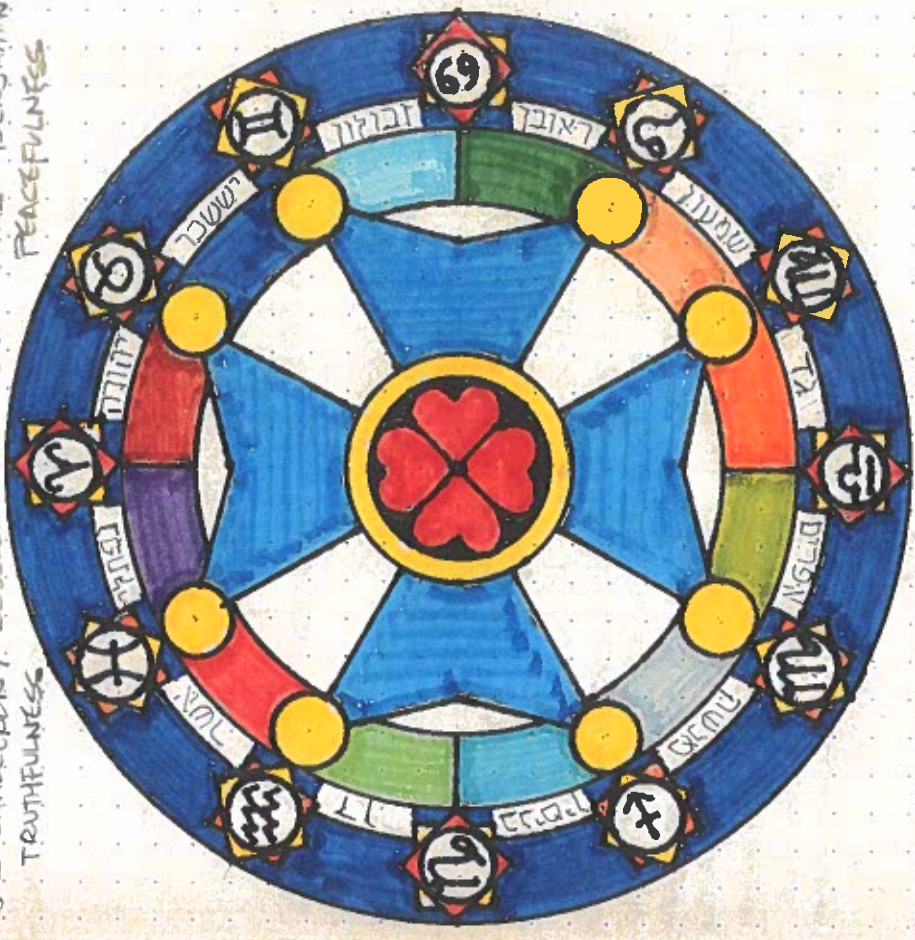


THE JUBILEE CALENDAR

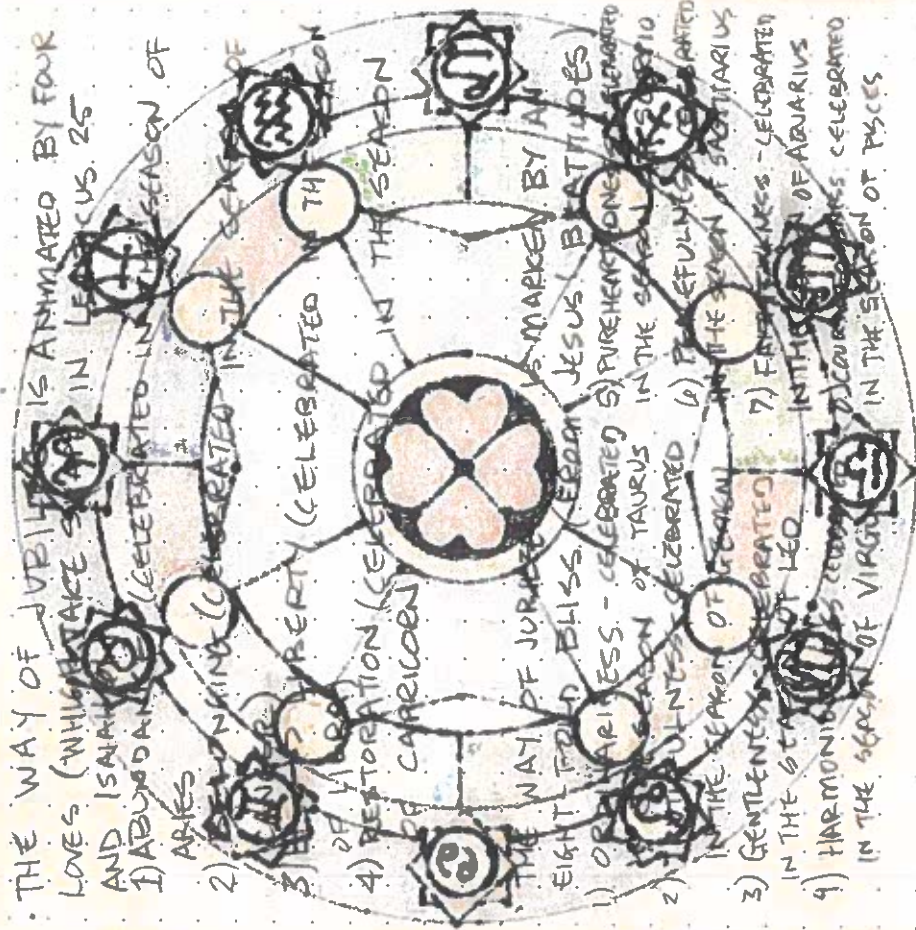
- Q-V - JASPER - JUDAH: ABUNDANCE
- Q-X - SAPPHIRE - ISSACHAR: ORDINARYNESS
- Q-II - CHALCEDONY - ZEBULON: TRUTHFULNESS
- Q-E - CHRYSOLITE - EPHRAIM: LIBERTY
- Q-III - BERYL - MANASSAH: PURCHASINGNESS
- Q-XI - TOPAZ - BENJAMIN: PEACEFULNESS



