

## Kabbalah, Genesis & Exodus Part Five

### The Scapegoats



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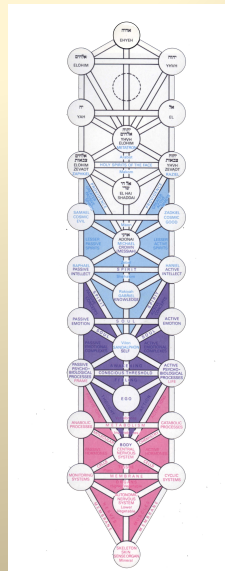
## Torah

Divine teaching  
- Given to Moses.

Mystical teaching (sapphires)  
- For those who seek Truth - oral

Law  
- For those who need discipline and guidance – oral and written

Written teaching  
- For those who need constant back-up that they are 'right'

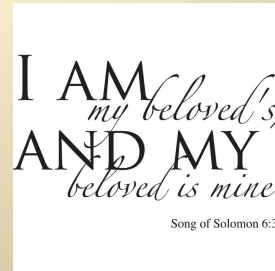


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## The Torah we have is the Text of *Tribe*

- Torah – Identity through law, tradition, structure:  
ORDER.
- Prophets – Stumbling stones, healthy criticism of self and other:  
DISORDER.
- Wisdom Texts – Mystery and paradox, Inclusivity:  
RE-ORDER.



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## The Position of Women

- Greek women of the higher echelons rarely went out of the house *at all* except to religious ceremonies, when they would be accompanied by a male relative.\*
- Roman women did not go out alone (they were accompanied by slaves or male relatives).
- Roman and Jewish women could act as 'regents' for sons who were under age if their mothers were widowed.
- Jewish women had the right to refuse entry to the home to their husbands and the right to expect 'pleasure' on the eve of the Sabbath. They could own property and be presidents of synagogues.

*Women and Religion in the First Christian Centuries.* Deborah Sawyer.  
Routledge.

\*Sparta

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## Jacob's Sons — The Twelve Tribes.

- Levi and Joseph are absent – Joseph's sons, Manasseh and Ephraim are substituted.

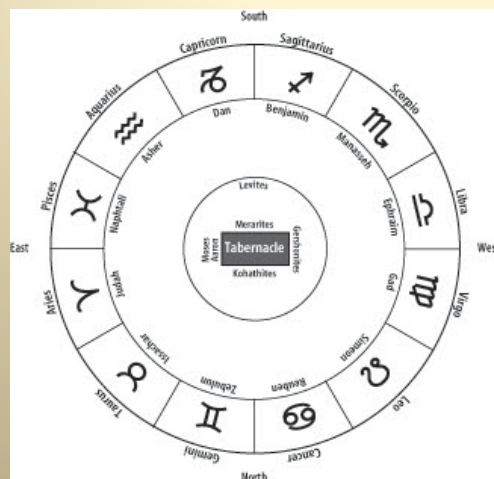
1. Reuben
2. Simeon
3. Judah
4. Issachar
5. Zebulun
6. Dan
7. Naphtali
8. Gad
9. Asher
10. Benjamin
11. Ephraim (son of Joseph)
12. Manasseh (son of Joseph)

Levi (no land: cities within the territories of the other tribes)

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## Astrology of the Tribes (Rabbinical Tradition)



- Judah, Issachar and Zebulun in the East.
- Asher, Dan and Naphtali in the North.
- Manasseh, Ephraim and Benjamin in the West.
- Simeon, Reuben and Gad in the South.

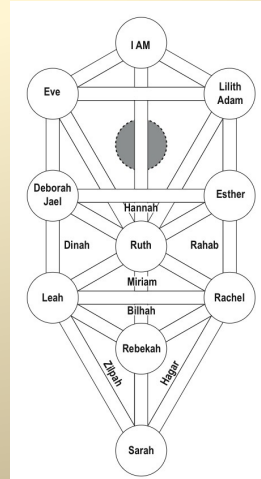
N.B. The classic astrological chart wheel is calculated anti-clockwise

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## Dinah

- Dinah means 'Judged.'
- Liminal line. Leaving the tribe.
- Side Triad of pain and guilt.
- Leah's daughter. No middle path; no voice.



