

Alchemy, Qabala and Astrology

When the word "alchemy" is dropped many think of elixirs of long life, believing a magic formula allows us to make the Philosopher's Stone. This view is completely wrong. Alchemy gives us a knowledge of Nature that concerns both its physical and metaphysical aspects. The real purpose of alchemy is to lead to an internal initiation, or connection between the conscious level and the different subconscious levels. This gradually brings about a different understanding from our current knowledge. In other words we achieve gradually, by means of alchemy, a unitary knowledge that envelops all aspects of the Universe and of Man.

Qabala comes from the Jewish tradition. It explains the creation of the universe, the origin and becoming of man, his nature and the working mode of the Creator. Operative practical Qabala also leads to this unitary knowledge, to an inner initiation. We can think that in ancient times, in the time of true Adepts, they obtained a unique Knowledge that was Qabala, Alchemy and Astrology altogether.

When we approach unitary Knowledge, regardless of the path we tread, we have the Knowledge in other disciplines. Thus, the problem of the planets has been known for a long time because all who followed an esoteric discipline, even if it was not astrology, received by inner contact the correct notions of the different planets, their actions, and all the mechanisms of Nature. There is no use seeking revelation in documents, but each one of us must get to work on the esoteric aspect of the discipline they practice to try and get to their own revelations, which are the only ones that count for each individual.

There is a difference between the unitary Knowledge just mentioned and the unitary theories of modern physics sought by the likes of Einstein. Attempts in modern day science are made from the physical world, and exclude the life and consciousness aspects. They are therefore incomplete with respect to the total universe and can only be doomed to failure. Unitary knowledge can only come from an inner spiritual contact.

Qabala states: "In the beginning was the Naught." In this Naught appears a thing, like a force, like a push, or a pressure and this pressure creates the Being. This absolute Being, for his need, then creates consciousness. In turn, this consciousness, to have the opportunity to self-realize, creates Life. Then Life creates matter for the necessity of its own involution and evolution.

This view is the opposite of the current materialistic theory that says we come from matter. The material creates life and life creates consciousness. The Alchemical and Qabalistic points of view are the opposite this latter view.

Alchemists say: "Since life creates matter for its evolution, the life energies manifested by the astrological energies and governed by their own laws are necessarily laws that allow to act on matter." This is a fundamental principle of Alchemy.

In summary, Alchemy would be the study of chemistry plus Life, Astrology would be the study of astronomy plus Life and Qabala would study physics plus Life. In the word "Life", we understand all aspects, and all the energy levels of the spiritual world.

In Qabala, these energies are represented by the ten Sephiroth of the Tree of Life (diagram below). Each Sephirah (plural Sephiroth) is one of the ten levels. Qabalists, like Alchemists, think the ten Sephiroth represent the ten energy levels of condensation. In an ancient text, "Nature Unveiled", we note that the first energy, Materia Prima, extremely subtle, is condensed into ten successive stages to reach the state of dense matter of our world. Each level includes a set that includes a space-time, a density of Energy, a density of matter and a level of perception for consciousness.