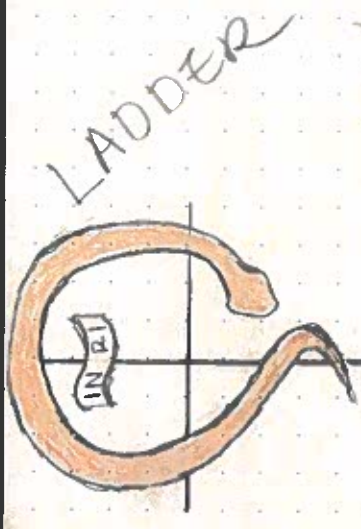
- Q-III - EMERALD - REUBEN: BELONGING
- Q-IV - SARDONYX - SIMEON: GENTLENESS
- Q-VII - CARNELIAN - GAD: FEARFULNESS
- Q-VI - CHRYSOPRASE - DAN: RESTORATION
- Q-VIII - HYACINTH - ASHER: FAITHFULNESS
- Q-IX - AMYTHYST - NAFTALI: COURAGEOUSNESS

DEPICTING THE WAY OF JUBILEE

THE WAY OF JUBILEE IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE PATH OF LIBERATION THAT WE ARE CALLED TO IN JESUS TEACHINGS, AND IN WALKING IT WE BECOME ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN BRINGING ABOUT THE KINGDOM HE HAS CREATED, BECOMING CO-CREATORS IN AND FROM THE AGE TO COME.



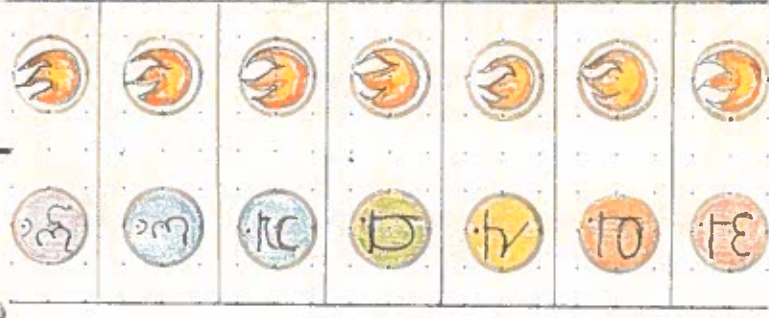
THE JUBILEE CALENDAR SIGNIFIES THE JOINING OF THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH IN THE NEW CREATION. IT IS ENCIRCLED BY THE TWELVE FOUNDATION STONES OF THE NEW JERUSALEM, ON WHICH ARE WRITTEN THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES; AND TWELVE GATES OF PEARL, ON WHICH ARE WRITTEN THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE PATRIARCHS OF ISRAEL.



