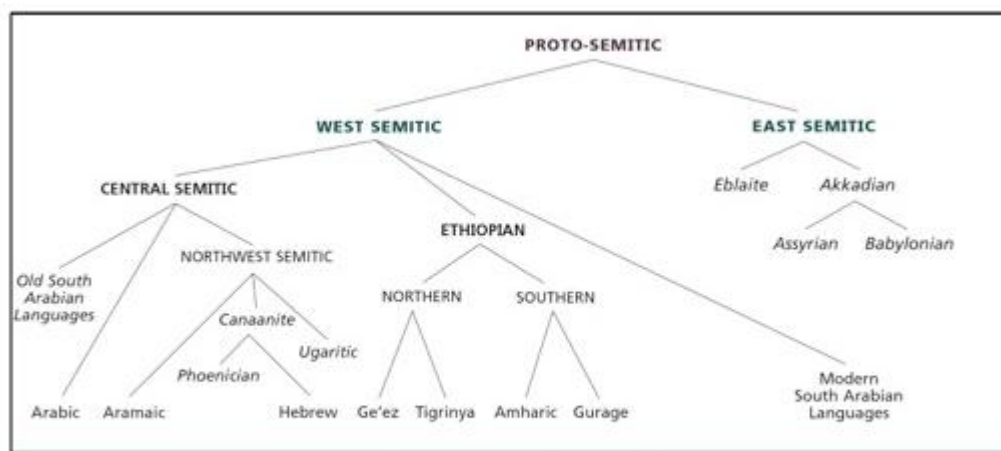


## 06 Tarot Trumps and the Alphabet

In this article we will continue to explore more deeply how Qabalah influenced the development of the alphabet and how this is all related to the Tarot Trump cards. We explained in earlier articles of this series how Qabalah  $\text{QEF}$  is the esoteric secret wisdom aspect of the Hebrew language and Jewish tradition.

Hebrew is a Semitic language, a family of languages that contains many other dialects and languages. (See Semitic Language Family Tree below.)



**The Semitic Language Family Tree**  
*(from the American Heritage Dictionary, 4th edition)*

When I began this research one of my first insights came not from Hebrew but from a language that used to be widespread in what is now Europe. That language was Celtic. Nowadays the Celtic people are mainly known as the people of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. But in ancient times their culture even extended across Europe as far east as Central Asia. They had a religion known as Druidism with a profound spiritual tradition, and they developed their own writing system and also had a great oral tradition.

As the Roman Empire expanded over Europe, the Roman government considered the Druidic Celts to be a threat to their hegemony, so they strongly repressed their culture to the extent that we do not have very many remains from that tradition. The writing became secretive and the Celts used hand signaling code systems to hide their information. When the Romans occupied England, they expanded northward to Scotland

where Emperor Hadrian built a wall to keep the Celts out of Roman territory.

The Celts lived in the woodlands of Europe and their religion was closely connected to the forested lands. Each tree had a special name that represented a god or tree spirit and had a special meaning for them. The name Druid itself derives from their relation to the trees. They were known as “Knowers of Oaks”, and the Druid leaders were sorcerers and seers who could see into the secrets of Nature and guide their people to successful life in the forests.

When they began to develop a written tradition, they adopted the Hebrew letters and modified their design to suit their own language and culture. They called their symbols “runes”. Because they did not have paper, and they lived in the forests, they worked a lot with wood, and their tools were knives, axes, and adzes for shaping the wood into dwellings, furniture, weapons, and other useful items. They would often cut short inscriptions into the wooden handles of tools and weapons or on furnishings. They also often would carve signs onto the trunks of trees in the forest. Often these carved signs were meant to bring good fortune or protect against evil.

