

THE TAROT ON THE TREE OF LIFE

When the tarot cards are attributed to their places on the Tree of Life it is at once apparent that there are not two but three distinct kinds of cards in a seventy-eight card tarot pack. We will see that the Major Arcana or Trump Cards are attributed to the twenty-two Paths of the Tree of Life and the Pip or Numbered Cards are attributed to the ten Sephiroth. The Court Cards are attributed not to the Tree itself, but to the four worlds of the Qabalah which are found within the Tree and which underlie its function. The suits of the tarot cards always signify that the card in question is aligned with the particular world of the Qabalah to which its suit is attributed. Only the twenty-two cards of the Major Arcana have no suits; this is because the trumps remain constant throughout the four worlds of the Qabalah.

The attribution of the four suits of the tarot pack to the four worlds of the Qabalah are as follows: Wands are attributed to Atziluth, the world of Archetypes; Cups are attributed to Briah, the world of Creation; Swords belong to Yetzirah, the world of Formation and Pentacles are attributed to Assiah, the world of Manifestation. The four suits of the tarot and the Qabalistic worlds to which they are attributed spring from and are intimately linked with the supreme Elemental Power; the Tetragrammaton: Yod, Heh, Vau, Heh. These four worlds of the Qabalah are not the players in the cosmic drama; they are, rather, the stages and stage settings upon which the cosmic drama is played out — at least so far as we human beings can become aware of it.

For our purposes we must divide the Minor Cards into two distinct groups: The first are the Pip or Numbered Cards, Aces through Tens, the other group being the Court Cards. Each Pip Card is allotted by number to one of the ten Sephiroth on the Tree of Life. Thus we find that in each Sephirah we will have four cards of the same number, but from each of the four suits. The attribution of the Pip Cards follows the numerical attribution of the Sephiroth themselves: The four Aces are allotted to Kether, the four Deuces go to Chokmah, the four Threes to Binah and so on down to the four Tens which are found in Malkuth. Each of these forty Pip Cards represent the action of a Sephirah in one and only one of the four worlds of the Qabalah. As such each of the Pip Cards will be in harmony with and attributed to a being of the Sephirotic Hierarchy which functions with it in the same world within the same Sephirah.

The Court Cards form the elemental attributions of the four worlds in accordance with the basic permutation of Tetragrammaton. This is to say that the four worlds are broken up into sixteen sub-worlds: Fire of Fire, Water of Fire, Air of Fire, ect., and that each of these sub-worlds is allotted one of the Court Cards. When the Aces are used in this system they represent the Spirit of each of the four elements. In such a case we will obtain four sets of five cards: one set for each element. When used in this manner the Court Cards are not unlike the Tattwa Cards of the Eastern Schools. With some practice the Court Cards may be used to accomplish the same results as the Tattwas. We may use the Court Cards to bring into balance our own elemental basis and, as vehicles of projection, allowing us to enter the various elemental sub-worlds during periods of astral projection.

We may now see that the tarot is nothing less than the externalization of the entire structure of the Qabalah in pictorial form. Each of the three basic hierarchies find themselves incorporated in this system. The Planetary or Celestial Hierarchy is found in the Major Arcana, the Sephirotic Hierarchy is found in the Pip Cards and in the Aces, while the Elemental Hierarchy is found in the Court Cards. Care should be taken to deal with each card in the light of its own hierarchy.

THE WORLD OF ATZILUTH

The World Of Archetypes And Emanations
The Suit Of Wands

עולם אצילות

The King Of Wands - Atziluth Of Atziluth
The Queen Of Wands - Briah Of Atziluth
The Prince Of Wands - Yetzirah Of Atziluth
The Princess Of Wands - Assiah Of Atziluth

THE WORLD OF BRIA

The World Of Creation
The Suit Of Cups

עולם בריאה

THE WORLD OF YETZIRAH

The World Of Formation
The Suit Of Swords

עולם יצירה

THE WORLD OF ASSIAH

The World Of Manifestation
The Suit Of Pentacles

עולם עשיה

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