

Three

Testing the Theory

At its simplest level the Tarot board integrates the 12-sign solar zodiac with the 28-sign lunar zodiac. We have already seen how the first 12 trumps relate to the 12 signs of the solar zodiac. No great leap of the imagination is required to recognize the 56 minor cards along the perimeter of the compressed cross and circle as a double of the 28 squares at the edge of the chess board. Certain mathematical implications naturally flow from such an alignment.

Draw rather precisely two straight lines of equal length on a sheet of paper. Divide them into 12 and 28 equal sections respectively. You will notice that four segments of the first align with four segments of the second line. Expressed mathematically, four is a common divisor of 12 and 28. Hence if the 12-unit line represents the solar zodiac, and the 28-unit line represents the lunar zodiac, one would expect four of the signs of the one to align with four of the signs of the other. It would also not be surprising to learn that these points of intersection were marked by the four kings.

Richard Allen, citing Camille Flammarion, gives three of the four royal stars as Aldebaran, Regulus and Fomalhaut, filling in the gap himself with Antares.¹ Three of these, Aldebaran, Regulus and Antares, fall within Madame Blavatsky's "four figures of the zodiac," which also appear on Trump 21, The World. The fourth, Fomalhaut, is the mouth of the Southern Fish, *Piscis Austrinus*.²

Aldebaran is the brightest star in the Hyades and marks the second Indian *nakshatra* and the second Arab *manzil*. Though it falls within the second Chinese *hsiu*, the determinant is usually given as Epsilon Tauri. (See Table VI.)³ Regulus, the brightest star in the eighth Indian *nakshatra*, also appears in the eighth Arab *manzil*.⁴ Antares is found in the 16th *nakshatra* and the 16th *hsiu*. It is the sole constituent of the 16th *manzil*.⁵ There is no evidence for Fomalhaut ever appearing in any lunar zodiac.

NO.*	INDIAN NAKSHATRA	ARAB MANZIL	CHINESE HSIU
1.	<u>η Tauri</u> , etc.	<u>η Tauri</u> , etc.	<u>η Tauri</u>
2.	$\alpha, \theta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon$ Tauri	$\alpha, \theta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon$ Tauri	ϵ Tauri
3.	λ, ϕ_1, ϕ_2 Orionis	λ, ϕ_1, ϕ_2 Orionis	λ Orionis
4.	α Orionis	$\eta, \mu, \nu, \gamma, \xi$ Geminorum	δ Orionis
5.	β, α Geminorum	β, α Geminorum	μ Geminorum
6.	θ, δ, γ Cancri	γ, δ Cancri, Praesepe	θ Cancri
7.	$\epsilon, \delta, \sigma, \eta, \rho$ Hydrae	ξ Cancri, λ Leonis	δ Hydrae
8.	<u>$\alpha, \eta, \gamma, \zeta, \mu, \epsilon$ Leonis</u>	<u>$\alpha, \eta, \gamma, \zeta$ Leonis</u>	α Hydrae
9.	δ, θ Leonis	δ, θ Leonis	ν_1 Hydrae
10.	$\beta, 93$ Leonis	β Leonis	α Crateris
11.	$\delta, \gamma, \epsilon, \alpha, \beta$ Corvi	$\beta, \eta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon$ Virginis	γ Corvi
12.	α Virginis	α Virginis	α Virginis
13.	α Bootis	ι, κ, λ Virginis	κ Virginis
14.	$\iota, \gamma, \beta, \alpha$ Librae	α, β Librae	α_2 Librae
15.	<u>δ, β, π Scorpii</u>	<u>β, δ, π Scorpii</u>	<u>π Scorpii</u>
16.	α, σ, τ Scorpii	α Scorpii	σ Scorpii
17.	$\lambda, \nu, \kappa, \iota, \theta, \eta, \zeta, \mu, \epsilon$ Sco.	λ, ν Scorpii	μ_2 Scorpii
18.	δ, ϵ Sagittarii	$\gamma_2, \delta, \epsilon, \eta, \phi, \sigma, \tau, \zeta$ Sag.	γ_2 Sagittarii
19.	σ, ζ Sagittarii	N. of π Sagittarii	ϕ Sagittarii
20.	α, ϵ, ζ Lyrae	α, β Capricorni	β Capricorni
21.	α, β, γ Aquilae	ϵ, μ, ν Aquarii	ϵ Aquarii
22.	$\beta, \alpha, \gamma, \delta$ Delphini	<u>β, ξ Aquarii</u>	<u>β Aquarii</u>
23.	λ Aquarii, etc.	$\alpha, \gamma, \zeta, \eta$ Aquarii	α Aquarii
24.	α, β Pegasi	α, β Pegasi	α Pegasi
25.	γ Pegasi, α Andromedae	γ Pegasi, α Andromedae	γ Pegasi
26.	ζ Piscium, etc.	β Andromedae, etc.	ζ Andromedae
27.	β, γ Arietis	β, γ Arietis	β Arietis
28.	35, 39, 41 Arietis	35, 39, 41 Arietis	35 Arietis

