

Guide to Lecture 7

Models of the Human Condition: Wisdom, Fall, Utopia Part 1

A) Introduction

- a) Traditional model: past good, present bad
- b) Modern model: past bad, present and future good

B) Fall from the Garden of Eden

- a) Genesis 2:9, 3:1-24.
 - i) Trees of Life and Knowledge in Garden; Adam and Eve forbidden to eat of Tree of Knowledge; serpent correctly calls God's bluff; Adam and Eve become aware; God curses humans and serpents; humans banished, Tree of Life protected by angel.
 - ii) Commentary and difficulties
 - iii) Dialectical change
- b) Golden Dawn ritual version.
 - i) Characters correlated with parts of soul: Divine (*neshamah*), Adam (*ruach*), Eve (*nefesh*); Dragon and Tree of Knowledge below; Eve reaches down to Tree, Pillars fall, Dragon rises and cuts off access to Divine.
- c) Paths to improvement:
 - i) Biblical: obedience
 - ii) Golden Dawn/Christian: reconciliation, Great Work

C) Esoteric Knowledge

- a) Tower of Babel (Gen. 11:1-9): people unified in place and language, perhaps have transparent language; technically skilled, want to build tower; God scatters them and confuses their language.
 - i) Traditional explanation and ibn Ezra

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- ii) Dialectical movement
- b) Adamic Language (Gen. 2:19 and John Dee): Adam had transparent language and knowledge, same language as angels and God; taught to others; Fall affected knowledge and language.
- c) Divine governance/language/ritual
 - i) Plato, *Laws* 713c-d: in Golden Age humans ruled wisely by the gods, human needs met without struggle; human rule leads to problems; need to lead by “spark of immortality.”
 - ii) Iamblichus, *On the Mysteries* VII.5: need to preserve Egyptian language, ritual practice, the “barbarous” names. The *Hermetica* and *Chaldean Oracles*.
- d) Patriarchal Knowledge (Bonatti, p. 24): Abraham and Jesus knew and practiced astrology; Abraham taught it to Egyptians.
- e) Review and paths to improvement

D) Gnosticism

- a) Summary of myth (*Apocryphon of John*): Old Testament God really an arrogant, ignorant lower being, Ialdabaoth; led to create humans and trap light in matter; astrological entities participate in imprisonment and creation; Tree of Life is poisoned; forbids Tree of Knowledge because he wants to keep humans ignorant of their condition; True God (of New Testament) sends Savior to give people *gnosis*.
- b) Dialectical movements
- c) Path to improvement