LADDER

Soul / Psyche

Spirit / Nous



7) CROWN

6) THIRD-EYE

5) THROAT

4) HEART

3) NAVEL

2) SACRAL

1) ROOT

1) WISDOM

2) UNDERSTANDING

3) COUNSEL

4) COURAGE

5) KNOWLEDGE

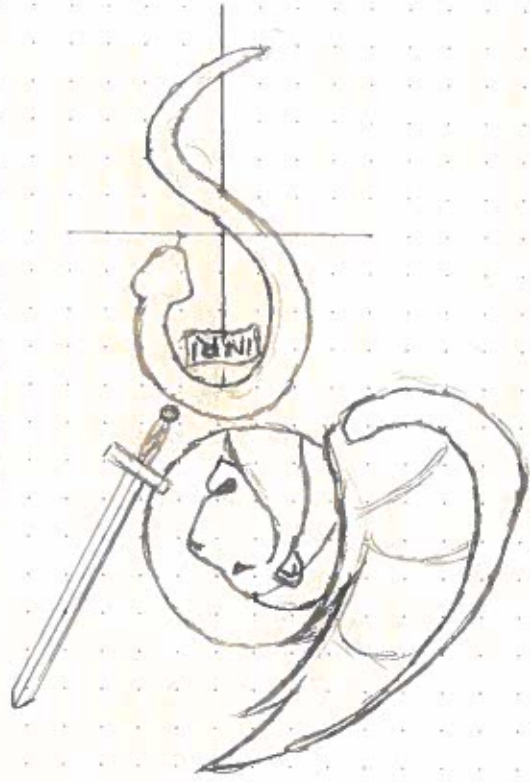
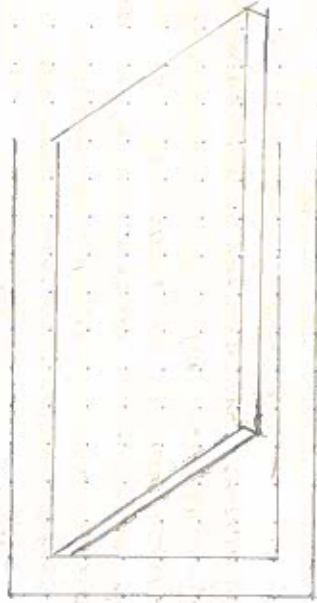
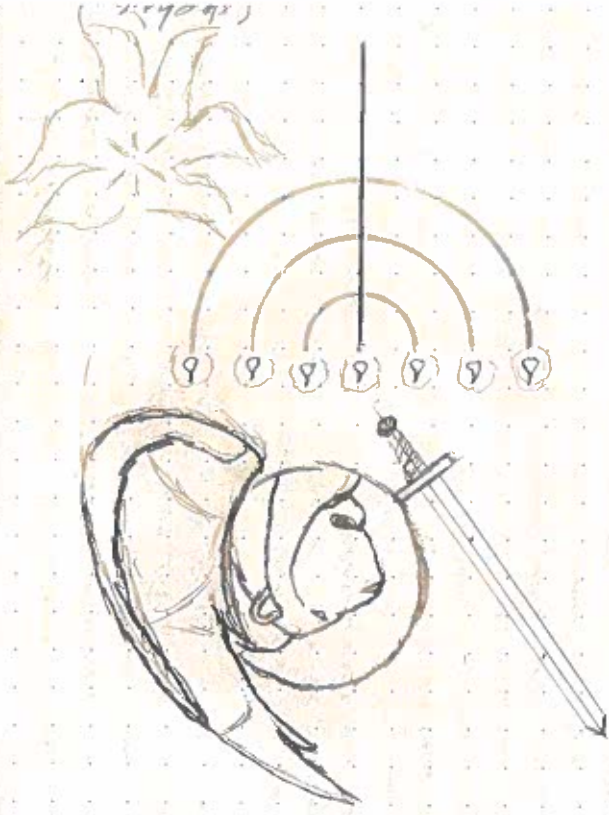
6) DEVOTION

7) WONDER



THROUGH THE SEVEN HEAVENS

Jacob's Ladder is the stairway through the Seven Heavens. The pathway through the Heavens have been opened by the Son of Man, Layed like the Serpent in the Wilderness who has descended through the Heavens so that humanity might ascend with him. The journey through the Heavens begins where soul and body unite in the chakras and the soul and spirit unite in the nexus of the seven chakras and the Seven Heavens. Each chakra is a portal into one of the corresponding Heavens. Through busy daily meditation in one chakra each day, the pilgrim ascends through each Heaven in one week and descends again through each Heaven the following week. This is but one way for a pilgrim to embark on this Heavenly journey - each mode of travel can be unique to the individual pilgrim. However, one traverses Jacob's Ladder - one will find in each Heaven new ways to connect with God, hear his voice, and find their place in creation, dashing away in the company of all rational creatures who bear their Maker's image.



