

Kabbalistic Astrology: The YHVH Zodiacal Mandala

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Summary

This article illustrates how the divine name YHVH is used to create a mandala that describes the metaphysical dynamics of the Western zodiac. The mandala is shown to reveal important esoteric relationships that exist between each of the twelve zodiacal signs, and also how each sign is involved in the evolutionary and creative processes occurring on our planet.

Introduction

According to the *Zohar*¹ (and other ancient esoteric Hebraic writings) one of the most venerated names of divinity is YHVH² (Hebrew: יהוה). The metaphysical teachings of the ancient Hebrews attribute to such divine names meanings that lie beyond their simple face-value so it is not surprising that this most sacred of names conceals a formula describing the profound esoteric nature of our world.

Using the name YHVH we can construct a mandala, potent with meaning, that illustrates the archetypal nature of the energy-system that infuses our globe (Diagram 1). The YHVH mandala will be shown to embody in its symbolism the fundamental evolutionary (and ultimately creative) purpose of the twelve signs of the Western zodiac.

The Causal Lotus and the Zodiac

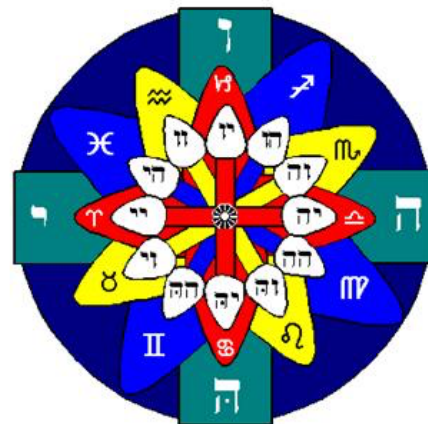
The twelve-sign zodiac was well-known to the ancient Hebrew sages, and it is well represented in their writings.³ They understood its importance and I believe they recognized in its structure a universal blueprint that is also the foundation of the energy centre that Theosophists have called the *causal body*. Like the zodiac, the causal body (or *golden lotus*) has twelve distinct energy fields (or *petals*).⁴

The causal body is the central, controlling organ responsible for the evolution of human

consciousness. Consequently every human-being has a causal lotus located within the higher levels of his or her mental body. The causal lotus comprehends our personal evolutionary needs. It determines the evolutionary ingredients that characterize each new incarnation.

The Will aspect of the causal lotus impels us to reincarnate, and to endure each stage of the evolutionary process.

Diagram 1. The YHVH Zodiacal Mandala (Hebrew version).



We usually speak of the causal lotus as existing *within* us, but in fact it is the other way around. It is we who, as human personalities, exist within it. What we experience as we go through life is a reflection of the causal lotus projected

About the Author

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onto the “screen” of matter. The causal lotus contains an archetypal configuration that reflects our personal evolutionary needs, and this causal blueprint also determines the nature of our experience of the physical world. That is why we, as unique individuals, attract experiences of a certain type. It is those life-experiences that lead to the evolution of our consciousness and ultimately to our freedom from the need to reincarnate within these levels of density.

The tropical zodiac represents an energy-field within which the entire Earth and all Her inhabitants exist. It is an emanation of the causal lotus of the Great Being Whose physical body is our planet. For this reason we (i.e. humanity) are collectively bound to conform to the powerful influences of the twelve zodiacal signs. Collectively, we play a role in the evolution of our Creator, while we ourselves are also turning upon the wheel of our own evolution as “separate” individuals.

So basically, we have two separate but deeply interconnected and interpenetrating zodiacs. They are expressions of two causal lotuses, a lesser and a greater, one contained within the other. The lesser, human zodiacal lotus is enclosed within the greater, logocic zodiacal lotus—like a wheel within a wheel.

These two energy fields interface with each other, and their configuration is symbolically represented by the signs and houses in a person’s astrological birth-chart (Table 1)

Table 1. Planetary and Human Causal Body.

Causal Body	Reflection
Planetary logos	Twelve tropical signs
Human being	Twelve mundane houses

Constructing the YHVH Mandala

The YHVH zodiacal mandala is formed through the interplay of two basic energies—

an interior force impacting upon an exterior form. This is symbolic of the influence of the human soul (or causal lotus) as it acts upon its personality vehicle.

The interior force is represented by the three astrological crosses of the Heavens—called the cardinal, fixed, and mutable crosses⁵ in astrology, while the exterior form is described by the four astrological directions—designated herein as East (Ascendant), West (Descendent), Above (MC), and Below (IC).⁶ The YHVH formula is ascribed to these components: the interior force as in Table 2 and the exterior form as in Table 3.

Table 2. Interior Force.

