

# Brief guide of interpretation for The Cards of the Heart (Las cartas del corazón)

Luis Illanes Albornoz  
Kunaustraße 6a  
22393 Hamburg, Germany  
[luis@editorialeinsof.de](mailto:luis@editorialeinsof.de)  
+49406011075

**Nota bene:** occasional incongruencies and inconsistencies regarding the Spanish text and the translation thereof owe their occurrence to the differences between the former and the German text. Accordingly, the corresponding passages should be considered as an attempt at mediation, to varying degrees, between both textual variants.

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Translation by Lucio Andrés Illanes Albornoz <[lucio@lucioillanes.de](mailto:lucio@lucioillanes.de)>

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**The Cards of the Heart** consist of a black card, a white card, and 77 numbered cards. Each of the nine *səfirōt* encompasses 7 cards, except for the *səfirah Daʿat*, which claims 14 for itself.

In the *Tree of Life*, the first *səfirah* is *Keter*, “The crown.” In terms of numerology, the cradle of the number one, the father of all other numbers. It embodies infinity, manifested through unity. In summary, the cosmic dimension of the human condition, condensed in one spot. Seven cards relate it to us.

1. **The first step** out of or towards infinity. Here, the task at hand is sketched out, as well as its purpose, responsibilities assumed, and the teachings conferred inasmuch as the lessons drawn therefrom.
2. **The universe** points to the vastness of the cosmos, to the loss of all details and signs pointing to our own identity.
3. **Change of skin.** Primordial nudeness. The “instant” wherein the clothes of fear are removed.
4. **Hushed voices.** The heart speaks to us face-to-face and with great confidence. Intimacy and loyalty.
5. **Light** deep within, images of utmost intuition, a chain of glowing light that sets everything in motion.
6. **Mist** that shifts and stirs; panoramic perception, all-encompassing and ideal.
7. **Awakening** to the universe, opening your eyes to absolute liberty.

The next seven cards are related to the *səfirah Hokmāh*, number two in the *Tree of Life*. Its purpose is to preserve the dynamics of that which shall be revealed later. In a way, it admits certain undercurrents of *Pluto*.

8. **Discoveries.** Becoming acquainted with the *whole*. Loose ends are tied up.
9. **Cataclysm.** Minor or major catastrophes, gigantic upheavals.
10. **Swelling**, the vital pulse of life, primordial ventral energy; utmost vigour.
11. **Treasure**, most often hidden. The all-pervading piercing glance.
12. **Eruptions.** Resurrection and revitalisation. The remains of the old are left behind, and the new is sought.
13. **Regeneration**, the exalted moment of the birth of a new existence.
14. **Alter Ego**, the other *I*, the true self.

The next seven cards elucidate the *səfirah Bīnah*. In the Kabbalah, it corresponds to the wisdom of the heart. It symbolises the ancient deity of the Golden Age: *Saturn*. Hence, it should hardly come as a surprise should someone, attracted thereby, begin to identify with the aspects of this *səfirah*, for memories of this order are immortal.

- 15(a). **The three keys** describe the ability to create and/or destroy, as pleases and invites, as well as the constructive or destructive attitude corresponding to it. Hence, the ephemerality of creation.
- 15(b). **Old age** corresponds to becoming aware of the above, you concern yourself with

time and its effects, a sensation of drifting and wandering.

16. **Memory** is within reach and the veil is drawn back. You may leaf through the pages of yesterday and tomorrow.
17. **Matrix mundi**, the mother of creation, source of life.
18. **Solitude**. A potential hermit, or all that seek themselves, knows and needs not home and, should he obtain it, must abandon it.
19. **Saturnalia**, a golden age, ocean of fertility and fruition. Enormous joy, day by day.
20. **Boundaries** help us to preserve the essential.
21. **Shadows**. The country of shadows. Within our darker sides, genuine sincerity is hidden, the unknown and the original.

