

A DEEP MYSTERY: WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE TAROT?



QUESTIONER:

Question from RH. He writes, “In the book by Israel Regardie, '**Foundations of Practical Magic; An Introduction to Cabalistic, Magical & Meditative Techniques**', the author states that the origin of the Tarot is a complete mystery. I think it could be traced back, if one followed the line of Kahunas, or builders/carpenters. Max Freedom Long believed the word “Tarot” came from the Polynesian ‘Kalo’, which, translated in code to, “That which gives guidance from Divine Sources.” Could Awareness clear up the mystery of the origin of what is now called the Tarot?”

COSMIC AWARENESS:

This Awareness indicates that generally, the Tarot is associated with the Cabalistic lines between the Sephiroth in the Cabala, whereby the Sephiroth or circles, spheres signifying a plane of truth or a plane of information, or what may be termed a state of being, are linked together with paths running from one state of being to another.

Beginning at the lowest level, these paths run upward and across and diagonally from one sphere to the next, eventually leading to the top, or highest sphere, and there are four levels of the Cabala, one above the other, which means a movement from Earth upward to Air, above that to Water, and above that to Spirit, so that there is the symbolism of different dimensions of being, spheres of being, wherein each level of the Cabala represents a different dimension, and the paths run from one sphere to the next and from one Cabala to the next and so forth.

Thus, the Tarot cards in the deck signify the paths that run from one sphere to the other; the spheres symbolizing the states of being and the four Cabalas, the different dimensions, from Spirit down through the different levels and to the materialization of things.

The Higher Cabala relates to Fire or Spirit radiance, and the next one down relates to magnetism, Water and emotion; and the next to vibration, or Air and mind; and the fourth to Earth, which equates to matter, and stability. There is also a 5th Cabala that is seldom spoken of called the Qliphoth, and this relates to the underworld, those forces that are lower than matter.

It could relate to such concepts as the black hole, or the bottomless pit, or hell and the demonic levels, depending on how far one wishes to go with such concepts, but throughout these Cabalas or spheres and patterns lie these pathways, one leading to the other, up and down the ladder. This Cabala has also been equated to or called Jacob’s ladder and it essentially refers to the pathways and spheres of movement up and down the electromagnetic scale of the universe, so that one following these patterns can move up or down the vibrational reality of creation.

In the highest levels are the vibrations of Spirit. Below that are magnetism and the vibrations of the dream-state or the imagery and emotional urges. Below that is the blueprint: the mind, the thought, the concept of frequencies or vibrations, and ideas of writing and thought associated with mental visualization. The higher Cabala is strictly conceptual. That is the Cabala of the spiritual level.

The one below that being Water or Briah, and the emotional and magnetic level, and the one below that being Air or idea and thought level, wherein the thoughts are drawn or defined in words, and blueprints are created that define what has been felt in the higher levels such as Briah and the Spirit or conceptual levels.

Then, from these three comes the manifestation or Earth or material reality, and that Yetzirah level as the thing comes into materialization level. The paths running up through these levels equate to the 22 paths or cards of the Tarot. In the Tarot, card number ten is a circle, and the word 'Tarot' is formed in the circle. If you start with the 'T' you go around to the word 'Tarot'. If you start with the letter 'R' and follow the circle around, you come up with the word 'Rotah'.

This simply means the circle of paths leading throughout the vibratory world of the electromagnetic spectrum. Essentially this is what the Tarot refers to or reflects in its mental conception. It is a book of information relating to the electromagnetic spectrum. It also became the foundation for the 22 letters of the Hebrew language.

The Egyptians, having 16 letters in their language; the Hebrew having 22, and these 22 growing by the time the Greeks and others finished to form the 26 letters of the English language or alphabet. There are over 40 different sounds and thus, a language could contain, or an alphabet could contain 40-some letters, if one wished to go that far. The faces for the 22 letters of the Hebrew language and alphabet serves a particular purpose in that these alphabetical letters each represent a particular philosophy based on the Sephirah and paths of the Cabala. Therefore, numerology and other forms of divination have developed out of these particular methods and systems.

To understand the nature of a letter representing an entire philosophy is much the same as seeing a card that represents a concept such as the Tarot card representing an idea. And hooking together these cards representing different ideas in a Tarot spread is much like hooking together letters to represent a word. The pattern of the word that comes from these letters carries a cluster of ideas that are represented by the word. The patterns of the Tarot spread may represent the clustering of ideas that represent a layout, a message for the one to whom it is intended.

There is essentially a logic involved in both, and though the collection of letters for words and forming words can move beyond logic into chaotic and illogical patterns such as the word AIDS, wherein A-I- D-S simply stands for different first letters or other words: the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, and therefore, there is no pattern in regard to the philosophy of each letter involved, and the language in this sense begins to lose any connection to the origin of the Hebrew letters, or the Egyptian letters and the earlier Tarot paths, so that the words themselves can be created and destroyed, created to fit an idea, or destroyed to allow the idea to be taken on by another word or to be forgotten altogether.

Whereas the Hebrew philosophy, embedded in the alphabet and in the cards associated with the paths; this endures over centuries, and stays much the same, through thousands of years. It has a certain lasting endurance that is not present in haphazard words created simply to serve a particular moment or issue or concept in time.

This Awareness indicates the concept of the Tarot as reflecting from ancient times certain information that eventually became diffused by various languages and alphabets. The Greeks with their particular alphabet, which came out of Sumer, was different from that of the Hebrews. It too came from extraterrestrial sources, just as did the Egyptian alphabet, and language evolved from both sources in such a way as to carry information of a higher level.

The Hebrew priests gained much of their knowledge through the underground or secret societies that were set up from the early alien contact with humans to carry philosophical and conceptual ideas through the priestcraft, and the Cabala and the Tarot were a key figure or pattern for carrying that wisdom, that knowledge and information of the cosmos. It also reflected some of the deeper science of the extraterrestrials in regard to science in that the Cabala reflects also not only the cosmos, but also to some degree, the molecules in molecular science, that the extraterrestrials understood.

The three top Cabala spectrums, the Atziluth, Briah and Assiah Cabala, the Fire, Water and Air Cabala, with the Earth Cabala beneath, represent Fire, Water, Air of the building blocks of the universe: the radiance, magnetism, vibration or that which is positive, negative and neutral, along with the Earth or stability factor. Thus, radiance, magnetism, neutrality and ground or Earth symbolizes to the ancients the Four Pillars of Creation. These were also known as the Four Pillars of Hercules. It was also symbolized by the cross, and also by the swastika. The square and the 4 were also symbolized by this. The name YOD HEH VOD HEH was also a symbol of this concept. YOD HEH VOD HEH being the four Hebrew letters spelling the name of God.

This Awareness indicates this Cabalistic message being handed down from antiquity, from Sumer through various priests and secret schools is that which has carried much information and which has been used down through history for purposes of manifestation. It has also carried not only logical and conceptual information, but information used in magic, in the working of magic, and in the spiritual expressions used by many religions. Many of the rituals used in secret schools are based on concepts of Fire, Air, Water and Earth, or positive, negative, neutral and ground.