

The Cosmos



A description of the wisdom and meaning of the Cosmos, the Universe in which we live, microcosmic and macrocosmic, individual and universal.

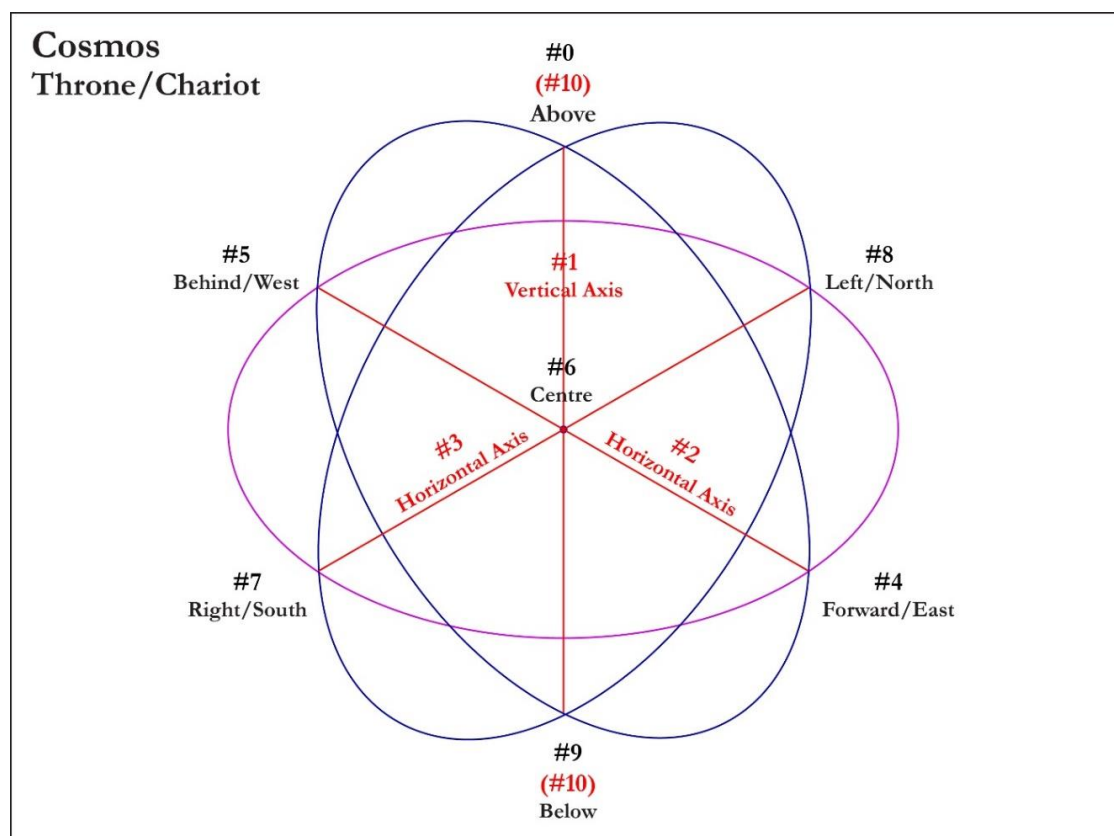
Author: Peter Dawkins

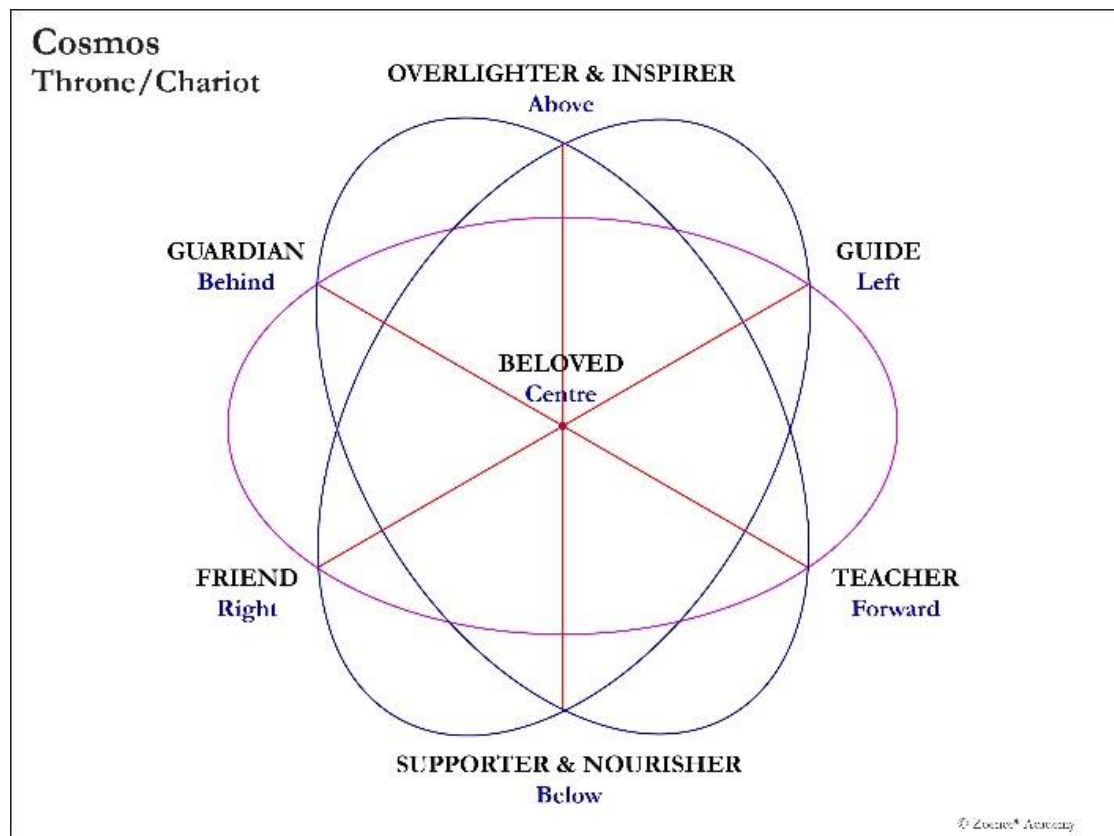
The Cosmos represents the All. The Cosmos exists in three spatial dimensions, as all life as we know it is three-dimensional. The Cosmos is both universal and individual. The Cosmos is comprised of the 10 *Sephiroth* ('Emanations') as shown on the Tree of Life diagram.

The Tree of Life diagram is a teaching aid devised to help us understand ourselves, life and the Cosmos (Universe); but there are various versions of the Tree, and how the two-dimensional Tree of Life diagram relates to the three-dimensional Cosmos usually has to be explained verbally and experientially, and in the past was purely an oral tradition.

The Tree of Life is a mathematical diagram consisting of number and geometry, the 10 Sephiroth (shown as numbers or ciphers) have 22 Pathways linking them, which give 32 numbers or ciphers in all. In order to symbolically climb the Tree, as used in the mystery schools of initiation, it means that there are 32 degrees to reach the top. The 33rd degree is 'going beyond'. Or else, more simply, starting as Sephira #10, there are nine major degrees to reach the top, Sephira #1, the Crown; or 10 in all, counting the beginning.

The 10 Sephiroth form the Cosmos, and each Sephiroth has a number, meaning, and planetary symbol (when appropriate). They are the chief and essential aspects or expressions of Divine Love.





The Cosmos has three axes:

1. The 'above-below' vertical axis corresponds to Sephira #1, Crown, Power, Source, symbolised by a dot (the heart of God that is everywhere, within a circumference that is nowhere). It is also called the 'Primum Mobile' ('First Movement').
2. The 'forward-behind' horizontal axis corresponds to Sephira #2, Wisdom, the Divine Will and Word – the vibrational force that creates all things. In Hebraic Kabbalah, Sephira #2 is called 'Al', the Divine Father, which in Aramaic is 'Abba'. This is symbolised by the Zodiac, but by this is meant the creative life force.
3. The 'right-left' horizontal axis corresponds to Sephira #3, Intelligence, the Divine Mind, which receives the Wisdom (the creative energy) and gives it form. The divine forms are the divine ideas, divine intelligences, called angels ('Ang-El' = 'Thought of God'). In Hebraic Kabbalah, Sephira #3 is called 'Alah', the Divine Mother, which in Aramaic is 'Aima'. This is symbolised by the constellations of stars, but usually shown as a cluster of seven stars.

