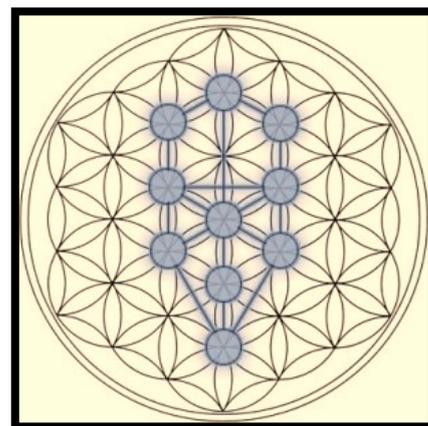


# KABBALAH

## **The Tree of Life:**

The 22 paths of The Tree of Life ("Etz Haim") in Kabbalah reflect the 22 primeval vibrations that formed the Hebrew Alphabet. Thus, sound, form and meaning are all coordinated in one cohesive whole. Each is a different manifestation of a singular profound essence. As you see in the image, the Tree seamlessly embeds within the geometrical form known as the Flower of Life, which is evident throughout living systems and represented in countless ancient cultures. *Take a moment to feel the significance of this universal recognition of coherence.*



## **The Paths and the Alphabet:**

The 22 letters/vibrations/paths within the Tree of Life connect the Sephiroth (the spherical points of the Tree): these key vibrational patterns are "emanations" and represent the powers of the soul. Each of the 10 Sephira is defined and acts as a chain of emanation, with each unfolding and evolving the next: each Sephira relates and mediates the influence of the others. They are: Kether ("crown"), Chokmah ("wisdom"), Binah ("understanding"), Chesed ("kindness/mercy"), Geburah ("severity"), Tiphereth ("beauty/harmony"), Netzach ("victory"), Hod ("glory/spendor"), Yesod ("foundation"), Malkuth ("kingdom").

The 22 paths connecting the Sephiroth consist of:

- 3 "Mother Letters" (Aleph, Mem, Shin): These represent *Awareness*.
- 7 "Double Letters" (Beth, Gimel, Daleth, Kaph, Pe, Resh, Tau): These represent *Space*.
- 12 "Simple Letters" (Hey, Vau, Zain, Cheth, Teth, Yod, Lamed, Nun, Samekh, Ayin, Tzaddi, Qof): These reflect the 12 constellations of the zodiac and represent *Time*.

## **The Pillars:**

Three vertical pillars comprise the Tree of Life. The Pillars are a diagrammatic representation of the 3 fundamental forces of life: positive/+, negative/-, and neutral/0.

- The LEFT Pillar is the pillar of SEVERITY-DESTRUCTION. This is the black feminine pillar of passivity, form, contraction, restriction, matter, and is the negative pole of the Tree. The Sephira Binah, Geburah and Hod comprise this pillar.
- The RIGHT Pillar is the pillar of MERCY-CREATION. This is the white masculine pillar of activity, force, expansion, movement, energy, and is the positive pole of the Tree. The Sephira of Chokmah, Chesed and Netzach comprise this pillar.
- The MIDDLE Pillar is the pillar of MILDNESS-HARMONY. This is the central pillar that has no charge. It is cosmic awareness, consciousness, equilibrium, stillness, and the neutral "present moment" pole of the Tree. The Sephira of Kether, Tiphereth, Yesod and Malkuth comprise this pillar. The non-Sephira Da'ath is also on this Pillar.

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## **You are walking The Path of Zain.**

Zain is the 7th path within the Tree of Life and the 7th letter of the Hebrew Alphabet. (It is also recognized as "17" when all elements of the Tree are considered, including the 10 foundational Sephira: this is "The 32 Paths of Wisdom".)