Letter	Cross	Family	Tarot Card	Principle
Y	Cardinal	Father	King	Spirit
H	Mutable	Mother	Queen	Form
V	Fixed	Son	Knight	Consciousness

Table 3. Exterior Form

Letter	Direction	Family	Tarot Card	Element
Y	East	Father	King	Fire
H	West	Mother	Queen	Water
V	Above	Son	Knight	Air
h ⁷	Below	Daughter	Page	Earth

Together these seven archetypal components combine to form a mandala consisting of twelve sub-formula (or couplets).⁸ These are listed in Table 4.

The first letter of each sub-formula indicates the heavenly cross upon which it is found. It represents the interior, initiating influence of the sub-formula. The second letter refers to the externally identified “direction” toward which the initiating force is aimed—East, West, Above, or Below.

Diagram 2. The Three Crosses and the Four Directions.

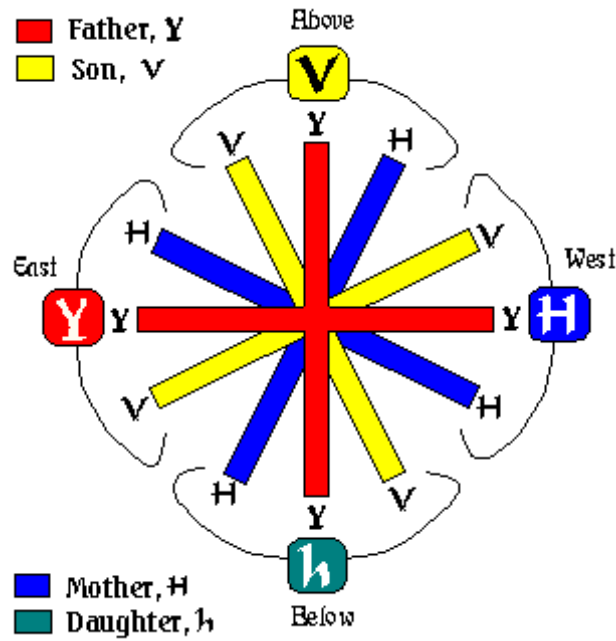


Diagram 3. The YHVH Zodiacal Mandala (English version).

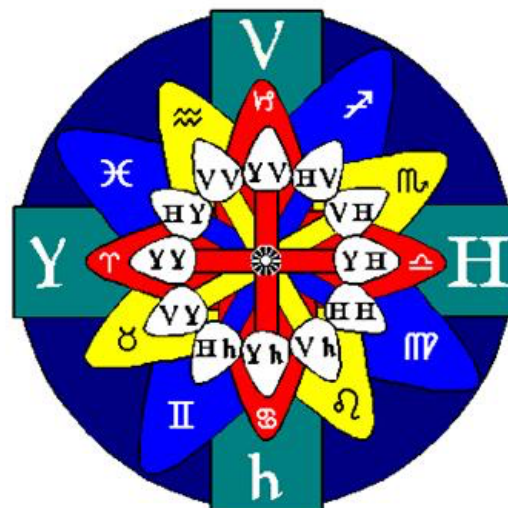


Figure 4. Twelve Couplets

Letters	Zodiac Sign	Relationship	Cross-Direction
HY ךה	Pisces	Mother-Father	Mutable-East
YY ךך	Aries	Father-Father	Cardinal-East
VY ךו	Taurus	Son-Father	Fixed-East
Hh ךה	Gemini	Mother-Daughter	Mutable-Below
Yh ךה	Cancer	Father-Daughter	Cardinal-Below
Vh ךו	Leo	Son-Daughter	Fixed-Below
HH ךה	Virgo	Mother-Mother	Mutable-West
YH ךה	Libra	Father-Mother	Cardinal-West
VH ךו	Scorpio	Son-Mother	Fixed-West
HV ךו	Sagittarius	Mother-Son	Mutable-Above
YV ךו	Capricorn	Father-Son	Cardinal-Above
VV ךו	Aquarius	Son-Son	Fixed-Above

Interpreting the YHVH Mandala

Symbolically speaking, the exterior or form aspect (i.e. the physical dimension) of a human-being faces outward towards the circumference of the circle, and feels the influence of the interior soul principle behind (or within). This inner influence can be imagined in the guise of your solar angel standing behind you with a gentle guiding hand on your shoulder urging you to step forward in a particular direction.

The twelve sub-formulae (see table) have both an inner and outer expression. Human-beings who are not sufficiently soul-conscious tend to lose themselves in the outer reflection of the archetypes, and rarely sense or acknowledge the inner influence. Advanced humanity, however, is able to register the inner influence and it forms the basis for their actions in the outer world. One of the main purposes of this “evolutionary engine” (i.e. as symbolised by the YHVH mandala) is to urge the personality aspect of a human-being to metaphorically turn a

round and face towards the centre of the circle. In other words, we are urged to inwardly attune to the guidance of our solar angel. We are then able to approach the material world with the love and wisdom of the soul.

The Hebrew letters of the three heavenly crosses represent the inner, dynamic, masculine principles of the zodiacal signs, while those associated with the four directions represent their outer, receptive, feminine elements. The achievement of right relationship between these two components means establishing an appropriate balance and exchange of energy between them. This enables us to become involved in the divine creative process.