ENTRANCE TO JACOB'S LADDER

ROOT CHAKRA



MULADHARA

MULA - ROOT, ESSENCE, OR ORIGIN
 ADHARA - BASIS, FOUNDATION

THE ELEMENT OF EARTH IS CORRELATED WITH THE MULADHARA OR ROOT CHAKRA (YELLOW SQUARE)

IN SOME YOGIC TRADITIONS THE MULADHARA IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FEMINE AND MASCULINE PRINCIPLES AS REPRESENTED IN THE DEITIES OF SHAKTI (FEMINE) AND SHIVA (MASCULINE) - AS THESE PRINCIPLES WORK TOGETHER THE CREATIVE POWER INHERENT IN OUR VERY FABRIC OF EXISTENCE IS UNLEASHED

THE MULADHARA CHAKRA IS CALLED THE ROOT CHAKRA BECAUSE IT IS POSITIONED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SPINE IN THE SAME AREA OF THE ANUS

IN THE YOGIC TRADITIONS THE DEITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MULADHARA IS BRAHMA, THE CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE, WHICH IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE WHEN TRANSLATED INTO THE REALM OF CHRISTIAN CONTEMPLATION

The entrance to the stairway through the Seven Heavens is an open Door. Guarding this sacred space are the winged cherubim with flaming swords in hand. At the Door's right hand stands the Son of Man, here depicted as the serpent lifted up, but with a better aspect. This would be a modified icon of the Anasayas where Christ stands outside the gates of Hades with one hand outstretched to mortal humanity and the other gesturing to the open Door. Beside humanity (on their right) is the Angel Sophia depicted as a serpent ready to guide humanity through the Seven Heavens. At the open Door's left hand is the Holy Spirit (Divine Spirit of God) illuminating the entry into the mysteries of the Father. The journey through the Seven Heavens is undertaken where soul and body converge in the chakras and the soul and spirit converge in the heavens from the paired body of humanity who are about to undertake their journey of ascent and descent with the Redeemed Son of Man.

WISDOM HAS BUILT HER HOUSE,
 SHE HAS SET UP HER SEVEN PILLARS.

Proverbs 9:1

SEVENTH HEAVEN



The Heaven of Wonder

THE SEVENTH HEAVEN IS, AS ST. IRENAEUS NOTES, THE HEAVENLY DIMENSION MOST CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH EARTH, AND IT IS ALTERNATELY NAMED THE HEAVEN FILLED WITH THE FEAR OF THE LORD. THIS FEAR, HOWEVER, IS NOT A NEGATIVE OR PRIMAL FEAR, BUT THE ONE FEAR THAT CASTS OUT ALL OTHER FEARS. THIS FEAR IS EXPRESSED IN WONDER, WHICH IS A GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT PRODUCES IN US THE VIRTUE OF HOPE.

IN ISAIAH 11:2-3 THE HEBREW TERM IS N'77 (YAREH) AND IS TRANSLATED IN GREEK (IN THE SEPTUAGINT) AS φοβου (phobou/phaivos); AGAIN, WHILE THESE TERMS CAN CARRY THE NEGATIVE MEANING OF TERROR OR FLIGHT, IN THE SCRIPTURES THEY ALMOST ALWAYS DESCRIBE WONDER, REVERENCE, OR AWE THAT DISPELS ALL FEAR.

AS IT IS WRITTEN, "THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM." THIS FEAR RECOGNIZES THAT WE ARE GOD'S CREATION, FORMED OUT OF HIS BOUNDLESS LOVE, WHERE WE TAKE OUR PLACE AS CREATURES IN THE JOYOUS DANCE OF EXISTENCE.

THE MULADHARA IS SAID TO EXPRESS THE QUALITY OF THE CONJUNCTION OF HUMAN & ANIMAL CONSCIOUSNESS, IT ALSO IS THE PRIMAL SEAT OF THE UNCONSCIOUS. THE ROOT CHAKRA CAN DISCLOSE PERSONAL DESTINY.

- POSITIVE TRAITS: CREATIVITY AND AWAKENING
- NEGATIVE TRAITS: UNCONSCIOUSNESS AND IGNORANCE

In the context of Christian contemplation the root chakra is where the receptive or feminine identity of God as Sophia (Lady Wisdom) is correlated with the masculine identity of the Trinity where in wisdom the Father remembers his creature activity through the Son as lover (the relational principle of all created reality that enables all being to be transparent to relational thought) and is beautified through the presence of the Holy Spirit who irradiates the Father's creature. Yet in the Son within the Sophianic matrix of all divine activity in both the finite and infinite planes of existence.

The muladhara is the foot chakra and is paired with the seventh Heaven, which is the Heaven of wonder where the pilgrim is invited to contemplate the nature of created existence and God's loving care over every individual and all that God has brought into being from non-being.

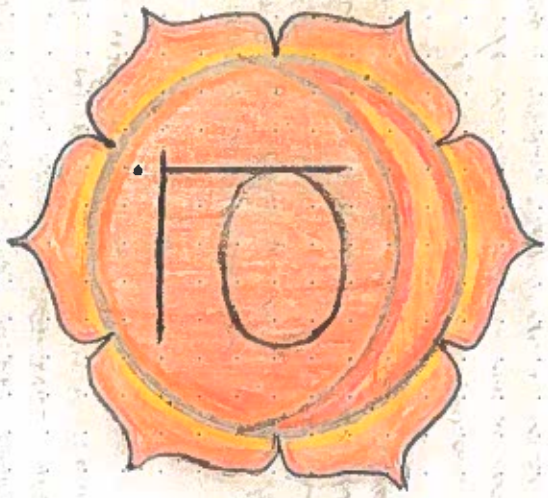
THE MULADHARA CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE HEAVEN OF WONDER. WHEN MEDITATING IN THE SEVENTH HEAVEN, I REMEMBER THAT I AM GOD'S BELOVED CHILD, AND THAT IT IS TRULY A WONDER TO BE HIS CREATURE.

