

Saule Zujute

HERMETIC JOURNEY THROUGH THE PATHS ON THE TREE OF LIFE

BASICS OF PRACTICAL METAPHYSICS

INTRODUCTION

What could be exciting more than travelling? There is no other word that would have such sweet ringing to our ears. Travelling is excitement. Journey offers us the alluring possibility to escape our daily routine. The monotony of daily life could be transformed by travelling to anywhere on this Earth, using a variety of physical means of transportation, or simply getting there by foot. We will experience a change, yet such journey might be physically demanding and might require spending the money, making of which involves physical effort.

Due to new scientific technologies, IT in particular, we are able to make ever more amazing virtual journeys. A journey of this nature will request mental involvement and detachment from physical world.

Yet the most pleasurable of all is the journey into our inner world which would offer us the greatest change as well as the most exciting adventure possible. A journey of this kind will help us save our physical and mental strength, our financial means, yet our inner transmutation would ever increasingly supply us with physical and mental energy making our endeavors ever more successful.

Such Hermetic journey into their inner world has always been possible to the elect followers of the ancient Hermetic tradition. *The Kybalion* is the most ancient guide of Hermetism, a treatise on Hermetic teaching which originated in the times of Atlantide and was dedicated to Hermes Trismegistus. Preserved by ancient cultures in the tradition of sages it was handed down to us.

Such Hermetic journey is absolutely safe. Hermetic philosophy basically teaches us that the Universe is of mental nature, that we reside in the range of vibrations embracing all, starting from Spirit and down to Matter. “As above, so below; as below, so above”, says the old Hermetic axiom.

The path of human development of any person can be viewed as a constant choosing out of a network of energy paths the one which would be the most adequate to him. So it is not surprising, that similar to roads in our real life, the main paths chosen by most of people are obstructed by evolutionary blockages. Under natural circumstances such blockages are impossible to avoid, and moving faster than the main flow is impossible. Just let us make the comparison of this flow to the flow of the rush hour traffic – there is no way for an individual vehicle to move faster and pass by the row of waiting vehicles. In case of individual development, e.g., when an individual takes other than the slow evolutionary path taken by the most, this means that he altering some general circumstances. Examples follow.

1. A person takes his path earlier compared to others. As soon as other individuals start choosing this path of faster spiritual development, this will create blockages which impede the travelling into the above direction.

2. A person replaces his means of transportation by choosing the one characterized by better mobility potential (e.g., a bicycle can be replaced by will power, the means of transportation of karmic rulers can be replaced by mental efforts, and the lift of Hermes caduceus could be replaced by spiritual efforts).

Presently, lifts of Hermes caduceus are not that heavenly overloaded with people willing to take them for their journey to “above”. The main issue about the energy of Earth is that it composes a single UNIT. It can be compared to the money, the amount of which on this planet composes a single UNIT. Spiritual leaders of the Earth have to assign them to all the inhabitants of this Earth. So if we visualize a safe lift of Hermes as a contemporary space ship with the abundance of technological equipment inside it, this analogy might help us realize that to embark upon the

inner spiritual Journey we choose one of the numerous cosmodromes available on this Earth. This probably is the most adequate image for the situation of Occult knowledge on this planet.

This analogy is also appropriate while talking about the type of fuel that empowers our means of transportation. On this particular case we have in mind not diesel or gasoline, not even bio-fuel, here we mean the cleanest spaceship rocket of this planet, known to alchemists through ages as spiritual energy, which means it has no emotional additives at all.

The usage of spiritual cosmodromes on this Earth is not wide spread yet, so an individual is able to choose his time of movement, speed, location, and favorable conditions, without the risk of collision, without competition and congestion.

The 21st century science gave a new definition to this Hermetic form of travelling relating it to quantum theory. The most advanced contemporary minds develop the amazing quantum philosophy which sees the Universe as a scale of vibrations. They observe causes and consequences, and by directing their view from above to below, they arrive at the conclusion that here, at the lower level, our past is not strictly determined, that it is not history that shapes us but we, by our abilities, shape our history.

