

# What is Gnosis? – Part II: Gnostic Topics of Study

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## Gnosis and Meditation

One of the areas that the Gnostic system we are studying recommends we experiment is with Meditation. The reason is that when we understand need to get out of the mind, then we recognize the benefits of meditation.

Meditation allows us to not only get out of the Mind, but also to separate ourselves from the 5 centers of the human machine:

1. Mind (Intellectual center)
2. Emotions (Emotional center)
3. Movement (Motor center)
4. Sensations (Instinctive center)
5. Sex (Sexual center)

As we mentioned in the previous class, Gnostic Psychology places an emphasis on the Consciousness. There is a need to for us to activate the Consciousness, which means that aspect of ourselves that is neither thinking (thoughts), nor emotions (feelings), nor the physical body (movement, etc.) and its sensations.

For us, Consciousness is defined as: “a very particular kind of APPREHENSION OF INTERIOR KNOWLEDGE which is totally independent of all mental activity.”

As we mentioned in the previous class: “The faculty of CONSCIOUSNESS allows us to know OURSELVES.”

Peter Ouspensky (a student of G.I. Gurdjieff) says:

“In reality, Consciousness is a particular kind of ‘awareness’ in the human being, independent from mind’s activity; first of all, awareness of ourselves, awareness of who we are, where we are, and further, awareness of what we know, of what we do not know, and so on.”

So in daily life and especially during Meditation: we are trying to open ourselves up to the information that we can receive through the Consciousness. Specifically, this can be about where our consciousness is trapped... that is: how our Consciousness is Sleeping/Dreaming.

Because of (what Gnosis calls) ‘Egos’, we cause ourselves and others to suffer. The term ‘Ego’ is defined differently in Gnosis than in other systems. Other names for it are: “I’s”, Psychic Aggregates, Desires, Errors, etc. These are the things that cause our Awareness to Sleep or Dream.

Each one of us has our own particular ‘Egos’, but we also have some in common related to general subjects like greed, lust, anger, laziness, etc.

Therefore, when we enter into Meditation, we can take a number of approaches to eliminating those Errors we carry within:

- Reviewing a particular situation in order to discover ‘Egos’ (can be recent or long ago)
- Concentrating on a specific subject in order to learn more about it
- Praying, asking for helping understanding or comprehending why certain things are the way they are, etc.

- Praying begging for the elimination of an 'Ego' or 'Egos' we have already understood or comprehended based on information we received through the Consciousness

When we receive information about ourselves, a situation, a subject or event, or whatever it is we are inquiring about: that answer comes through the Consciousness.

