

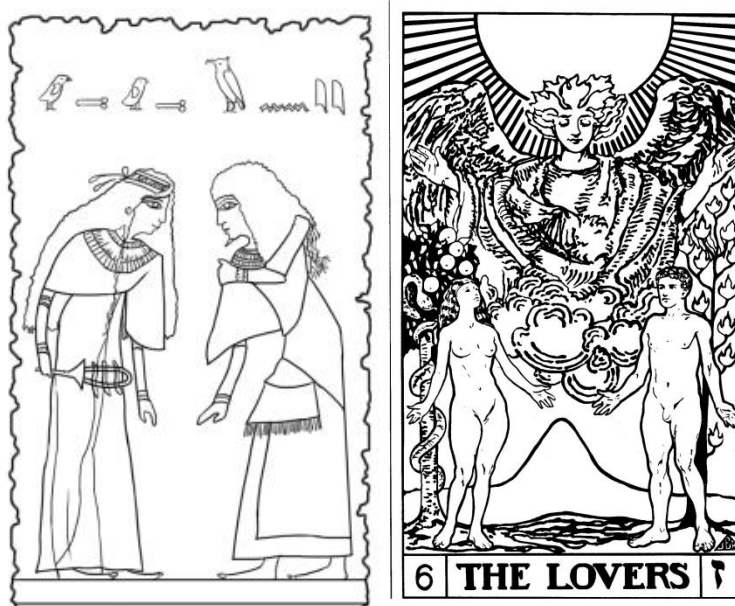
## 20 Tarot Trump Secrets, Part A

In the next 4 articles we will introduce the Tarot Trumps and Major Court cards in more detail and reveal some secrets about them that you will not find in the ordinary Tarot literature. Some of these secrets go back to ancient Egypt and tell us something about how Egyptian artists encoded information into their art works.

We will follow the order of cards as they appear on the Senet Oracle Board, because that also will illuminate more understanding of that arrangement of the cards that goes back to at least the New Kingdom in ancient Egypt.

### Lovers

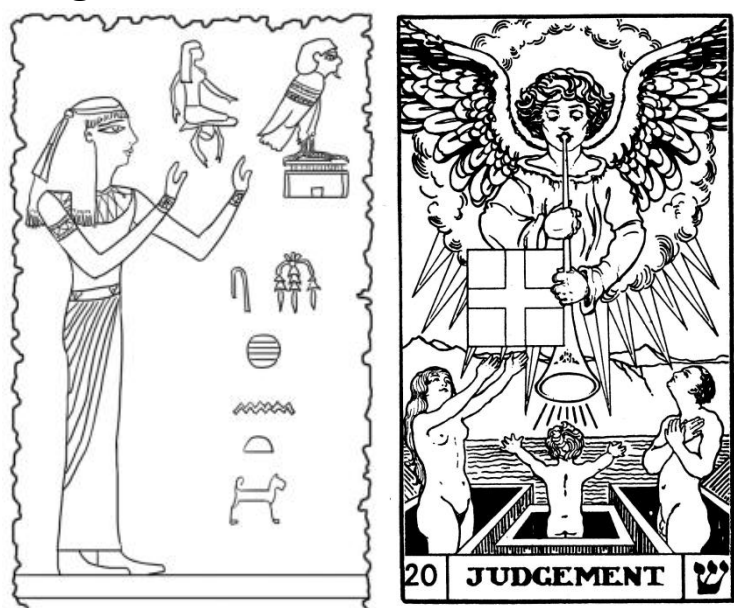
We begin at the lower left hand corner of the Senet Oracle Board with the card for the Lovers. We start here because the bottom row of the Oracle Board clearly follows a sequence through the phases of human life.



From the Egyptian point of view the Senet Tarot Lover card is special, because it is the only Trump that is not a deity. But for an Egyptian a person who finds love rises to the divine level. Falling in love is the beginning of the life cycle, because two lovers can mate and thereby create a gateway for life to enter the world in a physical form. So the natural event is to form a divine partnership to welcome new life. In a broader sense this can be about forming a partnership for creating a

business venture or another goal. A key aspect of this card is choice. Love can be general, but for creating new life, one must choose an individual partner. The Waite and BOTA versions show the choice more than the romance. We see Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden faced with the choice of whether or not to eat of the two trees: Life or Judgments (good or bad). They choose Judgments and are judged for violating the rule not to eat that fruit, and then thrown out of Eden into a world of struggle with judgments. If they had chosen Life, they would have realized their immortality and been free of restrictions in the Garden forever, since the Garden is the tiny Immortal Light Garden in which photons play forever. Eden in Hebrew is  $\text{O}\Delta\text{N}$  ODN = Eternity (OD) plus “tiny” (N). Osiris/Ra (O) and Isis (D) forever in Newet (N), unbounded cosmic space of stars and galaxies. At the top of the BOTA card is a giant Sunburst with an angel (Ra) watching the scene. In some Lover cards the angel guides the Lover to his choice of mate. Study various versions of the Lover card to see how the artist interprets the choices regarding love.