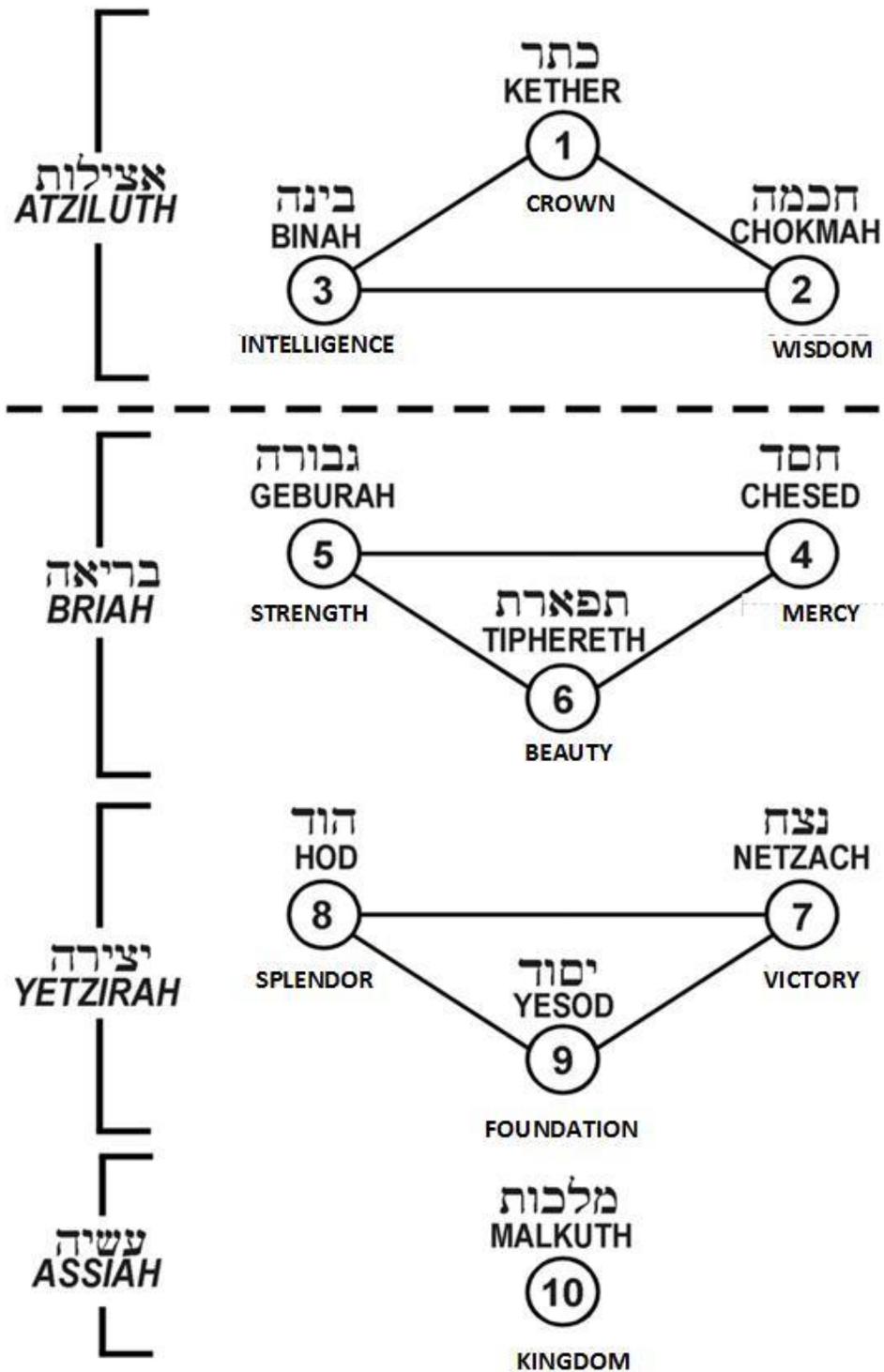
Kether, at the top of the Tree of Life, is the source of the Prima Materia. This is the point where the energy is manifested in the universe. It then condenses in Chokmah, then Binah to which Saturn is ascribed. This is the highest point in Heaven according to the Ancients.

The ten energy levels correspond to ten functions in man, ten levels of awareness distributed in four worlds. Assiah is the physical world, where we are, with one level of consciousness, that of Malkuth. Above is the world of Creation, Yetzirah, in fact the lunar world which includes Sephiroth tuned to the Moon, Mercury and Venus on which correspond to three levels of consciousness. Always following the direction of the ascending energies, we pass over to the world of Briah, solar or "Christ" world. This world includes solar Sephira Tiphereth, Martian Sephira Geburah and Jovian Chesed Sephira, which also correspond to three levels of consciousness (*the Sephira - plural Sephiroth - is one of the ten levels. Each level has a set including a space-time, an energy density, a material density and a level of perception of consciousness*). Briah is the highest temporal world. Atziluth, the world above, including the Sephiroth Kether, Chokmah and Binah, is a world without time and space.

Alchemical interpretation of these energies

On each level, the energy takes four forms corresponding to the four alchemical elements: Fire, Air, Water and Earth, which are the existing energies within ten levels of condensation and therefore present in each Sephira. Fire, the subtle element, is the basis of energy. It is the element animating all of creation; the prana of the yogi is a condensation of this element.

These four elements combine. Thus, the two elements Fire and Air give us Sulphur which is the animating energy, the soul of things, corresponding roughly to the "Glorious Body" of the Catholic religion. Water and Earth, when combined, form the Salt, which has nothing to do with cooking salt; it is the energy that will forge the physical bodies. Air and Water combine and form the Spirit; this energy allows the connection between soul and body. Alchemists call it Mercury, or the messenger of the gods, for it is Mercury that makes the connection between Sulphur which is the soul, and Salt or body. Mercury belongs to the two worlds of matter and Spirit.