*After Richard Hinckley Allen.

Table VI: The Lunar Asterisms According to Ebenezer Burgess

There is a pattern here. Of Allen's four royal stars, the one which does not fall within the 12-sign solar zodiac also falls outside of the 28-sign lunar zodiacs. Fomalhaut is clearly not one of the four kings.

There is another problem with Allen's theory. Aldebaran, which lies in the middle of Taurus, is only *six* asterisms from Regulus which lies at the beginning of Leo. Conversely, Antares, which is in the middle of Scorpio, is *eight* asterisms from Regulus. This uneven distribution

must either be explained or proved to be erroneous. If it is not, the theory of the alignment of zodiacs will be seriously damaged.

Returning to Figure 8, we see that the kings are adjacent to trumps I, IV, VII and X; The Magician, The Emperor, The Chariot and The Wheel of Fortune. Is it possible that the ancient names of the four kings survive in these four trumps of the Tarot deck?

Regulus is "a diminutive of the earlier Rex. . . from the belief that it ruled the affairs of the heavens. . . ." In Babylonia it was Sharru, the King; in India, Magha, the Mighty. As Cor Leonis, the Lion's Heart, it may be associated with King Richard. "In China. . . the astronomers. . . referred to Regulus as the Great Star in Heen Yuen, a constellation called after the imperial family. . ." ⁶ There can be little doubt that The Emperor represents Regulus or the asterism containing Regulus.

Though Maia is usually associated with one of the lesser stars of the Pleiades, "some have said that her star was the most luminous of the group (Alcyone). . . . The name also is written Mea and Maja, the feminine form of *majus*, an older form of *magnus*. Cicero had the word *Majja*. . . familiarly known as Ma, or Maia *Maiestas*, the Bona Dea, or Great and Fruitful Mother, who gave name to the Roman month, our May. . . . The equivalent Maou, for the Pleiades in China, is singularly like the Latin word."⁷ Our previous identification of The Magician with May would seem to be correct. The Pleiades or *Kritika*, the General of the Celestial Armies, is the first sign of the Hindu lunar zodiac, as it is in both the Chinese and Arabic systems.⁸ Maia is precisely seven asterisms from the star Regulus.

In search of The Wheel of Fortune, we travel clockwise into Aquarius, in the region of the recently deposed Fomalhaut, where we find Richard Allen quoting from Dante⁹:

. . . Here "geomancers their Fortuna Major
See in the Orient before the dawn
Rise by a path that long remains not dim"

a passage which the poet Longfellow (says Allen) explains in these notes: "Geomancy is divination by points in the ground, or pebbles arranged in certain figures, which have peculiar names. Among these is the figure called Fortuna Major. . . ." ¹⁰ We have previously noticed the relation between geomancy and the stars.

