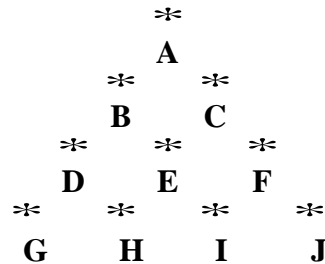


## Numerology in the Cycles of the Universe

A number of Qabalists and Alchemists have adopted the principle of the Pythagorean decade as a numerological base in the study of the cycles of Nature.



The Pythagorean triangle is equivalent to the decade since we have  $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 = 10$ . The Alchemists call this the key to multiplication. It is found in the two engravings of the *Mutus Liber*.

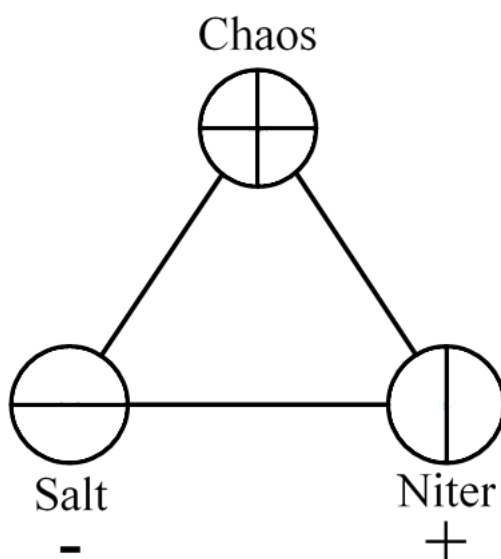


Numbers 1, 2, and 3 are represented by the dishes exposed to celestial radiation. Number 4 is illustrated by the four characters representing four elements. Multiplying the mercury is done through the weight ratio of 4 parts of medicines for 10g of mercury, or in the weight proportions (6/4 or 3/2) while cohobating<sup>1</sup>.

Let's examine the numbers of the triangle relative to cycles.

**Number 1** does not contain a cycle. It is the number of Unity. Before Manifestation, in Unity there is no cycle; cycles only appear with duality. There can be no cycle in Unity because a cycle can only appear when time and space are differentiated and opposite each other.

**Number 2** comes from separation, or the differentiation of Unity into two equal but opposite phases: positive and negative. Duality is reflected in all cycles, as space in time, that is to say an active phase of the cycle, moving upwards and a passive phase of the cycle, moving downwards.



**Number 3** is the symbol of unity to which is added duality. That's the whole triangle, the symbol of differentiation and therefore of the Manifestation.

We have A, Unity which differentiates into B and C.

B and C each differentiate again and from B, we have: D and E, and from C: E and F. The common element E is the connecting element: Mercury which binds Sulphur and Salt.

In Qabalah, number 3 represents the triads of each World, except in Assiah. In Alchemy, it represents the three principles: Sulphur, Mercury, and Salt.

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<sup>1</sup> Cohobation: an alchemical operation where the distillate is poured back onto the residue of the distillation.

**Number 4** represents the four elements in both Qabalah and Alchemy: Fire, Air, Water, and Earth. Number 4 can be considered a double duality, the differentiation of two extremes of the triangle of 3: D and F.

The four elements are also symbolized by the four rivers of Eden. Here are four types of spiritual energies that have nothing (or little) to do with what those words commonly refers to. D is linked to GH, F is linked to IJ and E to HI. Here again the Mercury acts as a go between or junction.

All cycles of the Universe are derived and regulated by these three numbers. We have cycles of 3 + 4 or 7. In general, in these cycles, duality, 2, is manifested by an opposition in each phase. For example: the dual aspect of the Sephirothic qualities, the double aspect of the seven secondary Causes of the Universe. Generally, the cycles of 7 address primarily functions of the psyche in all its forms: intelligence, spirituality, courage, etc., rather than physical aspects.

### **Cycle of 12**

The multiplication cycles have 12 phases:  $3 \times 4 = 12$ . In general, these cycles have six ascending (or active) phases, and six descending (or passive) phases. Duality here acts in the duration and not simultaneously as in cycles of 7. These cycles act mostly on the material aspect rather than the psychic aspect of things, even if the influence of these cycles goes through invisible psychic paths.