The majority of humankind is strongly identified with the form principle. This means their attention is drawn primarily towards the four mundane quarters (i.e. outwardly towards the circumference of the circle) and thus to the second term of each YHVH couplet. When the form principle is over emphasized we are inevitably confronted by an unconscious evolutionary force that is aimed at turning our attention

back towards the first term of a couplet (and the centre of the circle).

When we have attuned our consciousness to the creative spirit principle (i.e. the “jewel within the heart of the lotus”) we naturally shift our focus from the second term of a couplet to the first term (and vice versa) according to the love and will of our soul. When this stage is reached the emphasis is on the inner spirit-soul principle (the first term), while the form aspect (the second term) is measured and creatively utilized in right relationship to spirit. At this stage we have become (to a large extent) freed from the unconscious influence of form-based *evolutionary* forces, and our lives are now governed by the subtle *conscious-creative* power that burns at the centre of the zodiacal wheel.

Thus for the purposes of general interpretation, if the second term of a couplet is the main focus in consciousness it means we are largely influenced by the evolutionary forces inherent within the matter principle. Alternatively, if our approach to life is ruled by the first term it means we are significantly affected by the creative energy of the spirit-soul principle.

The Four Universal Principles

The twelve YHVH formulae are based on a dynamic relationship that exists between four principles called the Father, Mother, Son, and Daughter (also called King, Queen, Knight, and Page in the Western esoteric tradition). These four fundamental principles can be explained as follows.

The Father principle (Y or ʾ)

The Father personifies the monad, or spiritual principle of a human-being. The monad is the divine expression of the Will aspect and is concerned with the fulfillment of divine purpose. In mundane human life this principle is usually experienced in an unconscious way—often as a powerful, *external*, motivating, controlling, or opposing, force. These kinds of external manifestations of the Father principle are geared towards helping us become more conscious of its *internalized* expression.

The Father’s direction is East. The eastern horizon is associated with the initial appearance of light, and therefore with the origin of Creation.

The rising sun represents the issue of the Father’s seed and its entry into the domain of consciousness.⁹ The divine creative impulse is directed towards the west.

The Mother principle (H or ʿ)

The Mother principle¹⁰ is the feminine complement of the Father. She represents the objectified material universe as well as the active intelligent matrix that underlies it. The special relationship that exists between the Father and Mother is well-expressed in Aleister Crowley’s *Book of the Law* where the Father principle states: “In the sphere I am everywhere the centre, as she, the circumference, is nowhere found.”¹¹

The Great Mother encompasses and embodies all. She represents the form-making principle of the Universe. Inwardly, She symbolizes the divine feminine¹² principle of a human-being, while Her outward reflection appears in all the manifold physical structures that contain and support each of us individually and collectively. These structures are formed of physical, astral, and mental substance because the Queen’s royal robes are woven from the matter of the lowest three planes of our Universe.

The Mother’s direction is West. The western horizon is the place of the setting sun, and therefore it symbolizes the darkness that swallows up the Light. The west represents the dark, but fruitful “womb of night” toward which the sun, as seed of the Father is propelled. The Mother is the ultimate object of the Father’s desire.¹³ She is full of potential, and represents the supreme material resource of Creation. Like a human mother, Her body provides all the physical materials needed by the child that grows within Her.¹⁴

The Son Principle (V or ʃ)

The Son¹⁵ personifies the human soul. He is especially the progeny of the Father, and represents Him within the middle planes of our Universe. The human soul carries the “genetic seed” of the Father principle. The Son’s role is essentially creative, but he is also very much involved in the work of evolution.

An ordained Knight of the Realm is bound by his oath to uphold the law of the King. To fulfill

his creative mission the Knight must firstly train his Page to be an effective personal attendant and servant. In other words, the human soul must train its personality vehicle to respond to it consciously, devotedly, and effectively.

The direction ascribed to the Son is Above—that is, near the place of the noonday sun. This place of greatest light is symbolic of full soul-consciousness.¹⁶ The Knight is the active, visible representative of the King within the royal Realm. The Page looks up to his master and aspires himself to become a Knight.

The Daughter Principle (h or 17)

The Daughter represents the human personality vehicle. Her main composition is of the substance of the Mother—specifically, she is formed of Her “outer garments.” This is because she exists within the three lowest planes of our Universe. The Daughter is the medium through which the divine creative process is able to occur within the physical dimensions. The creative process occurs with greater potency as the Daughter progresses upon her path of evolution.