A quick look at the *Tree of Life* suffices to betray the absence of a connection between the *səfirōt Bīnah* (3) and *Hesed* (4.) The descent from 3 to 4, along with the abandonment of the *Garden of Eden* of the first three *səfirōt*, may offer an explanation. An obscure affair indeed in view of the risk of of leaping from a divine place and plunging into an abyss, at times unfathomable. Many Kabbalists purport to solve this riddle by conceiving of an additional, mediating *səfirah*: *Daʿat*. “Perhaps, but this *səfirah* likewise encompasses a domain strewn with dangers, inaccessible like no other, and it offers magnificent possibilities just as well as unpleasant surprises.” Its distinct character is seen in its peculiar knowledge and comprehension, unlike the singular *Hokmāh* (focussed on dynamity) and the present of *Bīnah* (the draught of the hearts.) A fusion of *Neptune* and *Uranus* – the sea and the sky – would not merely be conceivable, but also helpful and desirable. Given to the importance of such bridges and passages to the continuum of existence, the next 14 cards emphasise the most pertinent aspects in the possession of *Daʿat*, 7 of which conceal a hidden message that shall eventually become manifest in *Earth*, while the remaining 7 cards procure the means and study the paths that lead towards it.

22. **Tidings**, entirely unexpected, bring surprises and news.
23. **Rebellion**, from deep within, promotes rejuvenation within us.
24. The **Encounter** with sacred books is the connection with divinity.
25. The **Leap** across the abyss. Trials and tribulations, lunacy and ingenious ideas.
26. **Glow**, noumenal intuition. To know, without knowing why. The answers to all of our questions.
27. **Balance** is the harmony attained at the cost of the losses.
28. **The hero** celestial, riding his horse, attends to his affairs with a smile on his face.
29. **Secret yearnings**. Here reside your most prized dreams.
30. The **Firefly** bestows mystic visions.
31. The **Castles** are far away from you and left floating in midair.
32. **Foregoing** is your mightiest weapon and your greatest opportunity. Sacrifices, redemption in order to open the door previously ignored.
33. **The trail**, the path to the supreme *I*.
34. The **Flowers** are the masks of mystery... and their shroud.
35. **The oasis** may offer glowing pictures or fleeting illusions.

The next seven cards are linked to the *sāfirah Ḥesed*. Here dwell the number 4 as well as *Zeus, Jupiter, Thor*, and *Amun*. Its function consists of providing the sketches of *Bīnah* with structure, the validity of which is proven in *Daṣat*.

- 36. **Chance**, fortuitous principle of highest rank, concealed vitality.
- 37. **Expansion**, principle of vital manifestation.
- 38. **Fortuna maior** delivers the unexpected; a stroke of luck.
- 39. The **Paladin**, righteous and on his white horse; the hand of justice.
- 40. The **Thunderbolts** are relentless and know no mercy.
- 41. **Submission** is a virtue. This return to the divine is the foundation and the goal of every religion.
- 42. **Horizons**, remote, never witnessed. Long journeys, longing for distant countries, whom we are and do not yet wish to be.

The next seven cards are connected to *Givūrah*, the fifth *sāfirah*, which tinges them with the temperament of *Mars*, the ancient god of war, and relates them to the number 5. As a result, and given to the task *Givūrah*, the cards express constant movement.

- 43. **The hatching**, the erupting burst, the call to life.
- 44. **Thrust**. Whilst forced, it is affirmative and destroys anachronistic schemes.
- 45. **Decisive action** sows conflicts, but reaps solutions.
- 46. The **Passion** of the ardent lover, often a flash in the pan. Brevity is the source of wit.
- 47. **Loyalty** meets every challenge... spontaneous.
- 48. **Daring** is demanded in order to face challenges.
- 49. The **Assault** brings down all doors and gates.

