

Kabbalah Tree-of-Life Pattern

Here is the Tree-of-Life pattern again with names for the circles. The names and some definitions are listed below. We will discuss the lightning bolt at the end of this article. There is another slight variation.

In the middle-upper part of the tree, we can see a thin-lined circle. The thin line implies that this sefirah stays hidden in the background of the other sefirot. Referred to as the 11th sefirah, it represents the accumulation of knowledge. Before we go further in explaining the knowledge circle, let us look at the others.

Number one sefirah stands for the crown, and it means the will and power of God. In the second circle, we have wisdom referring to the spark of inspiration. Following next, Understanding occupies the third sphere. It refers to turning the spark of inspiration into a flame. We get inspired and develop it further.

The fourth sefirah deals with loving-kindness and goes by the title of mercy. Opposite it, the fifth circle, called strength, denotes discipline.

Representing the balance of the first five sefirot, we come to the beauty sefirah, the sixth and also known as balance. The number seventh goes by the name of victory and defines having a great desire. When we act upon that great desire, we show persistence, and the eight sefirah, glory, refers to this.

Much like the sixth sefirah, the ninth sphere gathers in the ones before it. This foundation sefirah serves as a bridge connecting the others to the tenth kingdom sphere. This kingdom sefirah points to making a physical manifestation to the world. The body and the senses apply to the kingdom circle. Finally, the knowledge, or eleventh sefirah, deals with the accumulation of knowledge.

Many lines (or paths) connect the various sefirot in the Tree-of-Life pattern. If we follow only the numerical sequence of the sefirot (1, 2, 3, etc.) and not those lines, a path appears that resembles a lightning bolt. Kabbalists refer to this as the path of lightning.