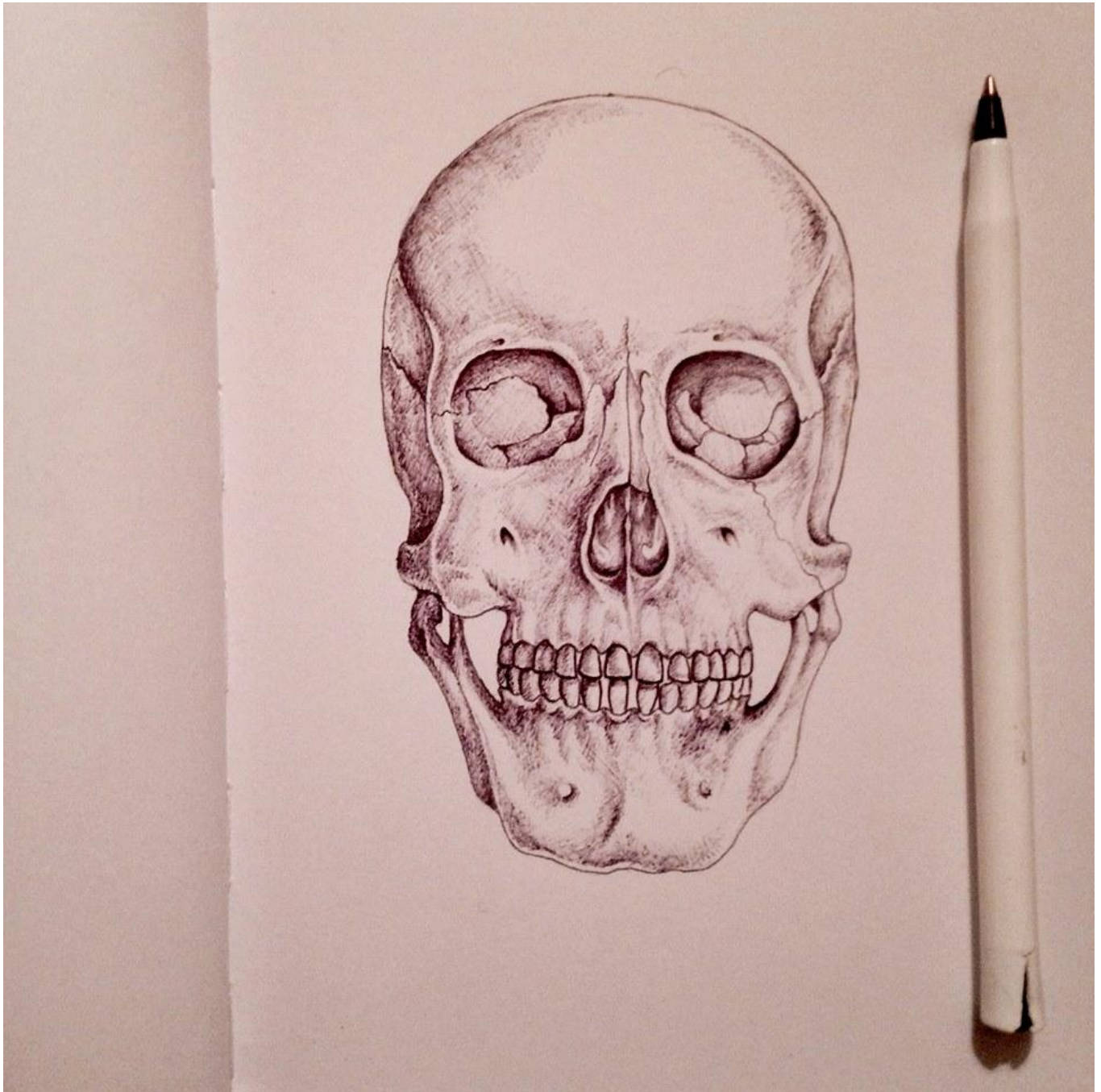
Unfortunately, we are often unable to hear our Consciousness because of the 'noise' from the 5 centers. Thus, Meditation allows us to enter into a space where we can 'turn off' that 'noise' and listen to the Consciousness.

As we activate the Consciousness more and more, we are also gradually developing a deeper and deeper relationship with our Interior Divinity.

It is a mistake to assume that, when we are full of 'Egos', we can have our Consciousness awake and we can hear our Inner Divinity. This is because the 'Egos' themselves are inherently disrupting that communication and can be considered our Inner Demons.

The Internal Battle between these two aspects has been symbolically represented in every authentic religion, in mythology, in fables & fairytales and even in some modern stories. How can we discover them?

By awakening the Consciousness. They also have some similarities in their symbolism that can be revealed by a comparative study of religion and/or mythology, etc. One of the most obvious symbols (and one that we mentioned in the previous class as well) is that of Death.



As we have mentioned: the symbolism of Death means the Death of the 'Egos'...

## Gnostic Astrology

In Gnosis we study Astrology as well, but maybe differently than you might expect...

The purpose of Gnosis is to gain knowledge about ourselves and about the universe. Gnostic Astrology allows to study individual aspects or parts in order to eventually understand the whole.

Gnosis does not see the Celestial Bodies (Planets, Stars, and Constellations) as mechanical forces, but rather as being directed by Superior Beings (Angels, Devas, Genies, etc.) who are able to direct certain Forces or Influences which have been entrusted to them.

So, again, these Astrological Influences are not mechanical, and they can even be modified or utilized by the human being. However, this requires that we not receive these Streams mechanically, which means we need to awaken our Consciousness.

Most people already know that Astrology talks about Celestial Bodies that supposedly have an influence on people. What maybe people do not also realize is that not only does Astrology talk about the external world, but also about in human organism itself.

The Astrological new year begins in Spring (in the northern hemisphere) with the Spring Equinox. In 2022, it is on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

On this day, we say that Aries enters into activity, the first sign of the western zodiacal cycle. Aries is a 'Fire' Sign and it is said to be the 'house' of the planet Mars.