While there innumerable things to be seen in the Seventh Heaven, and we shall explore its magnificent splendor throughout eternally unending ages, there are some important features to notice when in this Heaven:

- The Tree of Life - This vast cosmic tree stretches from the earth into all of the Heavens, though it can be fully seen within the Seventh Heaven. Its fruit is filled with light and its leaves shine like the roadway sun. The tree sits atop a grassy hill and is fed from the waters of the River of Life that gleam with an opalescent brilliance that contain all of the colors of the rainbow.

- The company of all creation, great and small joined in equality, crowned with halos of glory, giving thanks to God for their existence and basking in the wonder of God's wisdom that is expressed in all things.

SACRAL CHAKRA



SVADHISTANA

SVADHISTANA - SEAT ABOVE

THE ELEMENT OF WATER IS CORRELATED WITH THE SVADHISTANA CHAKRA (ORANGE CRESCENT MOON)

THE SVADHISTANA CHAKRA IS CALLED THE SACRAL CHAKRA BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION AT THE SACRUM. IN THE JEWISH & CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS, SOME HAVE CALLED THE SACRUM THE RESURRECTION BONE AS IT IS OFTEN THE LAST BONE TO DECOMPOSE. IT IS ALSO RICH IN TRINITARIAN & CROSS-RELATED SYMBOLIC VALUE.

IN SOME YOGIC TRADITIONS, THE SVADHISTANA CHAKRA IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DIVINITY ASPECT OF LORD VISHNU, WHO IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE. IN OTHERS, THE SUPREME DIVINITY, BRHMIHA IS CORRELATED IN HIS RELATION TO CONSCIOUSNESS ITSELF AS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS.

• THE HUMAN SUBCONSCIOUS IS SAID TO BE REFLECTED IN THE SVADHISTANA CHAKRA. THE SACRAL CHAKRA CARRIES THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF WILLPOWER & VIGOR, AND THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF EGOTISM, PRIDE, DOUBT, AND LAXITY BLOCK THIS CHAKRA.

Sw Chakra contemplates the sacral chakra i.e. the portal into the Sixth Heaven. The sixth Heaven is the dimension of devotion where the love of God for us is mirrored by our love for him. The Svadhastana i.e. cleanness of its vessel is willful devotion to God and the growing realization of our inseparable union with and participation in the Divine Nature, which has been revealed i.e. Christ who has descended to us so that we might ascend with him as other God-like creatures. We discover, in our loving devotion to God, the life-giving force of the Spirit in our lives that gives way to purposeful living that is filled with hope, joy, creativity, and fruitfulness as we grow in virtue. In this sacred space of the Svadhastana Chakra and the Sixth Heaven, Lady Wisdom (Holy Sophia) or Holy Divinity beckons us to come into the Holy Temple where, in devotion, we experience the infinity presence of God and are instructed by the Holy Spirit who leads us further into the graceful reality of the faith.

SIXTH

HEAVEN



The Heaven of Devotion

• THE SIXTH HEAVEN, IS ACCORDING TO ST. IRENAEUS, IN HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH (II: 2-3), IS THE HEAVEN OF PIETY, WHICH IS WHY WE CALL THIS HEAVEN THE DIMENSION OF DEVOTION, AS WE ASCEND FROM THE SEVENTH HEAVEN INTO THE SIXTH, OUR CREATURELY WONDER AT THE INFINITE LOVE OF GOD IS RECIPROGATED WITH LOVING DEVOTION TO GOD. IF IN THE SEVENTH HEAVEN WE SAY WITH MARVEL, "I AM MY BELOVED'S", IN THE SIXTH WE RESPOND, "AND MY BELOVED IS MINE." WITH ABSOLUTE SPIRITUAL LIBERTY WE BECOME MIRRORS OF DIVINE LOVE, AND OUR FREEDOM IN THIS LOVE IS EXPRESSED IN DEVOTION.

• AS IN THE SEVENTH HEAVEN, THE TERM GIVEN IN THE HEBREW BIBLE IN THE 11TH CHAPTER OF ISAIAH IS 'N' (YAREH), HERE HOWEVER, THE GREEK TRANSLATION (THE SEPTUAGINT) OFFERS A NUANCE IN THE HEBREW NOTION OF FEAR IN CALLING THE SPIRIT (AND CORRESPONDING HEAVEN) EUBOIA (EUSIBIAS), WHICH REFERS TO THE ASPECT OF FEAR OR WONDER OF GOD THAT IS EXPRESSED IN PIETY OR DEVOTION.

