



Basic Principles of the Ten Sephiroth and Tree of Life

Supplementary Guide

This study guide is intended to be a very basic, bare bones, and rudimentary reference for those who are not familiar with Kabbalistic principles or the Tree of Life, but would like to practice incorporation of these principles when working with the Opening of the Key (OOTK). Use this study guide to help you interpret your divinatory results in the Fifth Operation.

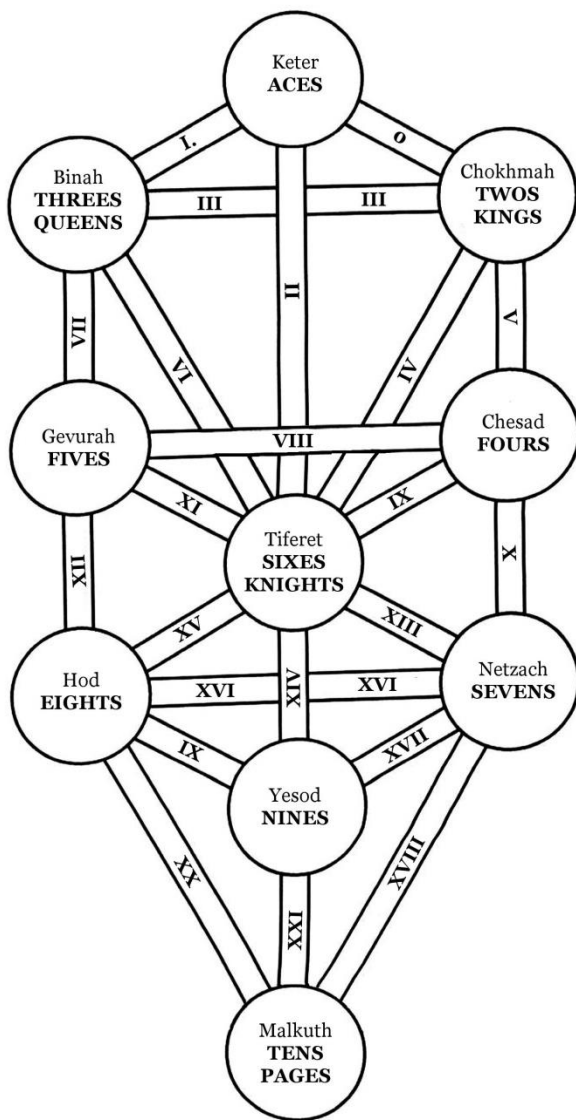
What is the Kabbalah?

The Kabbalah is an esoteric tradition predicated on the principle that everything is ultimately connected to one singular Divine God principle. It becomes each one of our missions or greater spiritual purpose to return to that Divine God principle, and to do that, we must ascend and develop a connection between our physical world and the metaphysical. To develop that connection, we must understand the archetypal relations. These relationships are generally hidden to us, or occulted, and so we must pathwork toward that growth and spiritual knowledge.

“Kabbalah” is from the Hebrew word for “received,” and so the practice of the Kabbalah is about becoming personally and spiritually receptive to Receiving from the Divine God principle, which in so many ways is resonant with the grounding principle of the OOTK—to progress forward and establish a connection between the physical and metaphysical, to essentially study received signs and symbolism in the tarot cards drawn during the divination, engage in a form of meditation through the OOTK procedures, pathwork figuratively through various esoteric systems, and finally receive the Key, or revelation from that Divine God in the final Fifth Operation.

What is the Qabalah?

You may have noticed a discrepancy in spelling throughout the texts provided in this course. Perhaps a few times there may have been unintentional typographical errors, but generally the spelling discrepancy is intentional. While Kabbalah refers to the esoteric tradition originating from Judaism, the Qabalah or Hermetic Qabalah is a later development of Kabbalah, originating from Western magical and occult traditions, such as the Golden Dawn, which is where the OOTK comes from, Thelema, B.O.T.A. (Builders of the Adytum), etc.



