

# Kabbalah ~ Qabalah



## Tree of Life

The word 'Qabala' finds its root in the Hebrew word 'Qibel' meaning 'to receive by oral tradition'.

This receiving refers to an oral tradition of esoteric or secret knowledge concerning 'essentially' the mysteries of Nature, and more overtly, the hidden teachings concerning the Hebrew Torah. The Torah is, of course, the first five books of what Christians call the Old Testament, and the oldest surviving of the Judaic liturgical texts.

The Kabala is an ancient Hebrew mystical system of thought. It is a symbolic representation of the

path the Divine followed in the creation of the universe, including man. It is, by definition, humanity's process of returning to divinity along the same path.

Kabbala, also spelled KABALA, KABBALAH, CABALA, CABBALA, OR CABBALAH, is an esoteric Jewish mysticism as it appeared in the 12th and following centuries. Kabbala has always been essentially an oral tradition in that initiation into its doctrines and practices is conducted by a personal guide to avoid the dangers inherent in mystical experiences.

Esoteric Kabbala is also "tradition" inasmuch as it lays claim to secret knowledge of the unwritten Torah (divine revelation) that was communicated by God to Moses and Adam. Though observance of the Law of Moses remained the basic tenet of Judaism, Kabbala provided a means of approaching God directly.

It thus gave Judaism a religious dimension whose mystical approaches to God were viewed by some as dangerously pantheistic and heretical.

The earliest roots of Kabbala are traced to Merkava mysticism. It began to flourish in Palestine in the 1st century AD and had as its main concern ecstatic and mystical contemplation of the divine throne, or "chariot" (merkava), seen in a vision by Ezekiel, the prophet (Ezekiel 1).



The earliest known Jewish text on magic and cosmology, Sefer Yetzira ("Book of Creation"), appeared sometime between the 3rd and the 6th century. It explained creation as a process involving the 10 divine numbers (sefirot; see sefira) of God the Creator and the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet.

Taken together, they were said to constitute the "32 paths of secret wisdom."

A major text of early Kabbala was the 12th-century Sefer ha-bahir ("Book of Brightness"), whose influence on the development of Jewish esoteric mysticism and on Judaism in general was profound and lasting.

The Bahir not only interpreted the sefirot as instrumental in creating and sustaining the universe but also introduced into Judaism such notions as the transmigration of souls (gilgul) and strengthened the foundations of Kabbala by providing it with an extensive mystical symbolism.

### Spanish Kabbala

In the following century, the Sefer ha-temuna ("Book of the Image") appeared in Spain and

advanced the notion of cosmic cycles, each of which provides an interpretation of the Torah according to a divine attribute.

**Judaism**, consequently, was presented not as a religion of immutable truths but as one for which each cycle, or eon, was said to have a different Torah.

Spain also produced the famous Sefer ha-zohar ("Book of Splendour"), a book that in some circles was invested with a sanctity rivaling that of the Torah itself. It dealt with the mystery of creation and the functions of the sefirot, and it offered mystical speculations about evil, salvation, and the soul.

Following their expulsion from Spain in 1492, the Jews were more than ever taken up with messianic hopes and eschatology, and Kabbala found wide favour.

**Lurianic Kabbala.** By the mid-16th century the unchallenged centre of Kabbala was Safed, Galilee, where one of the greatest of all Kabbalists, Isaac ben Solomon Luria, spent the last years of his life. According to Gershom Gerhard Scholem, a modern Jewish scholar of Kabbala, Luria's influence was surpassed only by that of the Sefer ha-zohar.

Lurianic Kabbala developed several basic doctrines: the "withdrawal" (tzimtzum) of the divine light, thereby creating primordial space; the sinking of luminous particles into matter (qellipot: "shells"); and a "cosmic restoration" (tiqqun) that is achieved by the Jew through an intense mystical life and unceasing struggle against evil. Lurianic Kabbalism was used to justify Shabbetaianism, a Jewish messianic movement of the 17th century.

Lurianic Kabbala also profoundly influenced the doctrines of modern Hasidism, a social and religious movement that began in the 18th century and still flourishes today in small but significant Jewish communities.

The Sefer Zohar or "Book of Splendour" is supposed to be the most authoritative Kabbalistic work, but this massive series of books is so obscure and symbolic as to be practically incomprehensible.

Although traditionally said to date back to the first century C.E., in its present form the Zohar is most likely of 13th Century Spanish vintage, compiled by the Kabbalistic writer Moses de Leon (c.1240-1305) from a combination of his own ideas and contemporary Kabbalistic elements [Gershom Scholem, Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, chapter 5].

Moses de Leon was a brilliant homilectical rather than a systematic thinker. He was concerned not with formulating a coherent metaphysical system, but with the elaboration and interpretation of verses of scripture from the Torah, often in the form of obscure mystical allegorizations.

It was this rich mass of imagery and allegory that the Zohar contains that served as the inspiration for all subsequent generations of Kabbalists.



**The Kabala is presented, symbolically in the form of The Tree of Life.**

The Tree contains ten centers called sephiroth, individually sephira, which are connected by 22 paths.