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## And Dinah Went Out...

- Genesis 34:1 And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.
- And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.
- And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spoke kindly [from his heart/soul] to her. And Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this damsel to wife."



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## Rapist or Lover?

There is very little evidence that Shechem took Dinah by force. The Hebrew, *anah*, is often translated as 'violated' but it means 'humbled' or 'spoilt.'

She is 'humbled' by giving away her virginity before marriage – which renders her valueless.



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## The Offer to Merge Tribes.

Hamor offers:

- His land to share.
- His daughters for the Hebrews' sons and his sons for the Hebrews' daughters.

Shechem offers:

- "Let me find favor in your eyes, and I will give you whatever you ask. Make the price for the bride and the gift I am to bring as great as you like, and I'll pay whatever you ask me. Only give me the girl as my wife."

Jacob's sons say:

- Yes, on condition that you are circumcised.

*The young man, who was the most honored of all his father's household, lost no time in doing what they said, because he was delighted with Jacob's daughter.*

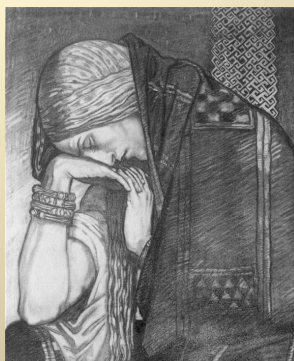
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## But Jacob's Sons Lied...

On the third day, when the Hivites were sore, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brethren, took each man his sword, and went into the city, and killed all the males.

Their brothers then sacked the city and took Dinah back.



11

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## Jacob Remonstrates with his Sons

Gen 33:31:

But they replied,  
"Should he have  
treated our sister  
like a harlot?"



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## What Happened to Dinah?

According to the customs of the time:

- Servant to the rest of the family
- Unmarriable
- Prostitution
- Slavery

This is a culture where a man could divorce his wife the day after marriage if she wasn't a virgin.

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## Levels of Interpretation:

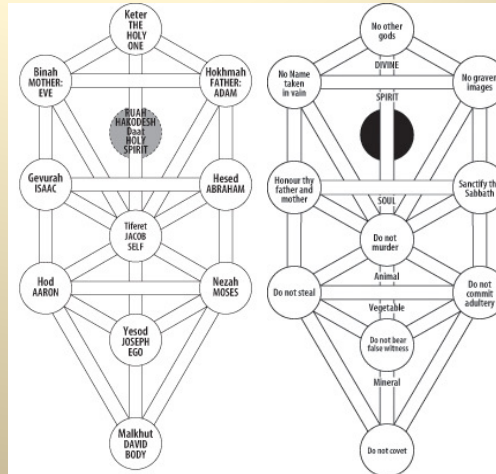
- Vendetta, honour killing.
- Leah could not teach her daughter how to be loved or happy – or how to say 'No.' Leah 'stole' Jacob. *Everything* was stolen from Dinah, maybe because she took what love she could get.
- This reflects our own views about the cost of stepping up/leaving the tribe — it's scary and there is temptation to blame others if we 'fail.'
- Without acceptance of diversity humanity will always be at war.

14

14

## Joseph – the Perfecting of Yesod.

- Yesod
- Foundation
- Child of Tiferet
- Dreamer
- Image
- Sexuality



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15

## The Favourite Son

‘Coat of many colours’ —  
“kethoneth passim.”

- a fine wool/linen tunic.
- Long robe with sleeves.
- Richly ornamented.
- Image – Yesod.



Symbolic of High Priest’s garment?

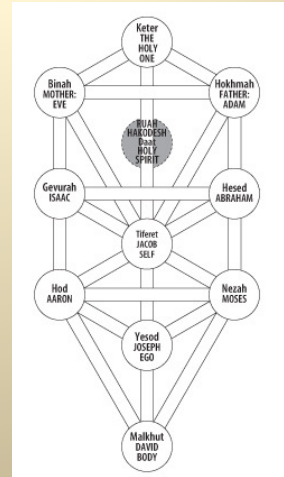
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## Joseph Is Seventeen

- Joseph was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, and he brought their father a bad report about them.
- Dream no. 1: The brothers were binding sheaves in the field. Joseph's sheaf stood upright and his brothers' sheaves stood round it, and bowed to Joseph's sheaf.
- Dream no. 2: The sun and the moon and the eleven stars bowed to Joseph.