The *lucida*, or brightest star of this Fortuna Major, is none other than Sadalsuud which "is from Al Sa'd al Su'ud, liberally translated the

Luckiest of the Lucky. . . . This title also belongs to the 22d *manzil*. . . . On the Euphrates it was Kakkab Nammach, the Star of Mighty Destiny, that may have given origin to the title of the *manzil*, as well as to the astrologer's name for it—Fortuna Fortunarum."¹¹

Finding the final king would appear to be a simple task. There are so many chariots and drivers of chariots in the skies of the Earth that we can almost choose a location at will. The problem arises when we try to prove that we have selected the proper one from among the surplus. We shall solve this problem by identifying not only the type of chariot, but the name of its driver.

Traveling seven asterisms to the west from Sadalsuud we come to one whose *lucida* is Graffias, or Beta Scorpionis. "The Hindus knew the group as their 15th *nakshatra*, Anuradha, Propitious or Successful,—Mitra, the Friend, one of the Adityas, being the presiding divinity. . . ." ¹² Franz Cumont identifies Mitra with the Iranian Mithra, giving the compound form Mitra-Varuna¹³ and echoing the Rig-Veda's "two Mitras." We have already encountered Varuna as the King of the West. Let us see what Cumont has to say about chariots.

The Supreme God drives a chariot drawn by four steeds which turn ceaselessly round in a fixed circle. The first, which bears on its shining coat the signs of the planets and constellations, is sturdy and agile and traverses the circumference of the fixed circle with extreme velocity; the second, less vigorous and less rapid in its movements, wears a sombre robe, of which one side only is illuminated by the rays of the sun; the third proceeds more slowly still; and the fourth turns slowly in the same spot, champing restlessly its steel bit, whilst its companions move round it as round a stationary column in the center. . . . The first horse is the incarnation of fire or ether, the second of air, the third of water, and the fourth of the earth.¹⁴

We would seem to be looking for a chariot drawn by four horses!

Allen turns to the equivalent Chinese *hsiu*, "Fang, a Room or House, anciently Fong, (which) consisted of Beta with Delta, Pi and Rho, although Professor Whitney thought it limited to the determinant Pi. . . ." ¹⁵ But individually Beta seems to have been known as Tien Sze, the Four-horse Chariot of Heaven, and was worshipped by all horsemen."¹⁶

Three of Allen's four royal stars have thus been shown to be incorrect. The actual four kings, listed below, are evenly spaced among the asterisms—1, 8, 15 and 22—and lie almost precisely on the ecliptic.

There must indeed be a historical connection between the 12-sign solar zodiac and the 28-sign lunar zodiac.

<i>Trump</i>	<i>Asterism</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
1. - The Magician	1 - Eta Tauri	Maia
4. - The Emperor	8 - Alpha Leonis	Regulus
7. - The Chariot	15 - Beta Scorpii	Graffias
10. - The Wheel of Fortune	22 - Beta Aquarii	Sadalsuud

Glancing back to the short table at the end of Chapter One, it becomes apparent that something quite extraordinary has happened. Following the trail of deductive reasoning we have arrived at the very point we left when we identified the four asterisms on the Chinese diviner's board. Two of these, Eta Tauri and Beta Aquarii, are identical to Tarot trumps 1 and 10. A third, Pi Scorpii, is the determinant of the *hsiu* in which Trump 8, Beta Scorpii, is found. The fourth, Alpha Hydrae, marks the position equivalent to Trump 4 and leaves the Tarot sequence at a point where the Chinese lunar zodiac diverges from the Indian and Arab versions.

Of the three zodiacs listed by Burgess, the Arab is the only one which includes all four trumps. David H. Kelley mentions a Coptic zodiac shown to be of Greek origin by Stefan Weinstock, who also derives the Arab from the Greek version.¹⁷ The theory of Antoine Court de Gebelin, which Michael Dummett finds so preposterous, that the Tarot deck contains the ancient religious system of the Egyptians, grows less and less absurd.

So far, we have connected the Tarot deck with a series of games leading directly or indirectly to modern chess. By reference to the related games of *pachisi* and *senat*, we have reconstructed the Tarot game board and identified the stars called the four kings. In the process we have recognized certain points of intersection between the Tarot and astrology, divination, geomancy and religion.