In spite of that, either we call our Inner Journey, either Hermetic or quantum, it is revealed to the consciousness of the traveler as the Evolutionary Fast lane of the potential initiation into new avenues of awareness. It is a journey composed of twenty-two stages. Each of the stages of this journey is the sanction which contains in itself the instructions for the travel proceedings as well as the result of the journey. It is the Arcana Model. Instead of looking for answers in the reality of physical consequences the Arcana Model makes it possible, by applying abstract universal symbols, to identify abstract causal concepts which assist the mind of traveler to decode the Map of the Paths of Being Map within himself. Since ancient times, this model is known as Tarot.

The symbols of Tarot enable human consciousness to access the knowledge of the laws of being. As studying of physical sciences helps to know physical laws, master languages or rules of mathematics and their practical application in life, likewise by studying metaphysical laws we hope to become familiar with the following:

- a. laws of Occult, which consist of theoretical knowledge and ability to control the visible and invisible laws of Nature;
- b. laws of magic, which is the practical knowledge and control of the visible and invisible powers of Nature and of human nature.

With this in mind, various institutions of initiated had originated since ancient times. The Egyptian School of Initiation is one of them, with the saint Book of Thoth as its basis for the knowledge of oneself and one`s environment. The saint Book of Thoth consists of seventy-eight pages which at the dawn of the human race had been embossed on golden plates, and were engraved on the walls of the cell of the Initiation Road, and that had been handed over to us in the form of a deck of cards.

The Egyptian wisdom alongside with the saint Book of Thoth has left as the Initiation method – the myth of Isis lamenting over the death of her husband. The Soul–Isis is set out to look for the parts of the murdered Osiris – Spirit body parts and connect them into unity. Osiris was murdered and his body parts were scattered across all Egypt by his brother Seth – Ignorance. Thus we are revealed this Journey of Isis – Soul through the twenty-two Major Arcana. Isis composes her husband`s body from the scattered parts, and he is resurrected. This is the symbolism for the fact that the Soul of each of us in this Journey resurrects his higher consciousness.

The Soul starts its journey from a *tabula rasa*, from a complete Zero, e.g., from the Zero Arcanum. It is inner journey, performed in an inner virtual space, called the quantum consciousness. Similar experiences of consciousness on the mental level are totally real, and living through them is similar to living through physical situations. Though a superficial view will

reveal the Zero Arcanum as the Fool, inwardly he is ready to live through twenty-two creative magic acts, he is ready to progress through the twenty-two transformational stages of evolution and become the creative Magician.

Generations that have traveled this Road before left us a very precise description of the worlds they had visited.

Cabalistic viewpoint	Hermetic viewpoint	Psychological viewpoint
The world of Azilut world (of emanation)	Primary world of Monads	The world of Divine Mission
The world of Beriah (creation)	The world of Spirit – Mind	The world of Probabilities
The world of Yetzirah (formation)	The world of Soul – Emotion	The world of Possibilities
The world of Asiyyah	The world of Aura – Psyche	The world of Realities

During the Journey of the Soul through the twenty-two Major Arcana, we become familiar with the consciousness of Laws of Being in the worlds of Spirit – Mind, Soul – Emotions, and Aura – Psyche. For this purpose, and according to their manifestation, we divide the twenty-two Major Arcana into the three stages:

The Worlds	The numbers of the Major Arcana
Spirit-Mind	1-7
Soul-Emotions	8-14
Aura-Psyche	15-22

The Kybalion, the compendium of the Hermetic knowledge bequeathed by generation to generation of the Initiated since the times immemorial, is our chosen guide in this journey. In it, seven Hermetic principles are introduced. With them in mind, we will be able to more clearly visualize the future route that we embark upon.

	The world of Spirit – Mind	The world of Soul-Emotion	The world of Aura-Psyche
The Principle of Mind	1. The Magician	8. Justice	15. The Natural Forces
The Principle of Analogy	2. The High Priestess	9. The Hermit	16. The Tower
The Principle of Vibration	3. The Empress	10. The Wheel of Fortune	17. The Star
The Principle of Polarity	4. The Emperor	11. Strength	18. The Moon
The Principle of Rhythm	5. The Hierophant	12. The Hanged Man	19. The Sun
The Principle of Cause and Effect	6. The Lovers	13. Death	20. Judgment
The Principle of Gender	7. The Chariot	14. Temperance	22. The World

In psychic world, Hermetic principles will help us to better familiarize ourselves with our own psyche and to maintain a better control of it, as well as to realize the divine mission of our individuality. Thus by the time a reader, having adopted the consciousness of Traveler, has progressed through twenty-two phases of Creative Magic Acts, he becomes the Magician with

the fair amount of experience of the Evolutionary Fast Lane. Below follows the description of the Journey of Soul through the twenty-two Major Arcana.

