Part Two

Tracing the Roots

Pythagoras (582 B.C.–507 B.C.)

It is impossible to trace the roots of numerology without becoming entwined in a fascinating web of the Kabbalah, the Hebrew alphabet, biblical writings, the ancient wisdoms, and the background of the most famous proponent of numbers, Pythagoras. Here we find science interwoven with myths and philosophies, for the subject is not easily understood without them.

According to legend, Pythagoras's parents, Mnesarchus and Parthenis, were in Delphi on business and decided to ask the Oracle of Delphi if their journey home would be safe. Instead, the prophetess of Apollo informed them that the wife was pregnant with a boy-child who was to become handsome and wise and would impart of his wisdom to enrich and elevate mankind.

The child was born in Syria while his parents were there on a journey. He was named Pythagoras in honor of Pythasis, the oracle who foretold his birth. As a youth, Pythagoras studied in the temple of Melchizedek and became known as "the Son of God." Six centuries later Jesus of Nazareth studied in the same temple because his sect, the Essenes, embraced the teachings of Pythagoras (*The Secret Teachings of All Ages*, LXV).

Pythagoras lived a long life, nearly 100 years, and never looked aged but remained youthful, strong, and powerful. As a young man Pythagoras left his native Samos, and for the next 30 years he traveled and studied with various masters in surrounding countries. Rabbis taught him the secret traditions of Moses that had led to the laws of Israel. In Egypt he was given instruction by the priests of Thebes in the mysteries of Isis, and studied there for 22 years. Their central doctrine was that divine power dwelt within every man no matter how low he might be; that this divine power was in the form of a light they called "The Hidden Light." The Pharaoh's motto was "Look for the light," meaning there is good to be found in everyone and it is everyone's duty to bring out the best in others.

In Phoenicia and Syria, Pythagoras learned the mysteries of Adonis, who was originally the Sun God to the Egyptians and who Phoenicians connected with the growth and maturing of flowers and fruits that depend upon the sun for life.

Pythagoras learned all he could from the Greek philosophers. He was initiated into the Babylonian and Chaldean mysteries. It is said that he studied with Zoroaster whose "Zoroastrianism" recognizes two creative powers: good and evil, and the triumph of the good over evil. It also teaches that there is life after death.

In the Euphrates, Pythagoras learned the secret lore of the Chaldeans. He studied for several years in Hindustan with Brahman priests who were the only ones allowed to interpret the sacred Hindustani texts, the Vedas. There he was known as Yavancharya, the Ionian teacher, a name he took because of his fascination and reverence for the letter "Y." It is the name that is still preserved in the records of the Brahmans.

Wisemen in those days were called sages or sophists because sage means "one who knows" and sophist means "wise." But when Pythagoras was no longer considered an Initiate, he felt there was still much more for him to learn. So instead of using sage or sophist, he invented the word "philosopher" for himself, the root "philo" meaning love and "sopho" meaning wisdom—philosopher: lover of wisdom.

The Pythagorean School

In 536 B.C., at age 56, he journeyed to Crotona, the Greek-speaking region of southern Italy, and established a school that combined religious ritual with scientific study. This was the first university in history.

Here, among esoteric lessons, the secrets of number vibration were revealed in personal discourse by Pythagoras to a select few; the discourse was so secret, it was never written. Later writers were very careful not to divulge the secrets openly, but followed a key statement with less important information that would divert the attention of all but the true seeker.

It is a little-known fact that 600 years later Jesus also established schools of mystery, five of them, one of which is in Palestine. The secrets were the same as those Pythagoras taught. This was uncovered by Max Heindel, the prolific writer of many books on the wisdoms, and a member of the Brothers of the Rosy Cross. The information that has come down to us about the school of Pythagoras is by word of mouth from his students and from a few manuscripts that were preserved.

We do know that his school followed very strict rules. His students never had personal contact with him until they passed several initiations and were in the higher grades. Even then he wore a robe, dressed so that he was hardly seen. They say he was awesome.

Children with a 7 Birth Path were readily taken into the school, since Pythagoras felt they were meant to learn the mysteries. But others who wished to study there had to pass certain tests first. They were taken to a secluded spot where they were left to concentrate on a given symbol, such as the triangle. They were to write down all ideas that came to them and to tie those ideas in with all life. The next morning they would report their concepts to all the others in the school.

Sometimes they would be ridiculed to see how they would handle themselves and criticism. If the candidate was too sensitive it was felt he could not withstand the rigor of the disciplines of the school.

After gaining entry, there was a requirement of five years of total silence. It was deemed necessary to learn to hold the tongue so it would not divulge all one's thoughts. It taught students to think well before speaking. Pythagoras said that quiet attention is the beginning of wisdom:

It is better to be silent, or to say things of more value than silence. Sooner throw a pearl at hazard than an idle or useless word; and do not say a little in many words, but a great deal in a few (*The Secret Teachings of All Ages*).

In his lectures, Pythagoras stressed the value of wisdom above all else: you can continually give it away and still have more to spare. It is what makes the difference between a real man and a beast. There are so few men who possess it that he compared it to sports: in the Olympiad there would be seven outstanding men in racing, but in contrast, there were only seven men in all the world who would excel in wisdom. It was not wise to show a temper. About anger he said:

Choose always the way that seems the best, however rough it may be; custom will soon render it easy and agreeable. Rest satisfied with doing well, and leave others to talk of you as they please.

Academically, the students were given what Pythagoras considered the triangular foundation of all arts and sciences: occult mathematics, music, and astronomy.

The word "mathematics," from the Greek word "mathesis," means "the learning." Its root, "ma," means the "mother wisdom," and the word was first used as their name for astrology. Astrology had originated in Babylon in the fifth century B.C. where it was first called "Babylonian Numbers." So mathematics developed from astrology (*The Knot of Time*, 16-20).