### THE SEPHIROTH

### THE SPHERES



#### **Sphere 1:**

**KETER ....CROWN, GOD, INFINITE LIGHT & WISDOM, TOTAL & SUPREME CONSCIOUSNESS**

#### **Sphere 2:**

**CHOHMAN...MALE YANG ENERGIES, PURE ENERGY, SPIRITUAL FORCE, COSMIC FATHER**

#### **Sphere 3:**

**BINAH...YIN ENERGY, COMPASSION, PURE LOVE & UNDERSTANDING, THE COSMIC MOTHER**

#### **Sphere 4:**

**CHESED...THE RULER, MAJESTY, POWER & AUTHORITY, CONSOLIDATOR OF THINGS**

#### **Sphere 5:**

**GEBURAH...THE WARRIOR, SPSENER OF MARS, STRENGTH, JUSTICE, PHYSICAL POWER**

**Sphere 6:**

**TIPERETH...THE SUN, HARMONY, BEAUTY, PERFECTION, UNITY, CREATION**

**Sphere 7:**

**NEDZACH...THE LOVER, VENUS, ART, CREATIVITY INSPIRATION & EROTIC SPIRITUALITY**

**Sphere 8:**

**HOD...THE INTELLECT, MERCURY, COMMUNICATION**

**Sphere 9:**

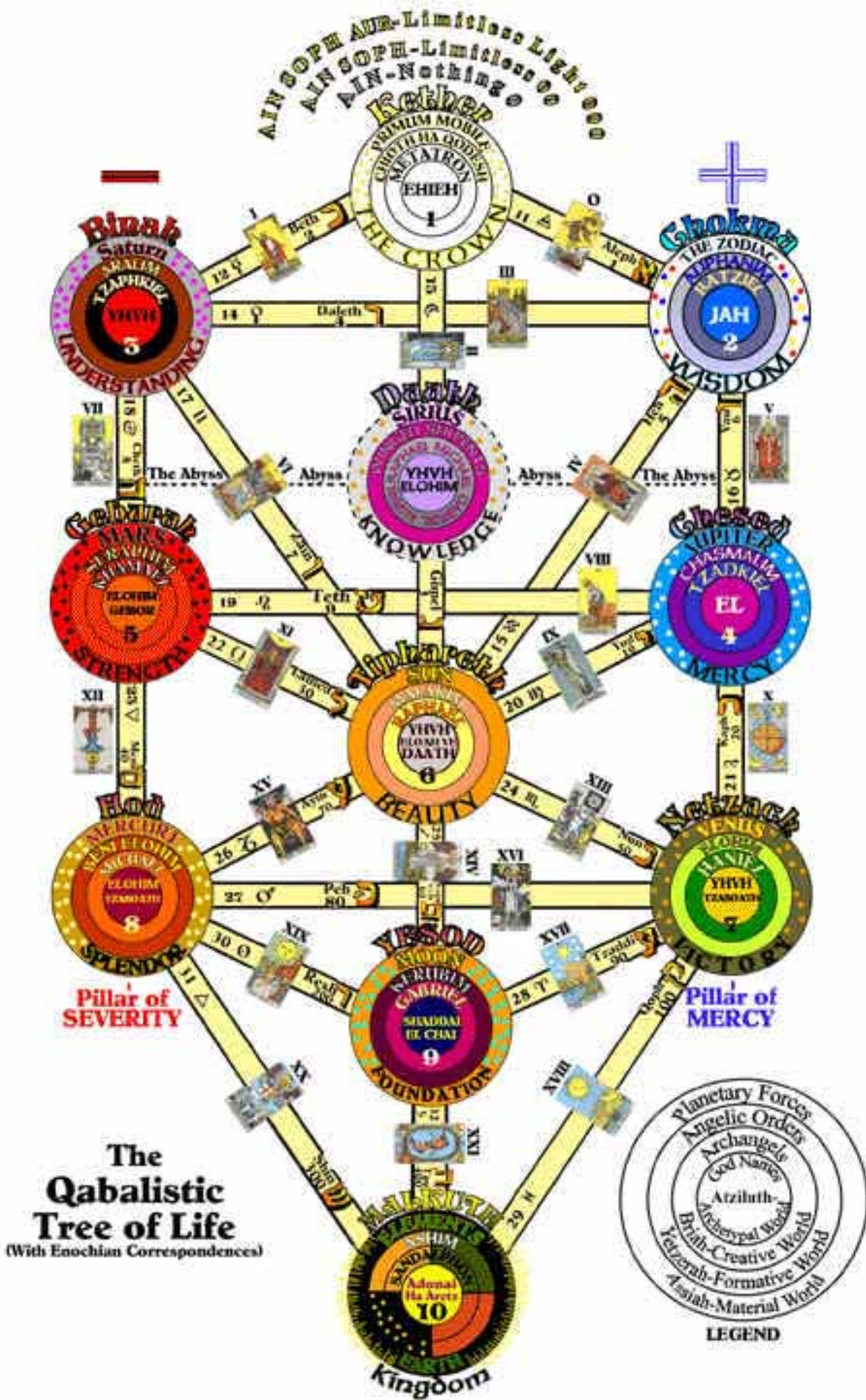
**YESOD...THE MOON, VISION & DEEP MEMORY, THE CYCLES IN & AROUND US, ILLUSION**

**Sphere10:**

**MALKUTH...PHYSICAL REALITY, DEATH, PAIN, HEALING**

**Sphere11:**

**DAATH...THE ABYSS, RANDOM CHAOS OF THOUGHT & CONCEPTION**



**The centers are arranged in three columns. The left column is called the Pillar of Severity.**

**This represents the female side of man and contains three sephira: Binah (Understanding), Geburah (Severity) and Hod (Splendor).**

**The right column is called the Pillar of Mercy.