The first cycle considered is the one of Manifestation, or the creation of the material world. All alchemical or qabalistic schools in the West say that the Universe is issued from the Naught or Ain Soph. There appears an infinite energy that gradually condenses into finite energies, increasingly denser, then into matter.

In the second phase, matter becomes energy and energy returns to the Absolute and this is the time of the Cosmic Night.

Alchemists and Qabalists agree on this cycle. It is also found in the East, where it is said when Brahma exhales worlds appear and when Brahma inhales worlds disappear. This conception is also somewhat in agreement with the Big Bang of modern science.

What is the duration of this cycle? The figures cited here are based on alchemical theories and experiments and they differ little from those of the East, but more from those of science, although the orders of magnitude are the same.

For the Alchemists, Fire, the first energy, condenses into matter for a time which can be written as:  $12^9$  solar years, representing the following number of years: 5,159,780,352. This concerns the active part of the cycle for our solar universe.

During this period, the chemical elements are born one by one: first hydrogen then helium and number 3 appears, etc. Each element requires  $12^7$  to create (or 35,831,808) solar years or close to 36 million solar years.

It may seem odd that this cycle of the Universe can be expressed in solar years and is a multiple of 12 of those years. But time as we understand it is valid only in the physical reality, and for our solar universe. For other universes it is likely that this cycle will not be of equal length nor at the same phase.

At the midday point of the cycle of Creation, when the active phase will become passive, there are 144 simple elements in the Creation. At this time, for the Alchemists, the simple elements table is a matrix of 12 rows by 12 columns. Past noon of Creation, Energy withdraws, the simple elements die, starting with the highest. The metal putrefaction called radioactivity appears, and matter restores energy to Unity in this manner.

The 12 x 12 table of elements is valid only at the midpoint of Creation, but we must also note that the periodic table of elements of modern day science is not satisfactory and ceases to be regular from element 21 on, Cesium.

During the materialization cycle, nuclear fusion events outweigh radioactivity. During the second part of the cycle, radioactivity outweighs the fusion. The cycle only varies with the ratio of energies.

Each element takes the same time to disappear: 36 million solar years. The time of the dematerialization cycle is equal to the time of the materialization cycle. The Ancients said that Saturn is at the top of the sky, which means that at this moment, lead is the living element having the highest atomic number<sup>2</sup>.

At present, science confirms that the three chains of decay of radioisotopes end with isotopes of lead, which is the stable element with the greatest atomic number, number 82. Therefore it is easy to find the age of the Universe.

Indeed, in solar years, from the midday of Creation,  $12^7 \times 62 = 2,221,572,096$ . This is easily explained since element 82 is at present the highest living element from "Midday". We then reckon that  $144 - 82 = 62$  elements that have disappeared. Since each element requires  $12^7$  years to appear or to disintegrate, we have validated the above multiplication.

So, from instant 0 approximately 7.380 million solar years have passed and there are about 2.940 million solar years before the midnight of Creation. It is therefore about five in the afternoon in the Day of Creation.

This requires some further explanation.

Alchemists say that if we remove Sulphur (in other words, the Soul) and Mercury (the Spirit) from a body, this body becomes alchemically dead and starts to putrefy in order to return its components to Nature for future use.

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<sup>2</sup> The atomic number is the number of electrons that turn around the nucleus of an atom.

In this instant of the Universe, the elements that have more than 82 electrons no longer receive the energy of the Universal Spirit. So they lose their Sulfur and Mercury, and the metal putrefaction begins: it is called radioactivity. These elements reject excess particles; when the number of electrons no longer exceeds 82, they receive the Universal Spirit again: they are revived, radioactivity stops.

One may wonder how this world of manifestation is at "Midday". Obviously, this is a denser world than ours; life must be essentially mineral. It is probably at midday of Creation that the Spirit Fire is at the Nadir of its journey.

We can also wonder what will happen to the universe with the dematerialization of elements. It is likely that the incarnate life as we know it will disappear with element 72, Hafnium. But by then, it is certain that for the disappearance of each element, that is to say every 36 million years, the Qabalistic concept needs change.