Since "number" was the underlying principle of all three sciences: math, music, and astrology, great importance was attached to it. The Science of Numbers was considered to be the origin of all things, and it was believed that greater knowledge of God could be gained by understanding numbers. So Pythagoras's Science of Numbers was built on kabbalistic principles.

Where we have been taught that a number depicts a quantity or an amount, Pythagoras taught it to be a living qualitative reality. Much of the Egyptian philosophy and religion that he studied for 22 years was built almost completely on the Science of Numbers. In fact, all of nature was explained entirely by this principle. For example, a rubber ball and the moon have identical mathematical properties, both being circular. Yet they are physically very different.

Nature was composed of groups of four such as the four geometrical elements—point, line, surface, and solid, and four material elements—Earth, Air, Fire, and Water.

Nature also supplied the clue to the law of contrasts: if there be light, then there is darkness; if cold, then heat; if height, then also depth; if solid, then fluid; hardness and softness; calm and tempest; prosperity and adversity; life and death. This proved the twofold activity of the one principle, the difference being only the degree of vibration—and vibration can be measured.

The Pythagoreans considered the triangle to be the originator of everything on Earth since it is the first rectilinear figure (bound by three straight lines), and it corresponds with the three attributes of the Deity, the Creative Trinity.

On studying the mystery of this sacred figure, Pythagoras established his famous theorem that has been of fundamental use ever since: "The square of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides."

As influential mathematicians, the Pythagoreans made many outstanding contributions to both medicine and astronomy. Pythagoras taught that physical manifestation had to be preceded by mathematical conception—a builder cannot build unless he has a blueprint of measurements to go by. Nothing can exist without numbers.

The mathematical world makes everything so obvious that some members of the school were put to death for revealing math secrets, secrets which are now printed in schoolbooks.

Music underwent a change when Pythagoras began his study of it. Until that time, Greeks made music on a seven-string lyre. This seemed limited to Pythagoras, so he invented a monochord, a wooden resonator to which a single string was attached, with a movable fret that caused the tone of the string to vary according to the vibrations set up by the length of the string used. With this instrument he was able to construct a scale with accurate intervals and thereby invented the seven-tone scale, as we know it today.

He heard the eighth note was identical to the first, only an octave higher in pitch, so he added an eighth string to the Greek lyre. This gave musicians much more variety by enabling them to play various modes of eight notes. Pythagoras found curative powers in music, color, and poetry. Certain melodies had a therapeutic effect on certain diseases. He discovered he could even control man's wildest passions with soothing music. He preferred the soft sounds of the lute or flute for they had the ability to keep a person in better mental balance.

The astronomy taught in Pythagoras's university included astrology, which relates man to the Universe. His knowledge on the subject came from the great Babylonian astrologers of 500 B.C., the Chaldeans, whose expertise was accepted by the surrounding countries (*The Knot of Time*, 22). Astrology and astronomy remained one science until the 16th century.

Pythagoras noted that the further from the Earth the other planets were, the faster they moved. He reasoned that since movement causes friction and friction causes sound, the planets must produce sounds in various tones: the faster they move, the higher the tone. He saw that their motion was related to the mathematical principles of the musical scale. He concluded that planets sing as they turn in their orbits, creating the music of the spheres, which he is said to have heard.

In the sixth and seventh centuries B.C., it was an age-old custom of the ancient Greeks to practice divination (foretelling of future events) by observing the entrails of sacrificed birds and animals. Pythagoras was upset by this practice and sought to put an end to it by perfecting a system using numbers. The system was based on secrets that originated from Orpheus, the patron of music, who represented the body of truth, the secret doctrine revealed through music.

Pythagoras also developed a wheel of letters with numbers and astrological signs on it that encircled a globe. By using the numbers of the inquirer's birth name or birth date, it was possible to foretell future events. However, divination was not the original intent for the use of numbers. Pythagoras was not the father of numerology as is so often stated, but it was Pythagoras who took numbers seriously enough to apply them to all teachings in his school.

Pythagoras married one of his followers, Theano, the daughter of Brontinus of Croton. They wed when he was 60 years old and together they had seven children. There are conflicting stories on the way he died, yet all agree that he was assassinated. They say he refused admittance to one man because of his bad manners. The man became so embittered that he returned with a gang of hoodlums and murderers who burned down the school and slew Pythagoras.

His widow and remaining disciples did their best to continue his work but were persecuted for it. Eventually the school was no more, but the students valued his teachings and his memory and preserved what manuscripts they could.

The Secret Science of Numerology

Later in history, Plato purchased some of these manuscripts (*The Secret Science of All Ages, LXVII*). The basic tenets reappeared in the Middle Ages in a craft of stone masons called "Freemasonry," which was based on the Science of Numbers.

Masonry is identical to the ancient mysteries. The Freemasons had secret signs and passwords, and were interested in attaining spiritual knowledge that could only be learned from the arrangement of letters and combinations of numbers with their hidden meanings, which collectively are the key to understanding the mysteries (*Morals and Dogma*, 625).

To their great credit, the Freemasons respect all religions, all peoples, and hold no prejudices. They understand that man is here to learn and grow at his own pace through his own experience.

It was men with these beliefs who framed our Constitution and designed the Great Seal of the United States. The Eagle was the ancient symbol of spiritual vision and is meant to represent the people of The United States. The reverse seal with the eye in the triangle symbolizes the eye of God in His protective watch over our nation (Our Great Seal, 41, 46).

The modern Masons' ninth commandment is "Hear much, speak little, act well"—very Pythagorean.

The Roots of Numerology

The can see where the background of numerology is enmeshed in the moral philosophies and wisdoms of the ancient past. It was not just exalted thinking; its base was scientific. The very first alphabet was designed by the greatest spiritual and scientific minds of the day. Just as numbers were not only symbols of quantities, letters were not simply symbols of sounds. Both were designed to reveal deeper meanings to those initiated into the mysteries. Generally words were formed to embrace the attributes behind the words themselves.