**

**This represents the male side of man and also contains three sephira: Chokmah (Wisdom), Chesed (Mercy) and Netzach (Victory).**

**The middle pillar is called the Pillar of Equilibrium.**

**It represents the balance between the male and female pillars.**

**It contains four sephira:**

**Kether (Crown), Tiphareth (Beauty), Yesod (Foundation) and Malkuth (Kingdom).**

**The Kabbala requires four of these Trees, one for each world of the cosmos.**

**The Four Worlds:**

**Atziluth:**

**Representing the archetypal world, pure Divinity, and Yod of the Hebrew Name of God. It corresponds to the Suit of Wands in the Tarot.**

**Briah:**

**Representing the creative world, the Archangelic, and thee in the Hebrew Name of God. It corresponds to the Suit of Cups.**

**Yetzirah:**

**Represents the formative world, the Angelic, and Vau is the Hebrew name of God. It corresponds to the Suit of Swords.**

**Assiah: Representing the material world, man, and the final He in the Hebrew Name of God. It corresponds to the Suit of Coins.**



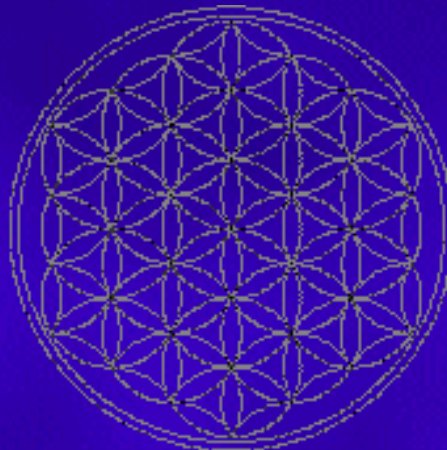
Greater understanding of the Tree Of Life -



Can be had if you view the image as multi-dimensional -  
Spinning or rotating in whatever direction you see it.



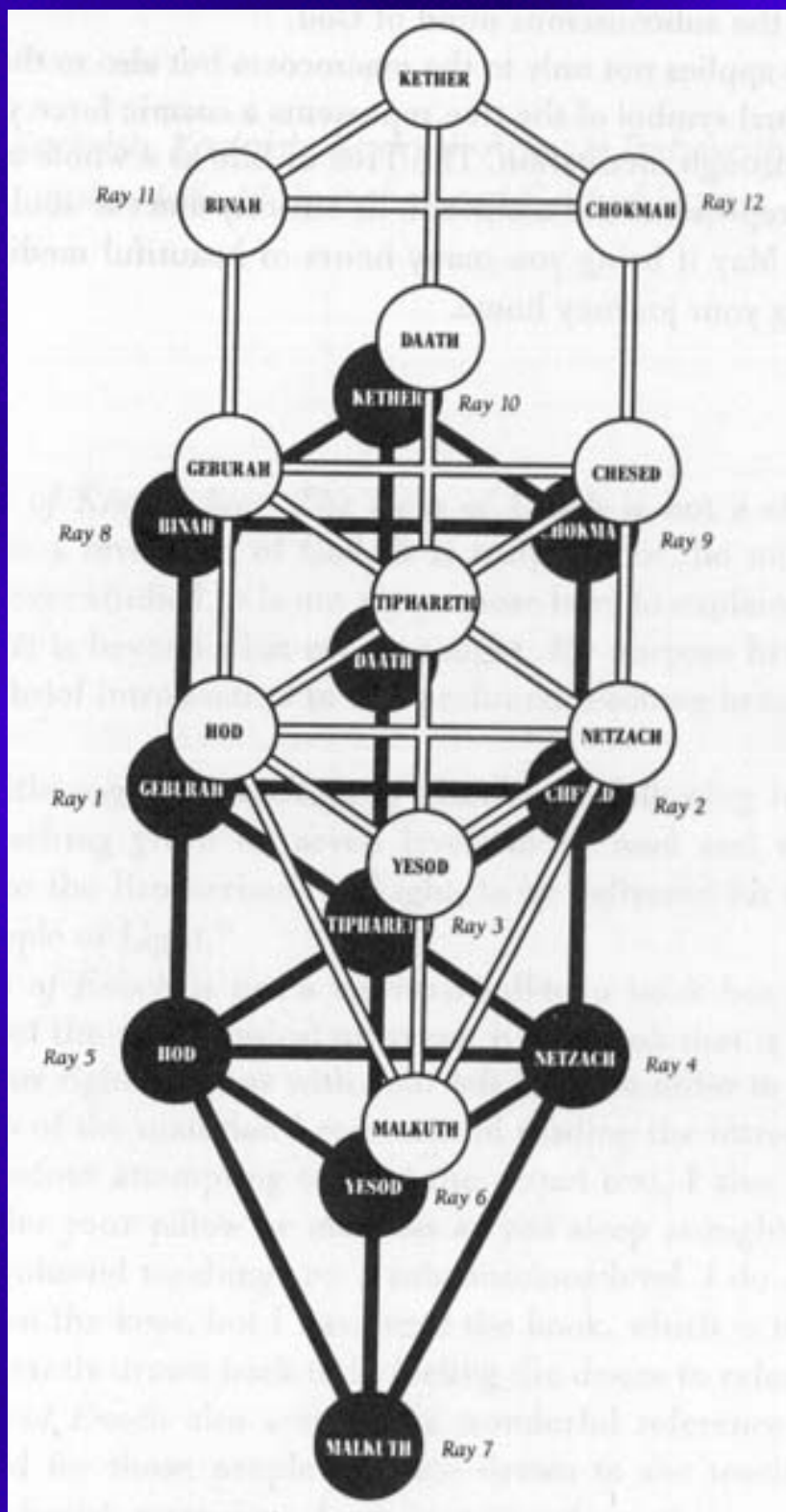
The Tree of Life is an archetype that  
follows the same Creational Patterns of