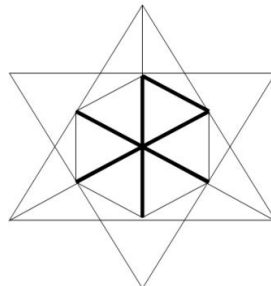
Because they wanted to cut signs quickly into wood, they developed a style of writing with straight lines, horizontal, vertical, and slanted lines. Later as they began to use metal more, they also engraved or impressed the same signs on metal fittings and ornaments.

Some believe the runes were invented by the Celts, but research shows they merely modified the old Phoenician/Hebrew letters to suit their environment and media. Some years ago I was reading a book by Nigel Pennick about the ancient Celtic writing systems and the various runic alphabets. It turns out in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century there was an Austrian scholar Guido von List who was studying the runes. During a hospital stay after an eye operation he suddenly discovered a key to the invention of the original runes in a simple design.

### Several Rune Systems

VENETIC Este	EAST RAETIC Magrè	WEST RAETIC Bolzano-Sarnano	CAMUNIC Sondrio	LEPONTIC Lugano	
A Æ A	A A A A	A A A A	∇ A 1	∇ 1	a
> (=v)		> (?)	H > (=g)		b c/g
1	1	1	X (?) 1 1 1	1	d e
4	4	4	III		v
X (=d)	X (=d)	X ∇ (?)	Y A	X	z
B B B	B B	B	H A III		h
⊙ (=t)			X :::: ⊙ ⊙	⊙	θ
I B	I	I	I /	I	i
X	X	X	// V ) X	X	k
J T	M	J	J T T	J	l
M M	M	M	M M	M M	m
N H	N	N	N H M	N M	n
			V V Z ~ 6 8		o/u
⊙ ⊙			⊙	⊙ ⊙	o
q 1	q q 1	1	U C C 1	1	p
M T	M T	M	B B	M T	s
q d	d q	d q q	q d	d	r
Z Z Z	X Z	Z Z	∇ V ∇	Z Z	s
X 1	X 1	X	T T T T	X	t
V A	^	V	V A T	V	u
φ (=b)	φ φ φ	φ φ φ	φ		φ
			X X X		ts/pp
Y (=g)	Y V	Y V	↑ ↑ ↑	V	p z
B 1 1 1					f
	↑ ↑ ↑				t'

### Star of David and Chi Rho Rune Generator Discovered by Guido von List

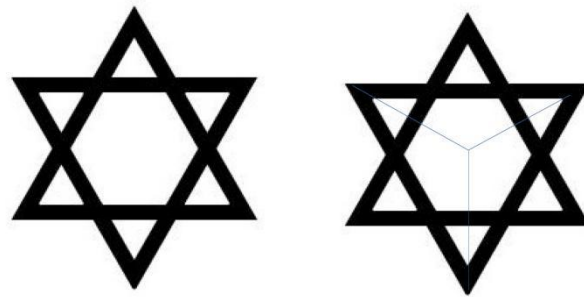


Ɔ Ɔ Ɔ Ɔ Ɔ Ɔ  
 1 4 ↑ B 1 1 1 X

Guido von List discovered that he could derive all the basic runes from the Star of David, one of the fundamental Qabbalistic symbols. This design was said to have been inscribed on the shield of David, a great warrior hero of the Hebrew people. Although David had many flaws, he became a great king and leader of his people. He was also the father of King Solomon, who built the Great Temple of Jerusalem. David's name (DVD) as written in Hebrew meant "beloved".



If you combine the three letters, you get the Star of David. The basic design is the two triangular "Deltas". The Y {V} in the middle makes it a three dimensional star tetrahedron, another important Qabbalistic symbol. You can also see a cube in the design.



This figure also happens to be the sign for the Heart Chakra in India and it is the emblem on the flag of Israel. It is a profound yantra (visual symbol for meditation) in esoteric study.