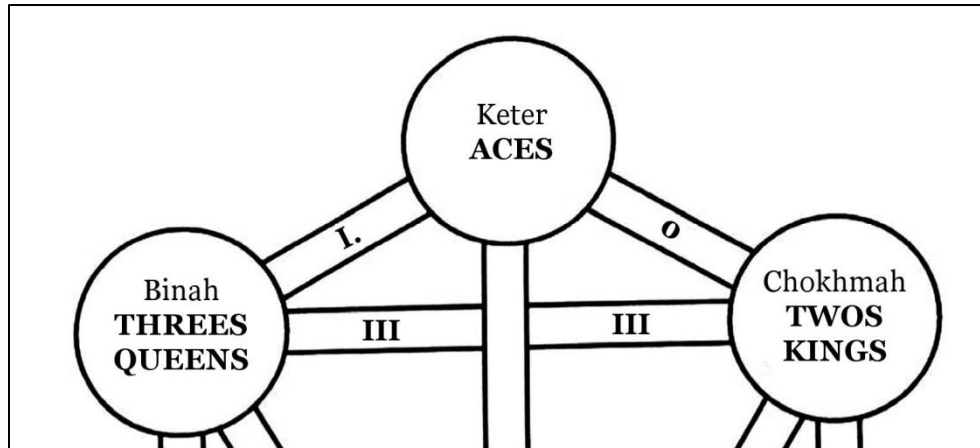
The Tree of Life

The Kabbalistic Tree of Life is a symbolic diagram of the Universe, as Created by that Divine God principle. The Tree of Life represents the interconnections between all aspects of the Universe and of life, and so understanding of the Tree is understanding of how the physical world is layered upon the metaphysical.

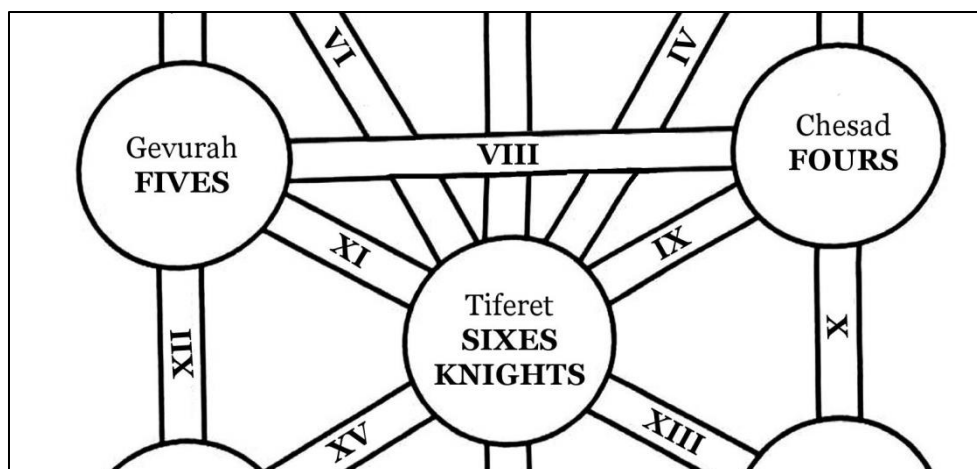
The Tree is also a map, hidden in plain sight, that directs the initiated toward ascension and communion with that Divine God principle.

Principles of the Tree of Life are woven through the entirety of the OOTK, though to what extent a practitioner acknowledges those principles is a personal choice. The First Operation, commencing with the Opening of the Four Worlds, is based on the Tree of Life. The Three Pillars and Three Triangles that are optional procedures in that First Operation are also based on the Tree, and were explained in the OOTK workbook. The OOTK then ends in the final Fifth Operation with pathworking through the ten sephiroth of the Tree of Life and it is through the practitioner's exploration of the Tree in that final operation that reveals or Opens the Key.

The diagram of the Tree of Life consists of ten points, or ten sephiroth, and twenty-two paths. The twenty-two paths correspond with the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana in tarot, whereas the sephiroth correspond with the pips and courts in the Minors. Thus, the cards of the Major Arcana express pathways, or *how* to get from one situation to another, or one consciousness to another, which are expressed in the Minor Arcana cards. The fifty-six Minor Arcana cards, when interpreted through the Kabbalistic lens, become representations of the complete compendium of human expressions and forms of human consciousness. Those fifty-six levels of consciousness and energy potential are tapped by tapping particular sephiroth on the Tree of Life, which is what the OOTK is about—understanding the tarot cards drawn in divination through the Tree of Life and ten sephiroth so that you can use the Tree of Life and sephiroth to understand consciousness and energy potential. In the most mundane terms, understanding consciousness and energy potential is how you manifest your ambitions and goals.