Sixty percent of English words are based on their Greek and Latin origins, for example, "manus" in Latin is hand. Manual labor is work done by hand. Manuscripts are handwritten ("scribo" = to write), a manual is a small handbook, and so on.

The English and Indo-European alphabets are derived from the Roman (Latin), which we can trace back to the original Phoenician alphabet.

The 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet were considered sacred, as they were believed to have been endowed with God's attributes. The actual formation of letters has been attributed to Hermes, the wisest of all the wise men, who was known to the Jews as Enoch, to the Greeks as Hermes, and to the Romans as Mercury (*The Secret Teachings of All Ages, XXXII*).

There were no vowels among the original 22 letters. Vowels were deemed too sacred to write, for they were the animating spirit of words, and the sound of them spoke the true and overwhelming name of God. Instead, vowels were assigned to the seven known planets. The consonants that made up the alphabet were all composed of the flame-like glyph called *Yod*. And it does represent a flame as it is meant to be a spark of the Divine Light that makes up the body of God used for all His creation. Each consonant contains some of God's attributes. Later on in history the meaning of the Yod degenerated from a flame of light direct from God to that of a phallic symbol representing mortal generation.

When the Greeks borrowed the alphabet, they added vowels for clarity, omitted sounds they did not use, and added ones they did use—as did all following Indo-European alphabets. Other than that, the letters are very close to the same sequence as that of the original (see Chart 1 on page 58).

Hebrew letters are read from right to left for a very special reason. God began creation by His own reflection. In a reflection right and left are reversed, as can be seen in a mirror. It was important to the Hebrews to show this reversal. By writing right to left they were going toward their source of life, toward God. It is important to note that Aramaic was the spoken language of the people, while Hebrew was reserved for sacred writings because of its magical qualities.

The letter name is the mystical name of a number, and every Hebrew word, when examined letter by letter, number by number, reveals a hidden meaning, for their letters and numbers are completely interchangeable. The entire Bible was composed of various combinations of those letter-numerals, giving important clues to the deeper meanings (see Chart 2 on page 59).

Hebrew is a very difficult language to translate because the vowels are omitted, the words are not separated for clarity, and there is no past, present, and future verb tenses. Add that to the fact that the original writers of the Bible felt it was not wise to give out certain information to the unholy, and therefore used every trick they knew to conceal the mysteries, and you can understand why translation of the Bible was such a major job.

An exact translation was made further impossible because the translators lived under an act that authorized them to translate but forbade them from upsetting or deviating from established beliefs.

In our translations only the names and numbers come to us untouched. But through the *Science of Numbers*, and methods known as *Gematria*, *Temurah*, and *Notariqon*, many secrets are unveiled. Gematria is the name given to a method of figuring hidden meanings from the geometric shapes of letters and from the numerical values of both words and phrases. Numerology gives meanings from the vibrational traits of numbers. Temurah is the art of finding words within words and from anagrams, and Notariqon derives words from abbreviations and the initial letters of words.

An example of Temurah is found in the Bible in the word SWORD. It is an anagram of WORDS, and it means "the utterance of a thought." "He has made my mouth as a sharp sword..." (Isaiah 49:2). Its meaning is defined in Ephesians 6:17: "And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God."

Since the Hebrew letters were considered sacred and believed to have been formed by God and endowed with His attributes, the names people chose had spiritual significance to them. In many ancient civilizations people did not receive their own names until they developed their own personalities. Until that time they were given a childhood name that was known as a "milk name."

When they were older and initiated into the temple, they were given a name purely for spiritual unfoldment and for philosophical reasons. This name was used only in secret. The system of choosing that spiritual name was based on astrology. Vowels were assigned to each planet and consonants to the degrees of the zodiac. A mystical symbol would be created, probably by using the person's birth date, and from this symbol they were able to form the name and interpret the spiritual meanings behind it that revealed the true nature of the person to whom it belonged—just as we can through numerology today. In fact, all ancient names pointed out a person's true nature (*The Philosophy of Astrology*, 46).

Numbers in the Bible have an astrological meaning as well. When 12 is used as a number of nations, it represents all the people born under the 12 signs of the zodiac, and therefore, the whole human race (*The Sacred Word and Its Creative Overtones*, 138).

Saint John wrote the *Apocalypse* in such a way that only the Initiates would understand its meaning. It was meant to confound the masses by being written hieroglyphically with numbers and images, in which great mysteries are concealed. And he wrote, "Let them who have knowledge, understand! Let him who understands, calculate!" (*Morals and Dogma*, 321).

CHART 1
COMPARATIVE ALPHABETS (ENGLISH AND HEBREW)

Hebrew	Letter	Number	Final*	English Letter	Number
Aleph	A	1		A	1
Beth	В	2		В	2
Gimel	G	3		C	3
Daleth	D	4		D	4
Hé	Н	5		E	5
Vau (Va	v) V	6		F	6
Zayin	\mathbf{Z}	7		G	7
Cheth	Ch	8		Н	8
Teth	T	9		I	9
Yod	I,J,Y	10		J	10(1)
Kaph	K	20	500	K	11 (2)
Lamed	L	30		L	12 (3)
Mem	M	40	600	M	13 (4)
Nun	N	50	700	N	14 (5)
Samekh	S	60		O	15 (6)
Ayin	O	70		P	16 (7)
Pé	P	80	800	Q	17 (8)
Tzaddi	Tz	90	900	R	18 (9)
Qoph	Q	100		S	19 (10/1)
Resh	R	200		T	20 (2)
Schin	Sh	300		U	21 (3)
Tau	Th	400		V	22 (4)
				W	23 (5)
				X	24 (6)
				Y	25 (7)
				${f Z}$	26 (8)

^{*} When the Hebrew K, M, N, P, or Tz occur more than once in a word, the last occurrence is called the "Final."