Flag of Israel

The Chi Rho sign comes from the Christian shorthand spelling the Greek title Christ from its first two letters:



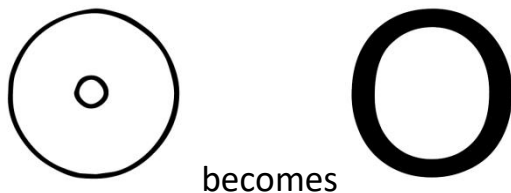
Von List put the letter rho into runic style. The Chi Rho labarum was on the standards of Emperor Constantine when he won the battle that made him ruler of the Roman Empire. He then declared Christianity the official religion of Rome. You can see from this how symbols become an important influence in cultural and political interactions. Von List's system was not complete, but he grasped the principle that the alphabet was derived from a feeling of "LOVE".

From this insight of von List I realized that the modern Hebrew letters were not the ones in use during Greco-Roman times and even earlier. As I studied the ancient Hebrew letters it also became obvious that they did not resemble the alphabet letters that the Egyptians had developed for their language. It seems that they deliberately designed their own alphabet based on the Egyptian model, but with an entirely original set of symbols. And yet at the same time I felt sure they had taken it from the Egyptians and secretly encoded a tribute to the Egyptians while not making it very public, because they believed the ancient Egyptians had mistreated them. They found an extremely clever way of incorporating the essentials of Egyptian civilization (which they had learned to appreciate) in an original way that also expressed the highest wisdom of the Egyptian tradition and acknowledged its value to those who could see. (We must be aware to discount the stories in Exodus about the Jews being enslaved by the Egyptians and realize it is mostly a form of ancient "fake news". The two conservative cultures did not assimilate, but did coexist for centuries as long as the Semitic peoples did not interfere with Egyptian traditional culture.)

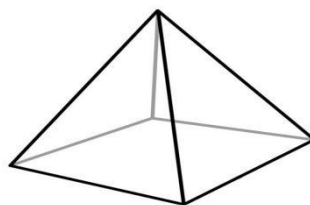
The Hebrew letters are very simple graphic images that represent common everyday elements of life, such as a hand, an eye, a house, a camel, and so on. At the same time each symbol has a very deep spiritual interpretation and represents an archetype of human existence. The Hebrews (and Phoenicians) were very conservative and protective of their own culture, so they did not want their writing to be associated openly with Egyptian culture, so the design of the letters had to be subtle.

From spending time in Egypt the Hebrew/Phoenician people discovered that the Egyptians had two symbols that were of extreme importance to them and represented the deepest wisdom of their civilization. So they chose these two symbols to be used as very simple designs from which to build their alphabet.

The first symbol was the Sun, because Egypt enjoyed lots of sunshine, and they had worshiped the sun from the earliest times, understanding it to be the source of light and energy that supports life on our planet. They called the sun Ra and wrote the name with a circle that usually enclosed a smaller circle or a dot at its center. The Hebrews drew a simple circle, which also happened to be the shorthand form of the glyph for Ra. The circle is a sign of perfection and simplicity.



The second symbol they selected was something everyone even today thinks of as the symbol of Egypt: the Great Pyramid. Many people even today believe the Great Pyramid may be older than the classical period of Egypt's pharaohs. But in any case it was a wonder of the ancient world and is the only wonder of the ancients left standing today.



They just used an outline drawing of a pyramid. One symbol was from Heaven, and the other symbol was from the Earth. The two both represent two of the most elementary objects in geometry. The pyramid is also one of the simplest and most stable of all physical objects. Its plane figure becomes the triangle, the simplest closed figure of straight lines. The triangle figure in Greek became the letter Delta  $\Delta$  and sounds like our letter "D", but in Hebrew it is pronounced Daleth, which means a door, a meaning that brings up some questions, because we do not relate triangles to doors.

The circle glyph they pronounced 'O, a sort of guttural "O", and gave it the name 'Oayn, which means Eye. Traditionally the sun has been thought of as a great Eye in the Sky. This Eye represents wisdom, energy, and creativity. Actually the Sun is a sphere, so the circle can represent a sphere, and the triangle can represent a pyramid.