The Page is devoid of purpose until he finds his Knight and is accepted into service. The duty of the Page is to attend to the directives of the Knight, but he must be trained by the Knight before he can become an effective assistant. The Page must eventually accompany the Knight, and provide him with the physical tools (weapons, etc) that he needs on his Quest (i.e. a Quest that has been assigned to him by the King). This Page-Knight relationship is symbolic of the function of the human personality in relation to the soul.¹⁷

The direction ascribed to the Daughter is Below—that is, below the horizon, specifically, in the region of the “midnight point” of deepest

darkness. This place is symbolic of the total absence of soul-consciousness. The Daughter feels disconnected from the light of soul-consciousness until she establishes contact with the Son.¹⁸

The Twelve YHVH Couplets

Aries: (YY, 11, Father-Father). The dispersion of the Father's seed. The impulse of the

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Father to create through the extension of his own essence (Y). The impulse becomes veiled, and its “velocity” slowed as it enters the microcosmic sheaths of consciousness (Son) and form (Daughter). The successful impregnation of the Mother by the Father (i.e. that occurs along the East-West axis) is dependent upon the opening of a conduit between the Son and Daughter principles (i.e. along the vertical Above-Below axis). The

King sounds forth His decree. The masculine power (and purpose) of the divine creation is contained and carried forward in Yod (Y).

The potential conflict here is between the internal and external Father principles (YY). The Purpose-Will aspect of the Father is emphasized in Aries so here we have to learn to recognize the validity and spiritual power of our own higher will and purpose. We also need to learn to trust and obey the inwardly felt urges of the internal Father principle.

Before we can achieve oneness with the inner spiritual Father (the initial Yod) we must overcome the glamour of worldly authority and physical power (the second Yod). This psychospiritual struggle can arise, for example, when an officer of the law (e.g. a police officer) has to choose between:

- (a) his/her own inner sense of rightness, or
- (b) the rigid procedures prescribed by “the book.”

Ultimately, we must learn to honor our own inner instinctual sense of what constitutes right action.

Taurus: (VY, יג, Son-Father). The Son invokes the Father. The Knight pledges himself to the King and vows to seek the Holy Grail. The opening of the Heart to receive the divine influx of love-wisdom. The growing revelation of the jewel (Y) within the lotus (V). The lesson here is that true wealth (the jewel) is to be sought within the human soul.

In Taurus (VY), we are learning to appreciate the essential value of our own soul (V). Initially however, we are more attracted to the value system of the external Father principle (Y) because we think it is of greater validity. In human society we are told by the media (and other sources) what is desirable. We are told what *should* be of greatest value to us by materially powerful corporations, etc, (i.e. by external expressions of the Father principle). And so we become distracted by those things we believe to be materially valuable. We strive after them; we seek to possess, amass, and attach ourselves to them. But of course in so doing we fail to realize the valuable inner resources of our own soul.

The inner Father principle is embedded at the core of every soul (V). It symbolizes our inherited spiritual essence (love-wisdom) refined and enriched over many incarnations. It reflects our true essential value, and its purpose is to take on form (within the body of the Great Mother principle) through the medium of our own lives. So the awakening of Taurus to Self-love and to the appreciation of true Self value comes through inner attunement with the soul (Son), eventually to make contact there with the internal Father principle. The emphasis shifts then from material wealth to soul-actualized abundance.

Gemini: (Hh, יב, Mother-Daughter). The Mother (H) suckles the Daughter (h) with the milk of her knowledge. The personality aspect is made accustomed to its physical, astral, and mental environment by the subliminal influences and orchestrations of the Great Mother principle. As a result, an individual's awareness of self and others expands. We learn from the Mother the concept of right relationship with

our environment. Here the Mother's influence is felt primarily within the lower (or rational) mind of a human-being. From a respectful distance, the Page looks with awe upon his Queen and perceives her as a wise matriarch.

The human personality (h) is very limited in its capacity to understand the deeper meaning and purpose of its relationship with other egos and with the world at large (H). That is because its normal perceptions are filtered through a lower mental body that is generally clouded with emotionally tainted and erroneous thought-forms. If we become polarized in "h" of Hh we can find ourselves the prisoners of a very narrow perspective, and we can become possessed by our own prejudices, biases, and illusions.

In order to establish conscious attunement with the "H" of Hh we need to resolve our emotional-mental conflicts, dispel our illusions, and integrate our disconnected thought-forms into a condition of wholeness that is based on truth and love. We are then able to communicate our knowledge and experience of the world (H) in a balanced and harmonious way through the medium of a purified and enlightened personality vehicle (h).

Cancer: (Yh, יא, Father-Daughter). The Father disciplines the Daughter and demonstrates to her the illusory nature of her selfish desires and exaggerated personal needs. He teaches her to recognize her fear-based emotional dependencies (and insecurities). The personality aspect is urged by the Father principle to release itself from the prison of externally-based security, and learn instead to draw upon an inner source of strength and power (i.e. the Father principle within), and thereby gain true independence. The King provides a structural foundation within his kingdom to support the training of the Page.