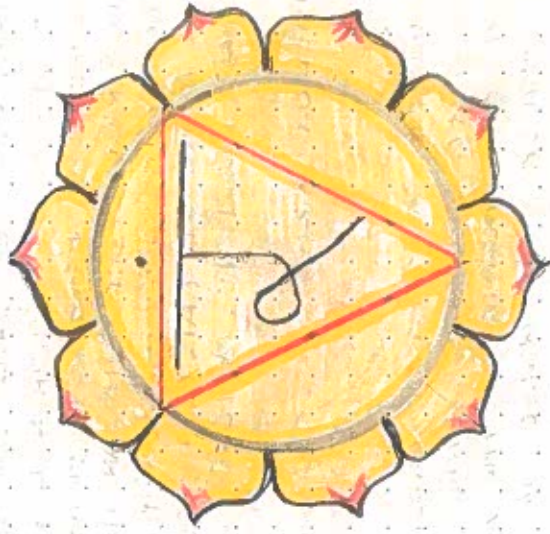
IN THE SIXTH HEAVEN WE LEARN THE MEANING OF THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT GIVEN TO US BY JESUS: "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." AND THIS LOVE OF GOD FOR US THAT IS ANSWERED BY OUR LOVE FOR HIM IS WHAT THE SPIRIT USES TO EMPOWER OUR LOVE FOR OTHERS AND FOR THE INFINITELY UNFOLDING COSMOS GOD HAS CALLED INTO BEING.

• THE SVADHISTANA, OR SACRAL CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF THE SIXTH HEAVEN. HERE WE FIND THAT LOVE AND DEVOTION TO GOD IS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE TREMENDOUS PSYCHIC (OR SOULFUL) POWER OF THE SVADHISTANA, AS OUR CREATIVITY IS EXPRESSED IN CO-CREATION WITH GOD, THE WILLPOWER TO LIVE A LIFE OF DEDICATED GRATITUDE, AND THE HOPEFUL VITALITY THAT CAN SEE GOD'S GOODNESS IN ALL THE THINGS HE HAS MADE.

As in all of the Heavens, the Sixth Heaven is filled with innumerable windows, yet among the most important is the Temple, whose outer court, sanctuary, and inner sanctuary is a picture of the human body, soul, and spirit and that is a microcosm of the Cosmos that is filled with the glory of God. Here is the House that is built upon the foundation of Holy Sophia which is the Divine essence that binds and unifies all things to God. Here in this Heavenly Temple where we live in devotion to God we find our place in the Spirit's Presence and our intimate connection to all he has made.

NAVEL CHAKRA

(OR SOLAR-PLEXUS)



MANIPURA

ABODE OF GEMS (MANI - PEARL, PURA - CITY)

• THE ELEMENT OF FIRE IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MANIPURA CHAKRA, AND IS DEPICTED AS A RED TRIANGLE IN THIS TEN-PETALED LOTUS.

• THE MANIPURA CHAKRA IS CALLED THE NAVEL (OR SOLAR-PLEXUS) CHAKRA BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION BEHIND THE NAVEL.

• IN SOME YOGIC TRADITION THE DEITY ASPECT OF THE MANIPURA CHAKRA IS RUDHRA "WHO ERADICATES PROBLEMS AT THEIR ROOT" AND IS DEPICTED AS A WARRIOR OR HUNTER. OTHERS ASSOCIATE THE CHAKRA WITH VISHNU, AS A REPRESENTATION OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS, AND THE GODDESS LAKSHMI WHO REVEALS THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL WEALTH, GOOD CHEER, AND PROSPERITY.

THE MANIPURA CHAKRA IS VITAL TO THE FLOW OF PRANA (OR LIFE FORCE) THROUGHOUT THE BODY THAT RADIATES IN KNOWLEDGE (THOUGH OF A DIFFERENT KIND THAN LOGIC OR RATIONAL REASONING), WHERE LOVE PURIFIES PASSION WHICH RISE UP INTO THE ANAHATA CHAKRA (HEART). THIS INTUITIVE KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED IN MANIPURA CAN BE DISTORTED BY DISORDERED EMOTION, BUT ORDERED PASSIONS ENHANCE THE INTUITIVE POWERS OF THE NAVEL CHAKRA.

