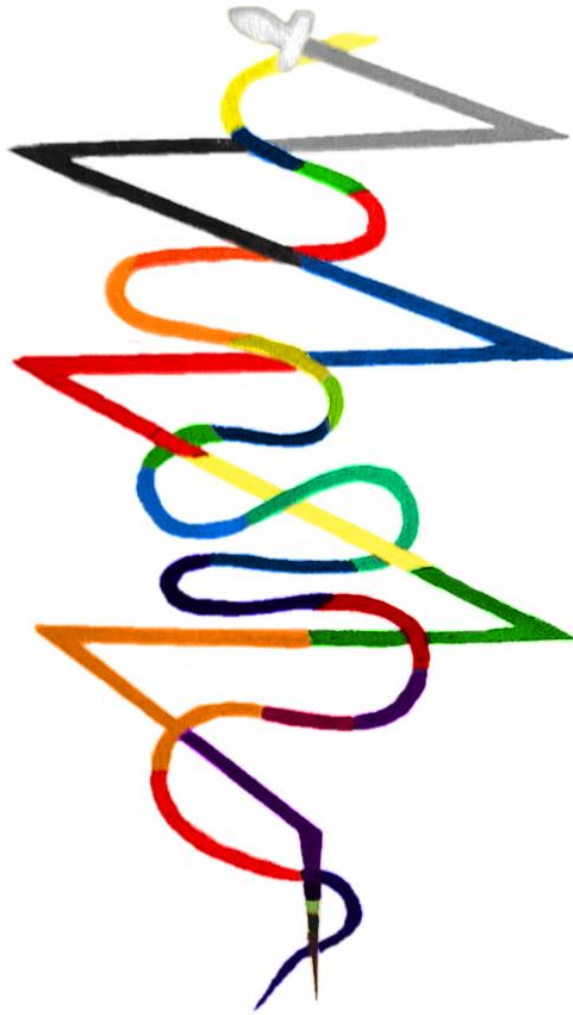
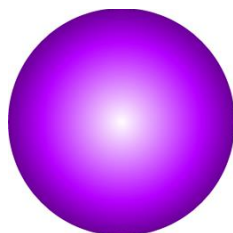




Walking the Crooked Path:

The Path of the Flaming Sword

Part Two: Yesod

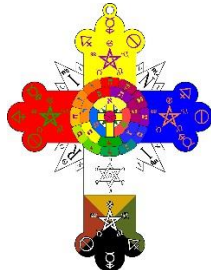


The Rose Cross and the Tarot: The Twenty-Two Paths

The ספר יצירה ("Sephir Yetzirah" meaning Book of Formation) is generally considered to be the oldest surviving Kabbalistic document. According to it, there are 32 Paths with 32 Intelligences. The first 10 are expressed in the 10 Sephirot, while the remaining 22 are attributed to the Hebrew Letters. Eventually, they came to be attributed to the Major Arcana of the Tarot. 3 of the letters are called "Mother Letters", 7 are "Double Letters" and 12 are "Single Letters". It is interesting to note that in today's spoken Hebrew the letters which have two sounds versus the letters which have one do not exactly line up with these attributions. For example, שׁ is pronounced Sh or S, however שׂ is not a Double Letter according to the ספר יצירה ("Sephir Yetzirah"), but rather a Mother Letter. Meanwhile, ר, which has only one pronunciation, is called a Double Letter. This may point to some as yet unknown differences in the pronunciations of Sephardic and Ashkenazi Hebrew today and that spoken by the author 1800-2200 years ago, give or take. That said, here are the attributions as they were passed down in the Western Mystery Tradition:

	Letter	Name	Intelligence	Major Arcana	Heaven of Assiah	Color
Three Mother Letters	א	Aleph	Scintillating	The Fool	Air	Yellow
	מ	Mem	Stable	The Hanged Man	Water	Blue
	שׁ	Shin	Perpetual	Judgement	Fire	Red
Seven Double Letters	ב	Bet	Transparency	The Magician	Mercury	Yellow
	ג	Gimel	Uniting	The High Priestess	Moon	Blue
	ד	Dalet	Illuminating	The Empress	Venus	Green
	כ	Kaph	Conciliation	Wheel of Fortune	Jupiter	Purple
	פ	Peh	Exciting	The Tower	Mars	Red
	ר	Resh	Collective	The Sun	Sun	Orange
	ת	Tav	Administrative	The World	Saturn	Indigo
Twelve Single Letters	ה	Heh	Constituting	The Emperor	Aries	Red
	ו	Vav	Eternal	The Hierophant	Taurus	Red-Orange
	ז	Zayin	Disposing	The Lovers	Gemini	Orange
	ח	Khet	Influence	The Chariot	Cancer	Yellow-Orange
	ט	Tet	Secret	Strength	Leo	Yellow
	י	Yod	Will	The Hermit	Virgo	Yellow-Green
	ל	Lamed	Faithful	Justice	Libra	Green
	נ	Nun	Imaginative	Death	Scorpio	Blue-Green
	ס	Samek	Probation	Temperance	Sagittarius	Blue
	ע	Ayin	Renewing	The Devil	Capricorn	Indigo
	צ	Tzaddi	Natural	The Star	Aquarius	Purple
	ק	Qoph	Corporeal	The Moon	Pisces	Red-Purple