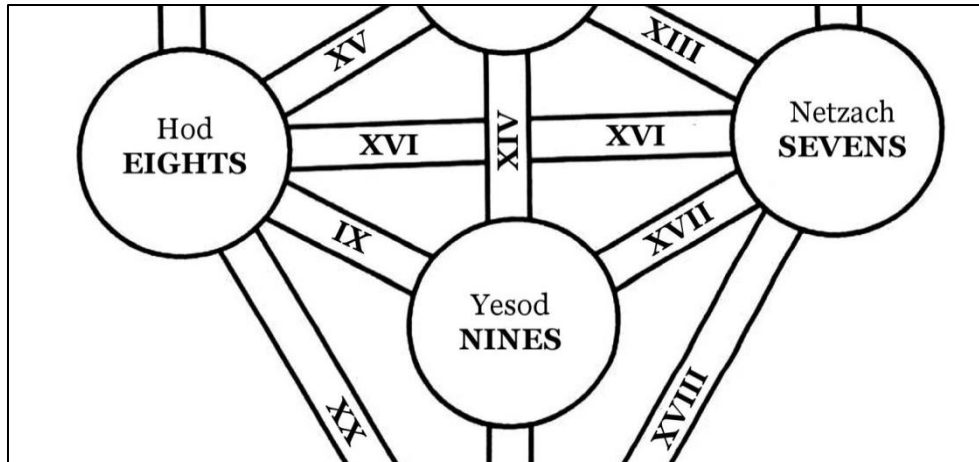


<p>1 Keter</p>	<p>THE CROWN. Keter represents completion of the Great Work. In the OOTK it prognosticates attainment. It is access to the most potent source of personal power. Keter is a superconsciousness, a place of pure, healing White Light and emanation of the Divine.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Keter in the Fifth Operation, the Key is to return to a source of divine inspiration. There is a push toward raw, creative energy, to embody a polymath and the spirit of renaissances and enlightenments. SIG. in Keter is an affirmative sign of having established communion with the Divine.</p>
<p>2 Chokhmah</p>	<p>WISDOM. Chokhmah is the force of moment toward understanding the Divine God. It is the active, conscious quest toward attainment. Chokhmah is one transcended step beyond knowledge. It blends compassion with knowledge for wisdom, for application of knowledge in a way that will be harmonious with all.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Chokhmah in the Fifth Operation, the Key is to apply the knowledge you already have in a way that is compassionate and harmonious. In short, use your knowledge and abilities for good, not evil. SIG. in Chokhmah is an affirmative sign of having established communion with the Divine.</p>
<p>3 Binah</p>	<p>UNDERSTANDING. Binah is the force of creation and destruction of matter. It is empowerment and acquisition of the most powerful forms of knowledge. Binah is attainment of esoteric and occult knowledge. It is an auspicious yet ominous position because even though it is a consciousness of great empowerment and knowing, it puts you at a fork in your own life path—how will you apply your gained power and knowing? How will you work with the powers of creation and destruction you now have access to?</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Binah in the Fifth Operation, you're facing a point of decision. What responsibilities will you bear? Will you exercise your powers to their full extent just because you can? Or will you forebear, seek wisdom, humility, and continue to keep the powers occulted?</p>