In this Christian method of contemplation the Manipura Chakra is the south portal into the spiritual dimension of the Fifth Heaven, or the Heaven of Knowledge. Though the faculty of reason is a vital aspect of knowledge, the knowledge in the Fifth Heaven, as in the Manipura is acquired principally through intuition rather than the deductive process of figuring things out. Here, the wonder of the *Mukhadharan* and Seventh Heaven, the devotion of the *Sughustana* and Sixth Heaven ascend in reverence, devotion, and creative force (between Creator and creature) into the Manipura where the knowledge of the Fifth Heaven is revealed. Here we begin to see our consciousness healed, which was fractured at the Fall in Eden, where knowledge was given precedence to love, wonder, and devotion. Yet here in the Fifth Heaven we encounter in our core being a knowledge that surpasses reason as we ascend through the heavens, for the presence of God as we follow Christ upward to where he is enthroned with the Father.

FIFTH HEAVEN



The Heaven of Knowledge

• ACCORDING TO IRENAEUS THE FIFTH HEAVEN IS THE HEAVEN OF KNOWLEDGE. AS WE ASCEND IN WONDER FOR ALL THAT GOD IS, IN THE RECIPROCALITY OF MUTUAL LOVE AND DEVOTION THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN LAID DOWN AND WE ENTER FOR THE FIRST TIME INTO THE NATURE OF TRUE KNOWLEDGE. THIS KNOWLEDGE FLOWS FROM AN ESTABLISHED RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR CREATOR AND COMES NOT THROUGH THE FACULTY OF REASON (THOUGH THIS KNOWLEDGE IS IN NO WAY INCOMPATIBLE WITH RATIONAL UNDERSTANDING), BUT THROUGH THE POWER OF INTUITION THAT COMES FROM THE INDWELLING OF DIVINITY WITHIN OUR HUMANITY. THIS KNOWLEDGE ARIES FROM THE DEPTHS.

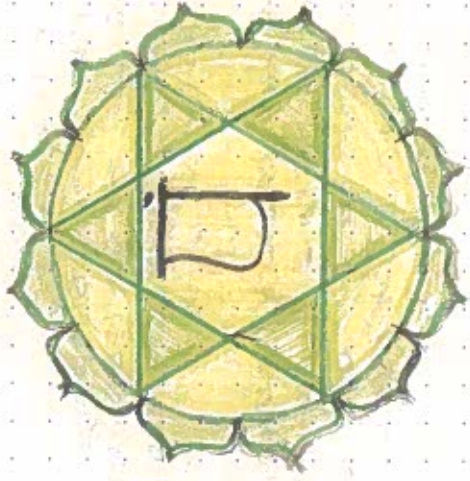
• IN THE HEBREW OF KALAH 11:2 THE SPIRIT GOVERNING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS DIMENSION IS JUST (DA'AT), HERE REFERRING TO THE KIND OF KNOWLEDGE THAT EMERGES FROM THE DEPTHS OF INTIMACY. LIKEWISE THE GREEK $\lambda\gamma\chi$ TERM IS $\gamma\lambda\omega\sigma\epsilon\upsilon\varsigma$ (GNOSEOS), WHICH CARRIES SIMILAR PERSONAL & INTIMATE QUALITIES.

IN OUR ASCENT WITH CHRIST THROUGH THE HEAVENS, LADY WISDOM WRAPS US IN THE RADIANCE OF HER SOPHIANIC EMBRACE. AS THE SPIRIT OF GOD DISCLOSES TO US THE INEXTRICABLE LINK BETWEEN THE DIVINE LIFE AND TRVE, INTIMATE, DEEP KNOWLEDGE HERE IN THE FIFTH HEAVEN. JUST AS THE LORD SAID OF THE FATHER, "THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE - THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT," (JOHN 17:3), HERE IN THE HEAVEN OF KNOWLEDGE, ARISING FROM WONDER, TRUST AND MUTUALITY, WE FIND A KNOWLEDGE THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND WE SEE A REVERSAL OF EDEN'S FALL WHERE THE CROSS BECOMES FOR US BOTH THE TREE OF LIFE AND THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE.

THE MANIPURA CHAKRA (NAVEL/SOLAR PLEXUS) IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF THE FIFTH HEAVEN.

In the Fifth Heaven, among the myriad of knowledge's gems we see the blazing memorial that in the seven-fold Spirit of God illuminating this Heaven, under various skies, and the Tree of Life growing in a well-tended garden, and in the midst of this Edenic Paradise, as a pearl of Fountain of infinite depth where we gaze with Holy Sophia at a reflection of ourselves from the crystalline depths. Here is the Heaven of knowledge, we become transparent to ourselves, able to know the truth that empowers all creatures by knowing, that we are loved by God down to our uttermost cores, and are thereby united in love to all that God loves, which is to say we too share a common, living union to all creation and reflect the radiant light of love and knowledge through the life of the Sonnet who rules this dimension.

HEART CHAKRA



ANAHATA

ANAHATA - UNLIMITED, OR INFINITE SOUND.