## Judgment

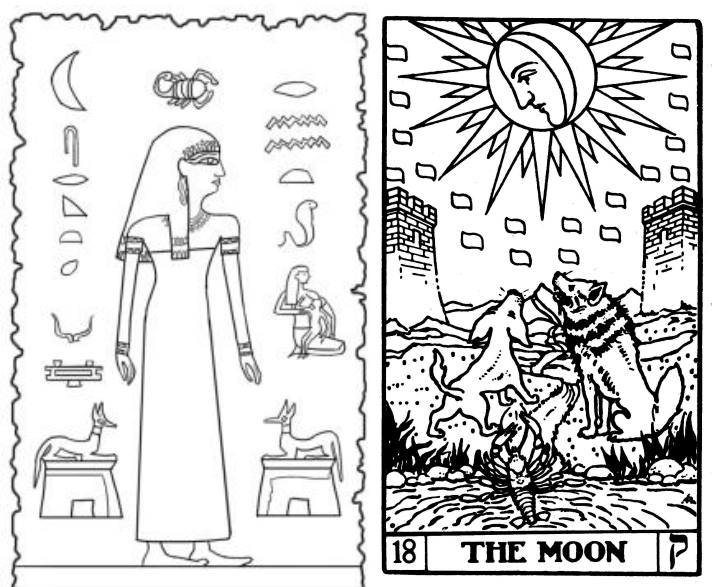


The second Trump is Judgment. Once a Light Being chooses to incarnate as a human in physical form, this becomes a physical reality. So the Judgment Trump is about birth (or rebirth), and is the real consequence of a choice that has been made. It becomes a physical experience that must be experienced from start to finish. So the Egyptian deity for Judgment is the divine midwife who eases the newborn into the physical world it has chosen. On the card is the glyph

for the mother giving birth, with a lion crib glyph below waiting to receive the newborn. A hawk with a human head perches on a tomb. The hawk signifies a divine soul. The head is the primary mission for the chosen lifetime. The tomb is where the life will end its cycle.

On the BOTA example we see an angel (the divine midwife) blowing a shofar ram's horn to announce the arrival of new life. The newborn baby stands up in its coffin, and the two parents also rejoice from their coffins. The image comes from the Book of Revelations, in which angels blow trumpets to reawaken the dead to life everlasting (Judgment Day). When you make a decision, that gives birth to a new reality. People who are unable to make decisions are as if dead. Corpses in coffins do not make any decisions. They just lie there and accept the forces of nature. So your life is your own choice, and what you decide to do is your judgment on yourself that you must experience as a reality. Thus your choice must be the top priority for your chosen life. The head glyph means "top", highest priority, and was so pronounced by the Egyptians (tep). It is an inversion of the Egyptian word for Heaven (pet).

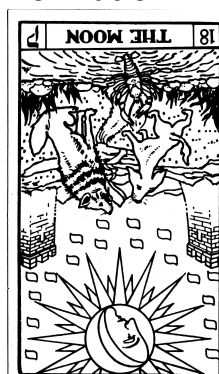
## Moon



The Moon is about early childhood. The deity is a nanny goddess. One is called Renenet, and another is called Serget. Renenet is serpent like. Serget has a scorpion crown. These stand for primitive instincts, which are what a baby begins with. Instincts are to preserve life. The nannies guide us through the early steps of survival: nursing at the

breast, learning to control evacuations, learning to crawl and walk, learning to eat and talk. Learning to avoid dangers. The sign is the new moon which is imaged in the scorpion's tail with its stinger that brings sharp pain. The baby learns these lessons, but forgets how he learned them and who taught him. So the Moon is about the waxing and ebbing of memory and emotions. It is about the weird dreams of night. The scorpion's stinger is actually the Eye of Wisdom, but the baby does not know that until he learns to play with scorpions safely as his toys.