CHART 2 HEBREW LETTER NUMBERS AND MEANINGS

1.	N	Aleph	A	Oxhead: (Taurus) Sign of physical generation. Air: (Element) Breath, spirit. Height and Depth and the path between.
2.	ב	Beth	В	House: Mouth cavity that holds sound.
3.	λ	Gimel	G,C	Camel: Product of A and B: The Word. Riches and communication.
4.	7	Daleth	D	Door: The Cosmic Womb
5.	ה	Hé	Н,Е	Window: One's viewpoint. The sound of H is the breath of life.
6.	1	Vav, Vau	V,W	Peg, or Nail: Joining link between the human and the Divine.
7.	7	Zayin	Z	Weapon: Tongue Arrows, Sword: Words that cut. Scepter: Victory in the right use of words.
8.	ח	Cheth	Ch(K)	Field: Soil of consciousness; attainments. Fence: Self-imposed limitations.
9.	v	Teth	T	Serpent: Wisdom. Roof: The protection that wisdom gives.
10.	,	Yod	I,J,Y	Hand: Our creative tool. Flame: Light of understanding within us.
20.	כ	Kaph final K, 500	K	Palm of hand: Holds what we receive.
30.	ל	Lamed	L	Ox-goad: A prod to express love and creativity.
40.	מ	Mem final M, 600	M	Water: (Element) From which all life arises.
50.	2	Nun final N, 700	N	Fish: Esoteric teachings and spiritual growth.
60.	ס	Samekh	S,X	Prop, Bow: What we send out returns to us: Law of the circle.
70.	ע	Ayin	O	Eye: The Inner Spiritual Eye, beginning of expanded consciousness.

CHART 2

HEBREW LETTER NUMBERS AND MEANINGS (CONTINUED)

80.	פ	Pé or Phé final P, 800	P,F	Mouth: Organ that speaks the Divine Word.
90.	צ	Tzaddi final Tz, 900	Ts,Tz	Fishing Hook: Catches fish (esoteric teachings) that awaken the Christ center in each of us. Tzaddic, in Hebrew, is a righteous master.
100.	ヷ	Qoph	Q	Back of Head: Area of coordination and balance.Knot: Blending our consciousness with that of God.Mirth: Another great balancing power.
200.	٦	Resh	R	Head: (Pineal Gland) Organ of the spiritual mind.
300.	ש	Schin	Sh	Tooth, Fang: Chewing assimilates food for nourishment.Fire: (Element) The purifying force that completes creation. Divine Fire unites perfect love.
400.	ת	Tau	Th	Sign of the Cross: The path that leads to knowledge.

Introduction to the Mysteries

he power of the word that formed the Universe, the Earth, and all that is upon it is what the ancient kabbalistic mysteries are all about. The earliest Initiates believed that God taught these mysteries to the angels. After the fall of man the angels gave the secrets to Adam so that he would have an understanding of his error and gain back what he had lost.

These secrets are supposed to awaken in man when he studies the 10 numbers and 22 basic sounds formed from the letter combinations of God's own name. This, combined with the basic geometric figures of circle, triangle, and square, are the basis of the Kabbalah; the figures that were used in designing the alphabet.

The Kabbalah supplies the key to the spiritual truths of both the Old and New Testaments, a key which goes back long before Pythagoras to a dynasty of priest-kings originating on Atlantis, known as the Melchizedek.

The last of these priest-kings is said to have passed this knowledge on to Abraham, and then it went from one biblical patriarch to another—Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, and Solomon.

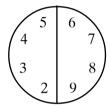
Abraham was supposed to have brought these wisdoms to Egypt where the Egyptians gained knowledge of them. Jesus was instructed in these mysteries about 600 years after Pythagoras studied there. Hebrew theology was separated into three definite parts: The Law, which was taught to all Hebrew children; The Soul of the Law (Mishna) that was made known only to the teachers and rabbins; and the Qabbala, or Soul of the Soul of the Law. This was so secret it was revealed only to the highest Initiates and never written. It is said that it is these secrets that God disclosed to Moses on Mount Sinai after the Ten Commandments were divinely inscribed and presented to him.

Briefly, all comes from naught: 0, the Cosmic Egg in which all numbers are contained. God was known as Alpha and Omega: 1 and 0, the first and the last. (0 is the last letter of the Greek alphabet.) Together

1 and 0 form 10, the perfect number, and since it is perfect, it is the sacred number of the Universe and is written as 1 or 8 meaning "God in All."

In the 26th verse of the first chapter of Genesis, God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The foundation of the Qabbala, or Kabbalah, are the Ten Sephiroth, or creative forces. They are also known as Sepharim and Elohim, and stand for the manifested Universe. All three words, Sephiroth, Sepharim, and Elohim, mean the same thing: numbers, letters, and sounds. Sephiroth comes from the root sephir which, when the vowels are removed, is S-ph-r meaning, "to cypher." Cypher is the figure 0, and it also means that there is a hidden message containing its own key.

These Sephiroth are depicted as 10 globes of light, each representing a number and each containing all numbers inside the 10 which is the cypher itself, thus:



The large cypher divided in half is the 1 and the 0. In the Kabbalah these 10 globes of light are on a tree of the soul and are connected by 22 paths which are the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, each with its own individual esoteric meaning. The light emanates from the dot point in the center of each globe, which is a reflection of the light of God, and when one understands the globes' deepest meanings, he receives the light of wisdom and knowledge.

Over the years, the kabbalistic approach has influenced both Christians and Jews. These are spiritual mysteries that are not easily grasped; the true answers are clear to those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear." Letters, numbers, and sounds are those keys and, like the wind, heat, and electricity, are powerful forces.