So, the next phase of this cycle will have titanium and not lead as the top of the sky, and later mercury.

Another cycle that caused much talk is the solar cycle of a year. Astronomers have criticized astrologers by saying that the constellations have moved in the sky and, therefore, even if astrology was correct in ancient times, today it cannot claim to be correct<sup>3</sup>.

In fact, only count the height of the sun and the sense of its progression on the ecliptic. The attributes of a zodiacal sign are the characteristics of evolution caused by solar energies. For the northern hemisphere of the Earth, the solar energy is minimal during the Winter solstice. At this time, the energies begin to grow, but remain below average until the Spring equinox when the sun crosses the plane of the ecliptic in the upward direction. The energy is then above average and grows until the summer solstice. At this point, we enter the downward phase of the cycle, the energies although above average, decrease until the Fall equinox. Then the sun crosses the plane of the ecliptic in the downward direction, the energies are below average and decrease until the winter solstice when the cycle ends and starts over.

Here we find number 4, the seasons, each divided into 3 signs, themselves divided into three decans, or a division of each season by 9.

In fact, this cycle of 12 is universal because it contains the 12 basic steps needed at each stage of evolution. Thus, in Alchemy, it is possible, by distillation, to highlight the 12 evolutionary phases of water. Alchemists believe that Aries is the starting phase. For water, this sign corresponds to Sulphur of Fire for involution and to Salt of the Earth for evolution.

If we want to have an exact idea of what evolution represents in the 12 zodiacal signs, we need to work on the connections for each sign. Therefore, we can work on the 12 simple letters of Qabala, on the 12 keys of Philosophy, on the 12 gates of Ripley, or on the 12 labors of Hercules.

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<sup>3</sup> The zodiacal constellations occupy a variable width in the sky and they slowly move towards the vernal point of the zodiac as a result of the movement of the axis of the Earth. The signs, on the other hand, are a trigonometric division of the circle of the zodiac in 12 parts of 30 degrees. The origin is always the vernal point in the sky.

We assemble on one sheet of paper every piece of information cited in the texts for Aries, and then operate in the same way with the other 11 signs. We have then gathered a support for meditation that sheds much light on evolution and on the true meaning of the astrological signs.

### **The cycle of 7**

Here is one of the cycles of 7, the one which bears many names: the seven secondary Causes, the seven Geniuses of the Presence, the seven planetary Geniuses, etc.

The symbolism of the seven planets, of the seven lower Sephiroth - Malkuth excluded - and of the seven metals, represents the properties of each of these Causes. The qabalistic symbolism of the Sephiroth clearly represents the double aspect of each of these fundamental laws of the Universe. Occultists say that each of these laws is the ruler for one hour of terrestrial time. This preeminence goes from a Cause to another every hour and always in the same order. In addition, each Cause is attributed to a day of the week and to the first hour of the day. The hour following sunrise is always assigned to the Cause of the day. Example: Saturn for Saturday, Sun for Sunday, Moon for Monday, etc. As a result, the order of the planets in the course of the day cannot be the same as the one during the week.

For a better explanation of this shift, it is more practical to assume the cycle starts at zero hour, which does not correspond to reality.

Indeed, consider for example Friday, the day of Venus: the first hour, 0 to 1, as well as 7 to 8, 14 to 15 and 21 to 22 will belong to Venus. There are two hours left in the day. The next day being Saturday, there will be two planets between Venus and Saturn. By the above procedure for each day of the week, we find that the order of days or the order of the planets in the day is:

|         |           |           |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Saturn  | Saturday  | Binah     |
| Jupiter | Thursday  | Chesed    |
| Mars    | Tuesday   | Geburah   |
| Sun     | Sunday    | Tiphereth |
| Venus   | Friday    | Netzach   |
| Mercury | Wednesday | Yod       |
| Moon    | Monday    | Yesod     |

We see the order of the Planetary Genii is that of the Tree of Life of Qabala. Note that the Planetary Genie of the day begins at sunrise and the time between sunrise and sunset represents 12 hours. At night, there are also 12 hours between sunset and sunrise. Daytime and nighttime hours are equal

in duration only during the equinoxes. In summer, daylight hours are longer, in winter, the night hours are longer <sup>4</sup>.