SACRED GEOMETRY



The Old Tree of Life merging



with the new Tree of Life



Tree of Life, Winged Discs, Omphalos, Arcs & Archetypes

Once upon a time . . .

a Thought created a Tone.

The tone created Keys of Light

The Keys of Light created Colors in Spectrum.

Sound, light, and color created patterns ([geometry](#)).

The patterns set up a 'Tree of Life'

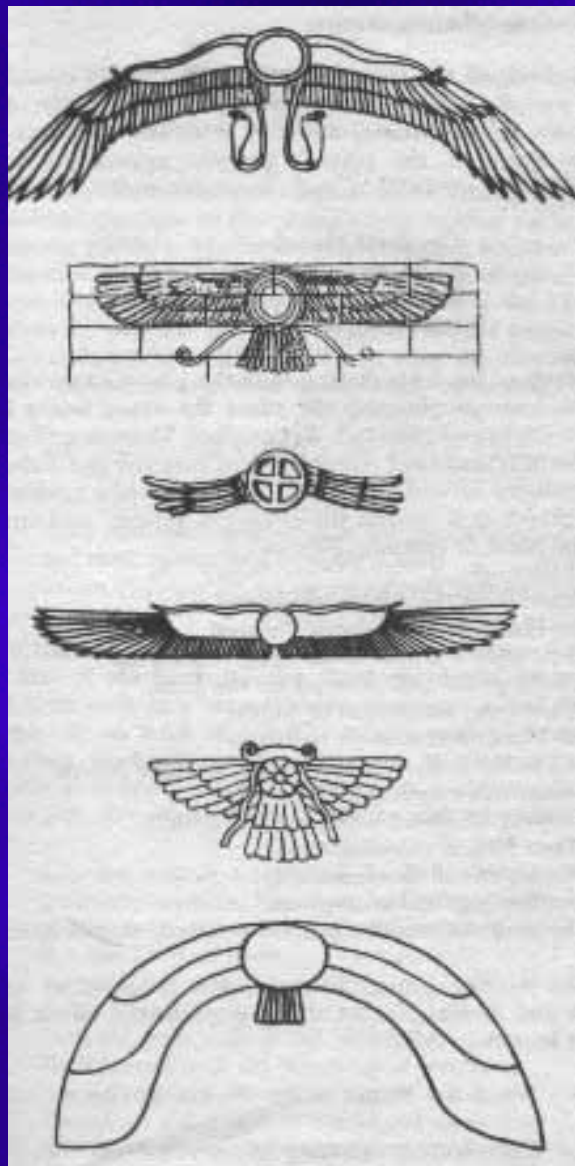
for a Cycle of Time.