Each individual differs from others by his unique knowledge. Yet we are all unified by the fact that Cosmic Laws, e.g., Arcana, bestow their secrets onto each of us *personally*.

People are different in the sense that they pose different questions, yet they receive the answers that are personified, tailored according to their own *individual experience*.

That is the reason why they tend to believe that the answers they receive are different. Yet Cosmic Laws are the same to all us. Distortions of answers received happen due to the following: 1) every individual phrases his or her question based on their personal experience; 2) every individual has a different understanding of the answer, based on their own experience, which means that the same answer can be interpreted differently by each individual. This is why the technique of getting familiar with the Cosmic Laws is so specific. As explained in *The Kybalion*, the Truth is being conveyed from lips into an ear in the mental state characterized by high amplitude and the slowest frequency *Theta* waves characteristic to human brain in the state of trance. Historically, this Hermetic technique had usually been used in the situations of the past, present and future ordinations. After the mind has left the *Theta* mental state to switch to Beta wave state, the experiences of the *Theta* state might occasionally seem unreal. Thus it is important to be aware of the true definition of Reality.

Reality is all that which exists; reality is being able to admit the limitations of our knowledge; reality is also tolerance to everything that seems impossible. Reality is the level of acceptance and tolerance to novelty.

Reality is that the existence of which we admit, with no regard to the brain wave state of that particular moment.

The task of the traveler who has embarked upon Spiritual Journey is to accept *Theta* wave states as if they were the reality of the *Beta* states. This experience is known as the **transcendence of consciousness**.

The main concepts of Occult reality are the following.

A law is constant and necessary relation between phenomena.

Arcana are cosmic relations between Spirit and Matter. From this view point, one can say that the Tree of Life would be:

1 – 10 Major Arcana (MA) are the roads of God towards a human being.

11 – 20 Major Arcana (MA) are the roads of a human being towards God.

The 21st Major Arcanum is a synthetic realization of 1 – 10 MA in a person`s inner self. It is titled Traveler (or, folk name the Fool). The Arcana can be seen as the roads that God takes to come to a human being as his **fellow traveler**. This aspect of communication with God is known as **theurgy, which is the bestowing of the divine consciousness unto Matter**.

The 22nd MA is the synthetic realization of 11 – 22 MA. It is the expression of the fact that by advancing to God, the person controls himself and the world, or, he becomes a **coworker** with God who was already lowered down into the Matter as a fellow traveler. A cooperation of this kind is called **Demiurgy, which is the Creation by participating in it together with the Divine Consciousness**.

The path of Theurgy and Demiurgy is the practice of metaphysical theory.

That which exists above the earthly Beta wave state of mind, above the physical boundaries of usual daily awareness is metaphysics. Thus getting to know MA is metaphysical practice. It requires an adoption of a different self-perspective by becoming aware of oneself as a multi-facet personality. During this journey we will be able to awaken our higher aspects existing on subtle planes. We do not create these aspects but only establish a contact to them and include them into conscious activity within a Unified structure of our personality, a Realized Integral Personality, according to Hermetic viewpoint.

The Spiritual Journey through the twenty-two Major Arcana is the formation of Hermetic world outlook.

Any human structure from the Occult point is one composed of three, which means that it consists of three interwoven energy channels which are called Ida, Pingala, and Sushumna. They are as follows.

Spirit, the energy of which while descending into the Matter becomes specific. In the 7th chakra of aura it becomes the synthesizing mind; in the 5th energy center it becomes the abstract mind, in the 3rd energy center it becomes the specific mind, and in the 1st energy center it becomes the mechanical mind.

Soul, the energy of which by descending down into the Matter becomes specific. In the 6th energy center it becomes vision, in the 4th energy center it becomes love, and in the 2nd energy center it becomes creation.

Will power, which travels a straight line between the 7th and the 1st energy centers by the Sushumna channel (Hara line).