**Table of planetary hours**

| <b>Day Hours</b>   | <b>Saturday</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Monday</b> | <b>Tuesday</b> | <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>Thursday</b> | <b>Friday</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1                  | Saturn          | Sun           | Moon          | Mars           | Mercury          | Jupiter         | Venus         |
| 2                  | Jupiter         | Venus         | Saturn        | Sun            | Moon             | Mars            | Mercury       |
| 3                  | Mars            | Mercury       | Jupiter       | Venus          | Saturn           | Sun             | Moon          |
| 4                  | Sun             | Moon          | Mars          | Mercury        | Jupiter          | Venus           | Saturn        |
| 5                  | Venus           | Saturn        | Sun           | Moon           | Mars             | Mercury         | Jupiter       |
| 6                  | Mercury         | Jupiter       | Venus         | Saturn         | Sun              | Moon            | Mars          |
| 7                  | Moon            | Mars          | Mercury       | Jupiter        | Venus            | Saturn          | Sun           |
| 8                  | Saturn          | Sun           | Moon          | Mars           | Mercury          | Jupiter         | Venus         |
| 9                  | Jupiter         | Venus         | Saturn        | Sun            | Moon             | Mars            | Mercury       |
| 10                 | Mars            | Mercury       | Jupiter       | Venus          | Saturn           | Sun             | Moon          |
| 11                 | Sun             | Moon          | Mars          | Mercury        | Jupiter          | Venus           | Saturn        |
| 12                 | Venus           | Saturn        | Sun           | Moon           | Mars             | Mercury         | Jupiter       |
| <b>Night Hours</b> |                 |               |               |                |                  |                 |               |
| 1                  | Mercury         | Jupiter       | Venus         | Saturn         | Sun              | Moon            | Mars          |
| 2                  | Moon            | Mars          | Mercury       | Jupiter        | Venus            | Saturn          | Sun           |
| 3                  | Saturn          | Sun           | Moon          | Mars           | Mercury          | Jupiter         | Venus         |
| 4                  | Jupiter         | Venus         | Saturn        | Sun            | Moon             | Mars            | Mercury       |
| 5                  | Mars            | Mercury       | Jupiter       | Venus          | Saturn           | Sun             | Moon          |
| 6                  | Sun             | Moon          | Mars          | Mercury        | Jupiter          | Venus           | Saturn        |
| 7                  | Venus           | Saturn        | Sun           | Moon           | Mars             | Mercury         | Jupiter       |
| 8                  | Mercury         | Jupiter       | Venus         | Saturn         | Sun              | Moon            | Mars          |
| 9                  | Moon            | Mars          | Mercury       | Jupiter        | Venus            | Saturn          | Sun           |
| 10                 | Saturn          | Sun           | Moon          | Mars           | Mercury          | Jupiter         | Venus         |
| 11                 | Jupiter         | Venus         | Saturn        | Sun            | Moon             | Mars            | Mercury       |
| 12                 | Mars            | Mercury       | Jupiter       | Venus          | Saturn           | Sun             | Moon          |

It is important to note that the Genii are classified into two series: Genii of the day, and those of the night. We said that each phase of the cycle of seven had a dual polarity. One must make sure to use the period with the corresponding effect intended. Therefore, a day period will give the positive aspect of the Genie, and the night period will give its negative aspect.

