

Ibn Arabi's Memory Palace

Quick Retrieval Guide - The Universal Tree & The Four Birds

"The journey I made was inside myself, and it was toward myself I had been guided." — Ibn Arabi

The Major System - Numbers to Sounds

0 S, Z	1 T, D	2 N	3 M	4 R
5 L	6 J, SH	7 K, G	8 F, V	9 P, B

How to use: To remember station 4, think "4=R → RYE → Four birds!" To remember station 7, think "7=K → KEY → Seven prophets with keys!"

The Palace Journey - Always Walk This Path

→ Gate (Sheikh) → Fountain (Union) → Two Seas (Barzakh) → Mirror Room (Self) → Universal Tree (Four Birds) → Five Pillars (Senses) → Six-Sided Cube (Withdrawal/Return) → Seven Stairs (Prophets) → Eight-Sided Garden (Heart Forms) → Nine Circles (Emanation) → Return to Gate (Unity)

0

HERO

Sheikh al-Akbar - The Greatest Master



VISUAL CUE: Elderly man with GLOWING CROWN, holding THREE BREATHING BOOKS, mouth forming Arabic letters. He splits into infinite mirrors saying "I am in love with no other than myself!"

Key Facts:

- **Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi** (1165-1240 CE) - Born Murcia, Spain; Died Damascus
- Seal of Muhammadan Sainthood (combines all prophetic qualities except legislation)
- ~300 works: Futuhat al-Makkiyya (2000+ pages), Fusus al-Hikam, Tarjuman al-Ashwaq
- Title: "al-Shaykh al-Akbar" (The Greatest Master) - ultimate exemplar of mystical Knowledge

0 = S/Z → ZERO → The ONE who appears as ZERO (multiplicity from Unity)

1

TIE

Ittihad - Unification Through Love

VISUAL CUE: Fountain where water becomes light. You TIE KNOTS in liquid light - they make patterns but don't separate. RED DYE spreading through WHITE CLOTH.

The Teaching:

- NOT fusion of two essences (impossible) - but interpenetration of ATTRIBUTES
- Like LIGHT cohering with LIGHT without burning
- Like DYE penetrating CLOTH - color spreads but fabric remains
- Hadith: "I become his hearing, sight, hands, feet" - God's attributes manifest through servant
- Achieved through supererogatory acts (nawafil) beyond obligatory worship
- Station of Abraham's KHULLA (Intimate Friendship)

1 = T → TIE connects without merging | ITTIHAD = unification

2

NOAH

Barzakh - The Isthmus Between Worlds

VISUAL CUE: NOAH'S ARK stuck between Sea of LIGHT and Sea of DARKNESS. KHALID emerges from underground with coal dust, strikes ROCK, TWELVE STREAMS flow. Neither alive nor dead.

The Teaching:

- **Barzakh** = barrier that SEPARATES and CONNECTS simultaneously
- Between Being and nothingness = existence itself
- Between life and death = the grave (Khalid's realm)
- Between spiritual and material = imagination (mundus imaginalis)
- Between past and future = the instant (now)
- **Perfect Human Being** = **Supreme Barzakh** - bridges divine and cosmic
- **Khalid ibn Sinan** = Prophet of Barzakh (couldn't return from tomb)

2 = N → NOAH between TWO seas | Everything is barzakh between two states

3

MA/ME

The Self Contemplating Itself



VISUAL CUE: THREE MIRRORS in triangle creating infinite reflections. You are viewer, viewed, and viewing. All collapse to ONE. ANQA bird with NAME on chest but NO BODY.

The Teaching:

- Triadic structure: Subject - Object - Act of Knowing are ONE
- "I fled from myself TO myself THROUGH myself"
- God knows Himself through creation - we are His self-contemplation
- Al-Hallaj's paradox: "My mother gave birth to her father"
- **ANQA** = has name but no body = Reality of Realities
- Neither existent nor non-existent but embraces both

3 = M → ME/MIRRORS | THREE aspects = one consciousness

4

RYE

The Four Birds - Cosmic Hierarchy



VISUAL CUE: ENORMOUS TREE, FOUR BIRDS on branches. GOLDEN EAGLE with PEN-beak. SILVER RINGDOVE with WEDDING RING neck. INVISIBLE ANQA (just flickering NAME). JET-BLACK CROW (hole in space with stars inside).