While studying the Major Arcana of Tarot we utilize them as the tools for the movement of our consciousness upwards through the planes of Universe, as we possess a body on each of the planes. Some of them are yet in their latent states as we do not use them in our daily lives. The mentioned energy centers are the points where the universal planes become obvious to our psychic structure. Kundalini is the energy center of the 1st physical plane of Universe energy. The 2nd energy center is the resurfacing point of the 2nd universal plane, and so on. Each of our bodies has all seven energy centers simultaneously, yet in each of them, the most expressed specific energy center corresponds to the number of the universal plane; e.g., in the 7th body the 7th energy center is the most pronounced; in the 5th body, the 5th energy center is expressed most explicitly.

In the 7th – 5th – 3rd – 1st energy centers, the joint consciousness of Spirit – Mind Ocean, in Occult terms titled the consciousness of Hermes – Thoth Trismegistus, travels along the bodies

of aura. In the 6th – 4th – 2nd energy centers, the joint consciousness of Soul – Emotions Ocean, titled in Occult terms the consciousness of Aphrodite (the ancient goddess of Love and Beauty), travels along the bodies of aura.

The movement along the Universe planes switching to different energy center vibrations is known in Occult science as **the ascending with the Hermes Caduceus lift**.

While making this journey

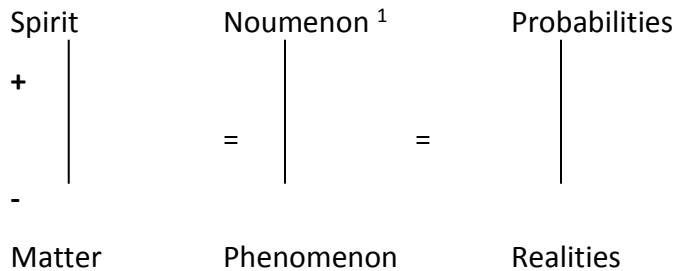
- We learn to focus our attention on ever higher bodies of aura as well as strengthening the functionality of these bodies on the planes usually not frequented in the routine of daily activities. We unite the consciousness of the planes of Spirit, Soul and Will into one integrated consciousness.
- We become familiar with and gain control to the energy flows of Spirit (Mind) and Soul (Emotions) in our aura and psyche.
- We achieve the harmony between Spirit (Mind) and Soul (Emotions) in the bodies of aura and psyche. In the Occult terms, this harmony is known as the life style of Hermaphrodite (Hermes plus Aphrodite), the life style when the balance of mind and emotions is not being disturbed by the logics of mind, when our mind and emotions do not become disturbed by any developments of our life, when in spite of intellectual and emotional storms outside us, our psyche remains calm like the surface of water on a sunny day, with no breeze rustling.
- We master the control of the processes of our Spirit (Mind) and Soul (Emotions) in such a manner that the hermaphrodite-like balance inside us would calm down the intellectual and emotional hurricanes outside us, and would enable us with no disturbance at all to achieve the highest Knowledge available.

The First Arcanum

Just a glimpse at the First Arcanum or the consciousness of Magus or Magician, from the viewpoint of Spirit – Mind world, helps us realize that the Magician differs from an ordinary uninitiated person, e. g., an ordinary human being resides in the physical world

defined by the three spacial and one temporal dimension, while the Magician resides in a multidimensional world. The existence of an ordinary person is based on the system of five physical senses while the Magician is in control of his senses on the every plane of his non-physical bodies, and receives his information not just from his five physical senses, but also from his subtle bodies that he has the full control of. That is the reason why he is the Magician, though ordinary people equipped with their five physical senses are unable to appreciate the transformational nature of the Magician`s art and sees him simply as a juggler. This art of transformation has been known to the initiated through ages, and it is most clearly conveyed by the First Hermetic principle: *“The All is Mind. The Universe is Mental.”*

Thus in the Hermetic binary



the Magician in action is the go-between Spirit and Matter, between Heaven and Earth. He is aware of the Mind (Spirit) principle, thus he is able to understand all the other principles of the Universe and apply them. "He who grasps the truth of the Mental Nature of the Universe is well advanced on the Path to Mastery." (*The Kybalion*, page 18). Without the awareness of this principle he would be a juggler not a magician. The actions performed by the Magician are known as operations.

