early 1800's book on sailing. I no longer have the source.



In India, the letters of Aum (Om) sound the power to create each new Universe. It contains the seed in its arc floating above the potential of Alpha's letter A. (The seed represents the sound of M). In that land, the god Vishnu warned Manu about the coming waters. Like Noah and his Alpha, Manu having sailed to safety created a new people from his seed. 14 Manus appear during each period of Creation. In the form of a fish (14th Hebrew letter 'nun'), Vishnu saved the Manu of the current age.



Manu, wife, and seven sages<sup>383</sup>

While floating on the Cosmic Waters, Vishnu warned Manu about the coming Deluge. "To escape from the fear of the Underworld" Vishnu has a ceremony lasting fourteen years. The fourteenth day of each month, the devotee offers fourteen gifts. At completion, one dons an armband of fourteen threads tied with fourteen knots. (*Ananta Catuddaci*).<sup>384</sup>

<sup>383</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Manu\\_\(Hinduism\)](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Manu_(Hinduism)). The 7 sages live among the stars of the Big Dipper, our generations North Star.

<sup>384</sup> Great Britain Imperial *Records, Feasts of the Hindus*, 1914, p. 31.

## THE RETURN OF THE LEVIATHAN'S SON

Having carried his arcana safely over the waters in the Mother Ship, Noah's gift provided alchemists with their hermetical knowledge: "for this same Hermes flourished both before and after the Flood and is identified with Noah. Then this art found its way into Persia, Egypt, and Chaldea. The Hebrews called it the Cabbala, the Persians Magia, and the Egyptians, Sophia." (16th century)<sup>385</sup> The arts included the calendars of astronomy and temple building. They also included the magical art of the Vine.

"Rhea, or the mother of the gods...was the same as Ceres, Venus, Isis or Deceto. She was, in short the Ark of Noah, from which issued all the hero gods of paganism." Noah, according to this author is another incarnation of Saturn, god of the common man.<sup>386</sup>

Safely over the waters, the sailor emerges from the watery womb of the Mother. Echoing this, fourteenth hieroglyph is a nursing mother ('animal with teats'). At the fourteenth charm the Great Mother-Ark delivers her son after the breaking of her waters. In this addition to the alphabet's story, the young hero does not fully emerge into the light of day until the 16th charm.

Tree Ogham has two choices for this position. Ng ('reed'), which delivered a god in Armenia, will be discussed below. Pethboc, the Guelder Rose, is the

---

<sup>385</sup> Kelly, *Theatre of Terrestrial Astronomy*, p. 10.

<sup>386</sup> Edward Davies, *Mythology and Rites of the British Druids* (1809), reprinted Matthews, *Celtic Reader*, p. 63. Davies, quoting from *The Mysteries of the Cabiri*, notes Orion as Saturn rides the dragon-fish-tree as Milky Way (See Letter Three).

second. Ng is not an Irish sound so Pethboc eventually replaced Ngetal. Guelder Rose (*Viburnum Opulus*), otherwise known as cramp bark, "was part of their repertory of drugs to ease the pain of childbirth."<sup>387</sup>

## ALLOTMENT OF FORTUNE

Noah's Ark landed with his arcana on Mt. Ararat in Armenia. Serpent-fish being part of our tale, Armenian Saint Blaise, whose feast is in February, died choking on a fishbone. In Ireland and China, dragons and serpents still appear in the Piscine month of February.

Having circled the Zodiac with December's twelfth charm, the sign following the Waters of Aquarius is the messianic fish of Pisces (February/March). Pisces appears in this Egyptian image with a game board of chance and divination between their tails. A Festival of Lots and deliverance from death is part of the February story. Themes of the fourteenth charm include the allotment of fortune.



Pisces and Game board - Zodiac of Dendera, Egypt

"Your decrees are my inheritance forever" (Nun, Psalm 119). When the new world begins after each Deluge, fortunes must be redistributed. The inheritance was often distributed by lottery. The gods of ancient Greece, having

---

<sup>387</sup> Readers Digest, *Magic and Medicine of Plants*, 1986, p. 215.

overthrown an older rule of giants, divided the world by gambling: Neptune (Poseidon), ruler of Pisces, won the sea; Jupiter the sky.

Celestial gamblers used the game board of Pisces. "The draught-board which seems to have been introduced into Egypt from Babylonia, was used in connection with astrology, and later the dead made use of it when playing against...the serpent god."<sup>388</sup> When a Christian Zodiac was created to replace the pagan, St. Mattias was given ownership of Pisces. Chosen to replace the banished Judas, he was selected by lottery.

"With the growth of class inequalities, the use of the lot for the distribution of wealth became more and more restricted, with the result that the Moirai (Fates), who had asserted the birthright of all men to the fruits of their labour, were transformed into inexorable Fates ... driven to console...with the mystical hope of recovering their lost heritage in an illusory world beyond the grave. The birthright became a death right."<sup>389</sup>

Temperance as 14th Tarot card "meant to mix, blind, combine or regulate."<sup>390</sup> Fourteenth rune is the Dice box (Peorth) used in northern gambling: "Peorth is always play and laughter to the proud ones where warriors sit together in the hall." (Old English Rune Poem)

---

<sup>388</sup> Budge, *From Fetish to God*, (1934), 1988, p. 42.

<sup>389</sup> George Thompson, *Studies in Ancient Greek Society*, Citadel, 1965, p. 347.

<sup>390</sup> Barbara Walker, *Secrets of the Tarot*, Harper Row, 1984, p. 109.



Rider Waite #14 Temperance

The Alphabet Mystery hiding mathematical secrets as well as those of an alchemical soul journey, fourteen's gamble has the power to turn a circle of 360 days into a workable calendar of 365 days. An Egyptian goddess married to the sun took a lover in his absence. When she became pregnant, the enraged sun refused to let the child be born on any of the 360 days he owned. The distraught mother asked Thoth the Measurer to help. In turn, Thoth gambled with the moon for some light. Winning  $1/72$  of the moon's light, he had enough to create five extra days, each containing  $1/14$  of the light he won ( $360/72=5$ ). Like other festivals of Lots, the Egyptian holidays are celebrated in February.

To the Sage creating the Ogham series, Reed (Tree Ogham /Ng) has multiple associations with the fourteenth's attributes. Like I-Ching yarrow sticks or Germanic rune staves, reeds were cast as divining rods. Reed in this position may also have been chosen because baskets of reed carried Moses and the shining magician Taliesin safely over the water. Like the Leviathan, Moses has been depicted with horns. Like Noah, Moses brought the secrets of the Alphabet, Law, and Golden Rule to his people. Note: in the modern calendar of 12 months,

we have now circled back to the second month of February. Reed is second hieroglyph in the Egyptian alphabet.<sup>391</sup>

Reed contains additional stories that qualify it as a symbol for this charm. It is both container and the contained. Vahratan, fire god of ancient Armenia where Noah's ark landed, was "born of a purple sea...delivered through the neck of a slender reed." His mother, Anahit (Anna Heth, see eighth charm) had the power to purify the seed of all men.<sup>392</sup> And Noah's ark, carrying the seed of a new world was of also made with Reed: "Make yourself an ark of Gofer wood. With Reeds make the ark." (Genesis, 6:14)

Assistant Ogham is Gomers or Ng goimar. The inventor of these oghams may have thought it fitting for a charm in which the hero emerges from the Flood. Gomer, Noah's grandson by Japeth, was mythic ancestor of the Celts. He began his travels in the Black Sea area of Armenia. Note: having one possible answer never negates another equally plausible mythic answer. Rather, it strengthens the association.

"Goosey, Goosey Gander, where do you wander: Uspstairs, downstairs, and in my lady's chamber." Ng Bird Ogham is Ngeigh, Goose. It is proper that wise Mother Goose's son be reborn a Gander. We consider the goose a 'silly' bird; a witless bird, a gomer, a gormless bird, but the word originally meant

---

<sup>391</sup> Celts, creators of Ogham, claimed kinship to Jews, Egyptians, Milesians and Trojans from Anatolia among other hermetic sources.

<sup>392</sup> Adriano Novallo, *The Armenians*, Rizzoli, 1986, p. 84.



'blessed' or 'holy'. In the past, the goose was seen as courageous and wise. Eaten, the power and knowledge of this bird pass into the bodies of those fortunate enough to share in the feast.



Rosicrucian watermark

Discussing this watermark of a hissing goose, "The meaning of the geese emblems herewith puzzled me...until the idea struck me that the flame emerging from the mouths was intended to represent the goose's hiss...the goose was assumed to be full of the Holy Spirit, and that its sibilant hiss was understood to be the emission of Spirit. The word 'goose' is evidently allied to 'goost' the ancient form of 'ghose', i.e. 'spirit'."<sup>393</sup>

"Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah." (Matthew 1:17) Matthew apparently had to fudge the generations to reach the proper 14 of a Messiah.

---

<sup>393</sup> Bayly, *Lost Language of Symbolism* (1912), 1968, pp. 93-96.

## LETTER FIFTEEN - DEVAS, DEVILS &amp; PROTECTION

"Deities took on different planetary and stellar appellations...they could also take on more than one appearance at the same time."<sup>394</sup> This next symbol is the full moon number of 15. The young traveller is growing up and becoming more powerful.

15. Phoenician/Hebrew SAMEKH - (PROP or FISH)



Greek - Xi ( written with 3 lines Ξ)

Ogham - missing

Runes - Algiz (Elk as 'Horned Deity) or Elk sedge (Protection)

Hieroglyph - Bolt

Tarot - The Devil

There are associations between the third, fifth, and fifteenth objects in a series. Third position in our story belongs to the lusty Sower of the Seed fertilizing his Land to dry her Red Sea. His male aspects include a youthful Saturn, Orion, Mars, stormy red Set, or the Devil as the horned humpbacked camel-serpent Samael. Receiving different names from different cultures did not mean they were perceived as having different personalities. In third position, they impose the bolts and bonds of material Time.

<sup>394</sup> Davidson, *Astronomy & the Imagination*, p. 13.3

At the fifth charm, he became a Teacher, a virtuous priest-king bestowing the great wisdom and harvests produced by his potency. As fifteenth aspect, he represents either a sign of protection and wealth for his land or a materialistic Devil. When the alphabet first developed, I believe the deity represented by the fifteenth letter was revered. As fertile god of an older people, he was eventually demonized into the Horned God as Tarot's Devil. The 15th hieroglyph, Bolt, was a symbol of Egypt's storm god as devil, Set, the Baal of Phoenicia.

Several alphabets drop the fifteenth letter. Ogham, as explained earlier, dropped the Deus as Deuce. Here they may have dropped Samekh because he had become associated with evil. Hebrew kept the letter but devilish Samael who seduced Eve into eating the apple is identified as 'Samekh-Mem'.<sup>395</sup> By Jewish tradition, he remained as God's helper, though never quite trusted. "Away from me, you wicked" (15th letter Samekh, Psalm 119)

"In ancient times, well educated people were in communication with heaven." (Commentary on Fifteenth verse, Tao Te Ching)<sup>396</sup> The male deity of the 15th charm may appear as a potent Bull of the Full Moon. Fifteenth verse of the Tao Te Ching teaches: "He who keeps the Tao does not want to be full. But precisely because he is never full, he can always remain like a hidden sprout, and does not rush to early ripening." (John Wu trans.)

---

<sup>395</sup> Samael had one long lock of hair spun out from his navel. *Encyclopedia Judaica*, Macmillan, 1972, vol. 14, pp. 720-21. The Milky Way runs from the navel of the Galaxy toward Orion.

<sup>396</sup> Man-jen Chang, commentary

The moon takes 30 days to travel the sky-round, becoming brightest on the 15th. Saturn and Mars being other names for the god once responsible for Earth's fertility, the journey of our third visible planet Mars around the Zodiac "takes 15 years and once every 15 years the planet is particularly bright." The planet Saturn, King of a lost Golden Age, is also most brilliant every 15 years, halfway through his journey of 30 years around the sky.<sup>397</sup>

Apollo is yet another name for the Horned Man. As morning aspect of Mercury growing horns as he emerges from his Earth's shadow, he was Apollo. As the planet Venus in her morning rising he was Lucifer. Apollo, originally a wild god of dark woods and beasts, ultimately became a sky god: "They had a king over them which is the angel of the bottomless pit whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon; but in the Greek tongue is Apollyon." This fallen star once held the Key to Earth's Womb. (Revelation 9:11, See Fifth Letter)

Before they became devils, many ancient gods wore horns. One name for fifteenth rune is 'Algiz' (or Ehwaz) translated Elk sedge. 'Elk' has additional meanings: Yew, yew bow, swan or the Horned animal god himself. The word 'elk' derives from Latin 'Alces'.<sup>398</sup> Alcis is the name of an ancient Germanic god. The Alcis, twins like wild Apollo and his moon twin, once traveled as horned stags. In

---

<sup>397</sup> Davidson, *Astronomy*, pp. 130-134.