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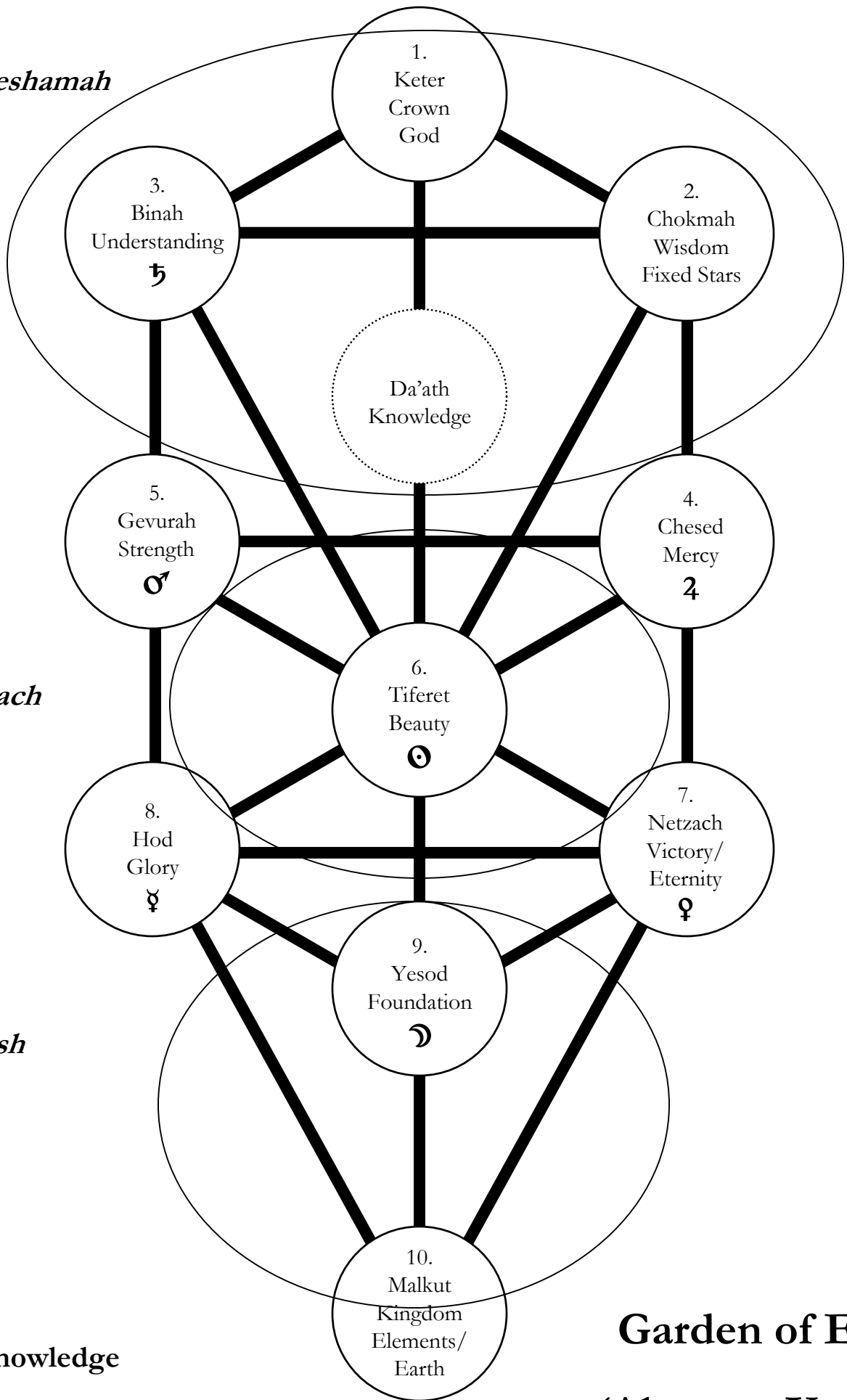
Lectures 7-8: Models of the Human Condition: Wisdom, Fall, Utopia

Story/Model	Good State (Past/Ideal)	Bad State (Now)	Path to Improvement
Fall from Garden of Eden	Innocence, obedience, human-divine harmony	Knowledge, disobedience, human-divine estrangement	Hebraic: Obedience Golden Dawn/Christian: Reconciliation, Great Work
Esoteric Knowledge	Knowledge, transparent language, unified language/people, Divine governance, proper religious language and ritual	Rebellion, opaque language, distorted knowledge, scattered people, estrangement from God, wrong language and rites	Reconnection to divine and each other through proper language, concepts, rituals, esoteric learning
Gnosticism	Pre-creation: cosmic harmony	Post-creation: ignorance, imprisonment	Gnosis, escape
Natural Human Beings	Connection to nature, appropriate desires and use of senses; health and cooperation	Corruption and falsity of desires, distortion of senses; sickness; social sophistication and complication	Good government, political participation in a properly- structured culture; people see interests reflected in culture and government
Hellenistic	(Standard development model): proper expression of virtues and relations to others	Ignorance, distorted values, wrong experience of emotions	Embody the virtues and emotional experiences and choices of the standard development model

Modern Model

Story	Bad State (Past)	Good State (Present & Future)	Path to Improvement
Modern	Unevolved, unscientific, backward or backward-facing, irrational	Evolved, scientific, technological, forward-looking, rational	Making everyone rational and scientific; transforming humanity with technology; perhaps huge conflict and destruction to weed out the unevolved and irrational.

Divine/neshamah



Adam/ruach

Eve/nefesh

Tree of Knowledge
Dragon

Garden of Eden
(Abstract Version)