¹ *Noumenon* (*noumena* in Greek) - in his *Critique of Pure Reason* Immanuel Kant differentiated all possible knowledge into *noumena* and *phenomena*. *Noumena* are the thing-in-itself (das Ding an sich) inaccessible to human intellect.

A human being and his physical senses are restricted by the realm of *noumena* as he is unable to apply categories to *noumena*. Kant sees the world of phenomena as truly accessible to the human intellect and intellectual activity. Dtv-Atlas zur Philosophie, Munchen, 1998.

The figure of the Magician is proudly positioned between Heaven and Earth, in an active posture. In his right hand he has a scepter (a magic wand), which is the symbol of fire element, and is pointing upwards to the Heaven. His left hand is directed towards Earth (or sometimes he is touching a disk which is placed on a table and symbolizes the element of earth). There is also a sword (the symbol of the element of air) and a cup (the symbol of the element of water) on the table. Thus the Magician rules four elements and operates the four magic symbols.

The posture of the Magician, his bodily expressions witness to his success, his self-confidence and his competence. His hands juggle the symbols of elements as if in play. Yet it only seems that the Magician is playing. In fact, his actions are the mastery of the highest level, it is concentration with no effort involved, when the job is done with seemingly no effort at all. The Magician is able to hold all the threads of cosmic causes and consequences which relate the cosmic consciousness of existential planes participating in his magic operation (theurgy – the fall of the Divine Consciousness into Matter) to earthly objects and perform magic (demiurgy – participation in creation with the Divine Consciousness). This is why laymen call him juggler: they either see only consequences, or even while seeing a phenomenon are unable to believe that it was generated by the Magician`s operations, so they accuse him of trickery.

Each motion of Magician is loaded with meaning, each combination of the four elements shapes out sequences of new and unexpected phenomena. The First Arcanum of TAROT, the Saint Book of Thot, starts the sequence of the following Arcana. It sets the tone for the studies of twenty-two initiations. The Magician of the First Arcanum stands between the past and the future, in the eternal present. He performs his operations now and here. He is full of strength as he knows how to spare it, and his arm, bent at the elbow, signifies that he is ready to express his hidden powers awaiting to be released at the proper time.

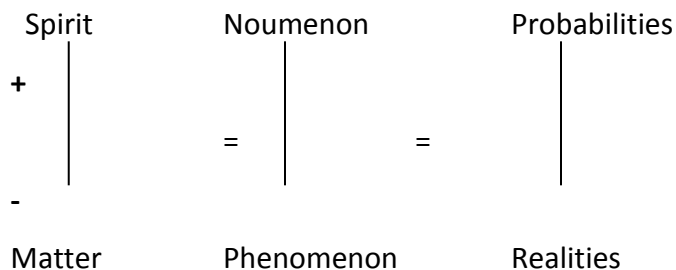
On the level of quantum consciousness the card of the Magician could be read on different levels and aspects: as that of Spirit – Mind, Soul – Emotions, Aura – Psyche worlds, and in each of them an active creative principle is seen; the first sign, the first character, the first member – *Alef*,– the beginning of any sequence, alphabet, chain, or the seed which in a hidden form

contains in itself also the result. It is the **Sanction**. It is the act of **Will power**. In every act of will power, energy is released, which creates a form and simultaneously a method for its creation. It is a simultaneous motion and vibration, an order and its execution, and also the final result. That what the Magician reached by his right arm when he lifted it up into existential planes, will be, in the form of power impulse, given over to the Second Arcanum, to the High Priestess, and will electrify her attempt to find out the essence of this impulse.

The Second Arcanum

The principle of Correspondence, “As Above, so Below; as Below, so Above”, is the expression of the old Hermetic axiom. Knowing and mastering of the second Hermetic principle, “gives one the means of solving many a dark paradox, and hidden secret of Nature” (*The Kybalion*, page 18; also pages 56 – 77).

The realization of the awareness of the Second Arcanum in the Hermetic binary looks as follows:



In it, the veil of illusion is lifted to make the Unknown known, as we are assisted by the willpower of the First Arcanum to act and by the Belief of the Second Arcanum in our success. This belief is based on the knowledge which in the Book of Priestess is related to the quantum theory.