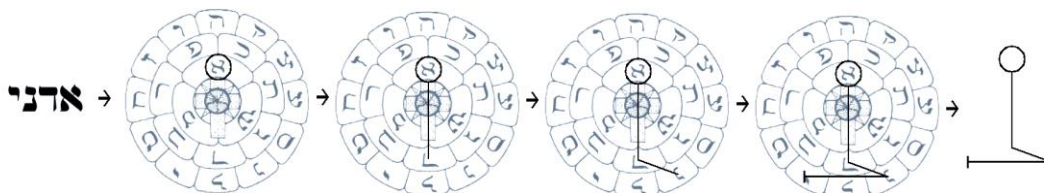
The colors of these 22 Paths can be found on The Serpent of Wisdom which is intertwined with The Path of the Flaming Sword on the cover of these handouts, as well on the Rose Cross Lamén. The Rose Cross Lamén finds its origin in the historical Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn of the late 19th century. It is worn by those initiated into the grade of 5=6 in traditional Golden Dawn orders, as well as by some solo practitioners.



The Rose Cross Lamén

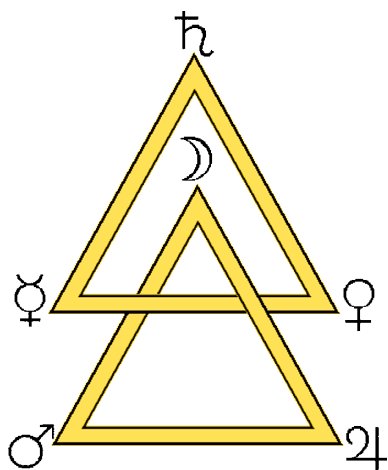


A close up view of the “Rose” part at the heart of it reveals the positions and colors of these paths. This arrangement is often used to create sigils. A circle is drawn in the position of the first letter of a word, and a line is drawn from that circle to the position of each subsequent letter. A short perpendicular line is used to indicate the end of the word. For example:

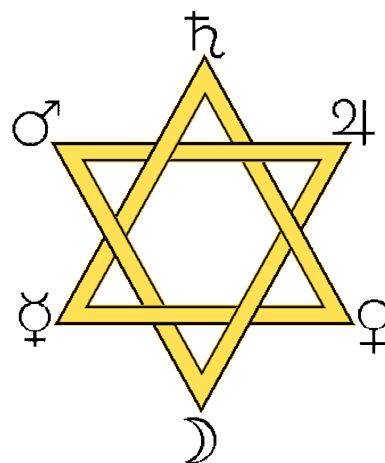


The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Hexagram

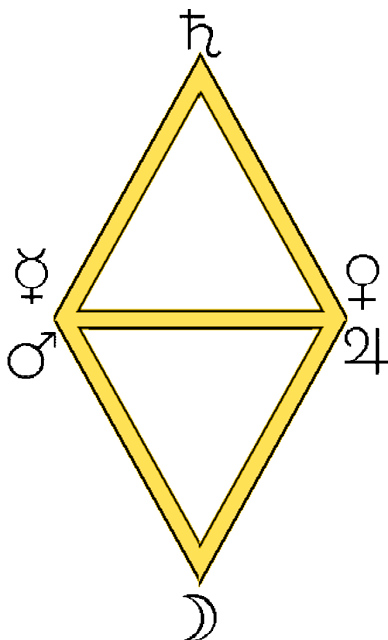
The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Hexagram, often referred to as The B.R.H., is based on the same concept as the L.B.R.P. The Hexagram itself represents The Sun, while each of its points refers to one of the other “Seven Ancient Planets”.