THE 10 SEPHIROTH AND THE FOUR WORLDS

All things, mineral, plant or animal, have a soul, that is to say, they have a facilitator energy, Sulphur. They have a Salt, which is the matrix defining the nature of their body, and they have Mercury which ensures the connection between the two. This law applies to all bodies in all kingdoms. Alchemists say that everything is subject to the energies of Life that devolve or evolve under the pressure of astrological energies.

The involution and evolution would last about twelve billion Earth years. Currently, if one considers that the cosmic day lasts 24 hours, it's about 4 pm in the cosmic clock in the evolutionary phase.

The evolution of beings and things is governed by liquid states because the astrological energies can only act on the liquid state. They never act on particles in the solid state. We say that a body is fixed because its solid state makes astrological energies have no effect on him. This definition differs from the conception of "fixed" in current chemistry. This explains the difference of evolution speed of the three kingdoms. In humans, the Mercury is in the blood and allows astrological energies to act on it. His Mercury being liquid, man has the fastest development of the 3 kingdoms. The alchemy of human blood is a solar alchemy.

In the plant kingdom, Mercury is the sap since sap is non salty water. Here it is a lunar chemistry. As for the mineral of very slow evolution, astrological energies act only by the "Humid Radical" which exists only in virgin minerals coming from the earth that have never been melted or mixed with a mineral acid. Otherwise, we are in the presence of dead bodies of no alchemical value.

There are two exceptions to this rule: mercury metal, because it is liquid, is always under astrological influences; and antimony, which remains subject to astrological influences even after fusion or when it resumes its solid state, but this is an exception in nature.

Spagyrics or plant Alchemy is governed by lunar influences. There are also mineral and metal Spagyrics but in general, the spagyric schools only work on plants.

Lunar influences have a dual action in the plant kingdom: first, they determine the time of the operations; second, they will determine the nature of the action of the products obtained. Remember that to use these products, we must consider the lunar position of the time.

In plant Spagyrics, all plants have a planetary attribution, with the sole exception of sundew. As antimony is in the mineral kingdom, Earth is attributed to sundew.