The Second Arcanum is the reflection of the spontaneous magic act of the First Arcanum in the immovable and calm consciousness of the High Priestess. This second magic act is passive,

it is Gnosis, the aim of which is to translate the experience of the Magician into the Book. The acts of the Magician become the bricks of Gnosis which are used by the Wisdom of Priestess to construct her Palace, the Temple of Isis. The active act of Spirit – Mind could be immobilized by the consciousness of the Priestess passively reflecting on it.

The Temple of Isis on the card of the Second Arcanum is symbolized by the two columns of Being – the active (+), which indicates the energy of the higher plane generated by the pure creative magic act of the Magician of the First Arcana; and the passive (-) column, which symbolizes the inner concentration of the creative magic act of the Second Arcana, the magnetic power needed to discern the Gnosis generated out of Pure Energy. Or, it could be said, knowledge is generated only by the intense creativity and by focusing upon the depth of one's inner being. Knowledge is outwardly passive, it is directed inward, while a magic act is inwardly creative. From the Hermetic viewpoint, the columns of Being signify that the Magician is active outwardly, and the Priestess is active inwardly.

Thus we are dealing here with the analogy, or the reflection of the higher element (+) in the lower element (-), and the tension of this binary which is neutralized by the Consciousness. This means that the electricity of the pure act of the Magician of the First Arcanum and the magnetic power of knowledge of the Priestess of the Second Arcanum are being used by the third element, the Empress of the Third Arcanum, to acquire her awareness.

The tension between the First Arcanum (+) and the Second Arcanum (-) becomes distinct as the boundaries set for the totality of Existence. The two Arcana contain the magnetic field of all previous consequences of Being, which would reveal itself through the subsequent Arcana and determine the Universe to be the way it is, not any different. This can be seen as the parallel to the marriage of man and woman bringing into their joint life their pre-existing karmic environment which restricts their possible actions. Or, it could be compared to the magnetic field that already exists in a water drop, yet the pattern of its power lines would only become discernable when water is frozen to ice.

The tension between two opposites and the magnetism of previous existences is displayed in the concentric circles of magnetic fields, the friction of which generates the third element. For example, water, with the chemical formula H^2O , can be represented as the H and O binary: H – O.

The magnetism that was left behind by the circumstances previous to the emerging of the Earth requested for two H molecules in the composition of water. Such magnetic situation prevails on the Earth planet, though on the Mars and some other planets, as based on the data collected by scientists, this ratio is different.

It is appropriate here to mention the universal automation law: the emerging of the First Arcanum automatically summons into existence the Second Arcanum, e.g., electricity and magnetism are not two unrelated phenomena: the movement of electricity usually generates a magnetic field.

The Unity experiences a split, and out of it emerges movement which is seen as the tension, not yet rendered neutral by the Third element. This tension, as expressed by the binary, is the friction of the Magician and the High Priestess, of the two opposites, as they have not yet adjusted to coexist together. In the field of awareness of the Second Arcanum, the Magician and the High Priestess by their creative acts are searching for an expression, for analogies in lower or upper levels, yet they are destined to experience contradiction before they find the neutralizing Third element. It could be compared to the status of a drop, when the tension of all interior forces is holding up the sphere separating the drop from the outside.

Thus the Second Arcanum, or Gnosis, is a passive state of an observer, when the action of the First Arcanum is supplemented with the knowledge of the Priestess on a more efficient action in the following spheres.

- How in the world of Spirit – Mind to be able to determine which of probabilities is more valuable;

- How in the world of Soul – Emotion to be able to determine which of possibilities is more vital;
- How in the world of Aura – Psyche to be able to determine which realization will require the least expenditure of energy to achieve the maximum result.

The Empress of the Third Arcanum having achieved the control of the Second Arcanum, in her consciousness turns the juxtaposition of the two previous Arcana into their partnership.

We have analyzed the Second Arcanum as an autonomous phenomenon that had originated previously to the other phenomena, e.g., other Arcana. Yet the deepest occult secret tells us that, realistically, at the moment of the rise of the First Arcanum (Osiris), his antipode and counterbalancing element, the Second Arcanum (Isis) comes into being, as well as the element that would neutralize the interaction of these two Laws, e. g., the Third Arcanum (their son Horus). Thus with the first moment of the Beginning, the elements One, Two, Three emerge into being. We have the ability to stop these moments as if they were film shots and observe the One, as an independent entity with autonomous existence, which does not exist though without the interaction to the elements Two, and Three. The examples for this reasoning follow.