<sup>398</sup> *Oxford Universal Dictionary*, 2nd Edition Priests of the Alcis, remnants of a Mother Goddess tradition, wore women's clothing.


northern myths, when the Ghost Riders of Wild Hunt thunder through the sky they may chase the Elk god. Alternately, the Horned One leads the Hunt.



Gundestrup Cauldron, Denmark<sup>399</sup>

## PROTECTION

"The Eolh-sedge is mostly to be found in a marsh; it grows in the water and makes a ghastly wound, covering with blood every warrior who touches it." (15th rune, Anglo Saxon Rune Poem) "The primary meaning of (this) rune is protection."<sup>400</sup> Recalling the connection between numbers 3 and 15, sedges, also known as saw grass, are plants with triangular stems. Reeds, on the other hand, are round. The number 15, like 3, is a 'triangular, number.

Horned Gods have offered protection and fertility to the land since the most ancient Paleolithic times. Eventually agriculture developed. The symbol depicting fifteenth rune  as an Elk became the symbol for the horned barley. Like the Elk, Barley dies for his people. As shield for protection he offered a way of making 'peace': "Barley, a term used in games of children when a truce is demanded."<sup>401</sup> Derived from an older, wilder magic, beneath the civilized journey

<sup>399</sup> National Museum of Denmark, GNU free document, [wikipedia.org/wiki/Cernunnos](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Cernunnos)

<sup>400</sup> Freya Aswynn, *Leaves of Ygdrassil*, p. 70.

<sup>401</sup> Opie, *Lore and Language of School Children*, Oxford, 1959, p 148.

of John Barleycorn lies a path followed by an older shaman towards the light.

"Hold me up and I shall be safe." (Samekh, Psalm 119)



The grave symbol that gave peace and food, sacrificed and hung upside down, became the modern peace symbol.<sup>402</sup> Samekh, 15th letter of Psalm 119, the poet recalls the older promise of this Mystery: "Sustain me, according to your promise that I may live."

## NUMBER OF THE BEAST

Tarot places a Devil here. As Lucifer, his Pentacle is upside down befitting a Fallen Angel or hanging Barley sacrificed for his people. Lucifer's tradition ties him to the Hierophant, the Papal Bull of the fifth charm. "The name Hierophant belonged to the high priest of the Greek Eleusinian mysteries...that trump (signified) initiation into a secret doctrine."<sup>403</sup> The (fifth) Hierophant card carries Phoenician's symbol for 'Samekh' as his Patriarch's cross. ☩

The shape of the 15th Phoenician letter is still carried by Popes in ritual processions. Because Masonic masters also carry it, the cross is seldom seen in public. "Also known as the Salem Cross "it is the insignia of the Grand Master

---

<sup>402</sup> Designed by Gerald Holtom, 1958, it was a symbol of Death within a Circle.

<http://www.docspopuli.org/articles/PeaceSymbolArticle.html> Also: "Tell me, then Allwise...How is the Seed which the sons of men now called in each of the worlds: Big among men, Bear (barley) among Gods...in Hell they call it Hnipinn (Hanging)." (*Allivismal*)

<sup>403</sup> Rachael Pollack, *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom*, Aquarian, 1983, p. 49.

and Past Grand Masters of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States."<sup>404</sup>



Rider-Waite #15 The Devil

Poor Horned Man: Once, savior of his Land, the singer at the Gates of Dawn has become a beast. Along with 15, the Beast is connected to the number 666. This number really irritated me since number magic is, in its own way, extremely logical. I wasn't satisfied with the explanation the number of the Beast slouching toward Jerusalem was the numeric name of an unpopular emperor. That Beast as Emperor Nero learned Black Magic from an Armenian magician. Apparently Nero was an inept student of the art.<sup>405</sup>

Armed with a calculator I went looking: 7 is the Age of a Child; 14 a Youth; 21 a Man. Fifteen beyond the age of reason is 36, a number belonging to Orion and to 36 Righteous Ones who sustain the world. One of this ruler's multiple names is 'Yard arm' (a yard having 36 inches). Adding all the sums of  $1+2+3...+36$  equals 666.

---

<sup>404</sup> [masonicdictionary.com/crosses.html](http://masonicdictionary.com/crosses.html)

<sup>405</sup> Wethered, *Pliny's Natural World*, 1937, pp. 158-60. An ancient manuscript has been found using the number 616 (=13). Later transcribers may have changed the number to 666 on purpose to reflect mythic needs.

The 24 Hieroglyph 'alphabet' employs Bolt as their 15th symbol. Described above, it is associated with the Red Storm god as Set. "It is probably more than chance (that)...Satan shares so many of Set's characteristics." Sometimes identified as a phallus, it is "Set that imprisons spirit in matter." (See third charm for 'terrification' of the spirit by 'pricks'). His bolt must be drawn back to let the spirit escape its material cage: "Draw it (the bolt) back...The Phallus...is drawn back...they make a road for the King that (Horus) may pass." (Pyramid text of Unas, Spell 316, c. 2600 BCE)<sup>406</sup> Horus as Egypt's sun will reappear through the eye of 16th letter (ain/eye).

#### INITIATION INTO MYSTERIES

Fifteen steps into the Mystery; fifteen small mysteries of the rosary celebrate the greater Mystery of Redemption. "Mystery: an incident in the life of Our Lord regarded as having a mystical significance; Hence, each of the 15 divisions of the Rosary corresponding to the mysteries of Redemption." (Oxford Universal Dictionary)

Seven steps after entering the Underworld through Eight's Gate (Heth/gate), we arrive at the heart of an ancient Mystery. A bell rings; the veil pulls back. The treasure hidden deep in the Labyrinth is as mutable as Earth and Sky. It may appear materialistic and gross like Tarot's Devil or shine like an

---

<sup>406</sup> John Anthony West, *Serpent in the Sky*, Quest, 1993, pp. 140-141.



alchemist's gold. In the Grecian city of Eleusis, the mystery may even have appeared as a simple sheaf of glowing grain.

"Fifteenth I know How the Great Sage...chanted before Delling's door (Dawn). He chanted strength into the Anses and victory to the Elves, wisdom to the God of Counsel." (Havamal). Odin, singing these charms, is one of the leaders of the Wild Hunt. The fifteenth charm is the stage just before the Underworld traveler arises into the light of a new sun. He will emerge through the opening eye of the next letter. At this 15th stage he is still deep in the Mystery getting ready to greet the coming dawn.

"Norfi or Narfi ... had a daughter called Night. Her husband was called Delling [Dawn] and together they had a son called Day. Odin took Night and Day and gave them a horse and chariot each to ride through the sky with." (*Gylfaginning*)

## LETTER SIXTEEN - OPENING EYE OF THE SUN

"Which is the way to somewhere town: O, up in the morning early. The round red Sun is the door to go through. That is the way quite clearly." (Mother Goose)

16. Phoenician/Hebrew AIN (EYE) 

Greek - Omicron<sup>407</sup>

Ogham - Straif (Blackthorn)

Runes - Sig or Sigel (Sun or Victory)

Hieroglyph - Folded Cloth

Tarot - Lightening Struck Tower

There are several possible endings for the alphabet journey. The earliest Spell may have ended with the stories of the first seven letters, rising up through the Gate (Heth/8th letter) of the first octave. A watery Deluge (Mem/13th letter) ending the lunar calendar of 13 months is another. Sixteenth letter, the opening eye of the sun, is yet another ending.

According to the ancient world: "Thirteen letters...formed the 'Pelasgian alphabet; before Cadmus increased them to sixteen."<sup>408</sup> These letters may or may not have ended with the encircling sun's embrace, or even the X shaped Gift of Tau promising a multiplication of lives. Once a symbol is placed at a numbered

<sup>407</sup> Greek expands Phoenician placing 'Big O' (Omega) as last of 24 letters. Omicron is 'Little O'.

<sup>408</sup> Graves, *The White Goddess*, citing Diordorus, p. 225.

slot however, it assumes the attributes of that position modifying those of its original placement.



Serpent emerging from eye of the Sun. Note 16 dots.

The serpent-fish of letters 14 and 15 emerge here through the eye of Egypt's sun, spitting out 16 dots. ○ Ain (eye) is 16th Phoenician letter. This is the eye through which the Devilish Lover we met at the third charm now slips through, but only after sharing his golden wealth: "More than gold and precious stones...I love thy commandments above gold, yea, above fine gold." (Ayin, Psalm 119)

Following our calendar of 12 months, the 13th month returned us to Aquarian January and the Waters of letter Mem (water). Then 14 is Piscian February when serpents and festivals of Lots re-appear. In March we re-entered the material world of Time engendered by the phallus of 15's Devil. Now in April (from 'aperire' to 'open'), the Sun once again grows strong; Ice melts; seasons continue their circle.

"Sun (16th rune) is the Shield of the clouds And a shining glory And the life-long sorrow of ice." (Old Icelandic Rune Poem)

The two glosses, added by later sages answering the riddles posed in the OIRP, are 'rota' ('Wheel') and 'Siklingr' ('Descendent of the victorious one'). They may refer to the story of the valkyrie Sigrun. The name (Sig Rune), translating

'victory rune' or 'Sun rune', her story tells of her rebirth into the Wheel of Time.

After marriage to Helgi, son of Sigmund the Volsung, they tragically die.

Eventually the lovers reincarnate to wed once again. (*Second Lay of Helgi Hundingsbane*)

"Sigrun ]was short-lived for the sorrow and woe [that she had]. It was the belief in the old days that men were born again, but that is now called an old wife's tale.

Helgi and Sigrun are said to have been born again; he was then called Helgi

Harding's Scathe, and she Cara Halfdan's daughter as it is said in the Lay of

Cara and she was a Walcrie."<sup>409</sup>

Ogham declares Smolach, the song loving Thrush, as Bird Ogham.

According to Gerald of Wales( c. 1200), Mistletoe was formed from the dung of Thrushes. The seeds passing through the sticky dung attach to trees and grow.

Mistletoe, the Golden Bough, is a plant associated with dying kings and a return from the Otherworld.



"A tree that hosted a mistletoe plant was a tree marked as particularly sacred by the gods. With its golden color, and growing high off the ground without roots, it was naturally associated with the sun. Most specifically, it was

---

<sup>409</sup> Vigfusson, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale* , p. lxxx quoted

considered to be the sperm of the solar deity Taranis, the promise of the sun God's rebirth.<sup>410</sup>

The Celtic sun goddess is Aine, 'ain' (eye) being Phoenician letter for 16th position. Golden "Aine as 16 year old mother-to-be appears in the word 'ain' meaning in my womb."<sup>411</sup> In a number of traditions, 16 years is the proper age for the young Mother to deliver her rising son.

The full womb, after winter's quiet, is now again warming and contracting to deliver Earth's sun back into the spring. The golden child is leaving his hiding place in the Delta, surging greenly into the light of his Mother's opening eye. This is the season Earth should be kissing the stubby green toes of her fur-feathered sun, washing him with dew. Then, after her labor, she should briefly rest until her child dances her awake. "In many languages there is a break after 16."<sup>412</sup>

Earth as Ireland's black Hag remembers the passing of her fertile powers. In her poem written as a now cloistered nun she declares: "My right eye has been taken away alienated for my forfeited estate and the left eye has been taken to complete its bankruptcy." The right eye is the sun; her left, the moon. Old ways passing, she will never take young lovers to return her green: "I wasted

---

<sup>410</sup> <http://symboldictionary.net/?p=1590>: The Golden Bough

<sup>411</sup> Damas, *Mythic Ireland*, p. 100.