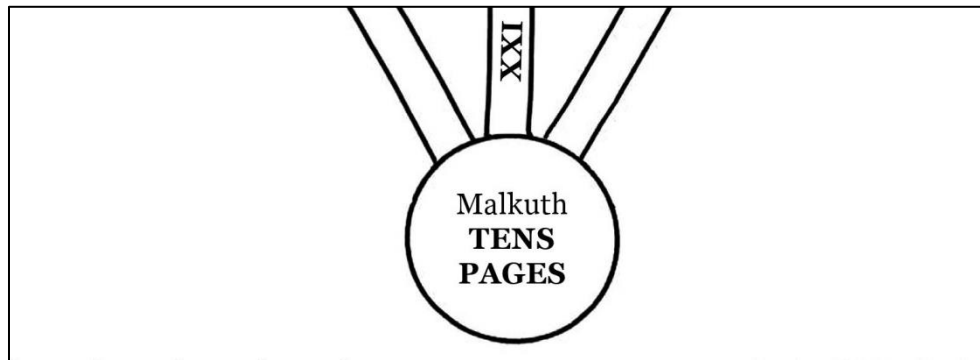


<p>4 Chesad</p>	<p>MERCY. Chesad represents virtue, justice, benevolence, and a receptive intelligence. It is the remuneration given for positively accrued karma. Thus, Chesad is often associated with wealth, good luck, and fortuity.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Chesad in the Fifth Operation, the Key is related to harnessing resources, opportunities, and to an extent, chance. There is also a message here about adherence to the natural laws of the universe, and by going with the flow and current of water, you will be taken to where you need to go.</p>
<p>5 Gevurah</p>	<p>STRENGTH. Gevurah is the power to create change. It represents an active intelligence. Gevurah embodies a warrior consciousness. It is having the courage to take action. It is a source of motivation, perspiration, and the inner drive or push to action.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Gevurah in the Fifth Operation, embody the warrior consciousness. The Key is related to having a sense of fight in you. The Key is combat (often figurative rather than literal).</p>
<p>6 Tiferet</p>	<p>BEAUTY. Tiferet is heart-centered consciousness, and the quest for harmony, balance, and equilibrium. Tiferet is an elevated consciousness of beauty and magnificence. It is the residence of ascended masters, and therefore a consciousness of spiritual teaching. To gain access to those teachings of ascended masters, you must devote yourself to service.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Tiferet in the Fifth Operation, the Key is devotion to service, so that you can make the most of spiritual teachings imparted to you from ascended masters, and from the Divine. The Key may also bear themes of master-pupil relations.</p>

Note: When one of the Major Arcanum representing a pathway connecting into the sephira (noted by Key numbers in the top diagram on each page) appears in your card pile or a Minor Arcanum as noted within the sephira in the diagram appears, these cards are of particular importance and should be emphasized in the divinatory reading.



<p>7 Netzach</p>	<p>VICTORY. Netzach is a consciousness of selflessness, optimism, and faith. It relates to emotional connections. It is a collective consciousness, an awareness that we are all One. This is the realm of fairies and sprites, where there is much creativity, thriving arts, and innocence.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Netzach in the Fifth Operation, the Key is related to collective consciousness. It means that the Key is not just about you, but about the collective that you hold influence over. When the Key is related to Netzach, the answer is interconnectivity.</p>
<p>8 Hod</p>	<p>GLORY. Hod is the consciousness of analytical reasoning. It is about cogent communication and transmission of knowledge. Here is where intellectualism and ideas thrive. It is a consciousness of brainstorming and sharing ideas. There is robust exchange of information here. There is a consciousness of investigation, of unraveling deception to find truths.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Hod in the Fifth Operation, the Key is related to investigation. The Key is related to the exchange, commerce, and correspondence of knowledge or information. Seek out a scientific or rational approach.</p>
<p>9 Yesod</p>	<p>THE FOUNDATION. Yesod represents dream consciousness, or the imaginative world within the mind. It is where physical reality and visionary reality fold into one another. Yesod is a level of subconsciousness. Here, ideas and knowledge are on the verge of taking form. Yesod is related to the cycle of changes that run the course in the natural world. It is about the seasons, the cycle of life, and access to the nonlinear continuum of space-time. Yesod is the source from where magic begins to take form toward manifestation.</p> <p>When the SIG. appears in Yesod in the Fifth Operation, the Key is to delve into your subconscious and pull up to the conscious level certain psychic ability you've been gifted with from the Divine. You'll want to deep-dive below consciousness to the formless source of ideas and knowledge, to a state preceding formation of ideas and knowledge.</p>



