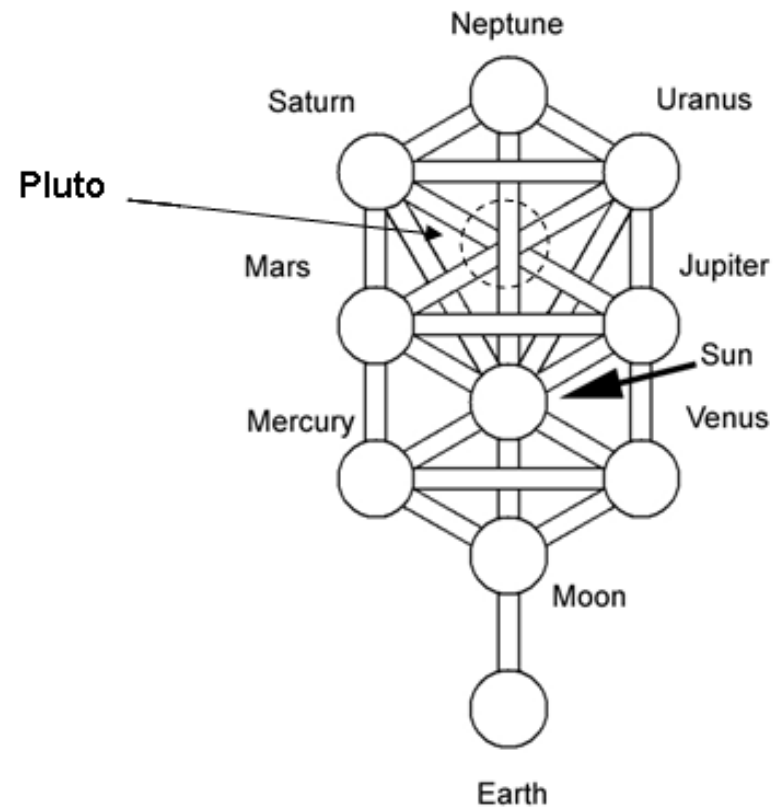
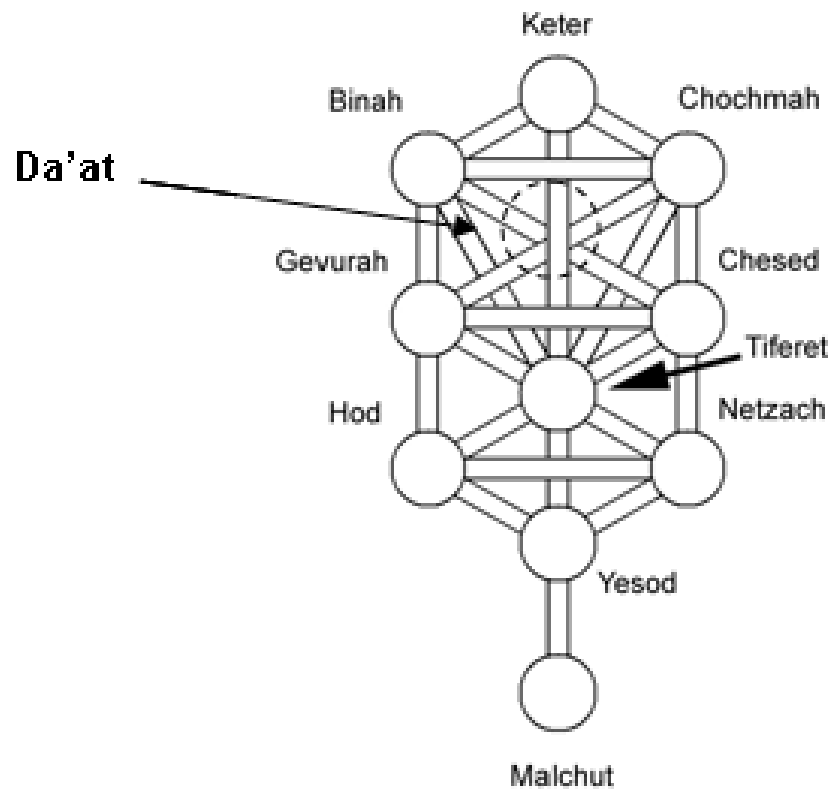