The word "mysteries" comes from the Greek word "muein," to shut the mouth, and "mustes," the word for an Initiate. The very word implies secrecy, not something for the masses, and not to be spoken of lightly.

There is a reason for this. It has been observed for thousands of years that as one begins to unfold the spiritual nature, the true nature comes to the forefront; and any repressed emotions, sensualism, or faults must be dealt with. This is so difficult that the majority will fail unless they are willing to fight every base tendency and win over it. If the inner person is wholesome and good, and not easily provoked to anger, the good is magnified. So those who would seek such enlightenment must have a high level of consciousness (*Strictly Private E.S.T. Instructions*, 5).

There were three views of creation perceived by the ancients: the Sepher Yetzirah, the Tree of the Sephiroth, and the Tetractys of Pythagoras.

Moses De Leon founded *The Sepher Yetzirah* (Book of Formation), in a jar in a Galilean cave. Rabbi Simeon, who was known to have taught and written in that very cavern, wrote the book. But the book was believed to have been originally written by Abraham.

Figure 1 on page 64 shows the double star of the Sepher Yetzirah with the letters in English rather than Hebrew, for clarification. Sepher means, "to cypher" or figure out.

In the double star, the center triangle contains the Holy Trinity, the Creative Principle.

The middle star contains the seven double letters that symbolize everything there is that life can be exposed to, good and bad. Those seven, with the first three, are the Ten Sephiroth, or attributes of God.

The outside star contains the 12 simple letters, which represent the signs of the zodiac.

The spirit of God dwells in the center triangle, the Holy Temple that sustains all. From this center He created all there is by the three Sepharim: numbers, letters, and sounds, which are one and the same.

The Voice, Spirit, and Word of the Holy Spirit formed these three. They were called the Mother Letters because everything came from these basic elements.

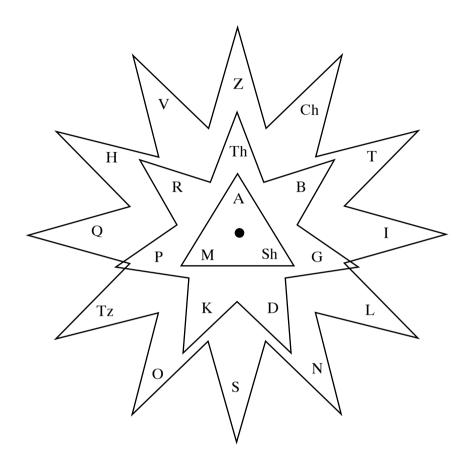
The Mother Letters are Aleph (A), Mem (M), and Schin (Sh). First the Holy Spirit created A and from A sprang Air, and in this was formed the sound of the remaining 21 letters. The sounds that came from A, or the Air of His breath, were designed to be uttered in five different areas of the human mouth:

- 1. Gutterals: Throat.
- 2. Palatals: Produced with the blade of the tongue near the hard palate, as the ch in child and the j in joy.
- 3. Linguals: Enunciated with the tongue, as in t, d, and l.
- 4. Dentals: Enunciated with the tongue against the teeth, as in t and d.
- 5. Labials: Articulated by the lips, as in p, b, m, and w, or by rounded vowels, o, oo.

From the formed letters He chose Mem (M) for the second Mother Letter and from it came Water, for Water is mute like M and it was extracted from the Air.

For the third Mother Letter he selected from His letters Schin (Sh) and from Sh came Fire (ether), for Sh is the sound of Fire and it was drawn from the Water. Air is the base of balance between Fire and Water.

Figure 1
The Double Star of the Sephir Yetzirah



The Very Center

Invisible throne of the Supreme Definitionless Creator.

Center Triangle

Three Mother Letters: A = Air, M = Water, Sh = Fire.
The Holy Trinity. The Creative Principle.

Inner Star

Seven Double Letters: Wisdom.

Outer Star

Twelve Simple Letters - twelve signs of the Zodiac.

Those first three letters, or elements, are like a scale with virtues on one end and vices on the other, placed in balance by the tongue. He chose three consonants belonging to the first elements: I, H, and V, shaped them into a Great Name, and then fastened them with His spirit. This sealed the entire Universe in six directions: height, depth, east, west, south, and north.

The Inner Star holds the seven double letters: B, D, G, K, P, R, and Th that serve as a pattern for soft and hard, strong and weak. They symbolize all the good and bad that humans encounter in life. Each letter is like a balance board with its God quality on one side and its opposite extreme on the other:

1.	B (B,V)	Wisdom	\Leftrightarrow	Foolishness
2.	G (ge, je)	Riches	\Leftrightarrow	Poverty
3.	D	Fertility	\Leftrightarrow	Sterility
4.	K (K, Ch)	Life	\Leftrightarrow	Death
5.	P (P,Ph)	Power	\Leftrightarrow	Servitude
6.	R	Peace	\Leftrightarrow	War
7.	T (T, Th)	Beauty	\Leftrightarrow	Deformity

Of these seven letters He formed the seven planets, the seven days of the week, and the seven openings for the senses in both male and female: two eyes, two ears, two nostrils, and one mouth. There are also seven each of heavens, earths, and sabbaths.

These seven and the first three, making up the Ten Sephiroth, are His qualities and attributes. They are the 10 emanations of number, which have 10 unlimited traits or infinitudes:

- → Unlimited beginning and unlimited end.
- → Unlimited height and unlimited depth.
- → Unlimited east and unlimited west.
- → Unlimited north and unlimited south.

Over all is the One who rules them and His Word is always in them.

In the Outer Star, the 12 simple letters, H, V, Z, Ch, T, I, L, N, S, O, Tz and Q, stand for the 12 basic traits of speaking, hearing, seeing, thinking, movement, work, sex, smell, sleep, taste (and swallowing), anger, and cheerfulness.