The Father (Y), or monad, symbolizes the centre point of the circle of human consciousness while the Daughter (h), or human personality, represents the revolving circumference. When we direct our attention to a point on the rim of a revolving wheel, we experience dizziness and a sense of instability, but if we train our eye upon the central hub, we acquire a perfect sense of stability even in the midst of change.

Being aligned with the second term (h) of Yh means we are preoccupied with a point on the rim of the wheel. In this case, we may hope we can achieve stability by attaching ourselves (like a hermit crab) to an existing form (h) such as home, family, tradition, or institution, etc. But all external forms (including our own personalities) are in a state of flux, and eventually we come to realize that no matter what form we attach ourselves to, it ultimately becomes uncomfortable, unsuitable, or simply falls apart. At some stage in our search for an enduring foundation we recognize the futility of looking outside ourselves towards existing external structures (h).

After a time we begin to look within and cultivate a “tree of stability” (Y) that has its roots at the core of our soul. We start then to develop an inner fortitude—a disposition that is unshakeable in the face of external change (h). The spirit (Y) strengthens our emotional body, providing us with internal and external support and nurture according to our evolutionary and creative needs. In Cancer we must learn to draw upon our inner spiritual fortitude, and trust in its power to materialize whatever foundation is needed to support our growing sense of purpose.

Leo: (Vh, 71, Son-Daughter). The Son shines his light upon the Daughter and she reflects his radiance within the darkness of Earth (form) like the full moon in the night sky. This sub-formula characterizes the general nature of the vertical axis (the Above-Below axis) of the YHVH mandala.¹⁹ It represents a channel that must be opened between personality and soul before the Father and Mother principles can fully consummate Their divine union. The Knight must train his Page to respect and serve him (and thereby, indirectly serve the King). The soul teaches the personality aspect to focus within (and to attain soul-consciousness) instead of being overly focused on the personalities of other people. The soul principle dispels the illusion of personality love, and evokes the realization that true personal fulfillment and satisfaction can only be achieved by unfolding the *inner self*.

When we are overly identified with the second term (h) of the Vh couplet we can be very

attached to the forms (h) that we create. We can also be unduly influenced by the personality reactions of friends (h), etc. For example: If the primary aim of an artist (V) is to please his audience (h) he may lose touch with his unique creative spark (V). In other words, we can become driven by the emotional needs and insecurities of our own personality, and by the responses of other personalities who we are trying to impress.

A more evolved expression of the Vh couplet occurs when we realize the value of the creative process itself as it is initiated and governed by the human soul (V). The forms that manifest (h) during the process of creation are not coveted, or overly identified with, but are viewed as ephemeral objects of beauty—like the blossoms of a flower.

Virgo: (HH, 77, Mother-Mother). This YHVH couplet symbolizes the Mother's relationship with Herself. Here She ensures that Her outer appearance (i.e. the physical, astral, and mental environment of our world) is maintained in a healthy and fertile condition. She ensures that the nature of Her form is pleasing to the Father—i.e. that it is an appropriate and efficient foundation for his creative purposes. The Queen faithfully attends to Her mundane duties—including the business of managing the royal palace. Because the personality aspect is a microcosmic cell in the body of the Mother, it is impelled by the will of the Mother principle to nurture and cultivate its own physical attributes, and to actively participate in the evolution of the wider human psycho-physical environment.

Because as human personalities we are atoms within the body of the Great Mother it is imperative that we learn to cooperate with Her as She works to maintain, upgrade, and unfold Her physical manifestation. Thus, in Virgo we need to consciously connect with the divine Intelligence and Intent of the Great Mother (initial Heh) in order to harmonize our physical labors and earth-based service activities (second Heh) with Her divine Will.

When we are aligned with the second Heh of the HH couplet we tend to become overly attached to the Great Mother's existing manifestation.

We may not appreciate the fact that She is gradually unfolding Herself towards cosmic perfection, and that therefore She must undergo periodic transformation. We may also have a tendency to become fixated upon some ideal image of perfection that we see as being ultimate, but that actually is limited by the narrow focus of our own human perception. We may have a fear of chaos due to our ignorance regarding the true nature, power, and purpose of the Great Mother. If such is the case, then we need to realize that quite often what we perceive to be chaos is actually *divine order* expressing itself in ways incomprehensible to the rational mind.

Libra: (YH, ♎, Father-Mother). The movement of the Father towards the Mother. The King unites with the Queen in a royal marriage that is celebrated throughout the Realm. The creative union of the Father with the Mother can occur (in our three-dimensional world) on three basic levels: physical, astral, and mental. In order for the Father to effectively impregnate the Mother his creative essence (Y) must be transmitted through the medium of a unified Son (V) and Daughter (h). As the consciousness of a human-being evolves, so can s/he participate in the higher forms of creative union that this sub-formula represents. A portion of the Father's creative essence is carried within each human soul and can only influence the physical environment (i.e. the Mother principle) through the medium of the personality aspect (i.e. the Daughter principle). This YHVH couplet exemplifies the fundamental dynamic of the horizontal axis (i.e. the East-West axis) of the YHVH mandala.