***Zain, meaning "sword" in Hebrew, is the path of wholeness.***

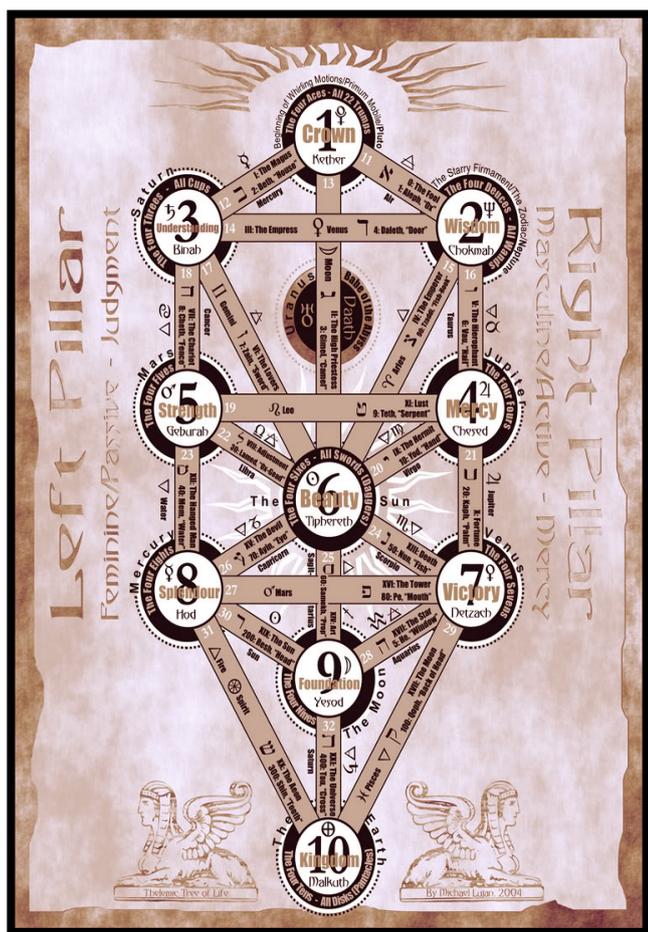
Zain is the path connecting Binah (the Sephira of “understanding/truth”) with Tiphereth (the Sephira of “beauty/harmony”). You as Zain are an embodiment of the sword: a symbol of the uprising of truth. Because the Tree is an emanation process (an unfolding story through the Sephiroth), this path is the embodiment of Binah receiving the projective force of the previous sephira (Chokmah - “wisdom”) and connecting that to Tiphereth at the center of the Tree of Life. Tiphereth is the Sephira of the sun and is the main connection between the Divine and the mundane. Zain links Truth and Beauty.

**You as Zain are here to unify, become whole, focus, evolve, and instigate “right choice”.**

**22 Kabbalah Paths and 22 Tarot Archetypes:**

The Kabbalistic wisdom tradition and the Tarot are inextricably linked by the form, function, enigmatic meaning, and quantity of “22”. There are 22 Kabbalah paths and 22 major arcana Tarot archetypes. Although the origination portal providing this link can be glimpsed and intuited, what we know for certain is that a (natural, inherent) alignment between the two exists that speaks to the evolutionary processes of life.

**The Path of Zain is directly linked to the Tarot archetype and path of “The Lovers”.**



According to Ann Skea:

The Path of the Lovers links Tiphereth (Sephira 6), at the heart of the Tree, with Binah (Sephira 3), the seat of the Great Goddess on the Pillar of Form. It is the path on which, symbolically, female and male are brought together in order to create a whole being capable of new, superconscious awareness and able to achieve new spiritual growth. The number of this path is 7, the number of completion in the material world, as it is in the Biblical story of the Creation.

The Tarot number for this path is 6, which is also the number of Tiphereth (The Way, Beauty). This suggests that what is to be learned by those travelling on this path will be an important indication of The Way, which is the one path to spiritual rebirth. And, since 6 is also 2 x 3, the female energies of Binah (Truth, Understanding) on this path are doubly important and all the various powers of the Goddess which were

discussed earlier in ‘The Path of the Empress’ are doubly active.

On this Path of the Lovers, journeyers encounter the Divine female energies (those of the Great Goddess of Orphic myth or, in Hebrew Cabbalistic texts<sup>1</sup>, of the ‘Shabbat Queen’

or 'Sabbath Bride'), and the power of these to give and to inspire love may enrapture and elevate them to new awareness of their own mystical potential. Appropriately, the Hebrew letter for this path, Zain (meaning 'sword' or 'weapon') portrays, by its shape, the upward flow of energies - "the return" to the Divine - then the broadening to right and left which encompasses the Divine energies of awe and love. It portrays, too, the double edged potential of the energies on this path, for the sword is a symbol of supreme power and of the binding loyalty which unites its bearer with such power but it is also a weapon of justice, punishment, anger and division.

**Zain is your path.**