<sup>412</sup> Schimmel, *Mystery of Numbers*, Oxford, 1993, p. 216.

my youth ... and I am glad I decided it thus; even if I had not been venturesome, my cloak would still be old...I expect no flood after ebb to come to me."<sup>413</sup>

As Great Goddess, Beare carried the Alphabet Mysteries from Asia Minor where Noah found tablets inscribed with the Mysteries, to Egypt. As Scotia, daughter of Egypt's pharaoh, she brought the magic to Britain. "Bera, a queen who came from Spain, But Bera and Scotia seem to be the same person."<sup>414</sup>

Tree Ogham's choice of symbols is Straif, the Blackthorn. A thorny wizard's tree ringing the sleeping fairy forts of Ireland, poets were warned against burning the tree for it provided mothering shelter for birds.<sup>415</sup> The French, another Celtic people, recall blackthorn as Mer du Bois, the Mother of the Woods.

Colar Ogham is 'Sorcha', Purple-black, the color of the Blackthorn's sloes used to make a sun-warm brandy; the color of the thrush now singing to greet the sun.<sup>416</sup> Although most rune verses cite a warrior's use of the letter's power, runes derive from an older earthier magic. This warming spell recalls the Hag's happier days: "The sixteenth I know if I see me some maid to work my will with her; the white-armed woman's heart I bewitch and toward me turn her thoughts."

---

<sup>413</sup> Seanus Dean, ed., *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* vol. 1, 1991 David Green, Frank O'Connor, trans, *Caillech Berri*.

<sup>414</sup> Graves, *The White Goddess*, p. 213.

<sup>415</sup> Graves: Blackthorn pp. 245-246; p. 373.

<sup>416</sup> Some thrushes are purple-black. A common name for thrush is Mavis, 'purple'

(Havamal)<sup>417</sup> Mistletoe formed from the dung of Thrushes (Bird Ogham for this position), like this rune charm, also bestows a kiss.

## CIRCLING SUN GODS

"The self-begetting sun god... ascended from chaos-waters with the appearance of a snake, the animal renewing itself every morning, and the deceased wishes to turn into the shape of the snake ...son of the earth... the embodiment of Atum."<sup>418</sup> Atum like Celtic 'Aine' is a sun god associated with Egypt's Eye of the Sun.



2nd century Alexandria "In alchemy, the ouroboros is a sigel."<sup>419</sup>

The Ouroboros holding its tail represents the bright and dark cycles of the circle of Time. The sixteenth charm, like the seventh, is a place one can step off the Wheel of Life, or like Sigrun (Sun-rune) return to the world. The serpent holding its tail implies the continual cycle back into the world; when it lets go, Karma's Wheel is no longer a rolling circle.

Both the Old Norse and the Old Icelandic Rune Poems moved the Yew rune from 13th to 16th (and last) position. I described the Norse poem along with the 13th Elder Futhark rune, another number of endings and beginnings. As 16th rune, the Yew may reflect memories of the Tree of Life symbolism bestowed on

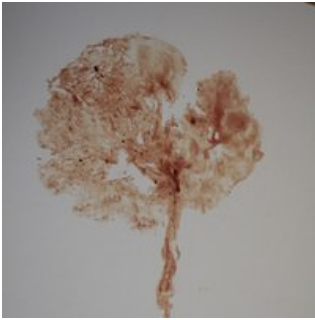
---

<sup>417</sup> *Poetic Edda*, Lee Hollander trans., p. 40.

<sup>418</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouroboros](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouroboros). Public Domain image

<sup>419</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouroboros](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Ouroboros) Image from early Cleopatra the Alchemist, Greco Roman period.

the light returning to the world. As with all myths, there are multiple origins. The placental tree of life grows between the navel of each newborn child and the watery well of his mother's womb.



Placental Tree<sup>420</sup>

There is another World Tree belonging to the newly delivered child. The spinal column contains 24 vertebrae, the number of the hours of the turning dark and bright fortnights of each year, the number of the Elder Futhark runes. Running inside this trunk is the spinal cord. Two nerves branch from each side of a vertebra. At the top is the head with its small opening in the skull for illumination to enter and the enlightened soul to exit. At the spine's base, the nerves form a tangle of roots travelling down to well-planted feet.

"(Yew) is on the outside a rough tree ... guardian of fire; supported with roots, a joy in the native land" (OERP)

An old name for Ogham's Blackthorn was Straif. Another name is 'draighean', recalling words like draoi (wizard) and draig: "Draig: a generative

---

<sup>420</sup> <http://photobucket.com/images/placenta>



principle or procreator, a fiery serpent, a dragon, the supreme... In the mythology of the primitive world the serpent is universally the symbol of the sun."<sup>421</sup> "So that the great Diluvian god... worshipped under the symbol of the bull and the dragon... who was even identified with the luminary of the material heavens, is acknowledged to have been no other than a saint of the most high."<sup>422</sup>

## UNRAVELING OF THE WEB

Egypt's 24 hieroglyph alphabet ends with the returning serpent. I don't understand the symbolism of the hieroglyph 'folded cloth' in 16th position, nor the following hieroglyphs preceding their last symbol. The alphabet's story has begun to unravel. I am losing the threads. The last 8 hieroglyphs may hide mathematical or astronomical secrets as do the runes, Tarot and possibly Phoenician, but I haven't found a key to the symbolism.

The falling Tower as 16th Tarot card hints at the Precession responsible for Fall of the Tower of Babel. The Sun aligned against a tower or fixed landmark continues to rise in its correct season. The background stars, once matched to the sun's calendar, are not fixed. Slowly, over thousands of years, they retreat backwards through the sky. Towers and pyramids aligned to no longer ruling stars become obsolete as World Ages change.

---

<sup>421</sup> Edward Davies, *Mythology & Rites of the British Druids*, 1809. Reprinted Matthews, *Celtic Reader*, pp. 96-7, n.28

<sup>422</sup> Davies, from Matthews, *Celtic Reader*, p. 94.



### Rider-Waite #16 The Tower

By this late time, the world of ancient earth mothers is ending. War and warriors entering the older farming communities have affected the myths and the 'sun' rune's kiss now offers battle victory: "Sigrunar shall you know if you will have victory. Carve them on your sword hilt, some on the rims, some on the carnage-brands, and twice name Tyr." (*Old Play of the Wolsungs*)<sup>423</sup>


---

<sup>423</sup> Vigfusson, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, p. 40.

## PART 1V - LAST LETTERS &amp; FINALE

## 17. LETTER SEVENTEEN - PI'S CONTROL OF THE CIRCLE

Controlling the area of the starry circle over the North Pole is Greek letter Pi ( $\pi$ ). Hebrew employs Pe, 'commandment' while the Tarot simply uses "Star" as 17th card. In China, Pi (also Bi) is a jade circle representing the Emperor's Mandate from Heaven. This symbol is a circle of heaven pierced by an arrow.

17. Phoenician/Hebrew PE (MOUTH OR COMMANDMENT) 

Greek - Pi  $\pi$  (22/7)

Ogham - Ruis (Elder)

Runes - Tir or Tiuwaz -God of the North Star

Hieroglyph - Lake

Tarot - The Star

Shining over the entrance to the North is a Way Star, pathfinder guardian of an ancient world. With the wobbling of Earth the original star slipped slowly away, leaving an empty space in heaven: a ravenous Mouth threatening to consume the sun and moon. Zodiac stars also slipped eastward. They no longer rose in their proper season, raising fear of chaos and apocalyptic endings. "The imagery stands...for an astronomical process, the secular shifting of the sun

through the signs of the zodiac...Great structures collapse, pillars topple...floods and cataclysms herald the shaping of a new world."<sup>424</sup>

"I opened my mouth and panted. For I longed for thy commandments." (Pe, 'mouth' or 'commandment', 17th letter, Psalm 119)

By the time our 17th symbol was developed, war was marching into once peaceful farming villages of Old Europe. New peoples, possibly driven by famines due to changing climates, were on the move with their herds and warriors. "In classical antiquity, (numeral 17) appears in connection with warfare and heroism."<sup>425</sup>

Finally, a new star captured the empty space, imposing another order on the land. By this time, the old ways were dying. New heroes became rulers rather than lovers of Earth's once Bottomless Pit. The Black Mother disappeared underground to sleep with fallen kings and dragons until the coming of another Golden Age.



Rider-Waite #17 The Star

<sup>424</sup> DeSantillana, *Hamlet's Mill*, pp. 1-2.


<sup>425</sup> Schimmel, *Mystery of Numbers*, p. 219.

Last letters, 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 seem to hide a variety of astronomical and magical secrets but not a true story. Several scripts associate the 17th symbol with the command of the Pole Star, 18th with the Moon, and 19th with the Sun because of their astronomical cycles.

Although Egypt had an early working concept of Pi and its mathematics ( $22/7 = \pi$ ) commanding the circle,<sup>426</sup> the final hieroglyphs don't seem to refer to the circling pole stars nor to sun and moon cycles (17-Lake; 18-Hill; 19-Basket). If they do, I haven't found the proper key though guess at possibilities.

#### CONTROL OF THE PILLAR BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

The arrow of Tir illustrates the 17th rune. Northern god Tir, identified with Mars, Orion, and the revolving Pole Stars, is a god of law who never broke a pledge. He commands Tarot's 17th card The Star. "Tiw (Tir) is a guiding star; well does it keep faith with princes; it is ever on its course over the mists of night and never fails" (Old English Rune Poem).

An alternate name for Tarot's Star is The Navigator. Tir's arrow  still points north on maps and compasses. Orion spinning the Wheel of the Year through the seasons has been depicted as an arrow as has Mars. His pillar once stretched between the sky and his Earth, upholding order. Like all ancient gods Tir acquired numerous names.

---

<sup>426</sup>Rhind Papyrus c. 1900 BCE,

Although ancient wisdom is couched in story and myth, I find it contains astute observations and hidden technologies. As Hermes/Mercury, the God of Order's planetary cycle of 88 days quarters the earth each lunar cycle ( $4 \times 88 = 352$ ). Returning to his original zodiac sign in the same month as the sun takes 7 years, during which Mercury has 22 cycles ( $22/7 = \pi$ ).

"Widkun (10th century author) said Hermin or Irmin was the Saxon name for the god Mars...This idea is strengthened by the name of the city in which the Irminsul (pillar) was located. It is ...Marsberg ...The Norse counterpart...was said to be Tyr."<sup>427</sup>

Charlemagne destroyed the Irminsul in 772 CE and then seized control of the pole stars. Once known as Irmin's Wagons, they were renamed Charley's Wains. The guiding Pole Star, centered over the North Pole, marks one of the entrances to the Underworld. In England, under the name of Ermine Street, Herman's Way heads north toward York and Harrowsgate. In the 1800's the oldest Yew, a tree associated with the Underworld, grew there by one of Earth's healing wells.

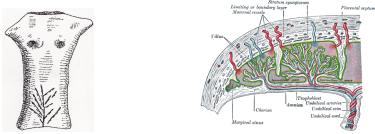
"Harrowgate...The sulphurous waters are of considerable strength and efficacy...(near here) Robin Hood had his famous encounter with the curtall fryer."<sup>428</sup> Robin, like Tir, was known for his archery. Harrowsgate suggests

---

<sup>427</sup> E.C. Krupp, *Beyond the Blue Horizon*, p. 288.

<sup>428</sup> James Hoppin, *Old England*, Houghton Mifflin, 1867, pp. 229-232.

another entrance to the Underworld through which heroes entered to 'harrow hell' and release the dead.



Tree growing by Earth's Healing Well, Yugoslavia, c. 5200 BCE<sup>429</sup> Out of a woman's womb grows the Tree shaped placental structure bearing the fruit of a new generation.<sup>430</sup>

## STAR AS WAY-FINDER

The current North Star, Polaris after 1000 CE, is a faint star whose importance lies not in his size but in his powers of regulation. Each night as the world turns, the other stars whirl around this director. Never setting, on a clear night one could travel straight east or west by keeping it at a constant height above the horizon (The apparent height changes as one moves north or south of a latitude line). By knowing the height of the star for each destination, a sailor could be reasonably safe setting off beyond sight of shore and arrive at the expected port by keeping the star at the proper measurement above the horizon. Travelers over desert or sea corrected direction by sighting other stars as they rise in the east during the night.

<sup>429</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 103.