The Cosmic Family (E-R-A-C):

- **E** = **EAGLE** = First Intellect/Supreme Pen | Masculine, Active, Pure Light | Writes on Tablet
- **R** = **RINGDOVE** = Universal Soul/Preserved Tablet | Feminine, Receptive, Silver | Receives writing
- **A** = **ANQA** = Prime Matter/Dust (hyle) | Neither/Both | Pure Potentiality | "Strange bird"
- **C** = **CROW** = Universal Body | Manifestation | Dark but contains all lights (stars)
- **Genealogy:** God → Eagle → (Eagle+Ringdove) → Anqa → Crow

4 = R → RYE/ROWS → Four birds in rows | E-R-A-C = "ERIC with an A"

5

LAW/LEO

The Lover's Paradox - Nearness

VISUAL CUE: Five pillars (eye, ear, nose, mouth, hand). LION pacing in frustration: "My hand is the veil! My eye blocks the view!" Pillars glow, lion becomes TRANSPARENT LIGHT.

The Teaching:

- The ONLY veil between you and God is your SELF - which you cannot remove
- "A thing cannot remove itself from itself"
- The ignorant lover tries to escape his senses to reach God
- The knower realizes: your faculties ARE God's faculties
- "Nearer than the jugular vein" yet seemingly distant
- Solution: Realize your hearing IS His hearing, your sight IS His sight

5 = L → LION/LAW → Five senses are veils that are revelations

6

SHOE/SHAH

Khalwa & Jalwa - Seclusion & Return

VISUAL CUE: GIANT CUBE with SIX DOORS (up, down, front, back, right-exterior, left-interior). SHOES let you walk on any surface. SHAH says: "Muhammad perfected both - retreat AND return. Khalid got stuck."

The Teaching:

- **KHALWA** = spiritual seclusion, retreat (cave of Hira, tomb)
- **JALWA** = manifestation in world, teaching, serving
- Muhammad's PERFECTION: Cave → Ascent → Return to teach
- Khalid's INCOMPLETION: Cave → Ascent → Stuck in tomb (waqfa)
- "Perfection consists in the RETURN to creatures" with knowledge gained
- Six directions = total encompassment of space and responsibility

6 = SH → SHOES/SHAH → Six directions | Two shoes = two modes (inner/outer)

7

KEY/COW

The Seven Prophets - Heavenly Stations



VISUAL CUE: SPIRAL STAIRCASE, seven landings. A COW (body/earth) climbs with you. Each prophet holds a GLOWING KEY. ABRAHAM appears at TOP and BOTTOM with same heart!

The Seven Guardians (Planet-Prophet-Gift):

- 1. **MOON - ADAM** - Key of Flesh (body, physical foundation)
- 2. **MERCURY - JESUS** - Diverse Sciences (spiritual knowledge)
- 3. **VENUS - JOSEPH** - Mirror of Beauty (divine attraction)
- 4. **SUN - IDRIS** - Ascension itself (elevation)
- 5. **MARS - AARON** - Wisdom-Staff (vicegerency, governance)
- 6. **JUPITER - MOSES** - Face-to-Face (direct conversation with God)
- 7. **SATURN - ABRAHAM** - The Heart (intimacy/khulla)

7 = K → KEY → Seven keys to seven heavens | "A Jesus Justly Increases My Abundance"

8

IVY/FEE

The Heart's Infinite Forms



VISUAL CUE: OCTAGONAL GARDEN with EIGHT structures. IVY connects all. Giant HEART transforms into each: mosque, church, synagogue, temple, shrine, fire temple, grove, academy. Eight bells ring.

The Teaching:

- Heart as **HYLE** (prime matter) - capable of receiving ALL FORMS
- Famous verse: "My heart capable of every form - pasture for gazelles, convent for monks, temple for idols, Ka'ba, Torah, Quran"
- Not relativism - each form is valid divine self-disclosure (tajalli)
- Perfect Human = receptacle for ALL Divine Names and Attributes
- Eight = infinity on its side (∞) = endless capacity
- Doctrinal essentialism: all religions contain truth at mystical core

8 = F/V → IVY connects EIGHT gates | ∞ turned upright = 8

9

BEE/PIE

The Nine Circles - Cosmic Emanation



VISUAL CUE: NINE CONCENTRIC CIRCLES rippling from center. GIANT BEE spirals from center to edge leaving HONEY at each circle. Each honey has different flavor but all from ONE BEE.

The Nine Levels (Center → Circumference):

- **CENTER:** Divine Essence (unknowable)
- **1:** Names & Attributes
- **2:** The Breath (of the All-Merciful)
- **3:** The Cloud (undifferentiated creation)
- **4:** First Intellect (Eagle)
- **5:** Universal Soul (Ringdove)
- **6:** Prime Matter (Anqa)
- **7:** Universal Body (Crow)
- **8:** Celestial Spheres
- **9:** Elemental World (where you stand)

9 = P/B → BEE from center outward | Nine = completion before return to One

10

TOES/DICE

Return to Unity - The Journey's End



VISUAL CUE: Back at GATE. Your TEN TOES touched every path. Roll DICE = always 10. Then: 1 and 0 separate. ZERO vanishes, only ONE remains. Sheikh's face = YOUR face = EVERY face. The journey was INSIDE you all along.