- Though the heart is an autonomous, independent object, we all know that „the heart" as such represents only an anatomy item which does not exist or function on its own . To be able to function, the heart needs a live organism and his systems (on the worst case, it needs at least an artificial, or life support system to be able to function).

- The fetus, that of an individual, as well as of the Universe, was formed in the mother`s womb. With the aim of getting to know the Being, we focus on the embryo of the Universe, and disregarding the information about his Parents and environment, in a simplified manner, try to explain the origination of the Universe starting from its first primeval cell – from the first Arcanum, – and up to the rise of all manifested creations in the twenty-second Arcanum, The World.

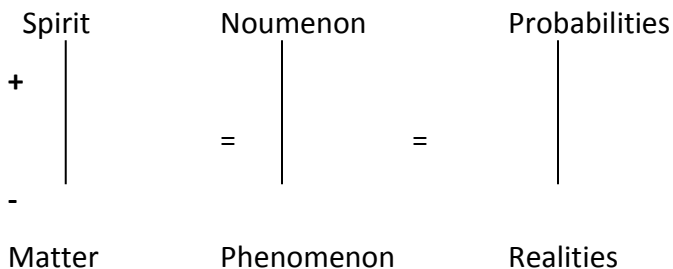
When we talk about the Journey of Isis – Soul, we do not discuss the laws and causes of the origination of the Universe, yet instead we focus more on the development of its fetus. As such analysis of parts of the total system is rather arbitrary, it occasionally might seem that the laws contradict each other, as if we were trying to solve the eternal causality dilemma “which came first, the chicken or the egg?”

Thus the electro-magnetic tension generated by the First and Second Arcana activates the Empress of the Third Arcanum for the act of ruling. The presence of the Empress will neutralize the opposition of the Magician and the Priestess.

The Third Arcanum

The third Hermetic principle of vibration embodies the truth that in the Universe "nothing rests; everything moves; everything vibrates". Every manifestation of unusual power which is displayed by Masters and Adepts is based on the principle of vibration, since they are able to skillfully store energy from the Laws of Nature and expertly apply one law against the other. They perform their so called miracle by transforming the vibrations of material objects or forms of energy. As was rightly observed by an ancient author, "He who understands the Principle of Vibration, has grasped the scepter of power." (*The Kybalion*, page 19; also 78 – 83 pages).

Let us analyze the Third Arcanum as the Hermetic binary :



It is important to emphasize that “between these poles, there are millions upon millions of varying degrees of vibrations “(*The Kybalion*, page 79), of the most diversified types and

tempos. The One (The First Arcanum) has already been transformed into the Knowledge of Oneself (The Second Arcanum) and it is giving birth to the Multiple (The Third Arcanum), to the variety of vibrations or planes. The Female of the Third Arcanum card, the Empress of life is teaching us, with the help of her scepter of magic power, to control the variety of vibrations. In such a manner, the third creative magic act, the Divine Procreation is manifested.

The familiarization with each of the twenty-two Laws of Being is the practical experience of our Soul, which is acquired by working with the subtle matter of the higher planes. This experience brings the management skills of higher material planes unto the level of realization. It is within the powers of Soul to rule Matter; it is a new degree of awareness and of realization of power. The Empress is the symbol of this rule. **The sceptre, the shield, the crown, and the throne are the four attributes of her power.**

In her hand, the Empress is holding the sceptre of Venus, which is the great symbol of life. The top of the scepter is decorated with the golden globe, the symbol of Divine Essence with the variety of its possible manifestations, as well as of Universal Harmony.

In her other hand, the Empress is holding the shield which typically bears an eagle. One wing of the eagle is pointed vertically, and the second is positioned horizontally, he has the Key of Life on his neck. The figure of the proud eagle is symbolic of the human soul, free and unrestricted by physical matter.