Two jackals sit on two tombs. One is Wepwawet, who guides the soul to its new life. The other is Anubis, who prepares the body at the end of life for the tomb. On the BOTA version we see two dogs or wolves howling at the moon. In the foreground is an ocean shore with a crab or lobster or water scorpion showing that it is low tide, the tides being the moon's powerful influence on our planet. The scorpion/lobster is the sign of Serqet and the moon because of its curved tail. The two towers in the background are the two tombs with the jackals sitting on them. But towers and pillars in Tarot are a sign of Baba, the Fool who spells his name with two leg glyphs ("b" in Egyptian). Trump cards with leg glyphs encoded on them also stand for the lower part of the body, and usually mean you have to turn the card upside down to see more of the information.



When you turn the BOTA Moon card upside down, you discover that the body of water is the bladder, the red lobster can be menstruation, the "dogs" can be pubic hair, the mountain is the female mons with a path for the urinary tract and little bits of lunar urine dripping between the two tower legs, with the moon buttocks and pubic bone crescent watching the scene, all missed unless you turn the card upside down.

The Judgment card can also be flipped this way to show the midwife receiving the baby from the womb/tomb.

## Devil



There are many different versions of the Devil Trump, but they pretty much all have one thing in common: they are chimeras made from a combination of animals and sometimes partially humanoid bodies. The BOTA version is a combination of a goat, a bat, a human, and a hawk or other predatory bird. The Senet version is Ammit, a female chimera monster with a crocodile head, a leopard body, and a hippopotamus rear. All three of these animals are notable for their teeth, which is the Qabbalah letter for this Trump. The BOTA version holds a torch and has a Mercury sign on his belly, suggesting the digestive system and alchemy. The Devil Trump is about the chemical furnace in the body. It is part of us, but is also a tube through which all sorts of foreign matter we call “food” passes. So there is a contradiction in that the system is both inside and outside of the body at the same time.

Life is full of contradictions, and no more so than when a child begins to grow into his adolescent years. Then he is exploring and wanting to assert his independence, but at the same time feels dependence on his parents. This often leads to confusion and conflict, especially if the parents have ideas about what the child should do, and the child either is very unsure (full of doubts and fears) or has his own different certainty that can lead to anger and frustration. The belly is where we make decisions, and any problem in that department often leads to digestive disorders.

Ammit’s boss is Set, an imaginary beast that looks a bit like a wild donkey or a stubborn mule. He sits in the upper left corner of the card

facing “away” and is the model for Satan in the Bible, but is not really a “bad guy”. After all, he is the brother of Osiris and Isis. He is just stubborn and quick to anger. He represents the desert and the rocks. The megalithic blocks of the temples and pyramids are Set’s handiwork. His precursor “Demon” is Apep, a giant python who symbolizes the navel cord that feeds the fetus.

Apep is the external digestive track. At birth care must be taken that Apep does not strangle the baby, and as soon as the baby emerges the cord is cut away. This gives us the Egyptian myth of slicing up Apep with knives. He is not a “bad guy”. His job is just over, and it is time for Set to take over the digestion job, and the infant must make the decision to breath and eat or it will die.

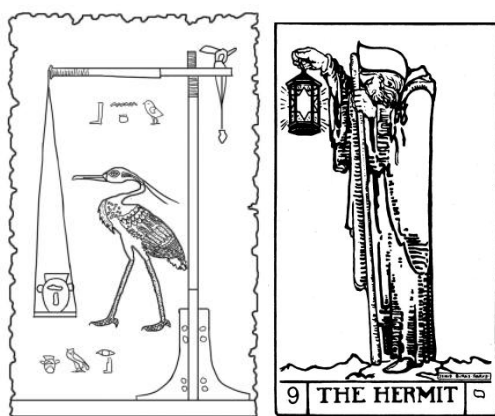


The above glyph shows Apep as the navel cord sliced up by knives. This also symbolically represents what happens to restrictive boundaries and limitations when we are ready to let them go. They just disintegrate and recycle back into creative energy.

The Devil Trump is the mind beset by illusions, delusions, contradictions, conflicts, doubts, fears, and so on. The BOTA version shows a couple similar to Adam and Eve in the Lover card, but now they are chained to the stone block on which Set/Satan squats. If you look closely, you find that the collars on the chains are quite loose and easy to remove. The issue with the Devil is purely psychological, but can lead to all sorts of somatic ailments if not handled properly. We require the Devil to survive. He is a major dependency. We must have fuel to keep our bodies going, and that is the job of the digestive system, from teeth to anus.