These 12 letters correspond to 12 directions: north in height and depth and northwest; south in height and depth and southeast; west in height and depth and southwest; and east in height and depth and northeast. By these God fashioned the 12 signs of the zodiac, the 12 months of the year, and the 12 major organs in the human body.

By designating the weights, amounts, and groupings of the 22 letters, God made all things that have existence.

First He formed the 22 letters with His voice, and with His breath He impressed them on the Air. He placed the letters around a spherical wall with 231 doorways, or gates and then turned that globe forward and backward. Forward was good and backward was evil, as all things must have a

front and back. So there were altogether 231 methods to form ways for the powers of the letters to emerge. According to *The Sepher Yetzirah* (Book of Formation), everything that is made, from matter to language, proceeded from the utterance of words formed from the various combinations of letters of the awesome name of God that were spoken forth on His breath (*The Secret Teachings of All Ages, CXIII-CXV*). And, "by the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth" (Psalms 33:6).

Instead of a triangle within two stars, The Tree of the Sephiroth (Tree of Life) is a tree with 10 globes of light that is intended to symbolize the entire Universe, which is the body of God. It is sometimes depicted as three pillars with the globes (Figures 2 and 3).

The globes are the Sephiroth (numbers) and each represents distinct attributes of our Creator. Together they symbolize everything, which is contained in Heaven and Earth, and each contains a deep mystery (*The Pythagorean Triangle*, 19-21). The 10 globes are connected by 22 paths, which are the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Together they total 32 and are known as the 32 Paths of Wisdom. This is akin to the 32 degrees in Freemasonry.

Early Kabbalists envisioned the very beginning of all things as a vacuum of pure spirit not limited by conditions of time or space. This negative existence of pure spirit filled the circular void of space, or auric egg, and was called Ain (nothingness). It was also called "The Most Ancient of Ancients," and is the womb of the Universe.

This pure essence desired to express life and it moved toward the center of itself, producing a circle within the circle, which was without limit or boundary, and it was called Ain Sop or Ensoph.

It continued its movement to the center of its boundless, limitless circle where it became a dot that broke into light, Ain Soph Aur, meaning limitless light—three in one. This fills the whole circle of the Universe but makes its particular dwelling place in the very center where the point of light is at its brilliant Source, just as our own mind is our center encircled by our body.

That dot, the dwelling place or throne of God, contained within it all creation that is to be and is called Kether the Crown, the omnipresent Divine Will, first emanation of the Tree of the Sephiroth. Being All, It was androgynous.

This Monad, by its Will, gave birth out of itself to the other nine globes or spheres starting with the pair Chochma the Father (Wisdom), a male potency with the Divine Intellectual power to generate thought, and Binah, the Mother (Understanding and Intelligence), the female potency with the Divine Intellectual capacity to produce it, using for tools the 22 letters that make up the "too sacred to be spoken" name of God. Kether, Chochma, and Binah together are the Creative Trinity, which are the roots of the Tree.

FIGURE 2
TREE OF THE SEPHIROTH
(TREE OF LIFE)

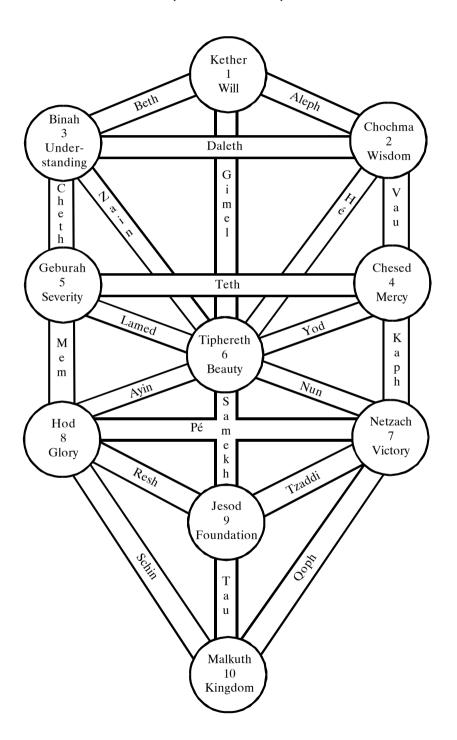
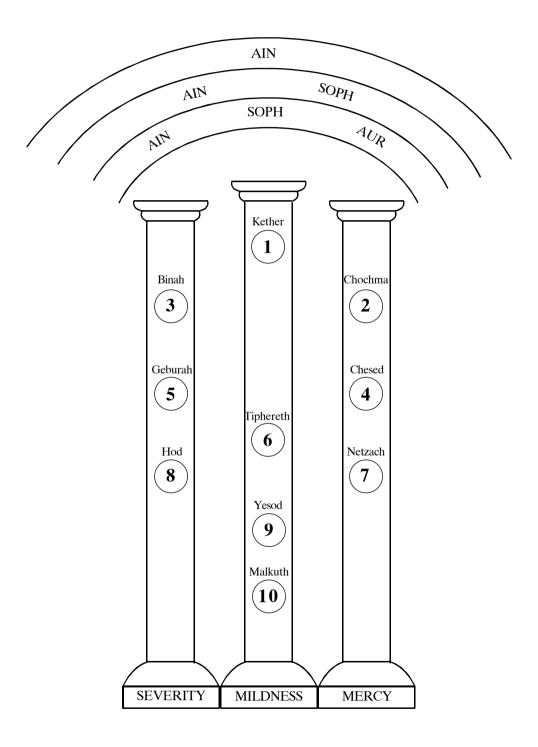


FIGURE 3
THE THREE PILLARS OF THE SEPHIROTIC TREE



The first two letters of the sacred name Jehovah (IHVH) symbolize the creative activities of the Universe. There was no J in the Hebrew alphabet. They used I. Since they also used no written vowels, the first two letters became IH, the Father (Chochma) is the I, and the Mother (Binah) is the H.