The three axes of the Cosmos manifest what is known as the Holy Trinity. The symbols given to them also describe the Cosmos as the centre, the force of creation that emanates from the centre, and the surrounding sphere that contains and sets a limit on the expansion of the creative energy. In two-dimensions this is represented as a circle, composed of a centre, radii and circumference. The three cannot be separated; they are One. Hence the full meaning of 'zodiac' (which is the Greek name for what is called 'chakra' in Sanskrit) is a spinning wheel of energy, an energy vortex. The celestial sphere, a universal cosmos, contains innumerable constellations of stars, with each constellation, each star, being an individual cosmos.

The Cosmos has six radii, each with a 'face' at its limit of extension, plus a centre. (A 'face' is a one-sixth part of the enclosing sphere, corresponding to a face of a Cube, but in spherical terms.):

4. The 'forward' radius and face corresponds to Sephira #4, Mercy, Compassion, Generosity. This is the outpouring of Love as Wisdom, the loving Will of God, Who is Love. This is the Teacher. It is symbolised by Jupiter.
5. The 'behind' radius and face corresponds to Sephira #5, Judgement, Perception, Discernment, Discipline. This is the mind, the intelligence, receiving, hearing, seeing, organising and checking the wisdom it receives, deciding whether true or false, until it understands the wisdom and is ready to put the idea of it into action). This is the Guardian. It is symbolised by Mars.
6. The centre corresponds to Sephira #6, Beauty. This is the Lover and Beloved. It is the divine heart and is symbolised by the Sun.
7. The 'right-hand-side' radius and face corresponds to Sephira #7, Good Desires ('Victory'). This is the Intimate Friend. It is symbolised by Venus.
8. The 'left-hand-side' radius and face corresponds to Sephira #8, Good Thoughts ('Glory'). This is the Guide. It is symbolised by Mercury.
9. The 'below' radius and face corresponds to Sephira #9, Good Action ('Foundation', 'Generation'). This is the Supporter and Nourisher. It is symbolised by the Moon.
10. The 'above' radius and face corresponds to Sephira #10, Kingdom, Bride, Grail. This is the receptacle (grail) of the other nine Sephiroth. It is the angelic spirit which incarnates into earthy matter to become the "living soul". She is the Bride of the Spirit (#1). As an incarnate soul, she starts off 'below' (earth), but rises up the vertical axis to 'above' (heaven), helped by all the other Sephiroth which she, the soul, puts into loving action. Raised up on high, she becomes the Overlighter and Inspirer. She is symbolised by Earth, into which the angelic spirit of the soul has to incarnate and then, as the soul, labour in love; but when raised up high she becomes the Blazing Star (the Christ Star or Star of David, the Dove).

As the Blazing Star, the soul is illumined; she knows the Wisdom because she has experienced and practised the Wisdom, and therefore embodies and shines with the Wisdom. She can enlighten and inspire others with her wisdom-knowledge. What the enlightened soul knows is called the Truth: hence she, the enlightened soul, is the living embodiment of Truth, and shines with the light of delight, the light of love.

The divine or perfect Cosmos thus has #10, Knowledge, 'above', which signifies the Bride (#10) married to and united with the Spirit (#1, the vertical axis of the Cosmos). This echoes the Divine Union of #2, Al, the Father, with #3, Alah, the Mother, who in their union of love are Alahim (i.e. Elohim, the Hebrew plural word translated as 'God' in Genesis 1). All illumined souls are echoes (likenesses) of this divine Cosmos. This is our aim in life.

In all this it should be noted that God/Alahim/Elohim is male-female – the Divine Father and Mother in their union of love, who contain the All and are the All. What is translated as “man” (Hebrew: ‘adam’) in Genesis 1 means the individual mind or intelligence, the spiritual or angelic counterpart of the soul. This “man” is created male-female in the likeness of God/Alahim.

So often in the past (and present) this meaning has been lost, with ‘God’ being understood as male only, with many unhappy consequences, especially when made a dogma. God is both male and female, and every individual soul is a mixture of male and female. Each of us is male-female in ourselves, although outwardly we usually have to be more the one than the other, depending on what we have chosen to do or need to learn, but which the genes and body and circumstances also usually decide for us.