<sup>430</sup> Gray's Anatomy, Public Domain

"Then the traveller in the dark Thanks you for your tiny spark. How could he see where to go if you did not twinkle so?" A Roman convoy once began a night march facing the setting sun and were greeting by the rising sun in their faces at dawn.<sup>431</sup> Eventually, the mystery of path finding when the night's star or day's sun was obscured by mist was discovered: the lodestone.

## LODESTONES

A lodestone is a magnetized piece of iron, iron traditionally belonging to Mars (Tir). When suspended it points steadily toward magnetic north. Magnetic north and true north, indicated by the Pole Star, are not quite identical. In Scandinavia and the Classical world, the longitudes of both closely correspond but as one moves east or west of this line, the stone points back to the magnetic north. The Greek explorer Pytheas visiting Britain around 300 BCE, noting the pole star was not over the true north, possibly had a lodestone but open use of the stone did not come until later centuries. Vikings using the lodestone eventually acquired the compass by 1200 CE.<sup>432</sup>

Norsemen were not above using a lodestone's magnetic powers to warm their beds through the cold dark northern nights. The lodestar of love and loadstone of all hearts is evoked by Odin singing this charm to a dying dragon,

---

<sup>431</sup> Warmington Cary, *Explorers of the Ancient World*, Pelnguin, 1963, p. 17.

<sup>432</sup> Lynn White, *Medieval Technology*, Oxford, 1962, pp 132-3. There is controversy over dates for the lodestone. Also see Hyde, *Ancient Greek Mariners*, 1947, p. 319. Pytheas, pp. 124-134.



Loddfafnir: "The seventeenth I know if the slender maids love I have, and hold her to me; thus I sing to her that she hardly will leave me for another man's love."  
(*Havamal*, Hollender trans.)

Made of the same iron running through a red-blooded lover's veins, the love stone was carried by prostitutes in ancient Europe, fed water and iron on Fridays by Mexicans, and formed into statues of lovers. In Greece, a lodestone goddess was set free once a year to rush toward her lover made of iron.<sup>433</sup> Gifted with a magnet's powers of attraction, it could not help but re-direct a traveler's wandering footsteps or recall woman to man by stirring her blood.

Alas, its powers were not enough to keep Earth's northern gaze from wandering from Draco toward the Wagons (Dipper). Loddfafnir is the dragon slain for his treasure in our fifth charm. Odin, as well as Mars and Hermes/Mercury, is another name for that pillar of his people. Having replaced Tir as leader of the Northern gods, Odin continues his song "For a long, long time shall you, Loddfafnir, be lacking in these lays." A new ruler controlling the Pole Stars, it will be thousands of years before the Precession returns the control of The Star to the Dragon.

In time, Odin himself will be killed. He tore a branch from the World Tree supporting the worlds to make his spear. The tree began to die, the well at its foot

---

<sup>433</sup> Barbara Walker, *Woman's Dictionary*, Harper & Row, 1988, p. 516.

dried up, and in time its wood supplied the fires at the Twilight of the Gods.<sup>434</sup>

Eventually out of the chaos a man and woman, Ash and Elm, emerge to people a new world.

## BROKEN PROMISES

Some of the stories attached to the 17th position recall the broken pledges of the guiding Star that was once trusted implicitly. "Tyr is the one-handed god, the leavings of the wolf and the ruler of the Temple." (Old Icelandic Rune Poem), The glosses are 'Mars' and 'director'.

Long ago, the order of the northern world was about to be consumed by a ravenous wolf. The gods held council considering how to bind him. Fetters were made from "the tread of the cat, from woman's beard, from fish's breath and bird's milk, from a hill's roots, and a bear's tail." The gods then approached the proud wolf, challenging him to a test of strength. They promised to release him if he failed to break the bonds. Tir, the god who never broke an oath, was guarantee. He held his hand in the wolf's mouth as promise. "Then, when the Aesir would not loose him, he bit off the hand at the place now known as the

---

<sup>434</sup> This is Richard Wagner's version. In the Icelandic Poetic Edda, the Tree does not fall until Ragnarok occurs. Odin was another warrior who captured the Wagons (Vanir) before heading north from his home near the Black Sea.

wolf-joint. So Tyr is one-handed and he is not called a peacemaker." (Deluding of Gylfi)<sup>435</sup>

Tree Ogham for this position, having hidden the 2nd and 15th Phoenician letters is 'Ruis', Elder. The (5-petaled) Elder is also known as the Devil's Eye, Lady Elder, Tree of Doom, Frau Holle and Old Lady. It belongs to Venus (See fifth charm for association of Venus, circling wheels, eyes, and 5). Fitting with the broken oaths of this 17th charm, Judas, sealing his broken vows with a kiss, hung himself on an elder tree. Older tales remember fairies riding switches of elder, as well as traveling by broom or riddle, to fly to the Otherworld opening under the Pole Star.

Color Ogham is Ruadh (Red). A fragment of an Irish tale tells of King Aed Ruadh (Fire Red). He engaged a soldier and then refused to pay his wages. The soldier "set the sea" against the king, who "broke upon the soldier the stars, visible and invisible." The meaning of the phrase is unknown, but certainly involves magic. Aed Ruadh dies. Like Tir and Judas, he "flouted the rules of fair exchange."<sup>436</sup>

---

<sup>435</sup> Sturluson, *Prose Edda*, J. Young, trans., 1954, pp. 53-57. In Rome, the Mouth of Truth still bites off the hand of liars.

<sup>436</sup> Damas, *Mythic Ireland*, p. 172. Note: Assistant Ogham is Reuben, eldest son of Jacob he did not receive his father 's blessing to lead the 12 Tribes. He was known for a tower, the Stone of Bohan (Joshua 15:6; 18:17). Another Ogham gives 'Roigne'. This is a circling Wheel Ogham of Roigne Roscadach (Book of Ballymote, 14th C).

## LETTER EIGHTEEN - MOONS AND MIDWIVES

18. Phoenician/Hebrew TSADE ('FISHHOOK' OR 'HUNT') 𐤆

Greek - Sigma  $\Sigma$  (one of its forms was a 'lunate sigma')

Ogham - Ailm (Elm, Palm or Fir)

Runes - Berkan (Birch)

Hieroglyph - Hill (Represents 'foreign lands')

Tarot - The Moon

Many traditions associate the 18th symbol with the wandering moon because of her 18-year cycles. First is the Saros Cycle when every 18 years 11 days the sun and moon's nodes (where the moon crosses the ecliptic) line up and eclipses occur. Every 3 cycles (54 years) the eclipse occurs in the same zodiac sign. There is another lunar cycle of 18.6 years when the very erratic moon is closest to earth, appearing especially large in the sky. An eclipse of this glowing moon would have been especially impressive.



Rider-Waite #18 The Moon

Starwatching peoples were early aware of the 18/19 moon/sun cycles. Tarot uses The Moon as 18th card. Eighteenth Phoenician/Hebrew letter, Tsade, is usually translated 'hunt' or 'fish hook'. Later traditions often associated the

moon with childbirth. Like other midwives, the moon god of Mesopotamia Sin helped in the delivery of his beautiful cow goddess. "The birthing-pains of Geme-Sin are eased by Sin, and the incantation ends with a 'supplication: "may this woman give birth as easily as Geme-Sin" suggesting this text's role in human child-birth."<sup>437</sup>

Cadmus carried his alphabet and their mysteries to Greece with whom the Egyptians, Phoenicians and Mesopotamians had a long history of interaction. The Greek moon was the midwife and huntress Diana/Artemis, Phoenician letter Tsade /'hunt' may refer to this aspect of a moon goddess.

Given the memory that every word, every letter, every number in the Wheel of the Torah has a hidden meaning, it is undoubtedly significant that it is in Genesis Chapter 18, the number of the midwife moon that angels announce to an aged and long barren Sarah that she will become a mother. In Hebrew, 18 represents the number of Life (Chai).

Hebrew has a tradition of assigning number values to letters known by the Greek name: Gematria. After the 10th letter (yod), the values increase by 10's. Letter 18 (Tsade) is given the value of 90, the number of years of Sarah when she receives her Annunciation in Chapter 18 of Genesis I. Out of her womb emerge the People of the Book.

The 12th Century Kabbalah text, *The Bahir*, perhaps remembers an older association of Tsade with the new world coming into being: "What is the letter

---

<sup>437</sup> <http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/amgg/listofdeities/nannasuen/>

Tzadi? ... It is thus written (Proverbs 10:25) The righteous (Tzadik) is the foundation of the world."<sup>438</sup> And it is 2x18 (36) Tzadiks who uphold the world.

Ogham has had several names for the 18th tree, including elm, fir and pine. Another name is Palm (Alim).<sup>439</sup> Palms do not grow in Ireland, but do grow in Spain from which the Celts sailed to conquer Ireland. It was under a palm tree Nemesis birthed her son Apollo and the moon as Diana. Diana, born first, helped deliver her brother. As a midwife 'palm', her dates are fingers (dactyls).

"The old palm-tree [of Delos] played midwife for Leto with her poor little leaves under its branches she bore Apollon and Artemis." (Nonnus, Dionysiaca 27. 259 ff (trans. Rouse)<sup>440</sup> See Letter Two for other Moon-as-midwife myths.

Although couched as myth, the Moon as Twin of the Sun is truly a reflection of that light. The mothering Palm gave birth to an older set of twins: "Why was Tamar [palm tree] worthy of being the mother of Peretz and Zerach? It was because her name was Tamar... Why were they called Peretz and Zerach? Peretz was named after the moon. The moon breaks out (paratz) at times,.. Zerach was named after the sun, which always shines (zarach) in the same manner."<sup>441</sup> The line of Judah comes from the offspring of the moon, Peretz.

---

<sup>438</sup> *The Bahir*, p. 22 (Verse 61). Hebrew has two forms of Tsade , thus 2x18.

<sup>439</sup> According to Robert Graves, *The White Goddess*, Ailm is 'Palm' in Old Irish.

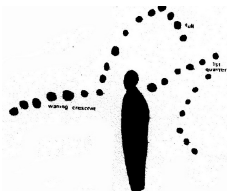
<sup>440</sup> cited: <http://www.theoi.com/Olympios/ArtemisTreasures.html#Plants>

<sup>441</sup> *The Bahir*, p. 79

Runes use their 18th rune 'Birch' as a midwife: "Birth-runes {Biargrunar) learn, if help thou wilt lend, the babe from the mother to bring; On thy palms shalt write them, and round thy joints, And ask the fates to aid." (*Sigfriedumal*)

Bird Ogham for this position is Aidhircleog, the Lapwing. Associated with the Underworld, Lapwings are connected to Moon symbolism, preferring to feed on moon lit nights.<sup>442</sup>


The history of Greek 18th letter, Sigma Σ (also represented by a crescent shaped 'lunate sigma', 'moon sigma') is obscure but probably derived from 21st Phoenician letter **W** Shin (also Sin). The shape echoes the sinuous moon's path measured out against the horizon behind this Spanish moon god. Sin was the moon god of ancient Babylon.



Moon god, Abris de las Vinas, Paleolithic Spain c. 9000 BCE

<sup>442</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern\\_Lapwing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Lapwing)

## LETTER NINETEEN - THE NUMBER OF THE SUN

19. Phoenician/Hebrew	QOPH/MONKEY	
Greek - Phi (Represents the Golden Ratio) <sup>443</sup>		
Ogham - Ohn (Furze, a highly flammable yellow flower)		
Runes - Horse (OERP)		
Hieroglyph - Basket with handle (Represents a 'Lord')		
Tarot - The Sun		

Number 19 has a connection to a golden sun cycle. Every 19 years without further adjustment, the calendars of the solar, lunar, and Mercury realign. They reappear in the sky together on the day they joined 19 years earlier.<sup>444</sup> Phoenician's choice of 'monkey' for 19th letter seems odd, but in Egypt, a country influencing the Phoenicians for thousands of years, monkeys were associated with the lordly sun. Below, a monkey stands next to the midwife palm, symbolizing the sun god's daily rising,

---

<sup>443</sup> Greek changed the Phoenician order. It has become 21st letter, a still potent triangular number..