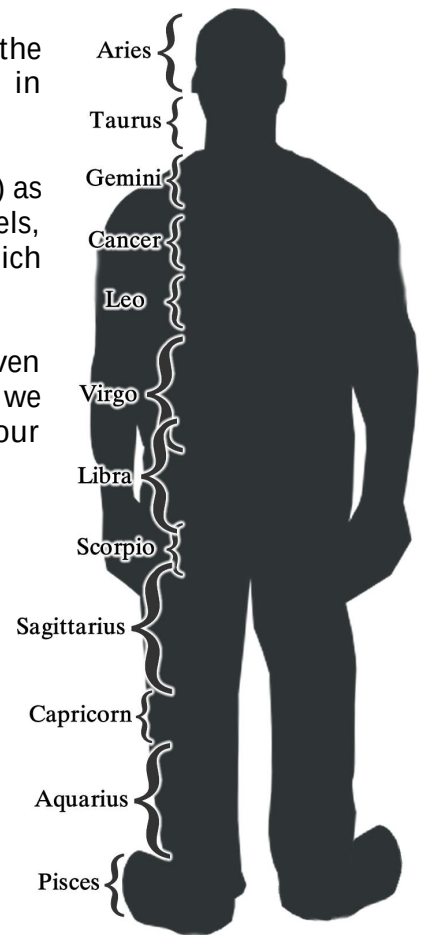
Astrology has different components: 4 elements, 7 planets, 12 signs, etc. Each of these has certain attributes, which need to be studied.

Some of these attributes are related to their correspondences in the "human machine". For example, Aries corresponds to the Head (and therefore to many of our senses: sight, hearing, smell, and taste; maybe touch too, but that is not exclusive to the Head).

So during the Aries time of year (as an example), we can take advantage of the Forces or Energies which are descending to the corresponding part of the body (the Head) and pray to the Regent (or Superior Beings) of the Constellation of Aries to heal our Head or our Hearing or our Vision, etc. Likewise we can pray for others who may need help with their Brain or Senses or Head Trauma, or whatever it may be.

In addition, there are Exercises for each Sign that attempt to activate the corresponding body part and assist in the influx of energy to it.

One of the Authors we study, name Huiracocha, says that when he was investigating the Meso-America Medicine-Workers, that there was one Medicine Woman who would work with very few herbs (maybe two or three). When treating a patient, she would work with the phase of the moon and the constellation it was in: by doing so, she was able to heal many illnesses.



## The Zodiacal Houses and Associations According to Huiracochoa

|    | Sign        | Associated Aspect(s)<br>of the Body                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Associated<br>Planet or<br>Element     | Description/ Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Aries       | Head; Pineal and Pituitary glands                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mars<br>(+ Fire)                       | The House of Ascent, house of "Self"; Willpower, the impulse, the action that excites everything                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2  | Taurus      | Neck and Throat; Larynx; Thyroid gland                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Venus<br>+ Earth                       | House of "Yours" (Possessions or Values), the possibilities of fortune, sentiments and character                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3  | Gemini      | Parathyroid glands; the entrance of the Lungs (in the Neck); the Superior part of the Chest; the Arms; the Stomach                                                                                                                                    | Mercury<br>+ Air                       | encourages Imagination; Relationship with siblings, short voyages with relatives                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4  | Cancer      | Thymus gland; Lymphatic system; Mammary glands; all the Liquid aspects correspond to the Moon                                                                                                                                                         | Moon<br>+ Water                        | the realm of Inspiration; Relationship with parents, the homeland and the end of life                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5  | Leo         | Heart [and therefore Blood]; Diseases of the Spleen                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Sun<br>+ Fire                          | the center of Intuition; Redemption; the odds in gambling, the number of our children and their welfare                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 6  | Virgo       | the whole Belly/Abdomen; the Adrenal Glands; the Intestines; the left side of the Liver, the Spleen and the whole Grand Sympathetic Nervous system; the Islets of Langerhans; the Pancreas                                                            | Mercury<br>(+ Earth)                   | "Life is prepared in Virgo"; the assimilation and dis-assimilation of food (i.e. metabolism); also related with Insulin; suspected or imagined diseases, the helpers or assistants, and clothes (dress)                                                                                          |
| 7  | Libra       | the waist; the Kidneys, Bladder, and the whole Vasomotor System and Plexuses; thick liquids such as Bile, as well as bodily Secretions; everything that has a Disinfecting Action; influences all the Skin; Diseases of the urinary tract and nerves. | Venus<br>[also Saturn]<br>(+ Air)      | "Libra is the great equalizer, it is the Scales"; Measures things that have to penetrate into the body; Prepares the terrestrial current, before the work of nutrition and elimination; "low tone of Venus"; Relationships with our associates, with partners, public rivals and luck in general |
| 8  | Scorpio     | the action and function of the Sexual Organs; the eliminating organs (such as the Nose, the Throat and the Colon, etc)                                                                                                                                | Mars<br>[also Pluto]<br>(+ Water)      | the House of Death; the sexual forces; the Key of Magnetization; inheritances, testament of wills, destiny                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9  | Sagittarius | Thighs (femurs), but also the Waist, Lungs, and Forearms; Diseases of the legs and fevers                                                                                                                                                             | Jupiter<br>(+ Fire)                    | travel, education and everything that is related with Religion & Philosophy; where our own Magnetism results from the mixture of the superior and inferior currents                                                                                                                              |
| 10 | Capricorn   | the Knee, the Synovial Fluid; Bones and Marrow; Rheumatic diseases and of the arms & legs                                                                                                                                                             | Saturn<br>(+ Earth)                    | the honors that await us, our profession, and relationships with our chiefs/superiors                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 11 | Aquarius    | the Calves; the Blood; the Nervous System; also cardiac diseases and diseases of sight                                                                                                                                                                | Saturn<br>[also Uranus]<br>(+ Air)     | the Belly of the Leg; here we get to know our successes, and our protectors                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12 | Pisces      | Blood and the Feet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Jupiter<br>[also Neptune]<br>(+ Water) | points out our enemies, possibilities of entering into prison and also into hospitals                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Gnostic Kabbalah