In the weighing of the heart tableau Ammit usually stands next to the heart waiting to eat it if the heart is not honest. This shows that the digestive system can devour the heart if the heart is not honest. The Ani papyrus artist moved Ammit over behind Thoth as if she is watching him write his report to know whether she can go ahead and eat the heart.

## Hermit



The heart therefore is the next Trump in the Life sequence. The heart is a Hermit that lives in a little ribcage and works away all your life keeping you alive, but mostly with little recognition and asking only for a little less stress now and then. The deity for the Senet Trump is Benew, the archetypal phoenix. On the Ani papyrus and the Senet Trump the text tells us Benew is the heart within Osiris. For success in life one must learn to be honest. This is a tough order, because we often fear telling our secrets that might lead to negative consequences, especially if we have not dealt with people honestly.

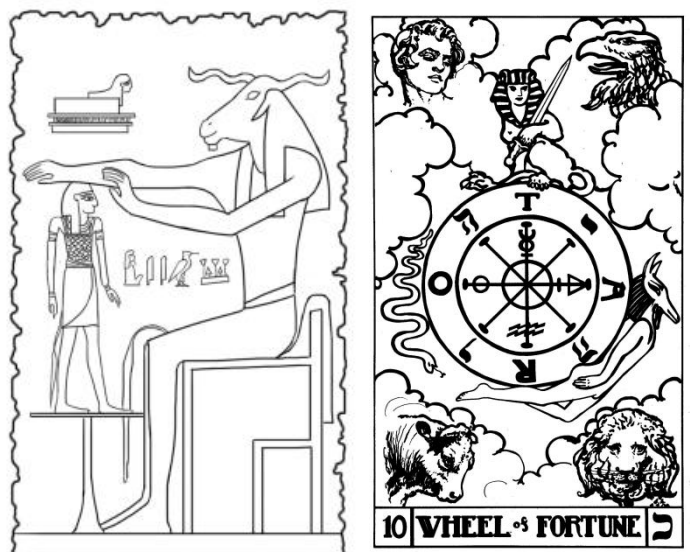
Traditionally the phoenix periodically incinerates itself for purification and emerges from the ashes as a freshly renewed phoenix. The BOTA version shows the image of an old hermit wandering about holding a lamp aloft. The flame in the lamp is the six-pointed star that means the heart chakra and the deep feeling of unconditional love. The lamp is like the rib cage. The hermit's staff and his extended arm holding the lamp nicely recalls the staff of the Scale of Justice and the arm that extends holding the pan with the heart in it.

The Waite and BOTA hermit is probably Diogenes the Cynic, a Greek eccentric who used to carry a lamp in daytime and wander the streets, looking for an "honest man". His father had been a minter of coins, and Diogenes was banished from his home town for debasing coins. His eccentric lifestyle perhaps was his way of trying to make up for his own dishonesty. He spent the rest of his life working on his own honesty and urging others to work on theirs.

When a person gets in touch with his own heart and discovers the value of honesty and responsibility in life, then we say he is mature and is

ready to engage in a career. The ancients knew that this is the key to real success in life rather than fame, money, sex, power, and so on.

## Wheel of Fortune



There is no “wheel” visible in the weighing of the heart tableau, the solar boat tableau, or the Eye of Ra symbolism. However, standing right under the arm of the Scale and next to the heart is a little man with a label saying he is Shay, the god of Fortune. This is the clue, because this is Ani as a young man beginning his career.

That led to Khenemew, the Cosmic Potter, a ram-headed creator deity who is usually shown sitting in front of his potter’s wheel fashioning all sorts of things, including people. The “wheel” was right in plain view, but not well noticed because it was always horizontal and also served as a worktable. But here was a professional career tool that went back to the beginnings of civilization when men discovered how to make clay pots. The man who invented the potter’s wheel must have done well, because his pots were all so perfectly round and symmetrical.