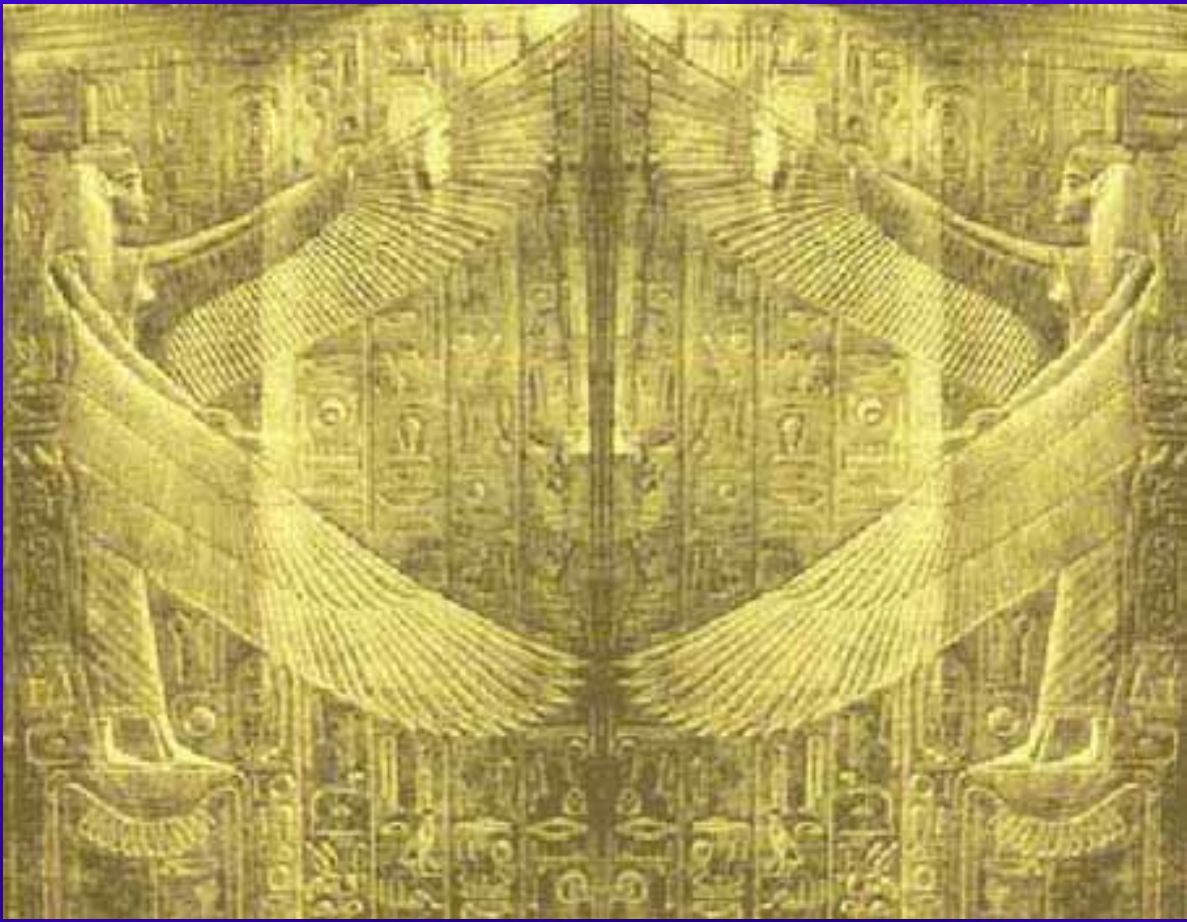


From the beginning there were Arcs and [Archetypes](#).

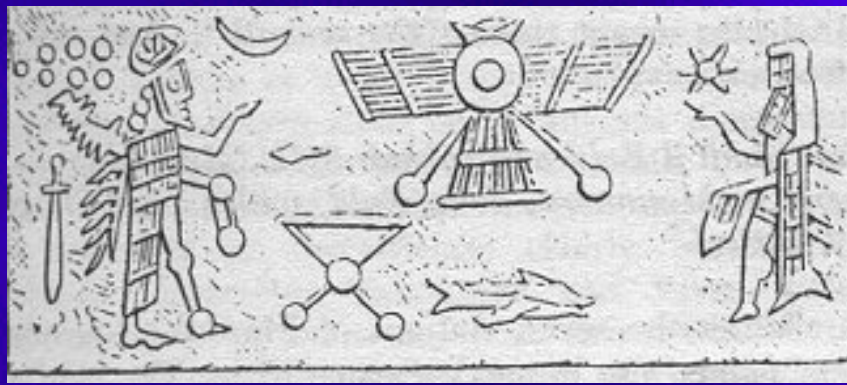
Winged Discs - Astrology - Celestial Events







Zoroaster (Z)