In a similar way to Astrology, Gnostic Kabbalah also talks about the relationship between the Universe and the Human Being. And, again, by studying all the parts, we can better understand the whole.

Two main things are studied in Gnostic Kabbalah: "Letters" and "Numbers". However, this should be clarified because in Hebrew there are no separate numbers, Letters are also Numbers:

- "Letters" = Hebrew letters (22 of them) which are represented through simplified "signs", shapes or symbols (related with the major arcana of the tarot).
- "Numbers" = The Aspects of the Tree of Life (10 Sephiroth, the Absolute and the Klipoth)

Eliphas Levi says the following:

"There is subject to believe that this comes from the ancient manner of explaining by numbers and by figures, as were the hieroglyphics among the Egyptians before letters were invented."

"The absolute hieroglyphical science has as its foundation an alphabet in which deities were represented by letters, letters represented ideas, ideas were convertible into numbers, and numbers were perfect signs. This hieroglyphic alphabet was what Moses used to make the great secret of his kabbalah and which he took from the Egyptians..."

"The Kabbalah is the science of signs and their correspondences. The science of signs begins with the science of letters. Letters are absolute ideas. Absolute ideas are numbers. Numbers are perfect signs.

In using ideas with numbers one can operate upon the ideas just as one can operate upon a number and arrive at the mathematics of truth. The tarot is the key of letters and numbers.

The 22 keys of the tarot are the 22 letters of the primitive kabbalistic alphabet."



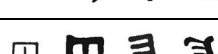
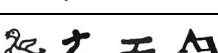
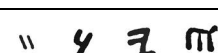
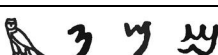
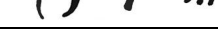
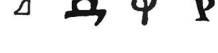
And Samael Aun Weor says:

"In Kabbalah everything is Number and Mathematics. The Number is Holy, it is infinite, because in the Universe everything is measure and weight. For the Gnostics: God is a Geometrician."

And:

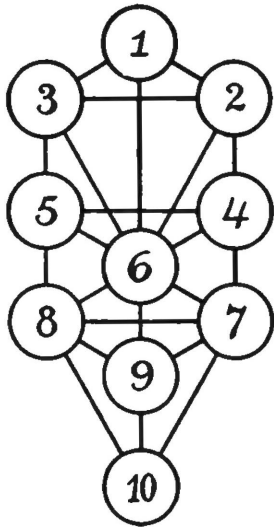
"All of nature's laws exist within ourselves and if we do not discover them in our interior, we will never discover them outside of ourselves. The human being is contained in the Universe and the Universe is contained in the human being. What we experience within ourselves is real, because only the consciousness can experience reality. The language of the consciousness is symbolic, intimate, profoundly significant and only those who are awake can understand it. Whoever wants to awaken the consciousness, must eliminate all the undesirable elements which make up the Ego, the "I", the Myself; because the Essence is bottled therein."