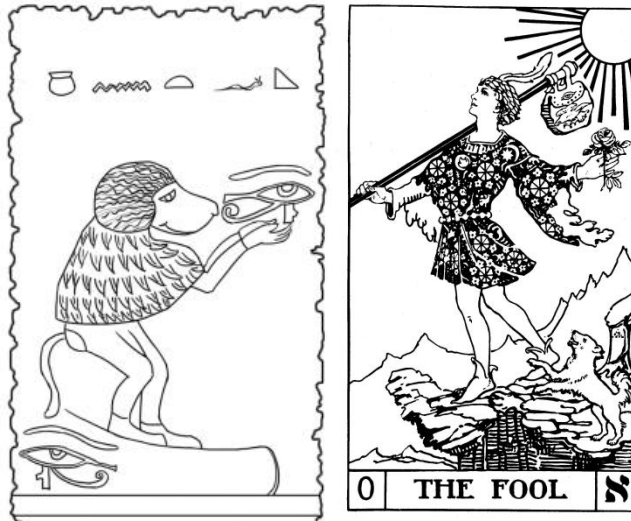
So I put an “invisible” Khenemew on the card and put a small table with a rotating top under Shay, the god of Fortune. Khenemew is who you are as a creator, and Shay is the individual you become in your career. Over Shay’s head is a birth brick that was used by pregnant women when they squatted to give birth. The bricks under the feet made it easier for the midwife to reach the emerging baby. The brick is made of clay and is a product of Khenemew. The sphinx-like head is that of the baby. It is the sunrise of a new life and the main goal to be achieved during its career.



The BOTA version is more complex and shows the “wheel” as a solar disk. At the four corners of the card are Taurus, Leo, Scorpio (as an eagle), and Aquarius, representing the four seasons. (Egypt had only three seasons, so this was added by Europeans.) Set bears the wheel and Mehen, Ra’s night protection, goes off duty. On top is a sword-wielding sphinx representing the decision for a career and the leadership to excel beyond the ordinary. Inscribed on the wheel are the Hebrew letters Yod Hey Waw Hey that spell the tetragrammaton four letter name of God. In between are the Roman letters ROTA (wheel) ORAT (speaks) TARO (the Tarot) ATOR (of Hathor, Lady of Love and Light). Alchemical symbols for water, salt, mercury, and sulphur are toward the center of the wheel. The wheel also resembles a circular layout of the 8 Primordials (or 8 Trigrams) of Khemenew, Thoth’s City of 8 Primordials.

So the Wheel of Fortune is how you choose to spend your life after you have reached maturity enough to deal with the world honestly.

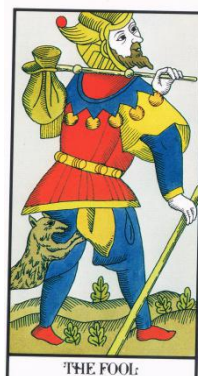
## Fool



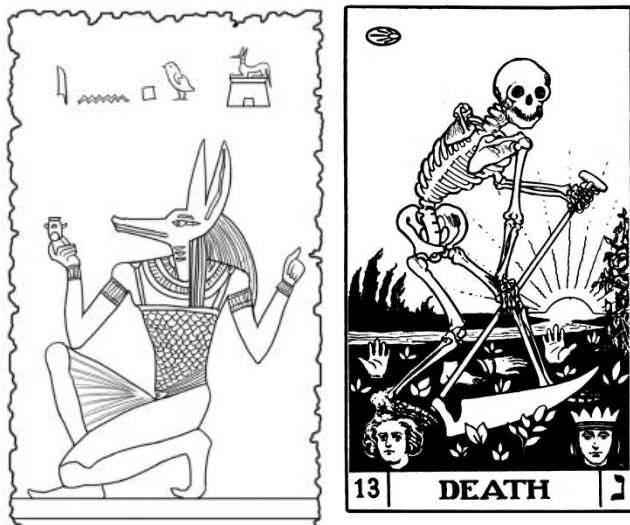
A successful career needs also to have time for rest and recreation. This is a time for play and exploration. Some people become professional retirees, and some never start a career. Nevertheless, fools form an important part of life. They are open to all possibilities. The fool in the Ani Weighing of the Heart tableau sits on top of the central pillar of the Scale of Justice where he can control the whole apparatus with the slightest jiggle. This is actually a high wisdom. The dog-faced baboon is the character of the Egyptian fool. In Europe