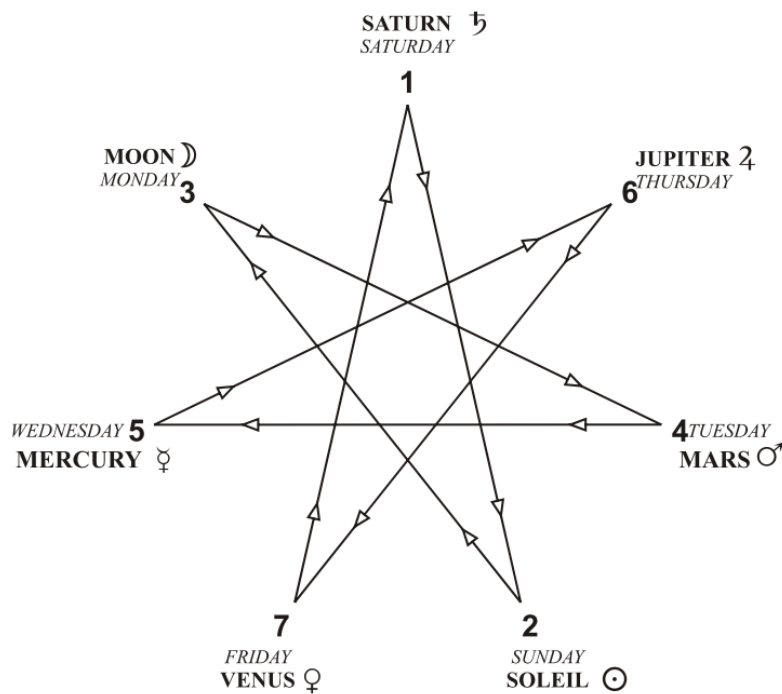
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<sup>4</sup> The length of time of a Planetary Genie is the duration obtained by dividing by 12 the time that separates sunrise from sunset for daytime. For nighttime, it is the length of time from sunset to sunrise, also divided by 12.

The Genie of the night is always different from the one of the day. So in the 1st hour we find:

|           | Day     | Night   |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Sunday    | Sun     | Jupiter |
| Monday    | Moon    | Venus   |
| Tuesday   | Mars    | Saturn  |
| Wednesday | Mercury | Sun     |
| Thursday  | Jupiter | Moon    |
| Friday    | Venus   | Mars    |
| Saturday  | Saturn  | Mercury |

Note that the day of the Sun, positive, is presided over by Jupiter at night. The night of Monday, lunar day, is presided over by Venus. We will see later what can be concluded from this.



### The Planets ordered according to the Tree of Life

Tracing the star following the lines give the natural order of the days of the week



The cycle of the seven Planetary Genii of the Presence can be useful in Qabalah for those who have studied the Invocation of the Sephiroth in the descent of Energies. The day for this work is Saturday.

Invoking Kether is between two hours and one hour before sunrise. In the hour before sunrise, invoke Hochmah then in the next hour, invoke Binah, and so on. For the seven Sephiroth, Binah to Yesod, the invocation takes place in the hour of activity of the corresponding Genie. Note that Saturday Malkuth is invoked at the hour of Saturn.

For alchemy or for healing, the same work must be done on Wednesday, but in this case you have to start the work in the 7th hour before sunrise. Invoking Kether will be done during the hour of Mercury and the Malkuth invocation will again be in Saturn.

There is no harm in invoking Kether or Hochmah at night since there are no corresponding Genii.

Wednesday, for example, start with Saturn in the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour of the day to avoid the Sephirothic invocations in their negative night aspects.

Using Planetary Genii is interesting because mastering this problem frees us from astral conditions, since it is not required to wait for a favorable planetary configuration, each Genie having at least one or two favorable hours each day.

We must adapt the operation to the nature of the hour; in Alchemy, a cohobation will be done with the Genie of the day, a dissolution with the Genie of the night.

Proper understanding of the action of each Genie requires identical work as the work on the 12 signs. We collect for each Genie what is written in the Sepher Yetzirah, what is said in the Trithemius Treaty on the seven second Causes, and what is said in the Treaty of the seven tinctures of Basil Valentine.

For these seven Genii, it is best to look into ancient texts well anchored in archetypes, and to complement them with personal meditation. Do not cling to the views of modern authors, because here everyone has to find his own philosophy.

Jean DUBUIS

Note: In this paper, we use the word "Genie" which is the word traditionally used in ancient texts. Do not regard this as a particular being, but as an intelligent energy, although without free will. The seven Genii of the Throne could, in modern language, be compared with seven computers managing seven types of energies emanating from the Creator.