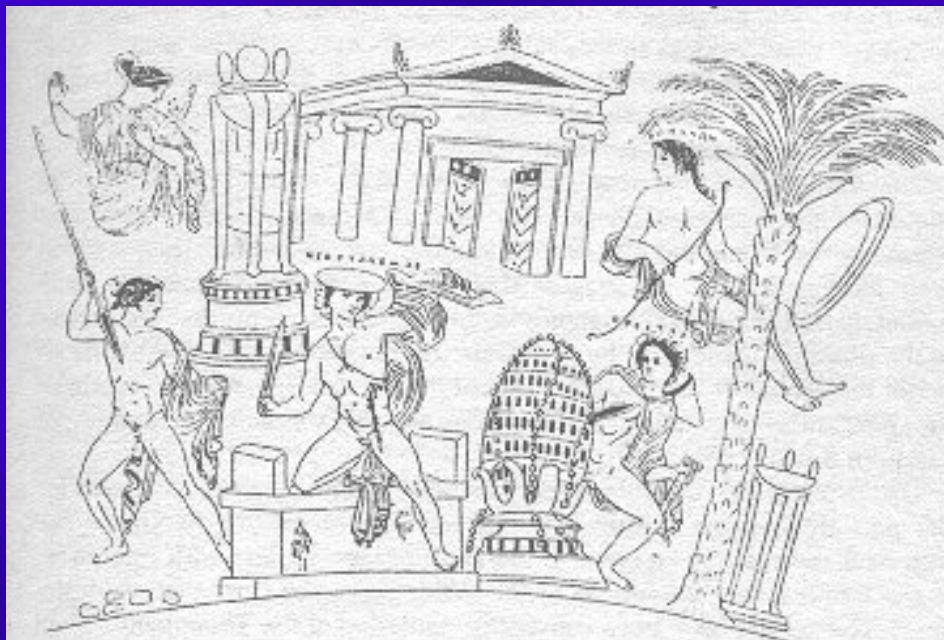
The Archetypes - Symbols - were sometimes found together



Hebrew Tree of Life  
Winged Gods

**Winged - Solar Discs**

**The omphalos is a very common type of religious stone artifact. The word omphalos means "navel" in greek. According to the ancient Greeks, Zeus sent out two eagles to fly across the world and they met at its center, the "navel" of the world--which the omphalos represents. Many records indicate that the omphalos stone was the holiest object at various oracle centers in all the lands bordering the Mediterranean Sea, the most well known being at Delphi. It most likely originated from the "stone of splendor" associated with the Canaanite god Baal. The main characteristic of the omphalos/stone of splendor was its ability to allow direct communication with the gods.**



The image above is an ancient Greek depiction of Delphi. In it we can see the Temple of Apollo, an Omphalos, and a Tree of Life (as a date palm). It's safe to conclude that the tree is indeed a Tree of Life, because the earliest, most common form of it was the date palm...but date palms don't grow in Greece!