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Malkuth

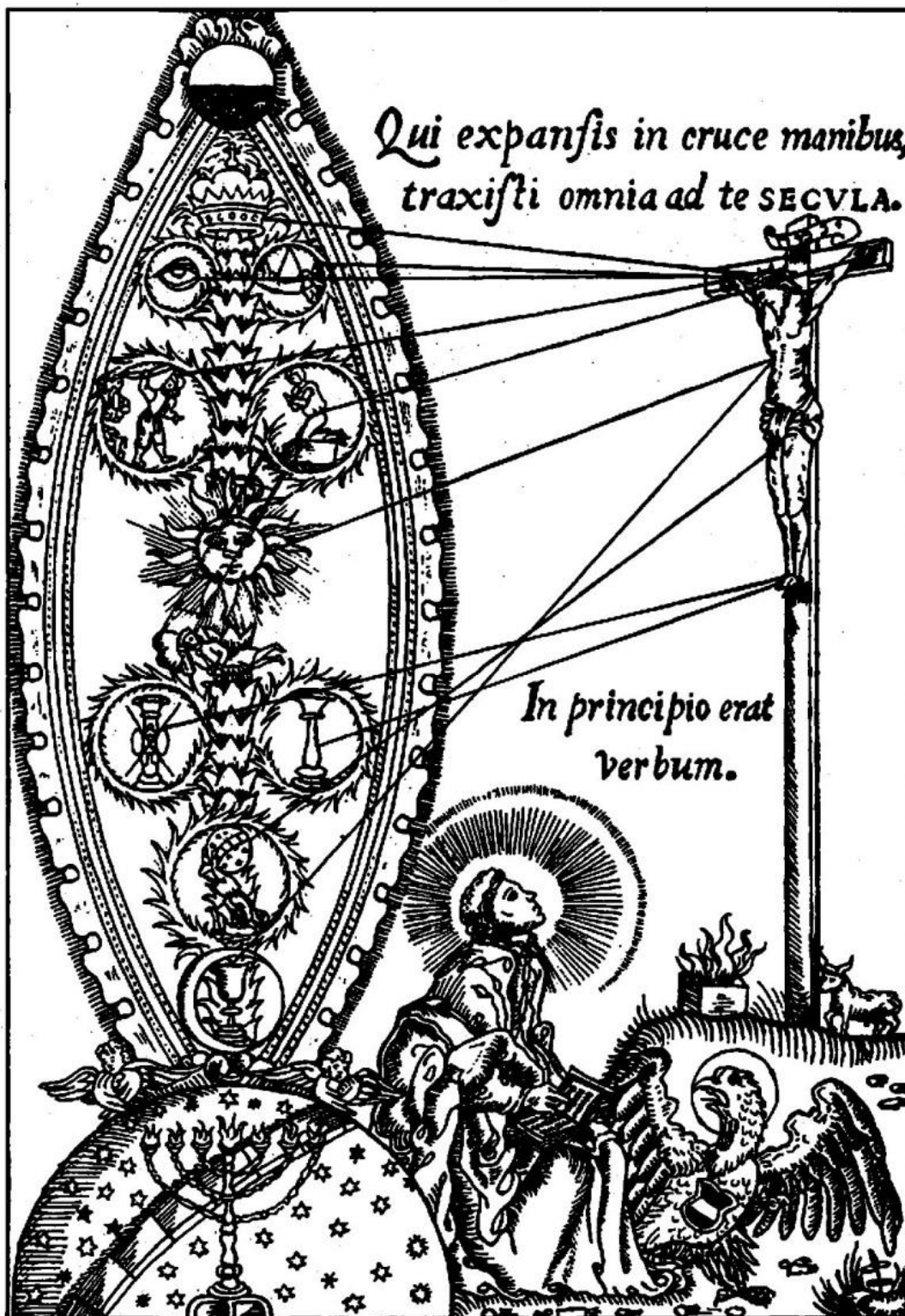
KINGDOM; THE MATERIAL WORLD. Malkuth is the concentration of the four elements that created our world—Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. Malkuth is the consciousness of living. Malkuth is the first consciousness of the initiate. It is the state of the newcomer. It is where you begin to realize how much knowledge there is for you to still acquire. Prior to entering Malkuth, you didn’t even know how much you didn’t know. Malkuth is the foundational study of the physical world so that you can ready yourself for understanding of the metaphysical.

When the SIG. appears in Malkuth in the Fifth Operation, the Key is to understand the world around you. You’re only beginning to realize how much of the relevant landscape you haven’t even seen, and the Key is to take active measure to see it. Malkuth is about further exploration and gaining a greater understanding of the earthly plane on which you dwell.



FURTHER STUDY

Trying to distill the Tree of Life and ten sephiroth into a short, printable study guide was probably a poor choice of effort. Nonetheless, I am providing it with the hope that it can help you get through your first few attempts at the OOTK, even if you come into this course with zero prior knowledge of Kabbalistic or Qabalistic principles. Since the principles set forth here are not part of the personal tradition I follow, I have found that basic study of the Tree of Life suffices for me, which I can get most efficiently from the *Tree of Life Learning Cards: The Foundation of Kabbalah*, a set of self-study flash cards in the Living Magick Learning Card Series produced by Jadzia and Jay DeForest. I also rely heavily on Robert Wang’s *The Qabalistic Tarot: A Textbook of Mystical Philosophy* (Marcus Aurelius Press, 2004). If you find that what we’ve covered in this course on the Kabbalah fascinates you and has triggered a quest for more knowledge, then this is where we may need to part ways so you can find a far better teacher on the subject. I recommend enrollment in Ruth and Wald Amberstone’s THE TAROT SCHOOL and working through the school’s “Explorations of Tarot and the Tree of Life” audio course.



Tree of Life from the New Testament in Syriac (1555)
 [Liber sacrosancti evangelii de Iesu Christo]
 Johann Albrecht Widmanstadt, Ed.