The letters OD combined in Hebrew spell Eternity, Immortality, Forever. The letters DO combined in Hebrew spell Knowing. So this alphabet system was selected so that you could set down your ideas, wisdom and knowledge and preserve them forever from generation to generation and achieve eternal knowing.

The "D" represents love. We will get into this more deeply, and we will discover it has much to do with the Egyptian goddess Isis.

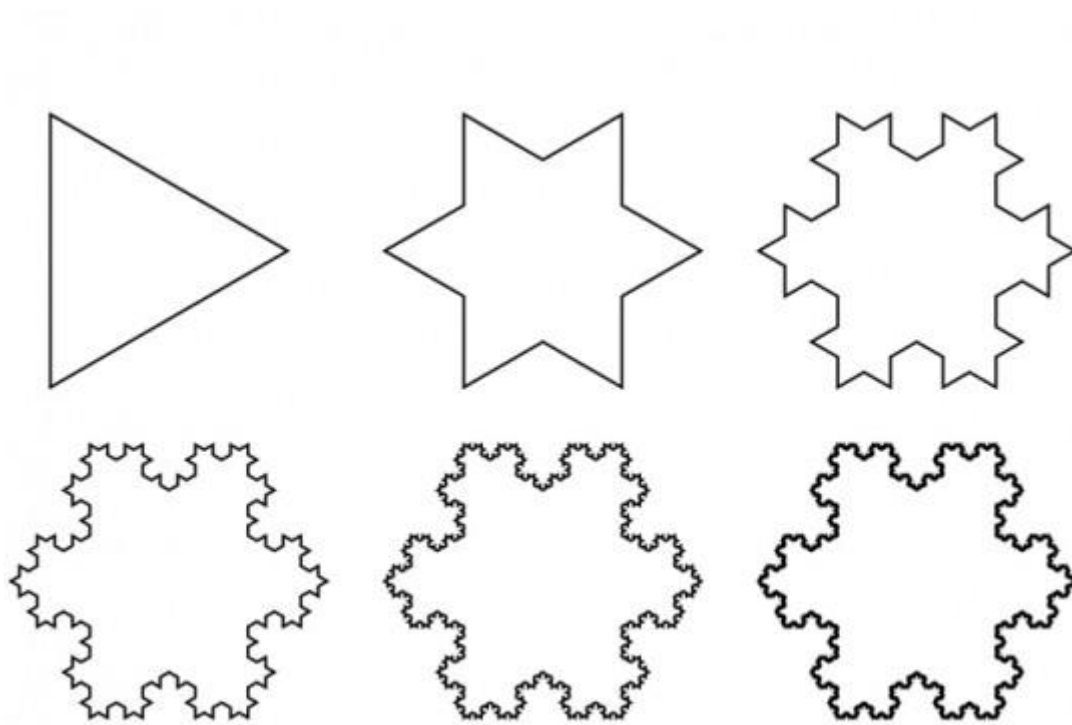
The sun would rise high in the sky over the pyramid so the two symbols interacted every day and the Hebrews conceived of a system where an observer could watch the sun interacting with the pyramid from many different viewpoints. Then they extracted simple line drawings from these interactions and formed a sequence of letter glyphs.

Once they had a set of glyphs, they assigned names to them based on objects and ideas they could associate with the figures. Each had a name that began with a different sound and that sound became the phoneme or pronunciation of the letter. Later they arranged them in a sequence and assigned numbers to them. So they had a system that included numbers, images, ideas, and sounds from their language. Then, like the rune system, they had a system that generated all the letters from a single scenario of a sun shining on a pyramid just by viewing the scene from different angles.

It is a very interesting exercise to see how all the alphabets in the world evolved from two basic shapes in geometry, a profound basis in mathematics combined with the notion of an observer taking different viewpoints in 3 dimensions to discover a set of different letter images. Mathematics itself is primarily about precise abstract expression of relationships and transformations.