The other thing to note, which perhaps has led to the confused opinion that God is male only, is that the soul is traditionally symbolised as being female in relation to the spirit, the divine, which is symbolised as male in respect of the soul – hence the Bride/Soul and Groom/Spirit symbolism. The reason for this, rather than having the symbolism round the other way, is almost certainly because it is the woman who gives form to the love-making with her partner, by conceiving and gestating the foetus of the child-to-be in her womb, whereas the man’s role is to fertilise the woman with his seed. Hence the male is analogous with the creator, the life force, whilst the woman is the form-maker who gives form to the seed, the life force.

However, properly understood, the spirit is male-female, and the soul is male-female, even though the symbolism makes it seem otherwise. The spirit is ideal, perfect, immortal; the soul is fallible, imperfect, mortal. This is clearly intentional, for it is by making mistakes, and then learning from them and trying to do better to reach the ideal, in love, that we learn the truth, prove the truth, and know the truth. Without this, we would remain as unknowing innocents. As Francis Bacon pointed out, referring to ‘man’ as the mind, created male and female in the image (i.e. an image of the imagination) of God/Alahim and after the likeness of God/Alahim (Genesis 1:26-27): -

“The mind is the man and the knowledge is the mind. A man is but what he knoweth. The mind itself is but an accident to knowledge; for knowledge is a double of that which is. The truth of being and the truth of knowing is all one.”

Francis Bacon, ‘In Praise of Knowledge’, *A Conference of Pleasure* (1592).

When enlightened, the soul not only embodies the wisdom but knows it, or a fraction of it. In other words, the enlightened soul has married the spirit; the mortal has become one with the immortal. This is referred to as the marriage of heaven and earth, of spirit and matter, of immortal and mortal, and is the Hermetic Science or Gnosis. (Hermes = the enlightened soul, the immortal-mortal. Gnosis = Knowledge.)

Like in an earthly human marriage, when the bride and groom are truly in love, the moment of marriage creates a burst of delight, happiness, joy, which is a ‘light’ that can be shared with others, and which we all love, because joy is infectious. This is the metaphysical ‘child’ or ‘Son/Sun’ of God, the ‘light’ of God. The Hebrew word for ‘light’ (Genesis 1:3) is ‘owr’, meaning also ‘delight, happiness, joy’.

In the Cosmos, Sephira #10, the Bride, marries and unites with Sephira #1, the Spirit/Groom, by rising up the vertical axis of the Cosmos. The vertical axis is Sephira #1. This is 'fixed'. Sephira #10 becomes united as one with the 'fixed' vertical axis when she moves and rises up it, with him (the Spirit, #1) within her (the Bride, #10). In the Hindu tradition she is referred to as Kundalini, the Shakti of Shiva. Shiva stands in the centre as the Pillar of the Universe; Shakti dances in a spiral motion around him, uniting with him in love.

The dancing by the Bride (#10, Kundalini/Shakti) is perceived as an upwards spiralling motion, like a fountain of water, so she is also referred to biblically as 'the fountain of life'. When she reaches the top of the vertical axis, she becomes 'Knowledge', blazing with light, filled with delight. This is the crowning destiny of life, which is what she is designed to become. She is then the Overlighter and Inspirer of others.

The angels of the 10 Sephiroth are known as Archangels. 'Arch' or 'Archi' means 'pre-eminent', 'principal', 'chief'. In the Cosmos, six of them appear as the 'faces' (#4-5-7-8-9-10). The centre of the Cosmos appears as the Archangel Michael, 'Who is like God' (#6). The three Archangels of the Holy Trinity (#1-2-3) dwell within the Holy Seven (#4-5-6-7-8-9-10).

The spirit in each of us and enfolding us is a divine Cosmos. Our human soul is on the path to becoming its true echo or likeness. Our spiritual self is our angel. We each have an angel – a divine idea or intelligence, a metaphysical form of light – which is trying to guide our soul into echoing its form or Cosmos as a true likeness that shines with light like a Sun or Star. In fact, all nature has its angels, its intelligences, even the landscape and the Earth itself.

Each of us manifests this truth in one way or another, and is capable of manifesting even more of it. Our life on earth is a labour of love, or intended to be, as this is how we become the perfect echo of the Divine, a Blazing Star.

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