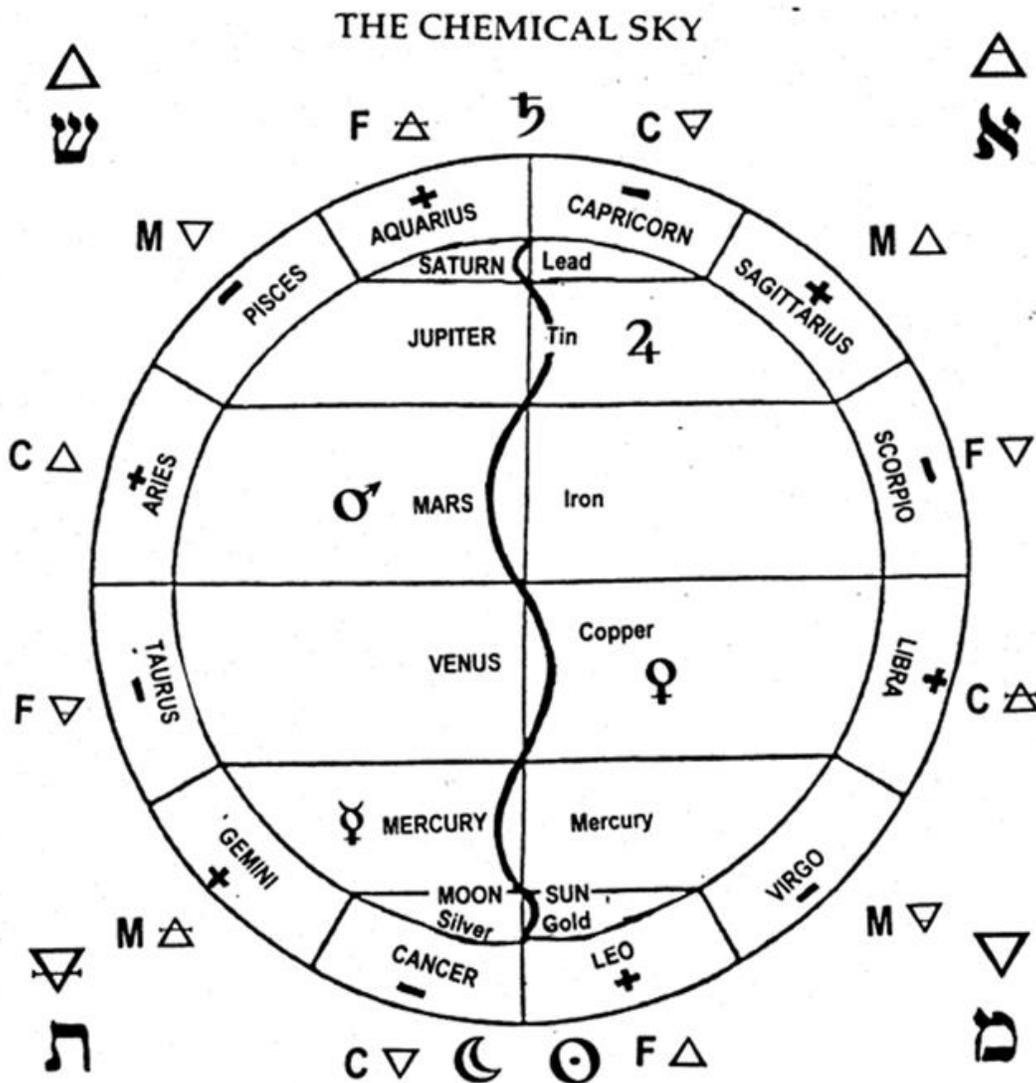
The principle of Spagyrics is to separate and reunite (Greek etymology: separation, reunion). The three alchemical principles of the plant will be separated: Sulphur, Mercury and Salt. The energies of the plant have preferential supports. By separating the chemical substances that contain these energies, we separate the spiritual energies of the plant. We must ensure during these operations, not to lose one of the principles, otherwise the result is questionable. Once the separation is complete, the purification step can be carried out (distillation, calcination ...). The third operation is cohobation or reunion. We then obtain a product which, due to the purification and intensification of its spiritual energy, has great healing powers and even initiatory powers, opening the chakras as described in yoga.

Position of the Moon in the signs (see "Chemical Sky" diagram below)

Each plant has its planet and two signs. When the Moon passes through these signs, then it's time to operate. The separation operations succeed when the Moon passes through the negative sign of the plant. Let's take a Jovian plant: Melissa. When it is in Pisces, negative sign, it will be necessary to do the separation of the elements. When the Moon is in Sagittarius, in a positive phase, it will be necessary to perform cohobation. If we used horsetail, plant of Saturn, we would operate similarly in Capricorn and Aquarius.

Two types of plants are an exception: the lunar and solar ones. They are reversed: the negative aspect of the two is in Cancer and the positive aspect in Leo.

To consume these products for healing or for initiation purposes, take them when the moon is in the positive phase.



The effects of the plant are known by its planetary attributes. Horsetail, plant of Saturn, will address the strength of the body. Spagyric elixirs deal more with functions than organs. If we take a Jovian plant, like lemon balm, it will improve all functions of assimilation or digestion, breathing, and spiritual or psychic assimilation. A martial elixir, as madder, heals blood and give strength and tone in general.

To search the planetary attributions of plants, check out ancient books, such as that of Crollius, or refer to the Signatures of Nature theory. With enough inside contact, you can search the Archives of Nature directly, which is a safer method because old books are largely false, and plants have evolved. Thus, lemon balm, which in the wild is Jovian, is Venusian when cultivated.

The best solution for this research is to know that the astrological energies are focused in certain plant products, such as organic salts. If we crystallize these salts, we obtain crystals visible under the microscope.

Nature accepts seven crystal systems. Alchemists linked these crystals to metals, or to planets.

CRYSTALLINE SYSTEMS

Cubic	Saturn
Tetragonal	Jupiter
Orthorhombic	Mars
Monoclinic	Sun
Triclinic	Venus
Rhombohedral	Mercury
Hexagonal	Moon

It is remarkable that most of the sulfide minerals of the native metals in question crystallize in one of these systems. If we perform alchemical operations to obtain the "chaos" before the big operation on metals, chaos always crystallizes according to each metal in the crystalline system as shown here. Through Alchemy, we therefore get to check astrological theories.