where they do not have baboons, the fool is a sort of vagabond with a pet dog. The baboon is playful and mischievous. The Fool Baboon is the Egyptian totem deity of the “scribe” because scribes wrote down the wisdom texts of Egypt, but also made many mistakes because of the difficult writing system. Thoth is the Chief of the Apes, and his totem is the baboon as his playful aspect. Thoth’s serious totem is the ibis with its curved beak. The baboon is a shape shifter and manages Thoth’s Lunar Eye with its 64 major changing phases. This of course is also binary mathematics, which may be good for fools but is unrecognizable for humans. He has many names, chief of which is Baba, and as such is the first son of Osiris and Isis. But he never wants to be pharaoh, so Osiris is still without an heir (until he comes up with Horus). The name on the card is Qeftenu, which means “ape with many talents”. On the card he stands on a boat (or crocodile) with a Solar Eye and holds in his hands the Lunar Eye and offers it traditionally to Thoth, but on the Senet Board he could be offering it to Anubis, his “half brother” and boon companion. The two eyes on the card are placed backwards relative to each other, to play on the Fool’s foolishness.

On the BOTA card the fool is a fop, perhaps even gay. He wanders obliviously out onto a dangerous “tongue” of rock (tongue being the Fool’s organ) on a mountain side with his pet dog at his heels. He carries a pole with a leather bag on its end, the phallus and scrotum being the other specialty of the Fool. On the bag are inscribed an Eye and a Hawk, meaning the Eye of Horus, which is what the Senet Baboon carries. The Scrotum holds two “eyes”. On his head is a red tongue that flaps out at the sun as if the Fool is talking to the Higher Self Sun from the crown chakra of his lower self head. The different images still weave together the Trump value of the Fool. He may seem crazy, but there is wisdom in the madness. The Egyptian baboon fool’s cape of leaves may not be made of leaves, but made of “tongues” like the European fool’s clown collar with its talking bells.



## Death



Death in the BOTA card is right out of the era of the Black Death in the Middle Ages of Europe. He is a skeleton wielding a large scythe to reap the hands and feet and heads of people, including kings. Behind him we see the sun of a new day rising over the Nile (or the Styx, if you will). In this view Death stands on the West Bank of the Nile, the traditional area of the necropolis burial grounds. Of all the European Trumps he is the only one that smiles, and his smile is perpetual.

In the Senet version Anubis (Anepew in Egyptian) plays the role of the Death Lord. In animal form he is a black jackal (as we saw on the Moon card). In human form as in the Weighing of the Heart ritual he wears a jackal mask. As the oldest son of Osiris at the time of his death he had to officiate at the funeral rites. Anubis also prepares the mummy.

The situation in the myth is that Osiris secretly had a liaison with Nephthys, wife of Set. Set was sterile as a rock and could not have children, so when he discovered Nephthys was pregnant, he flew into a fury and killed Osiris. The actual eldest son of Osiris was Baba, whose animal totem was the baboon, and who had no interest in being pharaoh. He lived in the wild, meditating and practicing various regimens and playing with the baboons. He was good friends with Set and his minions, such as hippos and crocodiles. He personally also liked the leopard and would wear a leopard skin in his shamanistic rituals. So Anubis had to play the role of the elder son, even though he was not crown prince, but illegitimate. Later, when they restored Osiris to life, he and Thoth used wood to restore a “phallus” for Osiris that had

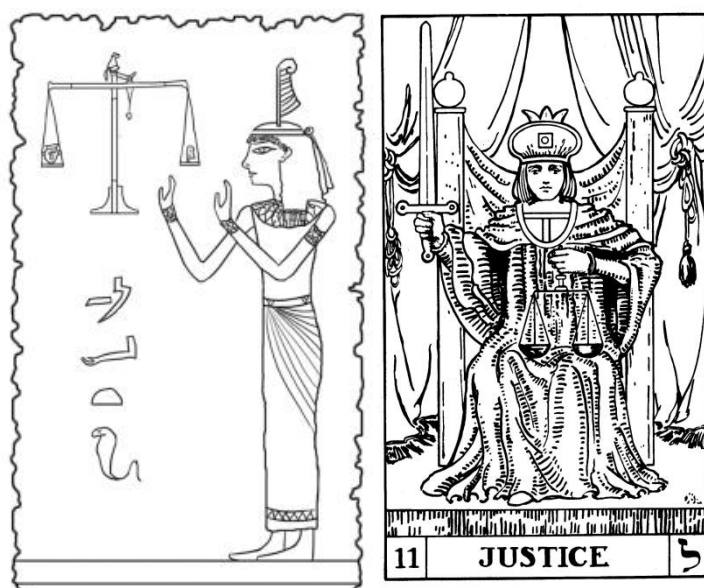
been lost when Set chopped up the body into pieces. Osiris returned to life as a plant and became the agricultural deity of Egypt.