The H is known as the childbearing letter because its numerical value is 5, the same as the Hebrew verb Awbab, or Abb, meaning, "to bear fruit." This coincides with the fifth house of the horoscope, which is the giver of children and creativity.

Before the remaining Sephiroth could be created, there had to be an active force to produce the idea put forth by Wisdom, Intelligence, and Will. This active force is the spoken word and it is called Daath. It is not a Sephira for it is not an attribute, but an invisible acting force. Yet some have called it the 11th Sephira. This is interesting because the force is the spoken word that sets the molecules awhirl into creation. "The Word" or "Logos" is the name given Jesus, "The Word of God without whom was not anything made that was made." And Jesus' name totals 11. So Chochma and Binah in Kether combine to produce Daath, which is the Word within the Deity.

These three: Kether the Crown (Will), Chochma (Wisdom), and Binah (Understanding and Intelligence), form the Creative Principle 1, 2, 3 or the Triad, or the Holy Trinity. And the Word (Daath) sets the creation into motion. This is why the scripture says that "without the Word was not anything made that was made." And, "For it is through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen came to be from those which are not seen" (Hebrews 11:3).

Initially, the idea of something being formed from a word sounds ridiculous. But on further study it begins to make scientific sense.

When a word is spoken it sets up a vibratory condition that allows it to be heard. Without vibration, all that is would cease to exist. This is because everything is composed of a basic universal substance that appears different only because of that substance's groupings of atoms and their rate of movement.

From the Creative Trinity the remaining seven Sephiroth were formed by action of the Word (Daath) and spewed forth in receptacles (Yods). These were filled with Light from Ain Soph Aur centered in Kether the Crown, which contains All.

Each receptacle contains a Sephira (number) and its attributes. From these seven were named the seven planets, the seven notes of the musical scale, and the seven colors separated by a prism. Each of the seven planets was assigned a metal, a Greek vowel, a color, and a musical note.

And so each of the 10 globes on the Tree has its own particular name which shows the qualities and attributes of the Creator. The number is the vibrational rate of those qualities. These are the ingredients for all creation.

The laws of the Universe were established by various groupings of the 22 Hebrew letters which are the pathways of the Tree. Creation, in order to take place, has been pictured as going through four Sephirotic Trees, each representing a world, or plane of existence. All emanates from the dot, the light in the center of Ain Soph Aur. The names of the worlds are taken from the Hebrew verbs that mean, "will take of the spirit" (Atziluth), "have created" (Briah), "have formed" (Yetzirah), and "have made" (Assiah).

- 1. **Atziluth:** This is the sphere of perfection, of pure spirit where God manifests Himself first as archetypes—ideas born to become models for every part of creation that is to be. To become manifest they must be reflected to the sphere below.
 - The first reflection is seen between the Creative Trinity: Kether, Chochma, and Binah as: and the next three: Chesed, Geburah, and Tiphereth as: This all comes about from the union of God with His feminine counterpart known as the Shekinah. The next three worlds are the result of this union.
- 2. **Briah:** This is the creative world of pure intellect and unconscious mind. This tree is slightly dimmer than the first since it is a reflection. In this world reside the 10 great spirits (archangels) who aid in bringing about divine order and intelligence in the cosmos.
- 3. **Yetzirah:** This is the creative world of formation; conscious mind; personality. This tree of 10 globes is reflected from Briah. It is called the formative world, for here are seen the vibrational patterns behind matter, the fourth dimension.
- 4. **Assiah:** This is where matter forms and the vibrational energy patterns behind it are no longer seen. This is the three-dimensional Universe we see that includes the planets, the Earth, and our body. In death only the physical body disappears and the true ray of light continues on its journey back through the upper worlds to reunite with Ain Soph.

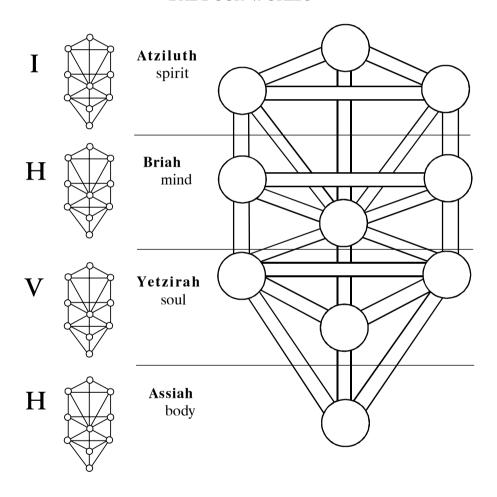
The tree is a concept of eternal truths put into a form that we can relate to, and so much can be and is related to it. It represents the states of consciousness man experiences as he journeys in life through the Sephiroth and learns the lessons of each from the physical to the spiritual.

We are told that for any creation to take place, it must go through these four planes:

Atziluth	Briah	Yetzirah	Assiah
Spirit	Mind	Soul	Body
Idea	Plant seed	Incubation	Birth

This is why later Kabbalists perceived four Sephirotic Trees as lightning energy that starts at the very top of the first and zigzags through its 10 Sephira. Its idea is planted in Briah as it zigzags through those 10 Sephira, and the zigzag continues on down through Yetzirah where the vibration attracts the molecules to its own keynote. Lastly it zigzags through Assiah where it has its birth in form (*The Qabalistic Tarot*, 39).

FIGURE 4
THE FOUR WORLDS



Four trees and 40 Sephiroth later is the birth. Anywhere we see 40 in the Bible—it means completion.

In Genesis two trees are mentioned: the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. One interpretation is that they are one and the same; the Tree of Life being the original while the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil is its reflection on the waters (*The Bible and the Tarot*, 21-22).