The crown of the Empress reveals the most important Hermetic truth that magic is not a popular yet royal art. To practice it, we have to built inside us a spiritual palace. Even though nowadays democracy is prevailing, spiritually we are expected to become aristocrats, and only under this condition the light of the Third Arcanum would enlighten us by its presence, would crown us with the Crown symbolizing this new spiritual awareness and a new degree of achieved power.

The throne of Empress is a stone of cubic shape which can be understood as a reminder that without the Sceptre of Life, without the Key of Life, and without the Crown that signifies the new awareness and realized power, the multiple manifestations of the four elements, – fire, water, air, and earth, – will not show obedience to the Magician, will not acknowledge him as the Creator of the new reality.

In the journey of the Isis – Soul which we perform through the twenty-two Major Arcana, we can interpret the symbolic mysteries of the Knowledge of Being with the help of the multi-level awareness that emerged at the end of the 20th and the start of the 21st century, and which helps our consciousness transcend the boundaries of the three-dimensional world. This phenomenon is known as the quantum consciousness and it is characterized by specific quantum logic.

As we read in *The Kybalion*, the principle of Vibration “embodies the truth that "everything is in motion"; "everything vibrates"; "nothing is at rest"; facts which modern science endorses, and which each new scientific discovery tends to verify.” (*The Kybalion*, page 19). From the viewpoint of quantum mechanics, every interaction is conveyed by virtual particles. Light and sound travels by waves. The intensity of waves is determined by the intensity of vibrations. The frequency of waves corresponds to the specific range of vibration of particles, which is the specific number of vibrations per second. The intensity of vibrations determines the fact that human beings understand the sounds of different frequency as tones of different height, and at the same time, the light of different frequency is understood by humans as different colors.

Let us take a look at the first Three Arcana from the view point of quantum mentality. The Magician of the First Arcanum performed a pure creative act and reached out with his hand into the world of Spirit – Mind, or the world of Probabilities (see the First Arcanum). He sensed the creative wave corresponding to his intention, a particle which is the new

probability, the idea of new magic creation.

The High Priestess, under her veil symbolizing physical space and time, by the magic act of her creative knowledge, assessed the idea that had been sensed by the Magician in the world of Probabilities and stopped his idea at the highest stage of its progress, before it became distanced from its essence in the process of development.

At this point, the creative magical act of the Empress of the Third Arcanum emerges, which opens up the gate of magical creation, so that **One** could become **Multiple**. That, which was assessed by the High Priestess when she distanced herself from lower vibrations of physical space and time and directed her inner view into the essence of the creative process, will be borne by the Empress whose look is directed to the outside world. Not only she gives birth to it, but she also teaches how to gain power over the emanation of vibrations caused by the wave of the pure creative magical act of the Magician. The Empress teaches us to rule *the events, processes and situations* that are caused to erupt to the surface by inner processes energized by creative acts of the Magician and the High Priestess.

- The pure creative magical act performed by the Magician of the First Arcanum in the multi-aspect world of Spirit – Mind or Probabilities, has its consequence in the world of physical matter, e.g., it is expressed as a whirl of agitated *event-generating* energies.
- The High Priestess of the Second Arcanum while performing her own creative magical act in the multi-plane worlds, receives the magnetism from the energy evoked by the creative wave of the Magician. She generates a consequence in the world of physical matter, e.g., the creative magical act of her knowledge manifests itself as interior processes of the maturing future magic event.
- The Empress of the Third Arcanum performs her own magical act in the world of physical matter and generates a consequence. She gives birth to the result of the events

caused by a pure creative act of the Magician and by interior processes of the creative magic act based on the knowledge of the High Priestess, which is a *situation*; and she instantaneously show us how to control our life.

Thus the Third Arcanum becomes the force which neutralizes the first two Arcana. In other words, not only it bestows on us a new degree of awareness and realization power, but also gives us maturity to control it; it teaches us how to give birth, how to realize every pure creative magical act in physical world. To nurture within ourselves the probabilities – ideas of the multi-aspect matter means to create physical events and processes which similar to the flood of energy are able to carry away all our barriers, to explode as destructive force and produce uncontrolled situations. Thus we should hold the Empress` scepter very firmly in our hands, should shield ourselves with her shield and should get ready to wear the crown while sitting on the cube-shaped throne. This enables us to understand the creative magical act of the Fourth Arcanus which teaches us how to control our own *circumstances*.