17

## Joseph is *Forced* to Leave the Tribe.

- Misuse of Yesod leads to expulsion
- Reuben tries to save him (pit).
- Judah sells him into slavery.
- Joseph becomes overseer for Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's guard in Egypt.



18

18

## Potiphar's Wife (Gen 39:12)

Yesod —Gonadic chakra, temptations of sex.

How did Joseph attract this?

Again the clothing.

Lady cries attempted rape.



Joseph is jailed.

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## Yesod Repeats – but can Learn.

Gen 39:21 The LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

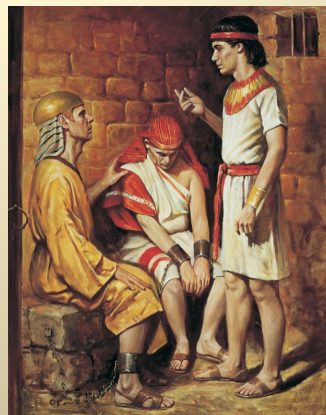
So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

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## Chief Cupbearer and the Chief Baker

Joseph said to them,  
"Do not  
interpretations  
belong to God? Tell  
me your dreams."



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## The Lord protects Joseph, Elohim interprets

Two years later Pharaoh had a dream:

- Out of the river Nile came seven cows, sleek and fat and after them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt that ate up the seven sleek, fat cows.

He fell asleep again and had a second dream:

- Seven heads of grain grew healthy and good, on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted-- thin and scorched and swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads.

In the morning sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.

Then the chief cupbearer remembered Jacob.

22

22

## Yesod Learns that It is Not in Charge.

Joseph: **“It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh a sound answer.”** (Gen 41:16).

Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.



Reginald Arthur

23

23

## Joseph Marries an Egyptian.

- Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphara, priest of On.
- Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh (forget) and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."
- The second son he named Ephraim (doubly fruitful) and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."



24

24

## Famine Comes

Israel's sons were among those who went to buy grain, in Egypt.

Benjamin stayed behind.

When Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.

Joseph recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger.



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## Jacob and Reuben.

Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my children. Joseph is no more and Simeon is no more, and now you want to take Benjamin. Everything is against me!"

Then Reuben said to his father, "You may put both of my sons to death if I do not bring him back to you. Entrust him to my care, and I will bring him back."

This sacrifice is *not* required of Reuben because he opposed the expulsion/death of Joseph.

26

26

## Israel and Judah.

Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy along with me and we will go at once, so that we and you and our children may live and not die.

I myself will guarantee his safety; you can hold me personally responsible for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him here before you, I will bear the blame before you all my life.

**This is Judah's karma.**

27

27

## Learning Humility.

Silver is planted and then found in Benjamin's sack – he is to return as slave.

Judah: "I guaranteed the boy's safety to my father. I said, 'If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!'

"Now then, please let me remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers."

28

28

## Joseph Demonstrates Perfected Yesod.

"I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt.

And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God."

29

29

## The Hebrews Move to Egypt.

Israel shows he has learnt a lesson when he passes the birthright to Joseph's son:

When Joseph saw his father placing his right hand on Ephraim's head he was displeased; so he took hold of his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head.

Joseph said to him, "No, my father, this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head."

And his father refused, and said, I know it, my son, I know it: he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations.

30

30

## Genesis: Conclusions

- When we eat from the Tree of Knowledge we we invite division and practice blame.
- The Tribe is not always the most ethical of places- simply because it believes *it is always* right.
- If we try to leave the tribe it may want to kill or exile us.
- Karma will find us.
- The Divine Feminine is there but *hidden*. As it should be...
- Taking the wider view from Tiferet can turn even the wrong into the right – but it requires the use of free will — courage ‘of the heart.’

31

31

## Next Time: Exodus.

The Hero's Journey.



32

32