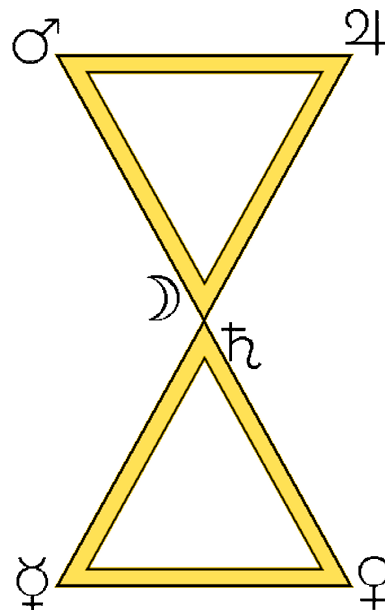
**Fire Hexagram
East**



**Earth Hexagram
North**



**Air Hexagram
West**



**Water Hexagram
North**

Just as the Earth banishing pentagram is used in the L.B.R.P. for a general banishing or centering and harmonizing of energies on a Microcosmic level, the Saturn banishing hexagrams are used in a similar way in the B.R.H. Each hexagram is drawn beginning at the Saturn point, and tracing the first triangle counter-clockwise. Once the first triangle is complete, the second triangle is traced beginning at the Luna or Moon point and traced counter-clockwise.

The Divine Name or Word vibrated into these hexagrams is **רַאֲרִיטָא** ("Ararita"). It is a Notoricon, or abbreviation, of **אֶחָד רִישׁ אֶחָדִיתִי רִישׁ יְחֻדוֹתָיו תְּמֻרָתוֹ אֶחָד** ("Achad Rosh, Achdotho Rosh Ichudo Temurahzo Achad.") meaning "One is His unity, One is His individuality, His permutation is One."

You can begin the B.R.H. with a Kabbalistic Cross (*see hand out for Part One of this workshop*). That is often how this ritual is taught to beginners. However, all of the Hexagram Rituals traditionally begin with The Analysis of the Keyword...

Standing at the center of your working space facing Eastward, just to the West of your Central Altar if you have one, proclaim: "I. N. R. I."

Then, draw letters **ינרי** in the air as you are saying the names of the letters, "Yod Nun Resh Yod."

Making the sign of the L, proclaim "Virgo, Isis, Mighty Mother!"



Making the sign of the V, proclaim "Scorpio, Apophis, Destroyer!"



Extend the arms out to the sides as in the beginning of the Kabbalistic Cross proclaiming, "Sol, Osiris Slain..." then move the arms into the sign of the X proclaiming, "...and Risen!"



Making the sign of the L, proclaim "Isis!" Making the sign of the V, proclaim "Apophis!" Making the sign of the X proclaim, "Osiris!" Raise the arms slowly upward from the "X" position to the "V" position while vibrating: "IAO!" ("ee-aah-ooh") Then, "Let the Divine Light Descend!" Draw down the Light as your arms descend to the sides of your body. Feel the Light completely descend around you.

Next, with your arms in the form of the cross, proclaim "The Sign of Osiris slain!" Forming the L, proclaim "L. The sign of the mourning of Isis." Forming the V, proclaim "V. The sign of Typhon and Apophis." Forming the X, proclaim "X. The sign of Osiris risen." Now form each letter as you say each letter, "L. V. X." From the "X" position, slowly open up your arms into the form of a cross while vibrating the Latin word for Light, LVX: "Luuuuux." and finally saying, "The Light of the Cross."

Approaching the Eastern edge of your circle or working space, draw the Fire-Hexagram for banishing Saturn. Visualize it as a golden flame or light. Reaching up toward your crown, drawn down the light and project it forward into the Hexagram vibrating ארריתא ("Ararita").

Draw a white line from the center of the Hexagram to the Southern edge of your circle or working space. There, draw the Earth-Hexagram for banishing Saturn, again vibrating ארריתא ("Ararita").

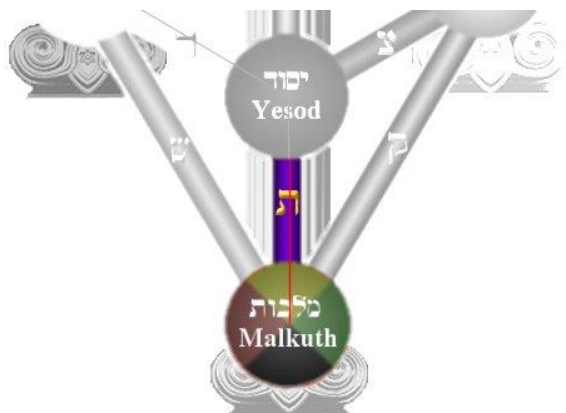
Draw a white line from the center of the Hexagram to the Western edge of your circle or working space. There, draw the Air-Hexagram for banishing Saturn, with ארריתא ("Ararita").