ASTROLOGY AND THE TREE OF LIFE



For what we are going to do here with *astrology* and in the next slideshow on *tarot* it matters not whether these tools of prognostication work or not because we are going to treat them first and foremost as symbol systems and grand mythologies. Hence, our concern is more on the psychological level. We only want to concern ourselves with the meanings of the symbols in these different systems and see if we can relate them to the elements that comprise the *Sefirotic Tree of Life*. To the extent that we can, we will ultimately be able to arrive at a larger understanding of our own *Kabbalistic* system by being able to view it through a larger perspective. Fortunately, both of these systems do match up well with our *tree*, and below is the standard representation of the *Sefirotic Tree of Life* and the correspondences for the planets employed in modern astrology.



Malchut, the kingdom, is clearly represented by the *Earth*. Furthermore, the path above *Malchut* corresponds to the letter *Tav*, and since *Malchut* is also connected with *Binah*, it makes sense to also connect both *Tav* and *Malchut* with *Saturn*, the planet of form and structure.

Yesod, foundation, is represented by the Moon. In astrology, the Moon rules our physical body, feelings and sensations, our persona, health, and personal habits, and as such, it is the foundation upon which we build the rest of our life. Additionally, the physical body is our interface with the universe, and in the Tree of Life we could say that Yesod is the interface with the physical plane since it is the only sefirah connected to Malchut. Also, the path above Yesod corresponds to the letter Resh which stands for rachamim, compassion, and if we develop good habits, then we will naturally be a compassionate person.

Hod represents the base function of the analytical left hemisphere of the brain, and as such it corresponds quite well to the mental activities of Mercury. Additionally, the path above Hod is represented by the letter Peh, mouth, and it is obvious that the mouth is our instrument of communication, and communication is one of the principal attributes of Mercury in astrology.

Netzach can be translated as *eternity*, and it corresponds to *Venus* in *astrology*. The planet *Venus* is what Freud called the “pleasure principle,” the drive to reduce tension, and this leads us to seek a state of timeless pleasure where each moment is an unstructured eternity. Furthermore, the letter assigned to the path above *Netzach* is *Kaf*, and thus, we also associate the letter *Kaf* with both *Venus* and meditative states.

Tiferet is the center of our tree, and it represents the ego as the center of our being. In astrology, the Sun has the same meaning, and so it corresponds to Tiferet. Similarly, since the path above Tiferet is ruled by the letter Dalet, door, we connect Dalet with the Sun, and we see it, too, as the door to undifferentiated consciousness.

Chesed represents higher mercy and kindness within the *Tree of Life*, and in *astrology* the planet *Jupiter* represents expansion and growth. What they explicitly have in common is the notion of giving. Both *Jupiter* and *Chesed* represent unconditional giving. Furthermore, the letter *Bet* corresponds to both blessings and to the path directly above *Chesed*. Hence, through blessings, both physical and non-physical, we can give to one another in a positive way.

Gevurah represents strife, struggle, severity, and valor on the *Tree of Life*, and in *astrology* the planet *Mars* represents the same. And since the path above *Gevurah* is assigned to *Gimmel*, it is this letter that we first connect with higher discipline of the mind. It is at this level that we learn to direct our thoughts and become the spiritual warrior that is represented by the potential of *Mars*.

Binah represents the highest, most evolved form of mental structure on the *tree*, and likewise, in *astrology*, the keyword for *Saturn* is structure.

Chochmah is spontaneous wisdom and enlightenment on the *Tree of Life*, and in *astrology*, this state of sudden illumination is ruled by *Uranus*.

Keter on the *Tree of Life* is a state in which all structure and boundaries disappear as we approach unbounded infinity, and *Neptune* has the same meaning in *astrology*.

Da'at means “knowledge” in Hebrew, and it is not really a *sefirah*. It is often referred to, however, as a *pseudo-sefirah*. What it really is is the standard word for the interaction of *Chochmah* and *Binah*, wisdom and understanding, the right brain and the left brain. The successful interaction of the two hemispheres of the brain results in a deep knowledge of ourselves and our universe, and this knowledge is what ultimately transforms us and takes us beyond our ego to a higher level. Similarly, in *astrology*, the planet *Pluto* represents deep transformations.