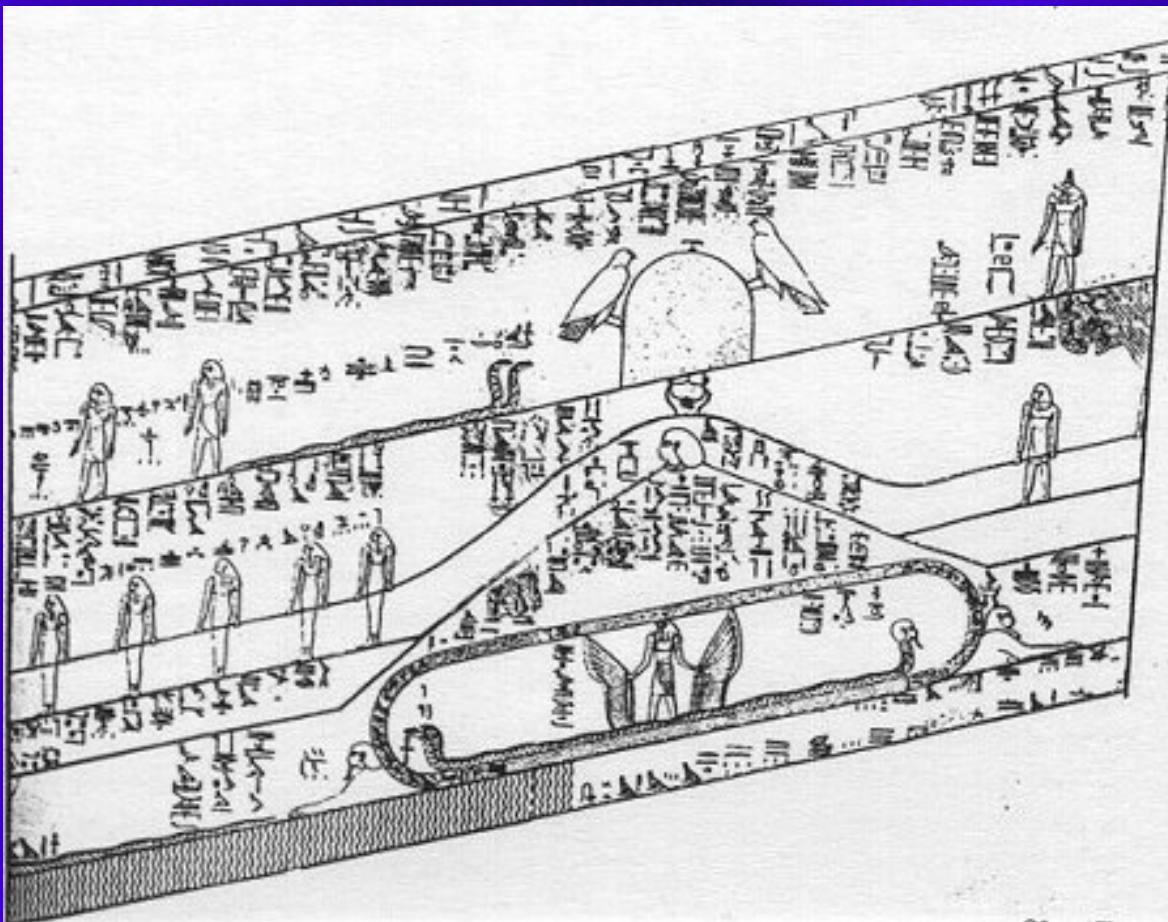
### The Omphalos and Wings





Egypt





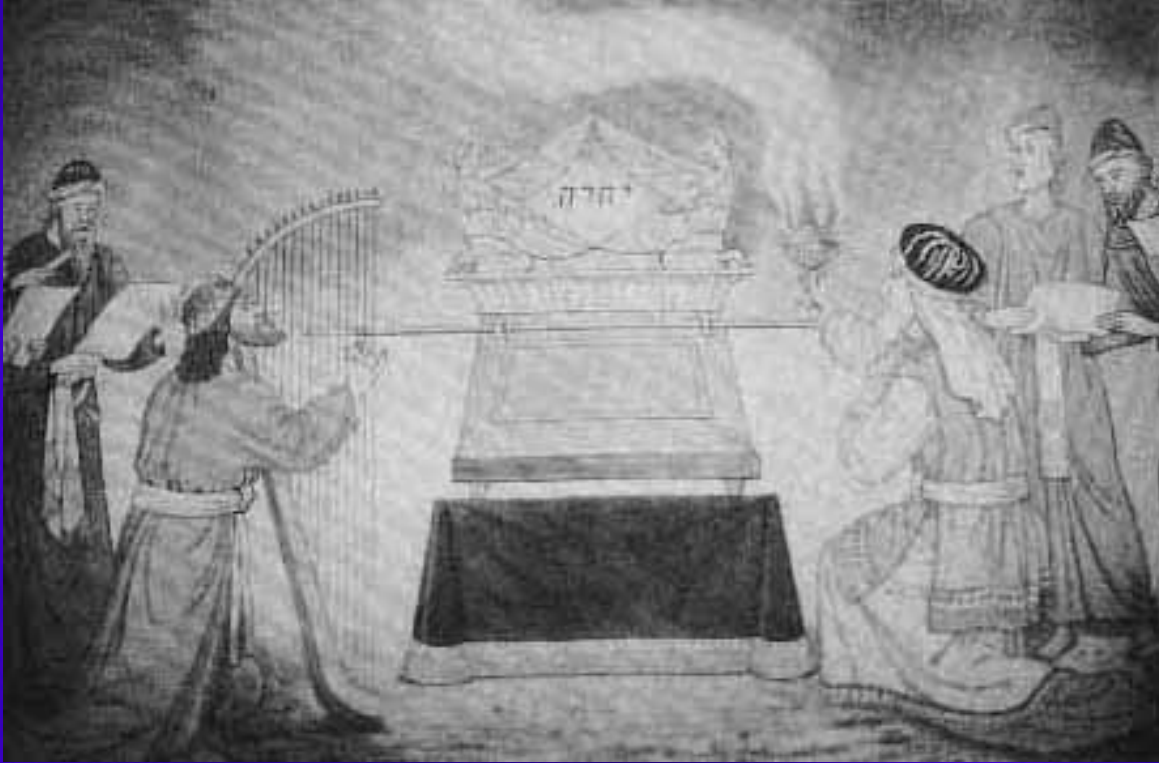
Panel - The Book of the Dead

According to the hieroglyphs,  
the object at the top allowed a human  
to speak with Seker - god of the afterlife.

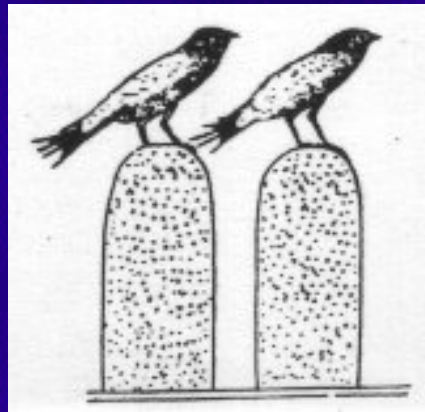
Wings, stones, and a way to communicate with the Divine.

ARCS - ARKS

## The Arc of the Covenant



Does the arc house the two stone tablets  
The Ten Commandments given to Moses?