So it seems that our alphabet system of communication did not just evolve in a haphazard manner, but was designed mathematically to

express the eternal wisdom of the Universe. The mathematics of the Star of David is fractal, so it can echo its triangular structure at any scale and with any level of complexity. In nature we see this expressed in the snowflake.



Biomimicry in Fractal Structure of the Koch "Snowflake"  
Website: Order in Chaos.



## Rune Exercise

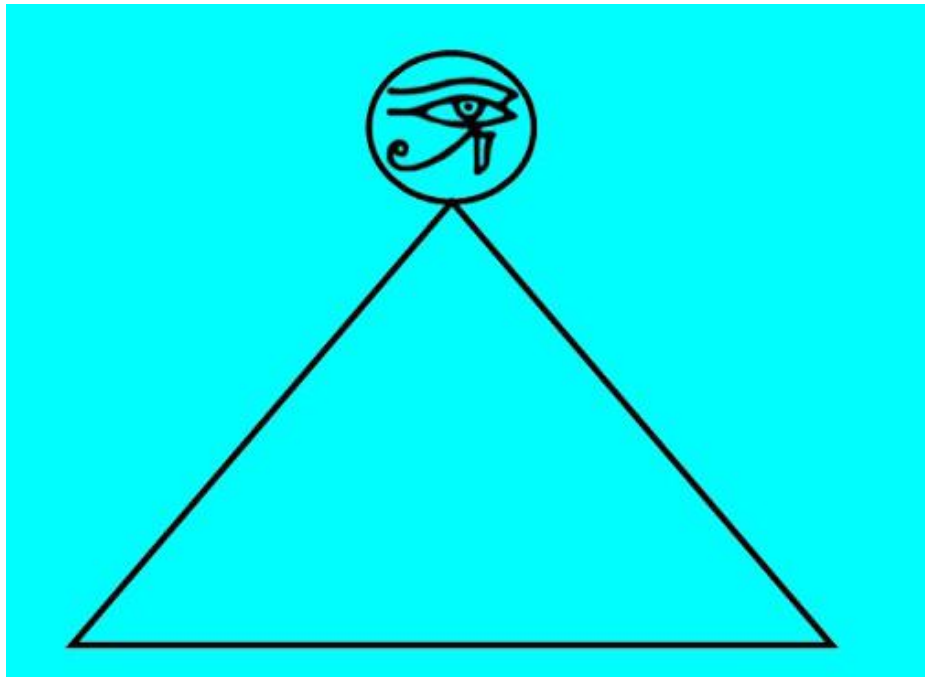
ƿ ƚ ƚ ƚ ƚ < X ƿ N † | S J K Y S † B M M † ◊ ✕ ✕

F U Th A R K G W H N I J È P X S T B E M L N g O D

↵ = ◊ N = ✕ S = 𐌵 St = 𐌹



The above exercise lets you explore how the oldest FUTHARK runes derived from the original mathematical Tree of Life in Sacred Geometry. The insight of Guido von List was on the right track, but did not have the whole system. This runic system is an example of the Qabbalistic principle of deriving all the parts from a single holistic source.



Ra and Isis: The Sun and the Pyramid  
Study this Chart

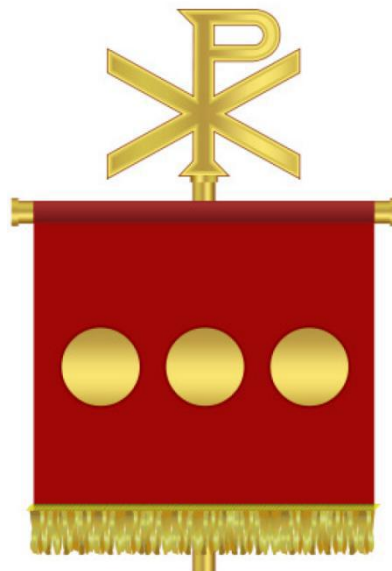
∇	☉	⊗	⊗	○	⊗
⊠	⊠	⚡	⚡	⌒	⊠
⚡	⚡	Y	Y	⚡	⚡
∧	∧	†	†	♀	♀
∇	∇	W	W	P	♀
⚡	⚡	Y	Y	W	W
Z	⊠	⚡	⚡	X	⊠
⊠	⊠	⚡	⚡	X	⊠