## “Letters” and their Gnostic Associations

| Numeric Value | Kabalistic Value | Modern Hebrew | Hebrew Letter Name | Associated Hieroglyphic and Primitive Sign/Letter                                   | Gnostic Tarot Association             | Gnostic Symbolism or Meaning                                |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1             | 1                | א             | <i>Aleph</i>       |    | The Magician                          | Willpower, that which initiates, AIR                        |
| 2             | 2                | ב             | <i>Bet/Beth</i>    |    | The Priestess                         | Beginning, Occult Science, the Source                       |
| 3             | 3                | ג             | <i>Gimel</i>       |    | The Empress                           | The Fashioner, the Verb, Creation, Production               |
| 4             | 4                | ד             | <i>Dalet</i>       |    | The Emperor                           | Command, Progress, Success                                  |
| 5             | 5                | ה             | <i>Heh</i>         |    | The Hierophant                        | The Law, Karma, Mars, War                                   |
| 6             | 6                | ו             | <i>Vau</i>         |    | Indecision/<br>The Lovers             | Struggle between Love and Desire                            |
| 7             | 7                | ז             | <i>Zain</i>        |    | Triumph/<br>The Chariot of War        | Fight, Battle, Difficulties                                 |
| 8             | 8                | ח             | <i>Cheth</i>       |    | Justice                               | Ordeals, Hard Tests, Equilibrium                            |
| 9             | 9                | ט             | <i>Teth</i>        |    | The Hermit                            | Solitude, Individual Work, Suffering                        |
| 10            | 10               | י             | <i>Yod/Jod</i>     |   | Retribution/<br>The Wheel of Fortune  | Laws of Irradiation and Absorption                          |
| 11            | 20               | כ             | <i>Kaph/Kaf</i>    |  | Persuasion/Courage                    | Strength, the Work with the Force of Love                   |
| 12            | 30               | ל             | <i>Lamed</i>       |  | The Apostolate/<br>The Hanged Man     | The Great Work, Sacrifices & Suffering                      |
| 13            | 40               | מ             | <i>Mem</i>         |  | Immortality/Death                     | Death of the "I", Total Change, WATER                       |
| 14            | 50               | נ             | <i>Nun</i>         |  | Temperance                            | Transmutation of the Sexual Waters, the Fish                |
| 15            | 60               | ס             | <i>Samech</i>      |  | Passion/The Devil                     | Satan, the Tempter, the Luciferic Fire                      |
| 16            | 70               | ע             | <i>Ayin</i>        |  | Fragility/The Tower                   | Tragedy, Calamity, the Exit from Eden                       |
| 17            | 80               | פ             | <i>Peh</i>         |  | Hope/The Star                         | Venustic Initiation, the Morning Star                       |
| 18            | 90               | צ             | <i>Tsadic</i>      |  | Twilight/The Moon                     | Secret Enemies, Hidden Danger                               |
| 19            | 100              | ק             | <i>Qoph</i>        |  | Inspiration/The Sun                   | A Great Alliance, the Philosopher's Stone, Self-Realization |
| 20            | 200              | ר             | <i>Resh</i>        |  | Resurrection                          | The Cosmic Initiation of the Soul                           |
| 21            | 300              | ש             | <i>Shin</i>        |  | Transmutation/<br>The Lunatic or Fool | Total Demoralization, the Dog or the Tiger, FIRE            |
| 22            | 400              | ת             | <i>Tav</i>         |  | Return/The World                      | The Crown of Life, the Return to the Light                  |

# “Numbers” and their Gnostic Associations

The Study of Numbers begins with 10 Sephiroth of the “Tree of Life”:



|    | Hebrew | Transliteration  | Traditional Meaning<br>(from <i>The Gates of Light</i> and<br><i>On the Art of the Kabbalah</i> ) |
|----|--------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | כתר    | <i>Kether</i>    | Crown                                                                                             |
| 2  | חכמה   | <i>Chokmah</i>   | Wisdom                                                                                            |
| 3  | בינה   | <i>Binah</i>     | Understanding or Insight or<br>Intelligence                                                       |
| 4  | חסד    | <i>Chesed</i>    | Mercy or Loving-kindness or Goodness                                                              |
| 5  | גבורה  | <i>Geburah</i>   | Justice or Power/Might or Severity                                                                |
| 6  | תפארת  | <i>Tiphereth</i> | Beauty or Glory                                                                                   |
| 7  | נצח    | <i>Netzach</i>   | Victory or Eternity                                                                               |
| 8  | הוד    | <i>Hod</i>       | Majesty or Praise                                                                                 |
| 9  | יסוד   | <i>Yesod</i>     | Foundation                                                                                        |
| 10 | מלכות  | <i>Malkuth</i>   | Kingdom                                                                                           |

