

## Eremiados Course Lesson Fifteen



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Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing

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Templum de Octo Rosae Mysticus



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## THE TREE OF LIFE and its SEFIROTH

### A Qabalistic Glyph

The Tree of Life is not a drawing of any kind of Tree you might find in a forest. It is a schematic diagram used for magical and mystical purposes. Such sacred diagrams are often called glyphs. Literally, the word 'glyph' means something engraved and is often applied to sacred drawings or engravings. In Eastern religions, they are usually called mandalas.

The Tree of Life is the name of any of a large number of similar qabalistic diagrams. What these diagrams all have in common is they consist of a number of circles linked by lines. While there are exceptions, the vast majority of Tree of Life glyphs have 10 circles, one for each of the Ten Numbers, and 22 connecting lines, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

### The 32 Paths of Wisdom

The connections are usually drawn as double lines and are most often called Paths. Sometimes, the Tree of Life is referred to as The Thirty-two Paths of Wisdom, i.e. 10 circles or 'paths', plus 22 channels or 'paths'.

The term most often used of the circles in the language of High Magic is Sefiroth. This is a plural Hebrew word which means "Numbers". The singular of Sefiroth is Sefirah, a Number. It does not refer to ordinary numbers such as we use in everyday arithmetic, but to the Ideal Numbers from which the universe has been formed. The Sefiroth of the Hebrew Qabalah are the exact equivalent of the Arithmoi [Numbers] of the Greek Pythagorean Mysteries.

Table 1: THE TEN SEFIROTH OF THE TREE OF LIFE

Number	Name	Pronunciation	Meanings of the Names
1	Kether	KEE - ther	Crown
2	Chokmah	ChOK - maa	Wisdom, Practical Skill
3	Binah	BEE - naa	Understanding
4	Chesedh	ChES - edh	Steadfast Love, Mercy
5	Hadinah	HAAD - deen - a	Good Judgement
6	Rachamim	RAACH - a - meem	Compassion
7	Netsach	NETS - aach	Victory, Eternity
8	Hodh	HODH	Glory
9	Yesodh	YES - odh	Foundation
10	Malkuth	MAAL - kuth	Kingdom

*Th* is pronounced like the unvoiced sound in *thin*; *Dh* like the voiced sound in *this*.

*Ch* is pronounced as in Scottish *loch* or German *Ich*. Many English speakers pronounce it as an *H* at the beginning of a word and a *K* in the middle or at the end of a word.

The accent is best placed on the first syllable of each name.

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Figure 1 shows a Tree of Life glyph, with 10 Sefiroth and all the possible connections between them in the 35 Tree of Life glyphs known collectively as Weavers' Woods.

Only 22 of these connections are usually made in any one glyph. The numbers in the circles in Figure 1 are the Ideal Numbers to which each Sefirah always refers.

Figure 2 shows one of the Trees of Life in Weavers' Woods. This particular arrangement of the 22 connecting Paths is known as The Well-known Tree. It is so well known that most modern magical lodges or covens think it is the only Tree of Life glyph. On the circles are the Hebrew names of the Sefiroth, as listed in Table 1, written in Hebrew [which is written from right to left]. The Names are mystical names given to the Sefiroth, not ordinary number-names like one, two, three, etc. Table 1 gives the pronunciation of the Hebrew Names of the Sefiroth. You do not have to learn how to write the Sefiroth names in Hebrew characters yet.

#### Alternate Names of the Sefiroth

There are many other mystical and poetical names given to each of the Sefiroth, especially in Jewish Kabbalistic writings. However, the alternate names for three of the Sefiroth, Nos 4, 5 and 6, are very ancient. They are so significant that you should know them right from the start of your studies.

4.	Gedulah	Ge - DOOL - ah	Magnificence
5.	Gevurah	Ge - VOO - rah	Power, Strength
6.	Tifareth	TIF - a - reth	Beauty, Glory

The alternate pairs of Names given to the Central Sefiroth, Nos 4, 5 and 6, are sometimes said to express the overlapping of our Human aspirations towards the Divine and the Divine reaching down towards Humankind. All six of these Names are Divine attributes:

	<u>Divine attributes</u>	<u>Divine attributes to which humans can aspire</u>
4.	Magnificence	Steadfast Love
5.	Power	Good Judgement
6.	Glory	Compassion

The Names in the first column express attributes of the Transcendental, Divine level of existence. The Names in the second column express Divine attributes which humans can achieve while living in the Physical World of Material Activities.

Many magicians and Jewish kabbalists use the name Din [Deen], Judgement, for the 5th Sefirah. Din originally meant any kind of judgement, whether in a court of law or judging a competition or using good judgement in making a decision. It gradually became restricted in meaning to the sentences of judgement handed down in a law-court. The name Hadinah preserves all the breadth of the original meaning; and is the equivalent of the Greek term Euboulia [you - BOO - lee - a], which is translated as 'good counsel, soundness of judgement, prudence.'

#### Assignment No. K 1/1:

Learn by heart the 13 Sefiroth Names [ 10 plus 3 alternate names ] , including their meanings and the number to which each name corresponds. When you are confident you know them by heart, write them out from memory, with their corresponding meanings and numbers and send what you wrote to me.