So there is a basic conundrum here about “Death”. The Trumps are all immortal deities and never die. They just transform. They are beings of light. Therefore “death” only means that a situation comes to an end. It is a time to let go of a situation and take with you the lessons learned as your harvest from that experience.

The reason Osiris “died” was because he kept his liaison secret from Set and Isis, two deities fundamentally influenced by the secret. This broke the bond of unity between Osiris and his siblings. The result was that his body was separated into pieces and the main culprit piece was lost. Thus we understand that death is a psychological phenomenon, not a reality, but it reflects in the physical world with material consequences. In the long run it was good, because Osiris finally realized his Higher Self Nature is the Hidden Sun (Amen Ra) and he learned how to reflect his animal nature as a plant and achieve ecological balance and a restoration of integrity and unity (Deba Jemej). He became the witness awareness that underlies all phenomena. The subjective aspect of light is awareness. The objective aspect of awareness is light. This was his illumination.

On the card Anubis kneels in the shape of the scythe (and the letter Z) and adjusts the little lead weight that keeps the Scale in balance. Ironically, Baba as a tiny little baboon can still control the Scale from above. The organ for the Death Trump is the skeleton, but Egyptians did not like to draw bones (although they had a glyph for the word “bone”. They preferred to preserve the skin on a deceased person’s body in the form of a mummy. The last component left after death dissipates the body are a few bones. These are the framework of the body and represent the dried harvests that may remain after death for the world to see who someone was. On the card the frame of the Scales of Justice represents the skeleton.

## Justice



The Hebrew letter on the Justice card just happens to be the right one. The L is a Scale and a Phallus. Justice demands that the woman must be in charge of law and order. The woman governs the use of the phallus. So Justice is the female deity, Maat, wife of Thoth, the High Priest deity. In the BOTA card she carries the Scales of Justice in her left hand to insure fairness and balance. In her right hand she holds a broad sword upright. The sword is thought to be a weapon of administering justice, but it came from the era of the Roman Empire and the war-torn Middle Ages. The two pillars on her throne tell us this is about the lower half of the body and the sword should be hanging down. Weapons became fantasies about the phallus imagined by men.

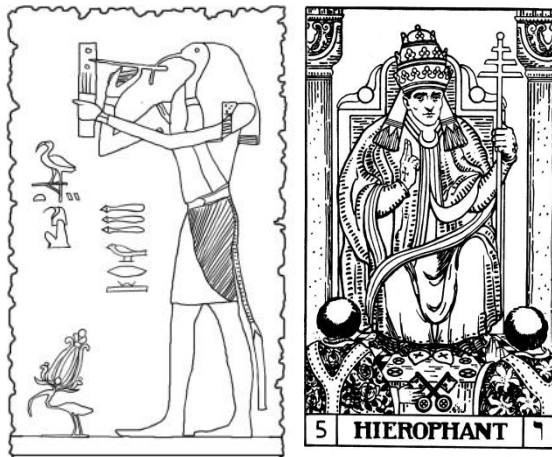
The basic problems in society begin in the bedroom, because the male is physically strong and hasty in his urges, so he usually forgets to respect the desires and needs of his spouse. This imbalance has reached such an excess that in many societies women are treated like chattel or slaves and have no social rights. They must obey the man of the family and may be killed if they “dishonor” the tribe by following their own hearts in love. Maat has a whole technology for women to learn how to work their energy together with a man so that both partners find fulfillment.

On the Senet card Maat stands by her trademark Scales of Justice. She wears a single feather as a headdress. That feather is her name. It also is the headdress for the Emperor (Shewe), who is a direct emanation of Ra. The feather signifies the intellect, the mind. It is an essential divine feature. It also means emptiness and to uplift. On

Maat's Scale the feather sits in one pan and the heart sits in the other pan. The Scale is always balanced and even, which means the heart must be very light, as light as air to balance the feather of justice.

Her name is spelled phonetically with glyphs, but the "ma" sickle glyph has tucked in it a root sign that means "correct", "true". We will discuss this mysterious wedge shape in a later article that deals with the science and mathematics of the Senet Oracle Board System.

## High Priest or Hierophant



Thoth with his dignified and serious ibis beak is the High Priest. He is shown writing down the results of the weighing of the heart as a report to Ra and Osiris. Thoth loves Maat as his spouse, because he loves Truth, and that is what Maat stands for. Truth means that one's mind (thoughts) and one's reality (experiences) match perfectly. Thoth is the original scientist. There is no imagination going on (unless he is in his Baba the Baboon form).