The purpose of the sign Libra (YH) is to facilitate the creative union between the Almighty Father (Y) and the Great Mother (H). This union is destined to occur through a unified and coordinated creative exchange that reverberates

and spreads through collective Humanity. But in Libra most of us identify ourselves primarily with the Mother principle (H). We tend to assume a receptive (or submissive) attitude. We seek to fulfill the desires of our own (and other people's) egos. In this case, the creative Father principle (Y) is unable to gain entry into our lives, and therefore the Mother can display only a superficial beauty, devoid of the depth and power of the Father's spirit.

An individuated aspect of the Father principle (Y) indwells every human soul linking each one to the Father. When we make contact with the masculine creative force (Y) at the centre of our own being, then we are able to interact with our environment (H) in a spiritually meaningful and creative way. We can join together with others in wisdom, taking

the creative initiative (Y), or becoming a vessel of reception (H) as the spirit moves us in each sacred interaction.

Scorpio: (VH, ♏, Son-Mother). The Son draws near to the Mother. The Knight cherishes his Queen. The human soul desires to penetrate, to know, and to understand the darkness that enshrouds its light. This is an experiential journey into the dark unknown physical realms in order to redeem the matter principle. First, the soul works to redeem the matter closest to itself—that is, its personality vehicle, and then it is able to become involved in a wider process of redemption. The legend of Sir Lancelot's relationship with Queen Guinevere is a reflection of these archetypes.

Ideally, in Scorpio (VH) the resources of the human soul (V) are harnessed and, under divine guidance productively utilized within the body of Mother Earth (H). But initially the emphasis is on the physical returns of our worldly labors (H). Psychological fears and conditioning

The YHVH mandala teaches us that the zodiac involves two basic interdependent processes—an evolutionary and a creative process. The evolutionary process requires the unification in consciousness of the Son and Daughter principles... The creative process is symbolized by the union of the Father and Mother principles... The Father and Mother are united through the medium of the Son and Daughter.

cause us to be concerned with maximizing the growth of our assets; to be worried about the possibility of financial loss; and to ignore the desires of our soul. In other words, we become fixated on issues of security and material gain, and our personal resources end up being channeled towards achieving those ends.

When the emphasis shifts to the first term of the couplet, we allow our soul (V) to guide us in the management of our personal energy, and we are not so concerned about seeing tangible results (H). Material rewards become a secondary consideration and are accepted as a gift from the Great Mother (H) if they should arise. We realize that our soul's purpose is only achieved by following our spiritual intuition, and we learn to let go of the fear of poverty, loss, and even death. In love-wisdom we unite our energy with the energy of others whose soul purpose complements our own. Power games no longer characterize our relationships because we are free of fear and insecurity, and act in absolute harmony with, and devotion to the soul (V).

Sagittarius: (HV, 17, Mother-Son). The Mother cultivates wisdom in the Son by sharing with him Her knowledge. The Queen initiates the Knight into the higher sacred mysteries. The Mother principle expands and enriches the energy of the soul. She does this by constantly exposing the soul to new experiences within Her realm of form. Here the Mother principle's influence is upon the higher mind and intuition (i.e. soul-consciousness) of a human-being. Her purpose here is to expand soul-consciousness, whereas in Gemini (Hh) the personality aspect experiences an expanded state of *personal* awareness (i.e. self-knowledge).

In Sagittarius (HV), when the emphasis is on the Great Mother (H) the human mind seeks to comprehend the universal nature of all life and experience. Those fundamental laws are sought that lie behind the manifested world. We seek after experience and knowledge of the expansive and multiplistic body of the Great Mother in all Her manifest glory. She assists in our education by guiding us into fields of research that are appropriate to our soul's special purpose and our level of consciousness. The ultimate goal is a holistic understanding of the One Life that is the universe.

While our focus remains fixed on the externalized second term (V) of HV we can become steadfastly attached to the body of knowledge of another human soul (V). In other words, we become a devoted follower of somebody else's belief system, and fail to open our mind to alternative perspectives and more personally significant understandings of life (H). This is a result of personal insecurity and ego attachment, and it prevents the expansion of our mind to embrace the ALL (H). Alternatively, we can become too attached to, and therefore trapped by our own personally formulated system of knowledge and belief. The final result is the same—the imprisonment of our consciousness (V) in self-imposed limiting thought structures.

Capricorn: (YV, 17, Father-Son). The Father bestows His heritage and blessing upon the Son who thereby gains the authority of the Father. The jewel in the lotus becomes fully implanted (or embodied) within the human soul. The link between the Father principle (i.e. monad) and the soul is established and maintained via the creative will that burns at its heart. The monadic will eventually comes to dominate a person's life—that is, after the evolution of the personality aspect has been completed. The King passes His seal of authority to the Knight who represents Him. He keeps it safely hidden until the destined time comes for its use.