The Ultimate Realization:

- "The journey I made was inside myself, toward myself" - Ibn Arabi
- $10 = 1 + 0 = \text{Unity (1) manifesting through potential (0)}$
- All FOUR BIRDS were YOUR faculties: knowledge, love, potential, manifestation
- The Tree, Garden, and Stations were aspects of your consciousness
- "I am the Beloved and the lover; my separation is my union"
- Multiplicity was ALWAYS Unity appearing in diverse forms
- You never left the Self - all was divine self-contemplation

10 = T+S → TOES/DICE → Ten reduces to ONE | Journey complete, enriched by multiplicity

Master Mnemonics & Quick Links

E-R-A-C: The Four Cosmic Principles

- Eagle = First Intellect = Pen = Masculine = Light = Active
- Ringdove = Universal Soul = Tablet = Feminine = Silver = Receptive
- Anqa = Prime Matter = Dust = Neither/Both = Potentiality = Name without body
- Crow = Universal Body = Manifestation = Dark = Contains lights = Matter

Remember: "ERIC but with an A" → E-R-A-C

Seven Prophets - Planetary Order

Sentence: "A Jesus Justly Increases My Abundance"

- Adam (Moon) → Jesus (Mercury) → Joseph (Venus) → Idris (Sun) → (My) → Moses (Jupiter) → Abraham (Saturn)

Or just memorize: Moon-Mercury-Venus-Sun-Mars-Jupiter-Saturn (ancient order)

The Perfect Journey (Muhammad vs Khalid)

- **Muhammad (PERFECT):** Khalwa (cave) → 'Uruj (ascent) → Wusul (arrival) → Ruju' (RETURN to teach)
- **Khalid (INCOMPLETE):** Khalwa (cave) → 'Uruj (ascent) → Wusul (arrival) → Waqfa (STUCK in tomb)

Key: Perfection = withdrawal + knowledge + return to serve

The Three Great Works

- **Futuh al-Makkiyya** = Encyclopedia (2000+ pages, 560 chapters) = Breadth
- **Fusus al-Hikam** = Crystallization (27 prophets, divine wisdoms) = Depth
- **Tarjuman al-Ashwaq** = Poetry (61 love poems, Nizam) = Beauty

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Number to Station (Quick Recall)

Cover the answers and test yourself:

- What's at Station 4? → **RYE** → **Four Birds on Tree (E-R-A-C)**
- What's at Station 2? → **NOAH** → **Barzakh (between two seas)**
- What's at Station 7? → **KEY** → **Seven Prophets with keys**
- What's at Station 1? → **TIE** → **Ittihad (tying light-water)**

Exercise 2: Concept to Station (Reverse Lookup)

- Where do I learn about unification? → **Station 1 (TIE/Fountain)**
- Where are the Four Birds? → **Station 4 (RYE/Tree)**

- Where's the teaching on khalwa/jalwa? → **Station 6 (SHOE/Cube)**
- Where's the heart's infinite forms? → **Station 8 (IVY/Octagon)**

Exercise 3: Mental Walk-Through

Close your eyes and visualize:

1. Enter the garden gate - see Sheikh al-Akbar with crown and breathing books
2. Walk to fountain - tie knots in liquid light, watch dye spread in cloth
3. Stand between two seas - Noah's ark stuck, Khalid emerges from ground
4. Enter mirror chamber - three mirrors, infinite reflections, all collapse to one
5. Continue through all 11 stations... Can you make it to the end?



Your Review Schedule (Dominic O'Brien's Rule of Five)



Immediately

Right after learning each station



24 Hours

Tomorrow - full walk-through



1 Week

Next week - test recall



1 Month

Monthly review - strengthen weak spots



3 Months

Quarterly - now it's permanent!

This schedule ensures long-term retention. Don't skip reviews!



Final Tips for Success

Making It Personal

- Add people you know to scenes
- Use familiar locations from your life
- Connect to your own experiences
- Add more sensory details

When You Forget

- Don't panic - revisit that station
- Make the image MORE bizarre
- Add emotion to the scene
- Practice that section more

Advanced Practice

- Walk backward through palace
- Jump to random stations
- Teach someone else using palace
- Add new details weekly

Daily Routine

- Morning: Quick walk (5 min)
- Evening: One station in depth
- Weekly: Full detailed journey
- Monthly: Teach someone

Ibn Arabi Memory Palace System

Combining Harry Lorayne's Major System + Memory Palace Method + Giordano Bruno's Storytelling

"Investigation like an intelligent man who seeks the salvation of his soul." — Ibn Arabi

Print this guide and keep it with you. Review regularly. The garden is always waiting for you to return.