The next seven cards embody the function of the sun within mythology, religion, as well as the *sāfirah Tiferēt*, the sixth in the *Tree of life*, at the very centre of the same. As it symbolises harmony, its task is to attend to growth and prosperity and the number 6.

- 50. **Dawn**, sunrise and daybreak of mankind.
- 51. **Splendour** announces bright and glowing growth.
- 52. **Well-being** arrives and endures. Joy of living and abundance.
- 53. **Clarity of mind**, the eyes which clearly see, after the shadows have been banished.
- 54. **Glory**. The implementation of our projects.
- 55. **Final stroke**. The setting sun, in agony, which dies today and, resurrected tomorrow, promises new life.
- 56. The renowned **Poisoned darts** of *Apollo*, displaying the deadly effects of the *Black Sun*.

In the *Tree of Life*, the seventh *sāfirah* is *Netzah*. Its name tells us of “triumph.” The goddesses of love and beauty, such as *Aphrodite* or *Venus*, as well as the number 7, reside here. Its task consist of imparting the sketches now examined with the senses they demand.

- 57. **Moisture**. A bathing woman, whose scent spreads and invigorates.

- 58. Undeniable is the **Delight** of the two girls that splash in the water with ease and lust.
- 59. **Labyrinth**. Spells and tricks of the senses, spirited contrivances which lead astray.
- 60. **Fortuna minor** imparts, above all, calmness.
- 61. **Union** with nature and our own natures, source of inspiration.
- 62. **Dreaming**. Dreams are the foretastes of creation and save us from the troubles the senses lead us to.
- 63. The **Leisure** of the pregnant woman, the calm before the imminent birth.

The eighth *sāfirah* is *Hōd*, naturally related to the number 8. Here dwell the gods endowed with the gift of the word. Whereas before, they knew the secrets of magic, now they solely possess the power of healing. *Hermes*, *Mercury* and *Thoth*, the former two being the primary patron saints of the thieves, live here. Reasonable settlement of projects is its main concern.

- 64. **Writing**, originally magic, today solely loquacity.
- 65. **Cunning**. Ability, slyness, and subtlety.
- 66. **The physician**, the general practitioner. Someone trustworthy; a good guide.
- 67. The **Tongues**, speaking from a thousand mouths.
- 68. **Artifices**. Ingenious ideas leading to the swift solution of some problem.
- 69. **The cave**. At times a crypt, at times one of thieves, it is distant and hidden well.
- 70. **Floating money**. An opportunity as swift as unexpected for better... or worse.

The last seven cards are attached to the *sāfirah Yesōd* and lunar goddesses such as *Artemis*, *Selene*, *Luna*, *Isis*, *Hecate*, *Inanna*, and *Nin-imma*, abode of the number 9. *Yesōd* must, above all, concern itself with maintaining the equilibrium that guarantees easy birth. The extremes are avoided as well as tempered as soon as they emerge.

- 71. **Darkness**. The *Black Moon* is birth and clandestine death.
- 72. The **Crevice** of silver is that which is divined but not yet known.
- 73. **Gust of wind**. A veil is drawn back. Confession. Something loses its allure, or perhaps some girl her “innocence.”
- 74. The lunar **Dancing women** dance in silence.
- 75. The **Kisses** of the supreme mystery on the cheek of your spirit.
- 76. The astral **Shapes** from another dimension.
- 77. **Sparks**. Subtle light, on top of being unattainable upon pursuit, is ephemeral.

Ten *sāfirōt* (officially) does the *Tree of Life* admit and nine have sufficed me. Why? The last one would be *Malkūt*, *Kingdom*, the material plane itself, the place wherein which we experience our destiny. Here, we must face our *Karma*. As nothing is written in stone, or spelt out in magic formulae, the only remedy is found in our hidden abilities, to what some may refer to as but genetic inheritance. For this reason, I desist from including these cards. For better or worse, all shall devise their existence as they please. In accordance with their kind, hence they may come, someday, to depict and describe the cards of **the Earth**...