In Capricorn (YV) the influence of the soul (V) is being superceded by the spiritual dynamic of the Father principle (Y). The challenge is to become motivated by a higher spiritual purpose (Y), and imbue life with a greater depth of meaning—as opposed to being driven exclusively by the creative desires of the soul (V).

In Capricorn if our focus is primarily soul-based (V) then our creative work tends to express little more than the *quality* of the soul, but by the time of the third initiation²⁰ we have added a new dimension to our life—an energy that permeates our work with a deeper sense of purpose (Y). By this stage we have taken the next evolutionary step and gone beyond the demonstration of soul-quality for its own sake (which is the rightful domain of Leo, and the fixed cross in general).

Aquarius: (VV, 11, Son-Son). Son unites with Son, soul with soul in the spiritual fellowship that will characterize the Age of Aquarius. The unification of souls towards the common Purpose of the supernal Creator. This union exists on soul levels, but does not manifest visibly on the physical plane until the personality aspect (of each soul-group member) has gone through the evolutionary process. All the Knights of the Realm are united in One Spirit (as symbolized by the Round Table of Camelot). The energy that magnetically links soul to soul is love-wisdom.

In Aquarius (VV) our main aim is to become conscious of the inner soul-based relationships that exist between ourselves and the other members of our soul group. Thus we need to establish and maintain soul-consciousness (initial Vav), and allow ourselves to be guided into right relationship with the other beings (second Vav) with whom we share a soul-based group purpose.

The challenge of Aquarius is to resist becoming personally attached to other souls (second Vav) who we admire, or who enhance our ego's sense of self-value. Personal attachment (if too strong) can prove to be a distraction that confines us within a circle of spiritually inappropriate individuals.

Pisces: (HY, 17, Mother-Father). The Mother moves towards and embraces the Father. The divine form principle becomes molded into forms precisely shaped to accommodate the Father's creative energy. Each form is a magnetized, polarized, energy-field that gravitates towards, and enfolds itself around the creative seed of the monad—i.e. in a creative consummation. When the season is ended the form resolves back into its elemental state and the creative energy is released from that which contained it. The Mother principle serves as a resource to assist the Father principle in the process of Creation. The Queen stands behind and supports the King.

In Pisces (HY) we need to be especially attuned to the Mother principle (H) as She moves in response to the Father's (Y) creative purpose. (This is opposite to the YH Libra dynamic.) The Father needs the Mother to provide the

materials necessary to physically manifest His creation. So in Pisces we are required, like the Mother, to be essentially passive and receptive, responding in harmony with Her (H) to the purposes of the Father (Y). Success comes as we develop an intuitive awareness of Her divine presence. We also need to be aware of the Mother's use of the principle of synchronicity, and learn to correctly interpret the symbolic forms through which She manifests everywhere in the world around us.

In Pisces it is important that we don't preempt the divine creative process by acting prematurely. This can happen when we try to forcibly create (Y) a reality that we feel is appropriate, but that instead turns out to be glamour and illusion. We must learn to sense the presence of the Mother (H), and allow Her to reveal (to our intuitive senses) the most appropriate path towards actualizing the Father's purpose (Y). Our life must become as a vessel (H) perfectly receptive to divine guidance and consecrated to the Great Work of Creation.

Conclusion

The twelve-petalled YHVH mandala outlines the metaphysical nature and structure of the Western zodiac. It demonstrates how each of the twelve signs facilitate twelve unique interactions between four universal esoteric principles (i.e. YHVH, Jehovah).

The YHVH mandala teaches us that the zodiac involves two basic interdependent processes—an *evolutionary* and a *creative* process. The *evolutionary* process requires the unification in consciousness of the Son (V) and Daughter (h) principles. It establishes the vertical axis of the mandala which in turn acts as a necessary support for the horizontal axis.

The *creative* process is symbolized by the union of the Father (Y) and Mother (H) principles (and the horizontal axis of the mandala). The Father and Mother (YH) are united through the medium of the Son and Daughter (Vh). The divine union between the Father and Mother principles effectively brings Heaven down to Earth, but it remains unrealized until the Daughter has become reconciled with the Son. In other words, the divine Creation is dependent upon

individual and collective Humanity opening a channel between the soul and personality aspects so that the divine creative energy can flow

through and manifest within the physical dimensions of our planet.

¹ The Zohar is a collection of writings that together form a mystical commentary on the Pentateuch. It first appeared in printed form in the 16th century, and is the main source for much of what is now called “kabbalah.” For an English translation see: *The Zohar*, Vols. 1-5, Soncino Edition, 1984.

² It is usually pronounced Yahweh, or Jehovah. A good example of the veneration held for the name YHVH occurs in the Shema—probably the most famous of all Jewish prayers.

Sh'ma Yisrael Adonai Elohaynu Adonai Echad.

“Hear, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.”

(In an undertone:)

Barukh Shem k'vod malkhuto l'olam va-ed.