Draw a white line from the center of the Hexagram to the Northern edge of your circle or working space. There, draw the Water-Hexagram for banishing Saturn, vibrating ארריתא ("Ararita").

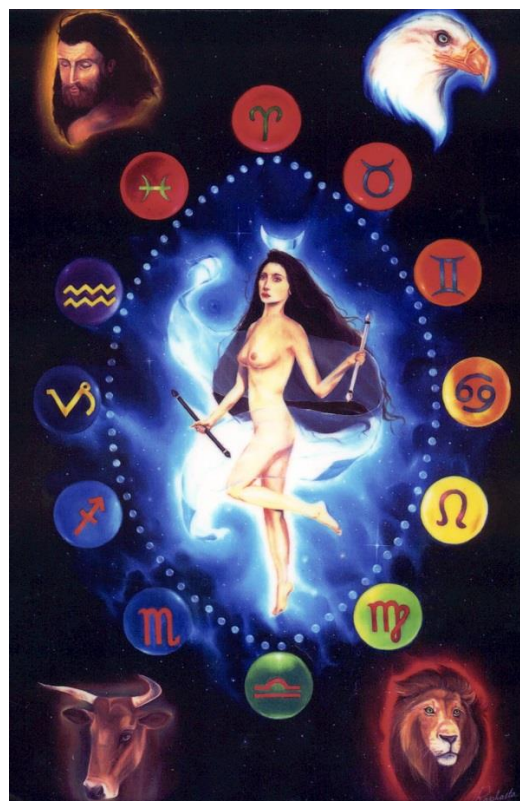
Draw a white line from the center of the Hexagram to the center of the Hexagram which you already drew in the East.

Finally, close with a Kabbalistic Cross.

Pathworking The Universe Card: The Dancing Galaxies



Having established our Temple in Malkuth, we will begin our Pathworking adventure with the Path of **ת**, which is symbolically represented by the Book T symbolism of The World or Universe Card. As mentioned a few pages ago, its ruling planet is Saturn, color is Indigo, and it is called the Administrative Intelligence. This Path is also referred to as Key 21 (*the Key counting begins with 0: The Fool*).



Both of these images well represent Key 21 and remain true to the Book T symbolism. The image on the left was painted by Sandra Tabatha Cicero and can be found in The New Golden Dawn Ritual Tarot, and that on the right was painted by an artist named Raphaela, but the deck was never finished.

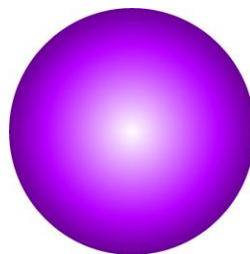
The symbolism has been passed down to us as follows: Within the oval formed of the seventy-two circles is a female figure, nude save for a scarf which floats around her. She is crowned with the lunar crescent of Isis, and holds in each hand a wand. Her legs form a cross. She is a synchronization of the Bride of the Apocalypse, the Kabbalistic Queen of the Canticles, the Egyptian Isis of nature now shown partly unveiled, and the great feminine Kerubic angel Sandalphon on the left hand of the Mercy Seat of the Ark. The two wands are the directing forces of the positive and negative currents. The seven pointed star or heptagram alludes to the seven palaces of Assiah, and the crossed legs to the symbol of the four letters of the name. The surmounting crescent receives alike the influences alike of Geburah and Chesed. The oval of seventy-two small circles is represent the 72 angels of the Shem HaMephorash. The twelve larger circles form the zodiac. At the angles are the four Kerubim which are the vivified powers of the letters of the Tetragrammaton (יהוה) operating in the elements. This Path is also called "The Great One of the Night of Time."

In the Theoricus advancement ceremony of the Golden Dawn, the third grade which is related to the Path of Tav and Yesod, the candidate interacts with the Four Kerubs. The Kerubs, in this context, refer to the four Fixed Signs of the Zodiac. Once key difference, however, is that the Kerub of Scorpio is always represented as an Eagle, and not as a Scorpion. First, the candidate meets Aquarius in the East. He is the man, the human, and identifies himself as Nu, the Goddess of the firmament of Air, and Hormakhu, Lord of the Eastern Sun. Leo, the lion in the south, identifies himself as the lion Mau, and Ra, the Sun in his Strength. The Eagle of Scorpio in the west identifies as Heka, Mistress of Hesar, and Toun, the Setting Sun. Finally, the candidate meets the Bull, who is Satem in the abode of Shu, and the scarab god Kephera, the Sun at Midnight.