Suggested Reading: "The Story of Ra and Isis". Translated by Douglass A. White with the hieroglyphic transcription and a detailed commentary. Available from [bentylightgarden.com/StoreMenuE](http://bentylightgarden.com/StoreMenuE).

## Meanings of the Letters

♄	ALePh	Bull	Υ	KaPh	Palm of Hand
♁	BeT	Temple, House	ⱦ	LaMeD	Teaching
♂	GiMeL	Camel	Ⱪ	MaYM	Water
♋	DaLeTh	Door	♄	NeWN	Dwarf, Shrunken
⚡	HeY	Flail	ⱪ	ŞaMeKh	Pillar, Support
♃	WaW	Hook, Nail, Peg	⊙	OaYN	Eye
♆	ZaYN	Knife, Weapon	Ɽ	PeH	Mouth
⚓	HeTh	Rope, Ladder, Bed	ⱥ	TzaDe	Shoot
⊗	TeYT	Clay	♈	QoPh	Monkey
♁	YoD	Hand	ⱦ	RAeSh	Head, First
			Ⱪ	ShiN	Tooth
			ⱪ	TaW	X-mark, Twin

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The Egyptians and the Semitic peoples only wrote down the consonants of words and left out the vowels. A common feature of Semitic languages was that the consonants contained the root meaning of a word and the vowels usually contained grammatical information. The Hebrews followed this same system, because of these similarities between their language and that of the ancient Egyptians plus the convenience of an alphabet and the use of papyrus.



**The Chi Rho Labarum (or Vexillum Battle Standard) of Constantine.**

## Study Questions:

- \* Name some members of the Semitic language family. How does this list of languages call into question some of the fundamental political and cultural conflicts in our world today?
- \* What was the main religion practiced by the Celts?
- \* Why were the Celts rigorously suppressed by the Roman Empire?
- \* Where do we still find Celtic peoples?
- \* What was special about the Celtic tradition?
- \* What was the writing system they developed called?
- \* What was the curious discovery about Celtic writing made by Guido von List?
- \* Why did the Roman Empire rigorously suppress the Jewish people, and even more rigorously suppress the Christians for several centuries? (You can look on the Internet for more information about the results of the Jewish-Roman wars, and the persecution of Christians.)
- \* What Roman emperor finally adopted Christianity as the religion of the Empire and why? (This is a complex question, and you may want to do some background reading.)
- \* What were the main principles von List found behind the Celtic alphabet?
- \* How did Dr. White expand and refine von List's insight?
- \* If the Hebrews developed their alphabet based on the Egyptian phonemic letters, why were the Hebrew letters so different from the Egyptian letters?
- \* What two letter signs became the foundation of the Hebrew alphabet system?

- \* What did the letters originally represent, and what words in Hebrew could be spelled with those two letters?
- \* How did the Hebrews generate a full alphabet for their language from the relationship of the two basic symbols?
- \* What law of nature does this principle express, and how is it basically the same as that followed by the Celtic peoples when they derived their alphabet from the Hebrews?
- \* Do the exercise of generating the Celtic alphabet from the Sacred Geometry version of the Tree of Life.
- \* Study the chart showing how the Hebrew letters derive from the two basic Hebrew symbols that honored Egyptian civilization.
- \* Why is it important that we today understand these fundamental mathematical and Qabbalistic principles discovered by the ancient Hebrews and used to generate the ancient alphabets of both the Hebrews and the Celts.
- \* What does this article about the generation of alphabets have to do with the fundamental theme of Benty Light Garden?