Shape of the stone tablets -  
Arcs -  
Omphalos

## Arcs in Stone

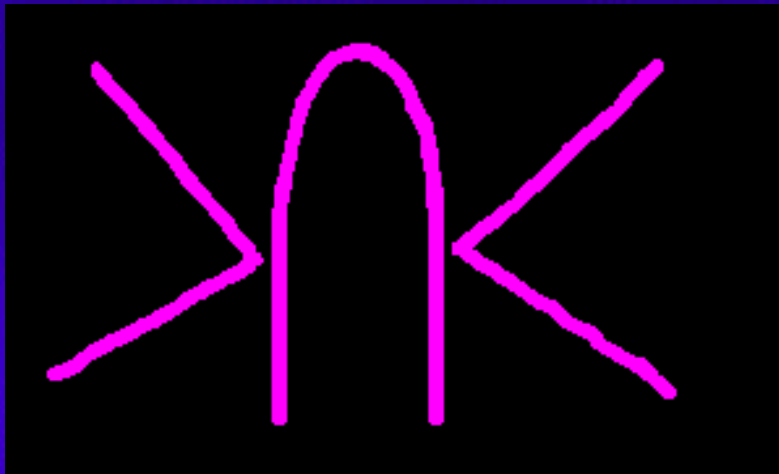


## Arcs in Rainbows



## The Rainbow Bridge

Trigger Image



Please study this image.

You can see the  
winged symbolism  
the omphalos.

Please close your eyes.

Relax and take two slow deep breaths . . .

breathing in through your nose . . .  
holding the breath as is comfortable . . .  
releasing the stale air slowly through your mouth.

Relax your body . . . head . . . face muscles . . . neck . . . shoulders.

Relax your mind . . . Quiet your thoughts.

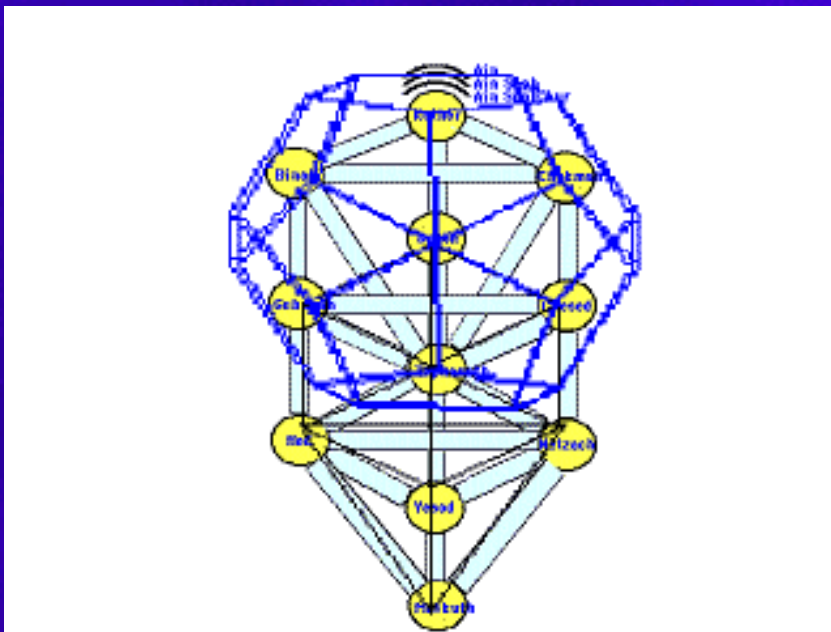
Allow the image to move into your subconscious mind . . .  
into your genetic memory.

Does the image change in any way?

What do you hear?    see?



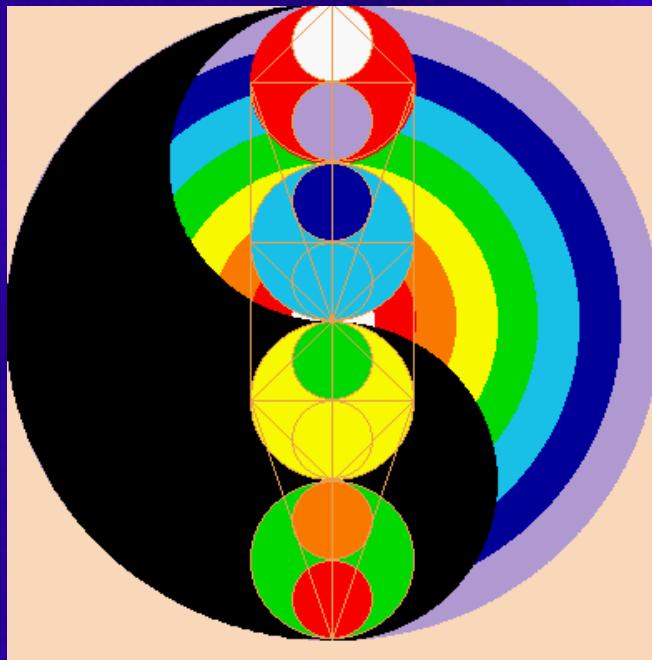
## CRYSTALINKS



THE TREE OF LIFE CLIMBS THE LADDER OF SYMMETRY



THE KABBALAH



[KABBALAH HOME PAGE](#)



[THE ALEPH BETH WITH QABALISTIC RELATIONSHIPS](#)

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[THE KEYS TO KABBALAH](#)

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[INTERACTIVE KABBALAH](#)



[ISRAEL](#)

[RELIGION INDEX](#)

[SOCIAL SCIENCES INDEX](#)

[ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF ALL FILES](#)

[CRYSTALINKS MAIN PAGE](#)