“Blessed be the Name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.”

These are the first two lines of the Shema. The first verse of the prayer comes from Deuteronomy 6:4-9. The name Adonai is reverently substituted for the unpronounced YHVH. Each verse has six Hebrew words that are said (in the Zohar) to represent the upper and lower firmaments of Heaven, and they could also be said to allude to the twelve signs of the zodiac. For more information see: *The Zohar*, Vol. 1, pp 77-78.

For a full version of the Shema see: <http://www.jewfaq.org/prayer/shema.htm>.

³ For example, The story of the twelve sons of Jacob in the *Book of Genesis*. See especially, *Genesis*, Ch. 49.

⁴ See: *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, by Alice Bailey. Lucis, 1989, pp. 536-544. See also: <http://members.fortunecity.com/patrickm/golden.htm>

⁵ The Master Djwhal Khul states that average mankind are crucified on the Mutable cross, disciples on the Fixed cross, and initiates on the Cardinal cross. See: *Esoteric Astrology*, by Alice Bailey. That is because the Great Mother (H) is the initiating principle in the lives of average humanity up until the first initiation. It is then that they symbolically climb onto the Fixed cross and the Son principle (V) becomes the motivating influence. After the third initiation the Cardinal cross is consciously

mounted by the initiate and the Father principle (Y) becomes the initiator of experience. The Daughter (h) does not have her own cross because she is a purely external manifestation, and the direct focus of the evolutionary and creative forces of the other three principles.

⁶ This seven-fold division (consisting of an inner three and an outer four) reflects the theosophical division of the seven planes into a higher three (*arupa*, or formless) and a lower four (*rupa*, or form-based). Similarly, the seven rays are divided into three greater “rays of aspect” and four lesser “rays of attribute.” The accompanying tables also divide the seven into three interior principles and four exterior elements, which is another way of expressing this concept.

⁷ In the English transliteration of YHVH, the second Heh (i.e. the Daughter principle) is sometimes depicted as a lower-case “h” in order to distinguish it from the upper-case “H” of the first Heh (i.e. of the Mother principle).

⁸ In the table I have listed the signs in order from Pisces to Aquarius so they are grouped according to their associations with the four directions.

⁹ The implantation of the Father’s seed (Y) within the Consciousness principle (V) is fully realized at the sun’s highest point in the Heavens—that is, in the sign of Capricorn (YV).

¹⁰ The Mother principle (as here defined) approximates the *shekinah* (שכינה) of kabbalistic literature.

¹¹ *The Book of the Law*, by Aleister Crowley. Chapter 2, Verse 3. Samuel Weiser, 1987. A similar metaphor is attributed to Hermes Trismegistus.

¹² Please do not conclude from this that the YHVH couplets ascribed to the signs are indicators of them being “masculine” or “feminine” in the traditional astrological sense applied to those terms. The Father, Mother, Son, and Daughter principles are extremely complex and are therefore beyond the simple gender associations of traditional astrology. For example, the Daughter principle corresponds with the “personality” aspect of a human-being and therefore has both masculine and feminine qualities. Put simply, the Daughter represents the **hierarchical position** of the personality

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- 13 aspect in the family dynamic of YHVH—that is, in the Father-Mother-Son-Daughter scheme. The union that occurs between the Father (Y) and Mother (H) principles is especially symbolized by the sign Libra (YH). Libra is the sign symbolically positioned on the western horizon.
- 14 The Mother (H) in Her role of supreme material resource is especially represented by the sign Virgo (HH) and at a subtler level, by the sign Pisces (HY). Master Djwhal Khul mentions in *Esoteric Astrology* that Virgo “stands... for the womb of form and for the nurturing mother, guarding the Christ principle within her own material substance until in ‘the fulness of time’ she can give birth to the Christ child.” (*Esoteric Astrology*, by Alice Bailey, p. 262.)
- 15 See: *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, by Alice Bailey. Lucis, 1989, pp 225-231.
- 16 In a sense, the purest expression of the Son principle (V) is found in the sign Aquarius (VV).
- 17 This soul-personality relationship is particularly exemplified by the sign Leo (Vh).
- 18 In the sign Cancer (Yh)—the “darkest” of the signs—the personality aspect (h) has, symbolically speaking, little contact with the light of the soul (V). Instead, in Cancer the emphasis is on contact with the Father principle (Y), but because the Father principle is so remote from the consciousness of the personality aspect it is generally experienced as an external archetype. The personality aspect (h) experiences the soul (V) primarily in the sign Leo (Vh).
- 19 Notice that the horizontal axis (East-West) of each cross is aligned towards the two macrocosmic principles (i.e. the Father and Mother) while the vertical axis (Above-Below) is directed towards the two microcosmic principles (i.e. the Son and Daughter).
- 20 See: *The Rays and the Initiations*, by Alice Bailey. Lucis, 1988, pp 687-692.