His title means that he is "thrice great", meaning he has mastered the physical, the mental, and the transcendental spiritual levels of reality. On the strip of papyrus he holds you can see Thoth writes red dots at the top. Red ink is for titles and opening statements. In this case it is shorthand for a chakra node, because Thoth is the Lord of the Nervous System and he connects the whole body of the lower self to the Brain (Ra, the Higher Self). Below the red dots are several black vertical stripes. These are the meridian channels and nerves that run up and down the body.

Below we see a little ibis bird (that is really in the Ani papyrus) wearing the crown of the High Priest (I added that detail). On it are cobras and chakra nodes.

The BOTA version shows a man wearing a medieval papal tiara. The two pillars tell us we must turn the card upside down to “read” the details on the card. In his left hand he holds a staff that is the spine with the triangular tail of the spine with its 8 branching nerves and special acupressure points. His right hand holds up the index and middle finger aligned. This is the “sword” finger of martial arts and is used for touching key points on the body. These fingers have the most touch sensors.

At the bottom (top) of the card below his feet are the crossed keys to the Vatican of Peter and Paul. They indicate where the spinal cord crosses over at the base of the skull as it enters the brain. The left lobe controls the right side and the right lobe controls the left side. X’s on the keys show the location of key acupoints at the back of the skull’s base.

The nervous system has three areas where the nerves are most dense and sensitive: the eyes humorously symbolized by the tonsured heads of the two monks, the two finger pads held up by the High Priest, and his Papal Tiara which has three levels for the three levels of reality Thoth has mastered. The tiara covered with nodes is the glans of the penis, an extremely sensitive area and the corresponding node to the woman’s clitoris, which is the only organ in the human body whose sole purpose is pleasure -- which is one reason frightened males urge the practice of female genital mutilation to keep their women from being too filled with pleasure. The BOTA and other European versions of the High Priest are filled with ancient secrets of the Tarot tradition that go back to the days of ancient Egypt when women were treated with the utmost respect and men understood their bodies profoundly. It is sad that the Catholic church has suppressed their own clergy’s natural drives and ended up with many gay clergy abusing young boys instead of leading healthy family lives.



Notice that the “little” baboon on the “tongue” of Maat’s Scale faces the ibis glyph for the name Jehuty (Thoth), who is about to speak in the text.

The glyph for the “tiny” silent baboon is bigger than the glyph for Thoth in his ibis form, just as we see in **Amduat**, Hour Six. The medieval surplices worn by the BOTA monks have the Hebrew letter Y sewn on them. It is the ancient Hebrew letter for the High Priest.

## 20 Study Questions

- \* Why do we start our discussion of the Senet Oracle Board from the left side of the bottom row?
- \* What is special about the Lover Trump and why is that special?
- \* Why is choice emphasized more than romance on the Oracle Board?
- \* How can we analyze the word for Eden in Hebrew?
- \* What is the main theme that illuminates the experiential importance of Judgment?
- \* What is the traditional horn that the angel blows?
- \* What does the Judgment card tell us about the consequences of being able to make a choice?
- \* What are the symbolic meanings of a human head on a bird?
- \* What phase of life is the Moon about, and what psychological phenomena?
- \* What does a scorpion have to do with the moon?
- \* One of the secrets of the Tarot Trumps is that you have to look at some of the Trump pictures in a different way. What is that way, and how do you know when to do it (and for which cards)?
- \* What is the special quality of the Devil Trump? Why is he like that?
- \* What is the special quality of the Hermit Trump?



- \* What traditional symbols are related to the Hermit card?
- \* How is the Wheel of Fortune hidden in the Egyptian tableau?
- \* Why is Death the only Trump that smiles?
- \* Why do European Death cards often show the ground littered with hands, feet, and heads?
- \* Why is it that Egyptians do not like to draw bones? They have only an abstract bone glyph.
- \* What does Maat's feather stand for?
- \* In European Justice cards she holds a broadsword upright in one hand and a scale with two round pans in her other hand. What does that symbolize?
- \* What do the marks on Thoth's papyrus strip "report" represent?
- \* How many key points in the nervous system can you locate on the BOTA High Priest card?
- \* What secret martial arts gesture is the BOTA High Priest expressing?