They have also been described as being contained in the one Sephirotic Tree: evil being the left side called Severity, good being the right side of Mercy, and the Tree of Life being the central pillar of Beauty. This is more clearly seen as The Three Pillars (Figure 3). The central column is the trunk while the right and left sides are its branches.

The Sephirotic Tree is sometimes depicted as a giant cosmic man making up the entire Universe (macrocosm). His image is of man on Earth (microcosm). Viewed this way we can more readily perceive what is meant by "For in Him we live, move and have our being...." (Acts 17:28).

In this concept the lights, or globes of each of the Sephira, are related to the organs of the human body:

Kether: Head. The pineal gland.

Chochma and Binah: Right and left hemispheres of the

great brain.

Chesed and Geburah: Right and left arms.

Netzach and Hod: Right and left legs, supports of the

world.

Tiphereth: Solar plexus.

Jesod: The generative system, or

foundation of form.

Malkuth: Two feet, or the base of being.

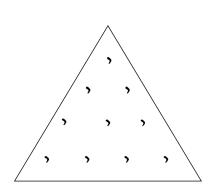
As the body of man, the central pillar of Beauty, or trunk of the tree, is the spinal column with Tiphereth centered in the solar plexus area. One must obtain a sense of balance from that area in order to balance out the opposing forces in man. This microcosm is the image of the macrocosm, the original meaning of "being made in the image of God."

Mystically it was Adam Kadmon who became the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil from which Eve was tempted to take the fruit, which was supposedly the knowledge of human procreation in a material sense—bestial desire rather than spiritual love. This refers not to natural union but to the abusive use of the creative power and wasting precious life essence on self-gratification.

According to ancient cosmogyny, Adam and Eve were not individuals, but representative of root races. As Adam Kadmon is a collective name for the entire Universe, likewise Adam is a collective name for mankind (*The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. 2: 4, 128).

Now we can see the pattern of Creator to that which is created; from macrocosm to microcosm, all a reflection of the Creator's thoughts at the time of conception. By analogy, the words we speak are our own creations. The Bible points out another Tree of Life, the tongue: "A wholesome tongue is the Tree of Life, and he who eats of its fruit shall be filled with it" (Proverbs 15:4).

The **Pythagorean Tetractys** was the symbol of greatest importance to Pythagoras and his disciples. By understanding it, the mysteries of the Universe were revealed to them.



The Pythagorean Tetractys

It is called "The Tetractys of Pythagoras," although it was not his invention, having been part of the mysteries long before his birth. It was, in fact, invented by the ancient priests long before man developed any true method of writing.

Tetractys comes from the Greek word "tettares," which means four. There are four dots (Yods) across the bottom, along each side, and one in the center, 10 in all.

When you add the first four numbers: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4, the total is 10. To them this was proof that all 10 powers of creation (Sephira) exist in the number 4. So 10 was the ideal number and represented the Universe.

Pythagoras learned of this when he studied in Egypt in his youth. It became an important part of his teachings, and all his students are said to have been bound by an oath:

I swear in the name of the Tetractys, which has been bestowed on our soul. The source and roots of the overflowing nature are contained in it. (Mathematics and the Search for Knowledge, 41)

The dots in the triangle are called "Yods," and according to the very first ancient written doctrines of kabbalistic knowledge, *The Zohar* (Book of Splendour) and *The Sepher Yetzirah* (Book of Formation), the Yod is a point of light called Auir, ether, or space. It sprang forth from a source of infinite light.

That ray of light is shot directly from the Deity in the form of numbers and letters, and a point of light remains in each one. These are the cause of all that exists.

Yod is the name of the 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and there it means "the origin of all things." It is translated as "hand," meaning the creative hand that fashions and makes things (*The Key to the Universe*, 356).

The first three Yods represent the threefold white light which is the Godhead, containing potentially all sound and color, the unconscious universal mind—the Creative Principle of Will, Wisdom, and Activity.

All things come from that light and all must return to it, Ain Soph Aur, where all things have their genesis. That light is the first form of intelligence (*The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. 2, 128).

The last seven Yods, or receptacles of light, held much meaning—seven visible planets, the seven notes of the musical scale, and the seven primary colors, all of which are the creative forces which emanate from the Primordial Cause that established the Universe.

Pythagoras said that every letter of the alphabet has its own rate of vibration and color. Everything from a grain of sand to a human being is vibrating at its own rate and around its own center, producing its own particular sound or keynote. This means that everything, without exception, is in a vibratory condition. The higher the rate of vibration, the more spirit force an object contains.

He noted that planets moved in their orbits, proceeded to calculate their distance from each other, and thereby figured the keynote of the planet. Each one sounded a separate note on the musical scale.

The Greeks assigned their seven vowel sounds, one to each planet, for they believed that the musical notes the planets each sang in their orbits were the mystical vowel sounds forever singing the name of God:

First Planet	Moon	A (Alpha)
Second Planet	Mercury	E (Epsilon)
Third Planet	Venus	H (Eta) Long E
Fourth Planet	Sun	I (Iota)
Fifth Planet	Mars	O (Omicron) Short O
Sixth Planet	Jupiter	Y (Upsilon)
Seventh Planet	Saturn	O (Omega) Long O

They believed that by intoning the "aum" they could become one with the highest vibration of the Godhead. "God," said Pythagoras, "is the Supreme Music, the nature of which is harmony."

When vowel sounds are aspirated, they set up a vibration that draws a like vibration to itself. This can be shown by a tuning fork. When plucked, its vibration touches anything in the room of a sympathetic nature, and it too will begin to vibrate.

So, to the initiated, the placement and number of Yods held a great deal of information, and by concentrating on all the attributes therein, they gained an inner awakening: "Concentration is the secret of intellectual power; without will-power exercised in effort we can acquire nothing" (The Power Within, 122).

Occultists believe that the Tetractys is the missing capstone of the Great Pyramid of Giza.