A second system was developed by a German alchemist named Stahl. He used only classical astrology. If we consider the astrological house at the time of the operation, it should be considered as the retort of the operation. The ideal astrological situation is that at the bottom of the retort is the salt that is to say, the planet of the metal on which it operates. Above, we have to have Mercury, symbol of the extraction liquid which is menstruum or philosophical mercury. On top again, we find the Sun, the seed of gold, or alchemical Sulphur. In the sky of the retort, the Alchemist Stahl said we find planet Vulcan he considered an intra-mercurial planet whose sidereal revolution would be 18 days and 14 hours. Le Verrier believed in the existence of this planet. If Vulcan or Mercury are in adjacent Houses to that of the retort, the extraction will not happen or will require a year or two. In ideal situation, the extraction will be done in a hundred hours. These extractions give the oils of metals and must be handled with caution because they awaken sephirotic centers or chakras. This gives a similar phenomenon to the awakening of

Kundalini, with the advantage that we can, here, dose the product, thereby causing slow awakenings without the risk of traumatizing the person concerned.

Qabala uses a very different astrological system. It allows us to implement the Chinese proverb "The star leads the fool but the Wise guides his star." Indeed, if we had to wait for the proper aspect of the sky to undertake qabalistic or alchemical operations, we could wait a long time and spend all our life. So instead of using common astrology, planetary hours astrology is used, that is also called Genii of the Presence or the Planetary Genii.

The combination of both, Astrology and Qabala, becomes interesting because the practices of the operative Qabala permit, regardless of the hour, to invoke the energy of a planet and force it to concentrate in alchemical products, for example. If we operate on a planetary hour, this is better. But we can obviously practice outside this time, of course with lesser results. The advantage of such astrological practice in Qabala is that we can invoke the astrological energy of one planet and even in it, one single element, e.g. Fire of Venus, Water of Sun, etc. This is very useful when we want to treat people: in the case of the study of the four temperaments of Paracelsus, we can know the element that is deficient or in excess.

To illustrate the Astrology-Qabala-Alchemy combination, we can try some very important operations on Saturday morning. They are prepared on Friday night, where in some traditions the sanctity, "holyness", is the night of Friday to Saturday. Referring to the Tree of Qabala, and when the planetary hour has 60 minutes, during the equinoxes, we can practice as follows:

Between 120 and 60 minutes before sunrise, we invoke the energies of Kether. In fact, in the case of Kether, you can invoke at any time because Kether has no planetary Genie. Then, within 60 minutes before sunrise, invoke Chokmah. After sunrise begin the alchemical operations on lead, then invoke Saturn (Binah). Then, each following hour go down to the next Sephira and invoke successively Jupiter, Mars, Sun, Venus, Mercury and Moon. When we arrive in Malkuth, we are back to Saturn, so the top of the sky joined the Earth and we can verify that Path 32, Yesod to Malkuth, is indeed the Path of Saturn.

If we led the operations properly, we conducted a real initiation, that is to say, we established momentarily the contact in us between the different Sephiroth. In general, for the first experiment, we immediately establish contact between Yesod and Malkuth.

Each day of the week is under the influence of one of the seven Genii of the Presence which effect is particularly strong in the hour after sunrise. This is why Saturday morning is the sacred morning as it begins with Saturn. In this case, Friday night was the spiritual preparation for the night of Friday and Saturday morning at the first hour for material action. The next day, Sunday is the day of rest and benefit from the work.

When working outside of the equinoxes, which is most of the time, we have to calculate the duration of one hour of action of the Planetary Genii. Dividing by twelve the time between sunrise and sunset will yield the duration of each "hour" of the day. Dividing by twelve the time between sunset and sunrise will give the duration for each "hour" of night.

By its flexibility, this astrological method allows you to work frequently in celestial harmony, and to vary paths in the inner search.

Today, Alchemy, Astrology and Qabala assert their rights. In the science of the future, we will reach a unified understanding where these three disciplines will be based on a unique set including philosophy, science and religion.

Jean DUBUIS

Qabala or Kabbalah?

Both spellings are found according to the authors.

Jean Dubuis decided to use the first, especially for the Hebrew letter Qoph whose meaning implies a knowledge of the totality of the universe. The second spelling uses the Hebrew letter Kaph whose meaning suggests guidance on physical life by black or white magic, this implies an occult knowledge and not a total inner knowledge.