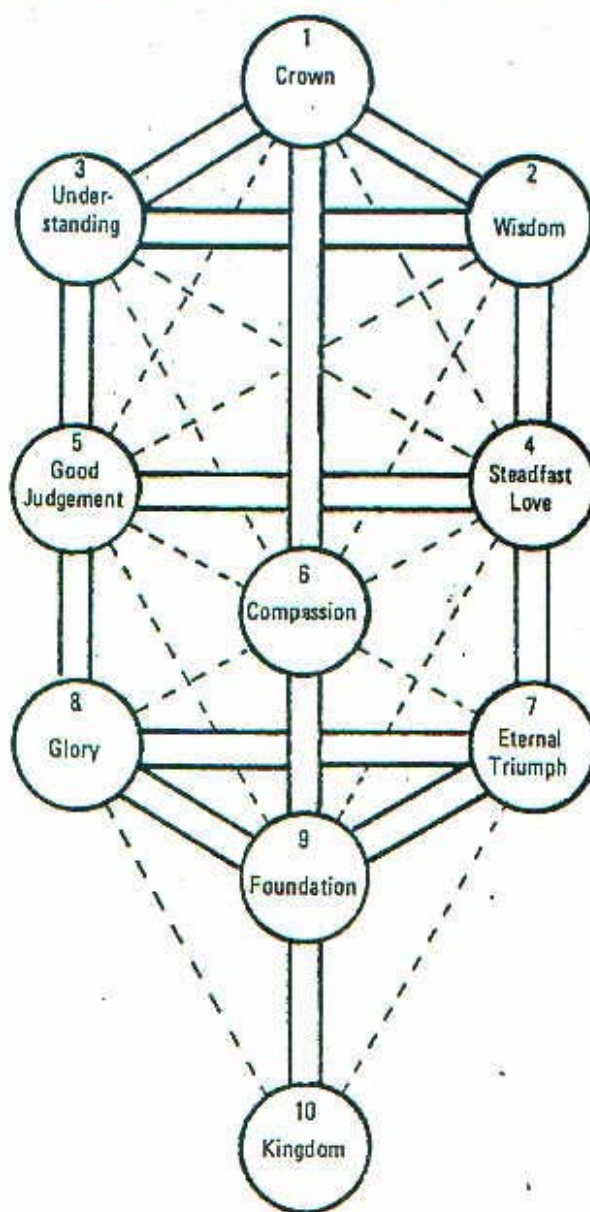


Figure 1: The Tree of Life, showing the names and numbers of the Sefirot, together with all possible connecting paths between the Sefirot of the Trees of Life in Weavers' Woods.



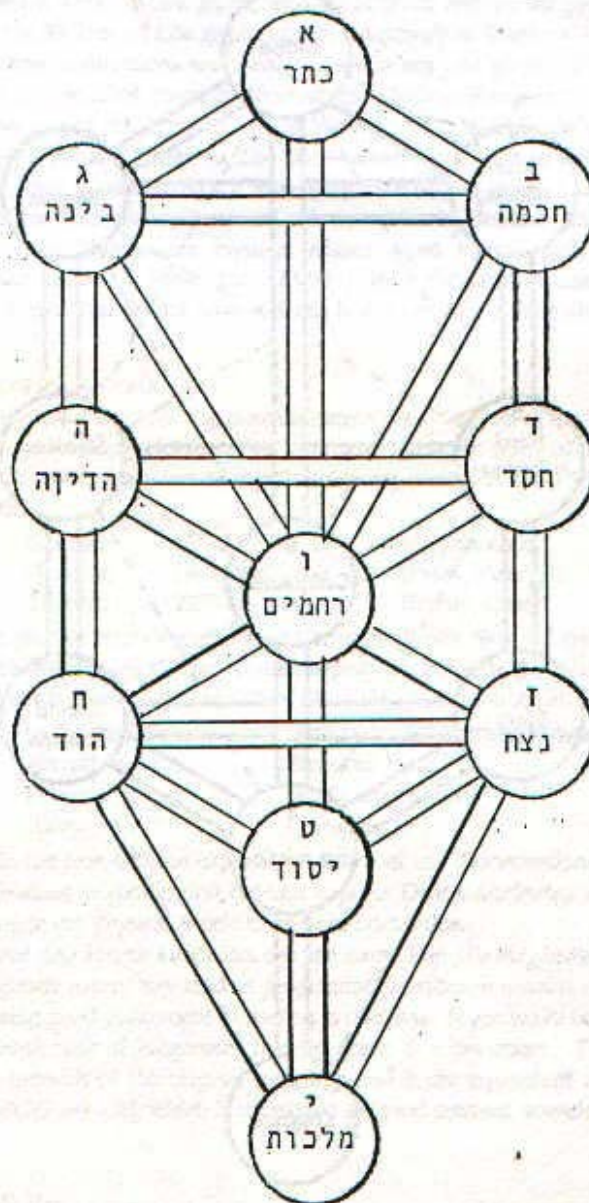


Figure 2: The Well-known Tree of Life.  
On the Sefirot are shown their Number and Names  
written in Hebrew characters