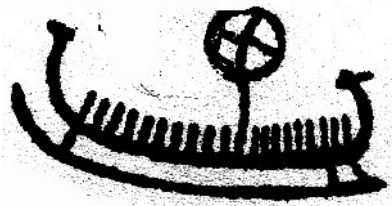
<sup>444</sup> Patrick Moore, *Stargazing*, Barrons, 1985, p. 152. The exact calculations work out to between 19-20 years. The Hieroglyph 'basket' does not seem to openly suggest a lunar/solar association. but again, I might not know the secrets of the symbol.





Egyptian amulet bead, ca. 1300 BCE<sup>445</sup>

Babylonians by at least 500 BCE knew the sun cycle of 19 years regulating the lunar-solar-mercurial calendars. This sun boat illustration from New Grange c. 3100 BCE suggests an earlier knowledge of the cycle. There are 19 prongs on dragon boat carrying the sun.



Sun boat, New Grange, Ireland, c. 3100 BCE

#### APOLLO AND THE HYPERBOREANS

"It will be remembered this name (Apollo) for the god of day was the title of the planet Mercury when he appeared as a morning star."<sup>446</sup> Apollo, who began his journey as a god of wild animals, eventually became a sun god. We first met him at the second charm. His mother traveling as a wolf was Leto/Nemesis. One tradition has her born in Anatolia.

Another source states: "Leto, mother of Apollo and Artemis was born on this island of the Hyperboreans, said by some to be Britain...the inhabitants are looked upon as the priests of Apollo... the god visits the island every nineteen

<sup>445</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm branch\\_\(symbol\)](https://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palm_branch_(symbol))

<sup>446</sup> Allen, *Star Names*, p. 224.

years, the period in which the return of the stars to the same place in the heavens is accomplished ...At the time of this appearance of the god, he both plays on the cithara and dances continuously the night through from the vernal equinox until the rising of the Pleiades." (Diodorus, c. 60-30 BCE)<sup>447</sup> I haven't discussed the Pleiades in detail but these faint stars rising just before Taurus were important calendar markers. Maia, mother of hermetic Mercury, is one of the Pleiades.

Hyperboreans were people from beyond the North Wind. They are often assumed to be related to, if not actually, Celts. Last survivors of the Golden Age, they "knew neither sickness nor old age and instead of toiling or fighting wars, pass their time in feasting." (Pindar)<sup>448</sup> Being 'priests' of Apollo may explain the hiding of the second ogham by Celtic scholars. Several traditions associated that position with Apollo and his sister. Naming the true name of a god gave power over him and was therefore, forbidden.<sup>449</sup>



Rider-Waite #19 The Sun

<sup>447</sup> Gerald Hawkins, *Stonehenge Decoded*, Doubleday, 1965, pp. 129-130.

<sup>448</sup> Rutherford, *Celtic Mythology*, 1990, pp. 124-8. Cadmus and wife, after becoming dragons headed north to retire in the land of the Hyperboreans (Euripides, *The Bacchae*)

<sup>449</sup> Outside my discussion, some traditions (Tibetan, for instance) include a certain jockeying between the white One God and the blue Deuce as to which is supreme.

Tarot shows a child riding a horse on the 19th Sun card. Horse, ever a source of comfort to the restless, is 19th rune. The rune poems do not seem to suggest the sun's numerical association with 19 but horse drawn chariots as well as dragon boats once carried the sun of ancient Germany. Runes placing 'Sun' (Sig) as 16th rune, the goddess of the sun traveled the sky in a chariot pulled by horses. The Valkyrie Sigrun (translating 'sun' or 'victory rune') discussed at the 16th charm rode through the air on her flying horse. A later rune depicting 'Horse'

𐌹 is a variant for the Sig Rune <



Trundholm sun chariot and horse Solvognen, Denmark, c.

1400 BCE<sup>450</sup> On this sun disc, ornaments on the golden side number 366; on the dark side, there are 354, the days of the lunar calendar.<sup>451</sup>

## POTENCY OF THE SUN

The generative power of the warm lordly Sun is a reality. Therefore, myths of potency should and do appear among those of the 19th symbols. #19th Hieroglyph is 'basket' but added to Egyptian words represents a Lord, perhaps because he had the power to distribute golden wealth and grain.

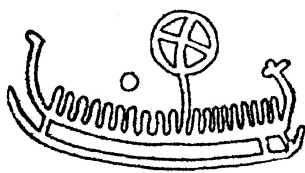
<sup>450</sup> Photo, Malene Thyssen,, [wikimedia.org/wiki/User-Marlene](https://www.wikimedia.org/wiki/User-Marlene) Permission given for use.

<sup>451</sup> Christian Etheridge, [www.academia.edu/7733632/A\\_Systematic\\_re-evaluation\\_of\\_the\\_Sources\\_of\\_Old\\_Norse\\_Astronomy](http://www.academia.edu/7733632/A_Systematic_re-evaluation_of_the_Sources_of_Old_Norse_Astronomy), p. 4.

ϕ 19th letter Qoph ('monkey') would seem to relate to English word 'copulate', the sexual act of potent generation. The dictionary derives copulate from a Latin root but the suggestive shape of Phoenician Qoph hints at an older lineage.

Although I have emphasized the qualities of each symbol derive from its number placement, symbols copied from older shapes transposed to new positions in the order still keep some of the qualities inherent in the original. In ancient Greek, Qoph has become a later letter. Phi ϕ represents the Golden Ratio of mathematics and art. Phi, standing in philosophy as short hand for a 'generic act', produces a family of copies.

Copulate meaning 'to join together', the symbol in Brahmi ϕ represents 'cha' signifying 'and' which is of course, a joining. 'Cha' joined to other words is known as a Dvandva construction with 'cha' having a "copulative" meaning."<sup>452</sup>



Sun boat, Bronze Age Scandinavia, 19 prongs on the dragon boat carrying the sun Wheel.

<sup>452</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit\\_compounds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit_compounds). See Brahmi chart in Introduction.

## LETTER TWENTY - START OF A NEW CYCLE

22. Phoenician/Hebrew Ros( head) 𐤓.

Greek - Upsilon

Ogham - Uhr (heather)

Runes - Man (OERP)

Hieroglyph Stand for jugs

Tarot - Judgment Day

As Bird Ogham (Uiseoc), a lark sings at the dawn of a new day.





The Last Judgement, 20th Tarot card, Rider-Waite deck

The Tarot card shows the dead emerging from their graves on Judgment Day. After the finality of the 19-year sun cycle, a new beginning returns with each 20th year. I believe it is the reason the 20th Phoenician letter is 'ros' meaning 'head' of each new cycle.

In ancient Israel, two kingdoms competed with each other after the death of Solomon: the northern kingdom of Israel and that of Judah. Israel began their New Year with the Vernal Equinox (March); Judah, surviving long after the 10 lost tribes of Israel were scattered, celebrated Rosh Ha Shanah in the fall.

There is another 20-year cycle: The great ruler Jupiter and aged Saturn conjunct every 20 years, an importance marked by the brightness of their joining. There are 5 such conjunctions every 100 years

Starting another cycle, one must choose the path. Phoenician born Pythagoras used Y shaped Upsilon (20th Greek letter) to represent the forked path mandating a decision: "Upsilon is known as Pythagoras' letter, or the Samian letter, because Pythagoras used it as an emblem of the path of virtue or vice."<sup>453</sup>

Note: although runes chose their letter shapes from their own hoard of images, the 20th Phoenician letter is , the shape used for the 'thorn', the 'prick' of the third rune. This is the position when the world of Time begins with the seeding of Earth and the drying of her waters with impregnation. As the third month of Mars, the Vernal Equinox marks the New Year of the ancient world. The head of each zodiac cycle, the zero point of time, occurs when Aries (Mars) passes over the Green Witch of England (Greenwich Mean Time). And once Man enters the world of Time, he enters the world of Death. The Man rune  turned upside down indicated the date of death in early documents.

20/14 Maðr (Man)s an augmentation of the dust;

Great is the claw of the hawk. (ONRP)

---

<sup>453</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Upsilon](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Upsilon)

## LETTER TWENTY-ONE

21. Phoenician/Hebrew Sin (tooth) 


Greek - Phi

Ogham - Eodha (Poplar)

Runes - Lake or Leek

Hieroglyph - Bread -This depicts rising bread, not the flat wafer.

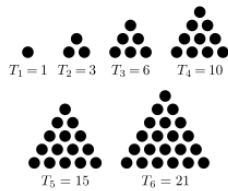
Tarot - The World is last Tarot card (see #22)

The Lake/Leek rune is shaped like the third Phoenician letter: . Note: It is unlikely Runes developed directly from ancient Phoenician, but from an intermediary. The qualities of the 21st symbol seem to relate to those of the third:  $2+1 = 3$ . I found this very confusing until I discovered triangular numbers.

As a number 21, like 3 and 15, is a triangular number .As the sum of the first six natural numbers ( $1+2+3+4+5+6=21$ , "A triangular number ... counts the objects that can form an equilateral triangle. That is: The triangular number is a figurate number that can be represented in the form of a triangular grid of points where the first row contains a single element and each subsequent row contains one more element than the previous one."<sup>454</sup>

<sup>454</sup> <https://www.google.com/search?q=triangular+numbers&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8> Note: the 21st

Phoenician letter is Shin. I think the association of this position with triangles is later.



The Younger Futhark's placement of this rune as 15th symbol may result from 15's association with triangles.<sup>455</sup> 15 like 3 and 21 is another triangular number. The Elk-sedge, #15 of the Elder Futhark, has a triangular stem, reeds having round ones. The measurements of 5+5+5 (15) also create an equilateral triangle.

Both the 3rd and 15th symbols carry the attributes of fertility. This would seem another explanation of 21's early association with the third symbol. The third rune is a thorn with all of a prick's phallic connotations.

The Lake rune is sometimes translated as 'leek'. "The "leek" hypothesis is based not on the rune poems, but rather on early inscriptions where the rune has been hypothesized to abbreviate *\*laukaz*, a symbol of fertility (The Bulach fibula)."<sup>456</sup> The rather phallic leek is a member of the onion family. The fibula, written in Elder Futhark runes begs: "[I, your] lover with the penis, you with the vulva: receive me; leek! penis! leek! penis!"<sup>457</sup> In India, another civilization sharing myths with the west, devout Hindus do not eat onions or their relatives due to the family's sexually stimulating nature.

<sup>455</sup> The Younger Futhark reduced the 24 runes to 16.

<sup>456</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Laguz](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Laguz)

<sup>457</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Bülach\\_fibula](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Bülach_fibula)





Bulbous Leek emerging from its hairy nest

The Greeks eventually placed the phallic Phi  $\Phi$  as 21st out of their 24 letters rather than leaving it in its original 19th position (which became their Q). The last 4 Greek letters are phi, chi  $\chi$ , psi  $\Psi$  and omega  $\Omega$ .

As explained at the 19th letter, Phi As a symbol in philosophy represents a short hand for a 'generic act', which like all proper phalluses produces a family. "In Lacanian algebra  $\Phi$  stands for the imaginary phallus and also represents phallic signification.  $-\Phi$  stands in for castration."<sup>458</sup>

Sin, 21st Phoenician letter, was the moon god of Mesopotamia. This Moon-Bull once mated with the mountains to fertilize his land.

---


<sup>458</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phi>

## LETTER TWENTY-TWO

22. Phoenician/Hebrew Tav (mark)  or +


Greek - Chi X

Ogham - Ioho (Yew)

Runes - Ingwaz (an earth god) 

Hieroglyph - Hobble for cattle #23 is a hand, #24 the serpent

Tarot - The World

The rune  representing Ingvi is also the alchemist's symbol representing lead. Like Saturn, the 'sower of the seed' before he aged into blackened lead, Ingvi-Frey was responsible for his Earth's fertility. Like Precessed Orion, also known as Saturnus, he went "east over the waves". Again like Saturn, Frey is a son of Earth (Njord). Like an earlier Jacob (Israel) he fathers a people named after him.

The Greek alphabet placed the cross of X Chi in the 22nd position. "In Plato's Timaeus [c. 360 BCE], it is explained that the two bands that form the soul of the world cross each other like the letter X."<sup>459</sup> The path of the ecliptic, along which travel the planets, sun and moon travel, cross the path of the Milky Way near Orion (Saturnus)/Gemini and again near Scorpio and Sagittarius.<sup>460</sup>

<sup>459</sup> [wikipedia.org/wiki/Chi\\_\(letter\)](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Chi_(letter))


<sup>460</sup> See X Marks the Spot, Judith Dillon, Academai.edu

The Zodiac Light of their passage appears as an X, offering a stairway to the stars by the river. Angels once descended and ascended along this ladder.