|    | Eliphas Levi                          | Dion Fortune                                                                                      | Samael Aun Weor                                                                                                           |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Supreme Power                         | The Crown; <i>Lux Occulta</i> ,<br><i>Lux Interna</i> , “He”.                                     | Supreme Crown; Father,<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Logos, The Ancient of Days                                                      |
| 2  | Absolute Wisdom                       | Wisdom; Power of <i>Yetzirah</i> .                                                                | Wisdom; Son, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Logos,<br>The Cosmic Christ                                                                  |
| 3  | Infinite Intelligent<br>Understanding | Understanding; The Throne,<br>the Great Sea.                                                      | Intelligence; Holy Spirit, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Logos,<br><i>Ruach Elohim</i>                                                  |
| 4  | Goodness<br>or Mercy                  | Mercy; Love, Majesty.                                                                             | Love; Intimus, Inner Being, <i>Atman</i>                                                                                  |
| 5  | Justice or Rigor                      | Strength, Severity;<br>Justice, Fear.                                                             | Justice; Rigor of the Law; <i>Buddhi</i> (the<br>Superlative Consciousness of the Being),<br>the Divine or Spiritual Soul |
| 6  | Beauty                                | Beauty; The King, Adam,<br>the Son, the Man.                                                      | Beauty; Superior <i>Manas</i> ; Causal World or<br>World of Willpower; The Human Soul                                     |
| 7  | Victory                               | Victory; Firmness.                                                                                | Victory; Inferior <i>Manas</i> ; The Mind                                                                                 |
| 8  | Eternity                              | Glory;                                                                                            | Splendor; The Astral                                                                                                      |
| 9  | Fecundity                             | Foundation;                                                                                       | Foundation; Principal Foundation of Sex,<br>the Vital Core of the human organism,<br>the Vital Body or Etheric Vehicle    |
| 10 | Reality                               | Kingdom; The Gate: of<br>Death, of the Shadow of<br>Death,<br>of Tears, of Justice,<br>of Prayer. | Kingdom; The Physical World or Body,<br>the Body of Flesh and Bone,<br>the Fallen <i>Sephira</i>                          |

These 10 Sephiroth also correspond to aspects of our Physical Organism (similar to the Zodiacal Signs).

Samael Aun Weor tells us:

“The 10 Sephiroth are within us, underlying all organic and inorganic matter. Every human being has them, however it is necessary to incarnate them.

Once Self-Realized, the Sephiroth shine like precious gems within Atman. The Sephiroth form regions where Angels, Cherubim, Powers etc., live.

The Sephiroth have their points of relationship with the Physical Body. Sephirothic Location in the Physical Body:

- [1] KETHER: Crown, upper part of the head
- [2] CHOKMAH: Right side of the brain
- [3] BINAH: Left side of the brain
- [4] CHESED: In the right arm
- [5] GEBURAH: In the left arm.
- [6] TIPHERETH: In the heart.
- [7] NETZACH: In the right leg.
- [8] HOD: In the left leg.
- [9] YESOD: In the sexual organs.
- [10] MALKUTH: In the feet.

These are the points of contact of the Sephiroth with the physical body. The Sephiroth are atomic... THEY ARE ATOMS OF A SPIRITUAL NATURE WHICH BELONG TO OCCULT, ESOTERIC AND SPIRITUAL CHEMISTRY.”

Additional Associations:

- [1] KETHER: Logoic World (1<sup>st</sup> Logos)
- [2] CHOKMAH: Logoic World (2<sup>nd</sup> Logos)
- [3] BINAH: Logoic World (3<sup>rd</sup> Logos)
- [4] CHESED: Atmic World
- [5] GEBURAH: Buddhic World
- [6] TIPHERETH: Causal World
- [7] NETZACH: Mental World
- [8] HOD: Astral World
- [9] YESOD: Etheric or Vital World
- [10] MALKUTH: Physical World