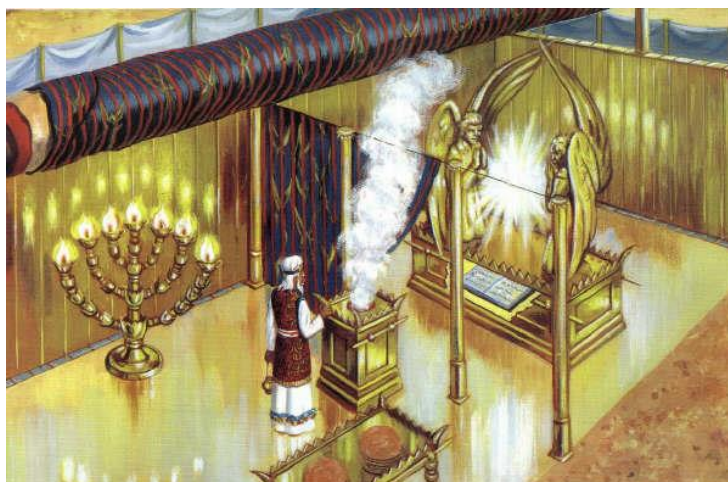
We will begin in our Temples in Malkuth, and once we are firmly established there, we will open a door or veil in the East of the Temple. On the other side of that door is a living 4D image of the Book T Universe /World Card inviting you in...

What happens from that point forward is personal, and may not be the same from one time to the next. This is your opportunity to commune with the Jungian archetypes on your own, and to learn and develop. It is in a sense like dreaming while you are awake. Eventually, "if thy meditation prolongeth itself," you may find yourself face to face with a portal or doorway into (*perhaps up to*), your Temple in Yesod...

Establishing a Personal Temple in Yesod: The Holy of Holies



Apocalypse literally means "unveiling" and it originally refers to the rending asunder of the Veil of the Bride at her wedding. In this context, it does not refer to any kind of literal "end of the world" scenario, but rather an Alchemical Wedding, or an "end of the world as we know it," perhaps...



“The Veil” when talked about in this context specifically refers to a Veil known as **פָּרוֹכֶת** (“Paroket”), which divided the ancient Hebrew Temple from the holiest part of the Temple, The Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept. According to the New Testament, this Veil was rent asunder at the moment of Jesus’ death. In the context of the Tree of Life, the Veil represents The Path of **ת** and The World or Universe card. The Holy of Holies, then, was a physical representation of **יְסוֹד** (“Yesod”). The rest of the Temple, or Tabernacle, represented **מַלְכוּת** (“Malkuth”).

יְסוֹד (“Yesod”) is where all of the various and colorful forces of the Tree of Life come together to take the form of what will then pass through the hourglass gateway of The World Card into manifestation in **מַלְכוּת** (“Malkuth”). In a sense, the Path of Tav is the Astral Plane, while Yesod is the means through which we perceive and create the Astral Plane. It is also related to the senses, and the storehouse of our experience, or the Akashic Record.

It is associated with Luna or the Moon, and the element of Air. It is the bottom-most of the 6 sephirot which make up the Personality, or Ruach (“Breath”). It is also said to be the place of the Nephesh (“Soul”). **יְסוֹד** (“Yesod”) literally means foundation. The colors associated with it are deep indigo blue, and shades of purple, and the stone particularly associated with it is Quartz. This may help to inform the appearance of your personal Temple in Yesod.

From your Temple in Yesod, high above the realm of hopes and dreams, fears and worldly aspirations, we can make deep meta changes in the way our dreams and our physical lives unfold. I’ll be leading a guided meditation in which we Pathwork the Path of **ת** and establish our Temple in Yesod at Part Two of **Walking the Crooked Path: The Path of the Flaming Sword**, but for anyone who came into possession of this handout who was unable to attend, I invite you to listen to Episode 45 of **VH Frater BT’s Esoterinerd Podcast** in which I lead a similar guided meditation. Also, if you don’t have the handout for Part One yet, please contact me at vh.frater.bt@gmail.com and I can send it to you.

Thank you all for coming, and I look forward to seeing all of you again at Path of the Flaming Sword, Part Three: Hod!