Zodiac Light crossing Milky Way creating an X-shape <sup>461</sup>

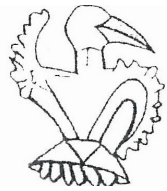
We have now come to the end of the Phoenician alphabet, but the end is always imbedded in the beginning and their beginning in their end. Greek continues on for 24 letters, ending with the womb of Omega. It is now bookended by the Alpha and the Omega  $\Omega$ . Runes end with womb shaped Othala

(Inheritance) . Phoenician, of course, ends with the 'mark' promising a good return  $\dagger$ .

---

<sup>461</sup> Brocken Inaglory, GNU Free Document <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Orionid12n.jpg>

## FIRST & LAST LETTERS - A REVIEW



Crete, c. 1500 BCE

"There was a crow sat on a clod. That's an end to my story that's very odd."

(Mother Goose)

We now leave our story. Regardless where the story ends, first and last symbols of these ancient scripts hint at a ceaseless circling of time. Each end is imbedded in each beginning. Each beginning is imbedded in each end.

As I hope to have made clear, the ordered symbols of the Alphabet and its descendants contain too consistent a story to have been carelessly chosen. Our alphabet emerged out of an ancient Spell, a Spell reminding the winter dead to remember the promise of spring. Each letter was once a mnemonic for a verse sung to enchant an evolving creation. I found attributes of the letters were determined by its placement in the series. At its root our alphabet is based on number magic.

### A CAVEAT

"Punning is an ancient art and recent studies have shown that it was not indulged in merely for fun. Among the Egyptians, punning was not only an inveterate habit, theological and cosmological concepts were inextricably bound up with it. The same 'insidious habit' moulds much Hindu ritual...just as several

meanings can meet in the same name, so can several names meet in the same person."<sup>462</sup>

I have followed the alphabet trails of ancient goddesses from a long past golden age. To properly understand their magic, the wary reader should continually remember to read between the lines. Even those straight lines were the gift of a shape-changing enchanter. Linus (Flax) was one of the children of wild Apollo. Along with Hemp (Cannabis), Vine Kings, John Barleycorn, and other winter Capri-corns (Wild Grains), Flax is beaten and flayed to shroud his people. An older magic dancing rebirth, his music devolved into dirges lamenting the dying year.<sup>463</sup> Readers clinging to the littoral shore of fact will be dismayed by the fey riddles of myth-makers following wandering cows and Trader Crows along ancient paths as they distributed the wealth and secrets of an older civilization.

## CIRCLE OF LETTERS

"I am a son of Earth and starry sky."



First letter is the undivided One; the 'one is one and all alone' who matures into the duality, the Deuce initiating the cascade of time. First and last letters of the ancient calendar scripts offered a guide, a path to return seed and soul back into the World of Time. Early alphabets representing revolving rather

---

<sup>462</sup> Rees, Alwyn and Brinley, *Celtic Heritage*, Thames & Hudson, 1991, p. 348.

<sup>463</sup> Robert Graves, *Greek Myths* (1955) Pelican, 1982, vol. 2, p 214 (section 147)

than linear paths, last letter reflects the first. Repeating earlier information, I describe several first and last symbols.

China's six Trigrams, derived from observing earth and heaven, begin with the undivided potential of Heaven  and end with Earth , a fully receptive Earth welcoming the dead into her womb until the next creation.

Because calendar time can begin either with the white Son of a new day or with the shadows of dark Eve, the first symbol is often black and/or white. The Egyptian alphabet of 24 symbols begins with the sound 'A' as (a black and white) mother vulture and ends with her serpent child (DjT) resting at the end of that alphabet. In time, like Chinese dragons, he will return each New Year.



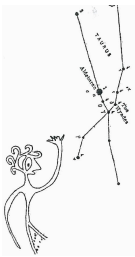
Sanskrit's 50 letters begin with 'Ah' and ends with the sound 'Ha'. In addition to the Black Goddess described in Letter One, 'A' can represent her spouse: One's pillar (1) as Shiva-lingam colored white by the ashes of the dead. Last letter 'Ha' then is black Kali. After his final exhalation, she safeguards his seed until time to deliver a new generation. Her astrological home lies among the stars of the Galactic Center, womb of our galaxy still producing new stars.

In India the Chakra path along which the evolving soul travels, begins with wakening the serpent sleeping at the base of each spine. Awakened, she rises along 24 vertebrae exposed by nurturing vultures. Surging into the light of a

<sup>464</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 37 courtesy of the author

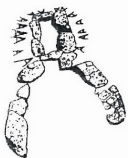
thousand sounds, this serpent emerges from the crown of the shining skull (The Rising of the Kundalini).

✦ Phoenician and early Hebrew beginning with Aleph's cow (Taur) as 'A', end with the X mark, cross mark of 'Tav'. As constellation, the Bull of Taurus, the Tor of numeral 1, has been depicted both as letter A and as Tau's cross. Promising return, ancient graves were shaped like A's cow head, the shape of a woman's fertile womb. Later people marked graves with the cross sign, plus sign mark promising escape from death: "Tav...you will be put as a sign on the foreheads of the righteous so that when the destroying angel comes...he will see the letter...and spare them."<sup>465</sup>



Taurus links Heaven and Earth. Magician of Crete c.1500 BCE


Hebrew later changed the shape of Phoenician bull-headed A to represent the connection between Earth and starry sky: ✦

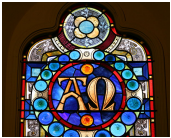


Grave in form of letter 'A', Yugoslavia c. 6000 BCE

<sup>465</sup> Schwartz, Howard, *Tree of Souls*, Oxford, 2004, p. 250.

Tarot cards begin with a Magician, depicted in the shape of Hebrew's Aleph touching Heaven and Earth. Last card is The World "representing an ending to a cycle of life, a pause in life before the next big cycle."<sup>466</sup>

Runes, beginning with a fey Bull (Fe) promising material wealth, once ended their 24 letters with womb shaped 'Homeland'  while Greeks remember their Alpha and Omega Ω. Jesus, the Alpha and Omega of the Christians, promised Resurrection like older alphabets.



467

Tree Ogham beginning with a mercurial black and white Birch, ends with the 'Yew' planted near graveyards. Described above, vats of Yew once stored the blood of the harvested Vine King.

. Last of the Bird Oghams is 'Eagle'. Sea Eagles of ancient Britain, like the vultures of Anatolia, consumed the flesh of exposed bodies. The mortal flesh carried into the heavens, bones could join their ancestors in the dark sanctuary of communal tombs. Some of these passage graves were oriented to receive the

<sup>466</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_World\\_Tarot\\_card](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_World_Tarot_card)

<sup>467</sup> Stained glass window, cc 1883, St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Public Domain Photo, Jonathunder



Midwinter Sun into their womb. At Midwinter, the sun dies and is reborn into another year.

Thousands of years after a pattern was laid into our alphabet to sing the world into existence, we still follow its hopeful trail through our calendar. We still expect life to return after each cold winter, that after each dark night a sun will rise above a nurturing Earth.

"While earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease." (Genesis 8:22)



Hungary, c. 5500 BCE<sup>468</sup>

"The bread and cheese are on the shelf. If you want any more, cut it yourself."

---

<sup>468</sup> Gimbutas, *Language of the Goddess*, p. 16

## APPENDIX- DIVINATION PATTERNS & CELESTIAL CYCLES

### MOTHER GOOSE\_ - Divination counting Blackbirds

One for Sorrow, Two for Mirth (Joy), Three for a Wedding, Four for a Birth (Boy).  
 Five for Silver, Six for Gold, Seven's a Secret n'ere to be told. Eight's for Heaven,  
 Nine for Hell, and Ten for the Devil's ain self.

An alternate form deleted from children's books concludes with: Seven for  
 a Witch, Eight for a Whore, Nine for a burying, Ten will be a Dance.

### PALMISTRY

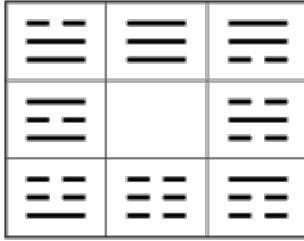
1. Little finger belongs to Mercury
2. Second Finger - the healer, Apollo
3. Third finger - Saturn
4. Fourth finger - Jupiter
5. Thumb is ascribed to various deities, including a strong aspect of Mercury or Hercules

### I-CHING TRIGRAMS, EARLY HEAVEN SEQUENCE

The Early Heaven Sequence represents the world in perfect harmony: Heaven

(1) balanced against Earth (8); Lake (2) -Mountain (7); Fire (3) - Water (6);

Thunder (4) - Wind (5). (Chien- Tui- Li- Chen- Sun - Kan -Ken- Kun)



1. Ch'ien (Heaven) - 'The Creative,' South
2. Tui (Water, Lake) - 'The Joyous', SE
3. Li (Lightning/fire) - 'The Clinging', East
4. Chen (Thunder) 'The Arousing', NE
5. Sun (Wind) 'The Gentle', SW
6. K'an (Water) 'The Abysmal' West
7. Ken (Mountain) 'Keeping Still', NW
8. K'un (Earth) - 'The Receptive', North

THE EMPEROR OF CHINA'S TWELVE SYMBOLS -From Whitlock, Herbert P. & Martin Ehrmann, *Story of Jade*, (1949) Sheridan, 1965, pp. 56-59.

1. Sun, often pictured as a 3-legged crow or a cock
2. Moon Hare pounding the Pill of Immortality
3. Stars, usually three in number 'sometimes seven' (3 stars are associated with Orion, 7 with the pole stars)
4. Mountains. "These symbolize constancy and firmness."
5. Dragon "symbol of imperial power. It is symbolic of virtue in a ruler."

6. The Pheasant, symbol of the Empress
7. Two cups “The meaning is very obscure.”
8. Spray of pond weed
9. Fire
10. Grains of rice
11. Axe
12. Textile design.

Number 7’s obscurity is interesting noting Mother Goose “Seven’s a secret.”

#### CHINESE ZODIAC

A lunar calendar, the signs begin with the rising of the full moon between 11pm and 1am. It traditionally starts February 4, each sign ruling for a year, rather than a month as in the Western zodiac tradition. I include the names of the Western constellations for comparison only. They have different attributes from the Western animals. The (black & white) Tiger is also associated with Orion, Lord of Measured Time (See Letter Three for Arrow of Time associated with third symbol).

1. Rat (Aquarius)
2. Cow (Capricorn)
3. Tiger (Sagittarius)
4. Hare (Scorpio)
5. Dragon (Libra)

6. Serpent (Virgo)
7. Horse (Leo)
8. Sheep or Ram (Cancer)
9. Monkey (Gemini)
10. Fowl or Rooster (Taurus)
11. Dog (Aries)
12. Pig or Boar (Pisces)

24 SYMBOL HIEROGLYPH ALPHABET (date of ordering unknown)

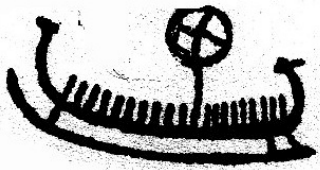
1. Vulture - Mother Goddess- Represents 'A' sound
2. Reed (appears as one or two Reeds)
3. Forearm
4. Quail
5. Straight leg
6. Seat
7. Snake with horns
8. Owl
9. Water
11. Reed shelter - made from Reeds (11 is mirror of 2: 1+1)
12. Plaited (upside-down) wick
13. Placenta
14. Belly of animal with Teats (i.e., nursing mother)

15. Bolt (Associated with Set, Devil-like god of Egypt)
16. Folded cloth
17. Lake, sea
18. Hill
19. Basket with handle
20. Stand for jugs
21. Bread -This depicts rising bread, not the flat wafer.
22. Hobble for cattle
23. Hand
24. Snake

#### SEVEN LIGHTS AND CALENDAR CYCLES

1.SUN - 365.25 days (a circle of 360 degrees + 5 days to regulate the calendar.  
every 4th year, a leap year is needed to keep calendar consistent with seasons)

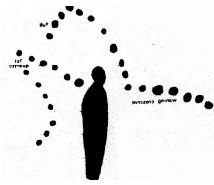
Unadjusted, the Sun and Moon (and Mercury) cycles realign every 19 years (Metonic Cycle). Number 18 is given to the moon, 19 to the sun.



On this Sun boat, New Grange, Ireland, c. 3100 BCE, there are 19 prongs, ten on one side, nine on the other. An unlikely number, it hints at this early period the builders of New Grange recognized the sun cycle.

2. MOON - 27.3 days from fixed star to fixed star, 29.5 days from phase to phase. 352 days to revolve the 360 degrees of the Zodiac.

The full moon is every 15th day ( $360/15 = 24$ , the number of some alphabets). By tradition, the moon cycle is usually given as 30 days. In a lunar year, there are 13 full moons, the Blue Moon being the second moon in a solar month.



Moon god, Paleolithic Spain. 30 dots. See 13th Letter 'M'.

Number 18, like the second and thirteenth, is a moon number. Every 18 .6 years, the full moon is at its closest to earth, appearing much brighter and larger than other years. This cycle may not have been known when the alphabet was first ordered, but was definitely known by the time of Tarot, Runes and Oghams. Tarot places The Moon as 18th card, followed by The Sun as 19

Saros Cycle - every 18 years 11 days, the sun and moon's nodes, where the moon crosses the ecliptic, line up and an eclipse will occur. Every 3 cycles (54 years) the eclipse occurs in the same zodiac sign.

3. MERCURY - 88 days to circle the earth.  $4 \times 88 = 352$ . Mercury thus quarters the earth 4 times in a lunar year. Numeral 4 is associated with Mercury. He is also linked to the number 7, spending 7.3 days in each of the 12 zodiac signs.

Returning to the original zodiac sign in the same month as the sun takes 7 years, during which he has 22 cycles. Pi ( $22/7$ ), controller of the circle, is 17th Greek

letter. Mercury's calendar aligns with the sun and moon every 19 years, the three meeting in the same zodiac sign.

As evening star, Mercury was known as Hermes. Rising with the sun, his name is Apollo.

#### 4. VENUS - orbits earth in 224.7 days.

She spends 236 as a morning star, disappears for 90 days; appears for 250 days (close to 9 months of pregnancy) as evening star. Then she disappears for 8 days. It takes her 1.6 years between morning risings, 5 such heliacal risings, each occurring in a different zodiac sign, marks a pentacle in 8 years. Both numerals 5 and 8 therefore are associated with Venus. She orbits earth 13 times during the 8 years. The horned moon, another of the Great Goddess' aspects, has 13 months per solar year.

As evening star, she was known as Venus. As morning star, she is Lucifer, a great light thrown from Heaven (see 5th letter).

#### 5. MARS - 687 days

Every 15 years, Mars is closest to earth and shines brightly. Numeral 15 is associated with Mars, also numeral 3.

#### 6. JUPITER - 11.9 years (or 12 years)

As ruler (12 inches, 12 months) of the sky, Jupiter, King of the Gods, appears in one zodiac sign a year on his 12 year journey. Another measuring ruler, he is the supreme god of the Romans. In the form of Letter L (El), he



appears as our 12th letter.

## 7. SATURN - 29.5 (30 years)

Numeral 30 belongs to Saturn ('seven') as does 7 and 50. Have not satisfactorily found an astronomical reason for 50 rather than 49. May just be desire for round numbers. This is the Jubilee number when after 7x7 years, on the 50th, the land rests, and slaves are set free. Saturn is traditionally associated with the common man. On the Saturnalia (our twelfth month as December), the world turns upside down and masters serve their slaves. In Alchemy, Saturn is a blacken aspect of Mercury..

Jupiter and Saturn conjunct every 20 years, 5 times in 100 years. This is an important bright conjunction. Supposedly, this was the Christmas Star followed by Magi looking for the Christ Child.

Note: Orion, also known as Saturn, becomes Tarot's Zero. As an early form of the wealth-bringing cipher as 0, zeros were written with the number 30. When the Babylonians began using the zero (about 500 BCE) they wrote it with the symbol for '30'. The moon cycle is also associated with numeral 30.

## 8. THE POLE STARS

Pi (Greek name) is 17th letter. Phoenician's Pe ('mouth' or 'commandment') is associated with the Pole Star around which all stars circle. The current Pole stars are traditionally seven, replacing the older Draco who lost control around 3000 BCE. Tarot depicts The Star as 17th card; Runes place Tir, god of the North Star, in this position.

↑ Tir, symbol marking North Star

## 9. SIRIUS

The Dog star following Orion in the sky was also an important calendar marker, rising just before the sun (heliacal rising) near the Summer Solstice c. 4500 BCE. This preceded the July's yearly flood of the Nile. Decan stars, those travelling the same circle as Orion and Sirius, rise in the east every 10 days. After setting in the West, they take 72 days to reappear, to be reborn, in the night sky.<sup>469</sup> Zodiac stars like Taurus, rising 30 days apart, take 40 days to reappear.

## TWELVE SIGNS OF THE WESTERN ZODIAC

A solar calendar, each sign rules for one month. Rule begins with the constellation's rising at sunrise. This Zodiac was frozen at Aries. Due to the Precession, the zodiac signs no longer correspond with the stars actually rising on the Spring Equinox. As with all my ordered symbols, each sign has certain fixed attributes associated with its position.

1. Aries - ruler is Mars (March 21 - April 21)
2. Taurus - ruler is Venus (April /May)
3. Gemini - ruler is Mercury (May/June)
4. Cancer - Moon (June/July)
5. Leo - Sun (July/August)
6. Virgo - Mercury (August/September)

---

<sup>469</sup> See: The Egyptian Origins of Planetary Hypsomata, Joanne Conman (Discussions in Egyptology 64 (2006-2009)). [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu)

7. Libra - Venus (September/October)
8. Scorpio - Mars or Pluto (October/November)
9. Sagittarius - Jupiter (November/December)
10. Capricorn - Saturn (December/January)
11. Aquarius - Saturn (January/February)
12. Pisces - Jupiter or Neptune (February/March)

Included below is a Table of several other patterns compared in this study.

Images of all alphabets appear in the Introduction to the respective alphabets.

	TAROT	PHOENICIAN	EGYPTIAN	FUTHARK	OGHAM
1	The Magician	Alp -Bull	Vulture	Cattle	Beth (Birch)
2	The High Priestess	Beth -House	Reed	Aurochs or Shower	---
3	The Empress	Giml - Camel or Rope	Forearm	Thorn or Giant	Luis (Rowan)
4	The Emperor	Dalet -Door	Quail	High God or Mouth	Nion (Ash) or Fearn (Alder)
5	The Pope	Hey - Window	Leg	Ride Wheel	Saille (Willow)
6	The Lovers	Vau - Nail	Seat	Torch or Cancre	Fearn (Alder) or Nion (Ash)
7	The Chariot	Zain - Weapon	Snake with horns	Gift	Hawthorn or Horrible
8	Justice	Heth - Gate	Owl	Joy	Duir (Oak)
9	The Hermit	Teth - Coil or Ball of Yarn	Water	Hail, Hag Goddess	Tinne (Holly or Fire)
10	Wheel of Fortune	Yod -Hand	Mouth	Need	Col (Hazel)
11	Strength	Kaph -Palm of hand	Reed House	Ice	Quert (Apple)
12	The Hanged Man	Lamedh - goad	Plaited wick (rope)	Harvest	Muin) Vine
13	Death	Mem - water	Placenta	Yew	Gort (Ivy)
14	Temperance	Nun - Serpent-fish	Belly with Teats	Lot or Dice box	Ng (Reed)
15	The Devil	Samekh - Serpent	Bolt	Elk or Protection	----
16	Lightening Struck Tower	Tsade -Hunt or Fish hook	Folded Cloth	Sun	Straif (Blackthorn)
17	The Star	Pe - Mouth or Command	Lake or Sea	Tir (god of North Star)	Ruis (Elder)
18	The Moon	Tsad - Hunt, Fish hook	Hill	Birch	Ailim (Palm)
19	The Sun	Qop - Monkey	Basket	Horse	Ohn (Furze)
20	Judgment	Ros -Head	Stand for jugs	Man	Uhr (Heather)
21		Sin -Tooth	Bread	Lake /Leek	Eodha (Poplar)
22	The World	Tau -Mark	Hobble for cattle	Ing - earth god	Ioho (Yew)
23			Hand	Day	
24	0 -The Fool		Serpent	Homeland	

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allen, Richard, *Star Names* (1899), Dover, 1963
- Apollonius, *Voyage of the Argo* (250 BCE), E.V. Rieu, trans (1959), Penguin, 1987
- Aswynn, Freya, *Leaves of Yggdrasil*, Llewellyn, 1990
- Atwood, M.A., *Hermetic Philosophy* (1850), Julian Press, 1960
- Avalon, Arthur (Sir John Woodroffe), *Serpent Power* (1919) Dover, 1974
- Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, Henry Lincoln, *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, Delcourt Press, 1982
- Bayley, Harold, *Hidden Symbols of the Rosicrucians* (1903), Surefire Press, 1988  
*...Lost Language of Symbolism* (1912) Rowman & Littlefield, 1968
- Beauval, Robert, Adrian Gilbert, *Orion Mystery*, Crown, 1994
- Beinfeld, Harriet, Efreim Korngold, *Between Heaven and Earth*, Ballentine, 1992
- Bell, Eric, *Magic of Numbers* (1946), Dover, 1991
- Benfey, Theodore, *Sanskrit-English Dictionary* (1866) Asian Educational Services, 1991
- Benham, William, *Book of Palmistry* (1900) Newcastle, 1988
- Berg, Rav, *The Essential Zohar*, Bell Tower, 2002
- Betro, Maria Carmela, *Hieroglyphics*, Abbeyville Press, 1996
- Bishoff, Erich, *The Kaballa* (1910), Weiser, 1998
- Brand, John, *Observations On The Popular Antiquities*, 3 vol, Bohns, 1849
- Boisson, Maruice, *Magic*, E.P. Dutton, 1961
- Brier, Bob, *Ancient Egyptian Magic*, Quill, 1980
- Briggs, Katharine *British Folk Tales*, Pantheon, 1977
- Budapest, Zsuzsanna, *Grandmother of Time*, Harper Row, 1989
- Budge, E.A. Wallis, *From Fetish to God* (1934), Dover, 1988  
*...Egyptian Language* (1889), Dover, 1983  
*...Egyptian Magic* (1901) Dover, 1971
- Burkhardt, V.R., (b. 1884), *Chinese Creeds and Customs*, So China Morning Post, 1966
- Caesar, *Conquest of Gaul* (c.50 BCE), S.A. Handford, trans, Penguin, 1960
- Campbell, Joseph, Richard Roberts, *Tarot Revelations*, Vernal Equinox, 1982
- Calasso, Robert, *Marriage of Cadmus and Harmonia*, NY, Knopf, 993
- Carmichaell, Alexander, *Carmina Gadelica* (1899), Lindesfarne, 1992
- Caras, Roger, *North American Animals*, Meridith Press, 1967
- Cary, Warmington, *Explorers of the Ancient World*, Penguin, 1963,
- Clark, R.T. Rundle, *Myth and Symbol in Ancient Egypt*, Thames & Hudson, 1978
- Cleary, Thomas, trans. Liu I-Ming, *Awakening to the Tao*, Shambhala, 198  
*...The Essential Tao (Tao Te Ching, Chuang Tzu)*, Castle Books, 1998
- Cohen, Mark, *Cultic Calendars of the Ancient Near East*, CDL Press, 1993
- Cooper, Rabbi David, *God is a Verb*, Kaballah, Riverhead, 1997
- Cooper, J.C., *Symbolic & Mythological Animals*, Aquarian, 1992
- Damas, Michael, *Mythic Ireland*, Thames and Hudson, 1991
- Davidson, H.R. Ellis, *Gods & Myths of Northern Europe*, Penguin, 1971

- ...*Scandinavian Mythology*, Peter Bedrick, 1988  
 ...*Myths & Symbols in Pagan Europe*, Syracuse, 1988  
 Davidson, Norman, *Astronomy and the Imagination*, Routledge, 1985  
 De Breffny, Brian, *The Land of Ireland*, Harry N Abrams, 1985,  
 Dennis, Rabbi Geoffrey, *Encyclopedia of Jewish Myth, Magic and Mysticism*,  
 Llewellyn, 2008  
 Derolez, R, *Runica Manuscripta*, U. of Ghent, 1954  
 DeSantillana, Giorgio, Von Dechend, *Hamlet's Mill* (1977), Godine, 1992  
 Dibner, Bern, *Agricola on Metals* (1556), Burndy Library, 1958  
 Dillon, Myles *Early Irish Literature*, U. Chicago Press, 1948  
 ---with Nora Chadwick, *Celtic Realms*, London, 1967  
 Diringer, David, *The Alphabet, Key to History*, Philosophical Library, 1948  
 ...*The Alphabet*, 2 vol., Funk & Wagnalls, 1968  
 ...*Writing*, Praeger, 1967  
 Dobhihofer, Ernest, *Voices in Stone*, Viking, 1961  
 Ellis, Peter, *Irish Mythology*, Oxford, 1987  
 ...*Celtic Mythology*, Oxford, 1992  
*Encyclopedia Judaica*, 16 vol, Macmillan, 1972  
 Farmer, David Hugn, *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, Oxford U. Press (1983), 1991  
*Fiedl Day Anthology of Irish Writing*, Seamus Dean, editor, Norton, 1992  
 Fisher, Adrian, *The Labyrinth*, Crown, 1990  
 Freemantle, Francesca & Chogyam Trungpa, *Tibetan Book of the Dead*,  
 Shambhala, 1987  
 Gadon, Elinor, *The Once & Future Goddess*, Harper Collins, 1989  
 Gaster, Theodor, *Festivals of the Jewish Year* (1952), Quill, 1978  
 Getty, Alice, *Gods of Northern Buddhism* (1914), Dover, 1988  
 Gikatilla, Rabbi Joseph (b. 1248), *Gates of Light*, Weinstein trans, Harper  
 Collins, 1994  
 Gimbutas, Marija, *The Goddesses & Gods of Old Europe*, U. California, 1982  
 ...*Language of The Goddess*, Harper & Row, 1989  
 ...*Civilization of The Goddess*, Harper Collins, 1991  
 Golowin, Sergius, *World of the Tarot*, Weiser, 1988  
 Goodrich, Anne, *Peking Temple of the Eastern Peak*, Monumenta Serica, 1964  
 Gordon, Cyrus, *Ancient Near East*, Norton, 1965  
 Grahn, Judy, *Another Mother Tongue*, Beacon Press, 1984  
 Graves, Robert, *The White Goddess* (1948), Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1966  
 --- *Greek Myths* (1955) Pelican, 1982, vol  
 Green, Miranda, *Symbol & Image in Celtic Religious Art*, Routledge, 1992  
 Gregory, Lady, *Gods & Fighting Men* (1904), Macmillan, 1976  
 Great Britain Imperial Records, *Feasts and Holidays of the Hindus*, 1914  
 Grimal, Pierre, *Dictionary of Classical Mythology*, Penguin, 1990  
 Gundarrson, Kveldulf, *Teutonic Religion*, Llewellyn, 1993  
 Hadamitzky, W, Mark Spahn, *Kanji & Kana*, Tuttle, 1994  
 Hallam, Elizabeth, *Saints*, Simon & Schuster, 1994

- Harrison, Jane, *Prologomena* (1903), Princeton, 1991
- Hawkins, Gerald, *Stonehenge Decoded*, Doubleday, 1965
- Henshall, Kenneth, *Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters* (1988), Tuttle, 1993
- Herder, *Dictionary of Symbols*, Chiron, 1986
- Herodotus, *History of Herodotus*, George Rawlinson, trans, Tudor, (1928), 1947
- Hollander, Lee, trans, *Poetic Edda* (c.1200), U. of Texas, 1962  
 ...*Old Norse Poems*, U. of Columbia Press, 1936
- Holst, Sanford, *Secrets of the Phoenicians*, Santorini, 2011
- Hoppin, James, *Old England*, Houghton Mifflin, 1867
- Hyde, Walter Woodburn, *Ancient Greek Mariners*, Oxford, 1947
- Hua-Ching Ni, *The Book of Changes*, Seven Star, 1983
- Jackson, Kenneth, *Celtic Miscellany*, Harvard, 1951  
 ...*Studies in Early Celtic Nature Poetry*, Cambridge, 1935
- Jacobsen, Thorkild, *Treasures of Darkness*, Yale, 1976
- Jacq, Christian, *Fascinating Hieroglyphs*, Sterling, 1998
- Jaschke, H.A., *Tibetan English Dictionary* (1881), Motilal Banarsidass, 1980
- Jensen, Hans, *Sign, Symbol & Script*, Putnam, 1969
- Jeanes, George, *Writing*, Abrams, 1992
- Johnson, Buffie, *Lady of the Beasts*, Harper, 1988
- Jones, Alison, *Larousse Dictionary of World Folklore*, (1995) NYC, 1996,
- Joyce, P.W., *A Social History of Ancient Ireland*, London, 1903
- Kalweit, Holger, *Shamans, Healers & Medicine Men* (1987), Shambhala, 1992
- Kaplan, Aryeh, trans. *The Bahir* (1176), Weiser, 1990  
 ...*Sefir Yetzerah*
- Kelly, Edward, *Theatre of Terrestrial Astronomy* (16th C), Alchemical Publishing, 1988
- Khanna, *Madhu, Yantra*, Thames & Hudson, 1994
- Krupp, E.C., *Beyond the Blue Horizon*, Harper, 1991
- Lamy, Lucie, *Egyptian Mysteries*, Crossroad, 1981
- Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching*, D.C. Lau, trans, Penguin, 1963  
 --- *Tao Teh Ching*, John Wu, trans(1961). Barnes & Noble, 1997  
 --- *Tao, Te Ching*. Lectures, Man-jen Cheng, Tam Gibbs, North Atlantic Books, 1981
- Ledbetter, C. W., *Ancient Mystic Rites* (1926), Quest, 1986
- Legg, James, *I-Ching*, (1899), University Books, 1966  
 ...*Li Chi*, NY University, 1967
- Leland, C.G., *Gypsy Sorcery* (1889), Anthony Naylor, 1993
- Lemoine, Jacque, *Yao Ceremonial Paintings*, White Lotus, 1982
- Levi, Eliphas, (*La Clef des Grands Mysteres*, 1896), AE Waite, trans, Weiser, 1992
- Lissner, Ivar, *Man, God, and Magic*, Putnam, 1961
- Logan, James, *The Scottish Gael*, Harford, 1846
- Lurker, Manfred, *Gods & Symbols of Ancient Egypt*, Thames & Hudson, 1984

- Magnus Albertus (c. 1300), *Book of Minerals*, D. Wyckoff, trans, Clarendon, 1967
- Manjo, Guido, *The Healing Hand*, Harvard, 1975
- Matthews, John, *Celtic Reader*, Aquarian, 1992
- ...*Hallowquest*, London, 1990
- Matthews, John and Bob Stewart, *Legendary Britain*, London, 1993
- McKenna, Terence, *Food of the Gods*, Bantam, 1993
- Melaart, James, *Catal Huyuk*, McGraw Hill, 1967
- Moore, Patrick, *Stargazing*, Barrons, 1985
- Motoyama, Hiroshi, *Theories of the Chakras*, Quest, 1981
- Murphy, Gerard, *Early Irish Lyrics* (1956), Oxford, 1960
- Napier, *Masks, Transformation & Paradox*, U. California, 1986
- Neubebauer, Otto, *Exact Sciences in Antiquity* (1952), 2nd. ed., Dover, 1969
- Neumann, Erich, *The Great Mother* (1955), Bollingen Press, 1991
- Nichols, Sallie, *Jung & Tarot*, Weiser, 1980
- Novallo, Adriano, *The Armenians*, Rizzoli, 1986
- Northall, G.F., *English Folk Rhymes*, London, 1892
- Opie, *Lore and Language of School Children*, Oxford, 1959
- Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 2nd ed., 1972
- Palsson, Hermann & Paul Edwards, trans, *Egil's Saga*, Penguin, 1988,
- Pennick, Nigel, *Secret Games of the Gods*, Weiser, 1989
- Peterson, *Field Guide to The Birds*, Houghton Mifflin
- Pollack, Rachael, *Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom*, Aquarian, 1983
- Poole, A.L. *From Domesday Book to Magna Carta*, Clarendon Press, 1951
- Potter, Samuel, *Compendia of Materia Medica*, (1913), Blakiston's, 1917
- Pritchard, James, ed., *Ancient Near East*, Princeton, 1958
- Readers Digest, *Magic and Medicine of Plants*, 1986
- Rees, Alwyn and Brinley, *Celtic Heritage*, Thames & Hudson, 1991
- Rhie, Marylin , Robert Thurman, *Wisdom & Compassion, Sacred Art of Tibet*, Abrams, 1991
- Rohde, Eleanor Sinclair, *The Old English Herbals* (1922), Dover, 1989
- Rolle, Renate, *World of the Scythians* (F.G. Walls, trans) U. of Calif. Press, 1989
- Rudiger, Robert Beer, *Unicorn*, Mason & Carter, 1977
- Rutherford, Ward, *Celtic Lore*, Aquarian, 1993
- ...*Celtic Mythology* ((1987), Sterling, 1990
- Schimmel, Anne Marie, *Mystery of Numbers*, Oxford, 1993
- Schwartz, Howard, *Tree of Souls*, Oxford, 2004
- Scholem, Gershom, *Origins of the Kabbalah*, Allan Arkush, trans Princeton, 1990
- ...*On The Kabbalah And Its Symbolism* (1960), Schocken, 1996
- Shaw, Miranda, *Passionate Enlightenment*, Princeton U. Press, 1995
- Skelton, Robin & Margaret Blackwood, *Earth Aire, Fire, Water*, Arkana, 1990
- Spalinger, Anthony, *Epagomenal Days in Ancient Egypt*, Journal of Near Eastern Studies, vol. 54, U. Chigago Press, Jan 1995
- Swadesh, Morris, *Origin and Diversification of Language*, Aldine, 1971
- Strassfield, Michael, *Jewish Holidays*, Harper Row, 1985



- Sturlusson, Snorri (b. 1178), *Prose Edda*, Jean Young trans, U. California, 1954  
 ... *The Elder or Poetic Edda, Mythological Poems*, Olive Bray, trans., Viking Club, 1908  
 ---*Poetic Edda*, Lee Hollander, trans, U. of Texas, 1962  
 ... *Heimskringla Saga*, c. 1200 CE, Samael Laing, trans, Dutton, 1961
- Thompson, George, *Studies in Ancient Greek Society*, Citadel, 1965
- Thorsson, Edred, *Runelore*, Weiser, 1988
- Titchenell, Elsa-Brita, *Masks of Odin*, Theosophical Press, 1985
- Tolstoi, Nikolai, *Quest for Merlin*, Little Brown, 1985
- Ulufudu, *Zulu Bone Oracle*, Berkeley, 1989
- Vigfusson, Gulbrand & F. York Powell, trans, *Corpus Poeticum Boreale*, Clarendon Press, 1883
- Walker, Barbara, *Secrets of the Tarot*, Harper Row, 1984  
 ...*Woman's Dictionary*, Harper Row, 1988
- Walters, Derek, *Chinese Geomancy*, Element Books, 1989  
 ...*The Alternate I-Ching* (1983), Aquarian Press, 1987  
 ...*Chinese Mythology*, Aquarian Press, 1992
- West, John Anthony, *Serpent in the Sky*, Quest, 1993
- Wethered, H. N, *Mind of the Ancient World (Pliny's Natural World)*, London, 1937
- White, Lynn, *Medieval Technology*, Oxford, 1962
- White, T.H., trans, *Book of Beasts* (12th century), Putnam, 1954
- Whitlock*, Herbert P. and Martin L. Ehrmann, *Story of Jade*, (1949) Sheridan, 1965
- Wilson, Ian, *Before the Flood*, St Martins, 2002,
- Wolkstein, Diane & Noah Kramer, trans., *Inanna*, Harper & Row, 1983
- Wong, Eva, *Cultivating the Stillness* (c.200-589 CE), Shambhala, 1992