THE ANAHATA CHAKRA IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ELEMENT OF AIR, AND IS OFTEN DEPICTED AS A TWELVE PETALLED LOTUS IN THE VERDANT GREEN COLOR OF LIFE ITSELF, AND IT IS ADORNED WITH A SIX-POINTED STAR, REMINISCENT OF EZEKIEL'S MERKABAH - THE LIVING, MOVING THRONE OF GOD.

THE ANAHATA IS ASSOCIATED WITH INFINITE LOVE AND IS THE THRONE OF LOVE WITHIN US THAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR STRENGTH.

THE HEART CHAKRA IN SOME YOGIC TRADITIONS IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BENEFICENT MANIFESTATION OF SHIVA (HERE AS A CREATIVE POWER), SIGNIFYING GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION. HERE ALSO RESIDES OUR ATMA, OR TRVESELF. THE FINITE EXPRESSION OF INFINITE BEING (OR GOD). OTHER YOGIS ALSO ASSOCIATE THE FEMININE DEITY (SHAKTI) ALONG WITH SHIVA'S BENEFICENCE IN THE ANAHATA.

THE ANAHATA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF THE FOURTH (AND CENTRAL) HEAVEN WHICH IS THE HEAVEN OF COURAGE OR MIGHT.

AMONG THE MANY POSITIVE QUALITIES IN THE ANAHATA ARE LOVE FOR GOD (BAVA SAMADHI), DEVOTION, WILLPOWER, COMPASSION, AND CREATIVITY.

In the Christian school of contemplation through the Seven Heavens - the Anahata is centrally important as the soul's lead on the spiritual journey as that is the psychic midpoint of the soul that corresponds to the midpoint between the First and Seventh Heavens. Here, in the seat of the self within the heart chakra, Divine love comes through soul and body by the ceaseless beating of the Heart Chakra. Wonder, devotion, and the mutuality of love between God and the individual (and all creation) build into knowledge only to open again in the heavenly air of love. Here, the knowledge of the Manipura (Navel Chakra) finds the true nature of its purpose, which is to love - and thus love is the indestructible strength of the human heart that God speaks in with an order to meet all of life's challenges with tremendous courage.

FOURTH HEAVEN



Heaven of Courage

IN ST. IRENAEUS' DISCUSSION ON THE SEVEN HEAVENS IN *On the Apostolic Preaching*, HE NAMES THE FOURTH HEAVEN THE HEAVEN OF MIGHT, OR WHAT WE CALL IT HERE - THE HEAVEN OF COURAGE. THE FOURTH HEAVEN IS THE MIDPOINT OF THE SEVEN HEAVENS, AND IT IS HERE, IN OUR HEART OF HEARTS THAT HAVE ASCENDED IN LOVE THROUGH WONDER, DEVOTION, AND KNOWLEDGE TO FIND IN THE CENTER OF THE HEAVENS AND IN OUR VERY BEING THE STRENGTH, MIGHT, AND COURAGE TO LIVE IN THE WORLD AS THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT WE ARE TRULY MADE TO BE. HERE WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE EMBRACE OF CHRIST, WHO LIKE US HAS A HUMAN HEART AS HE LEADS US UPWARD, INWARD, AND OUTWARD INTO THE HEART OF THE FATHER.

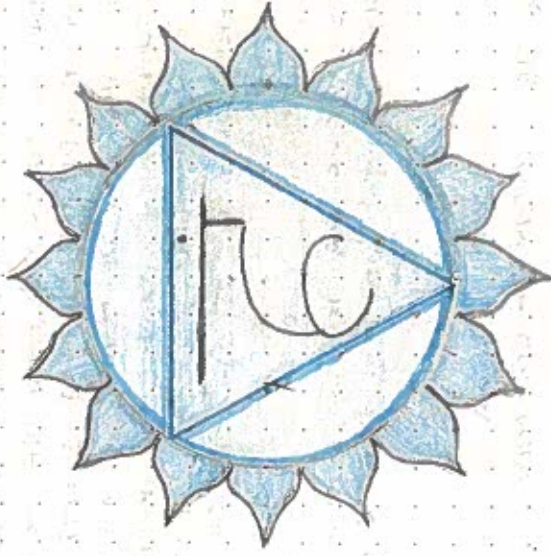
THE HEBREW TERM GIVEN IN ISAIAH 11:2 IS *YITZOK* (GIBURAH), USUALLY TRANSLATED AS STRENGTH OR MIGHT, IN THE GREEK SEPTUAGINT TRANSLATION THE TERM IS *ISCHYOS* (ISCHYOS), LIKEWISE TRANSLATED AS STRENGTH. IN BOTH CASES, THESE REFER TO THE INHERENT POWER OF SOMETHING.

AS WE CONTINUE THROUGH THE HEAVENS IN OUR UPWARD JOURNEY WITH CHRIST WE ARRIVE IN THE HEART OF THE HEAVENLY DIMENSIONS, FINDING HERE THAT HIS POWER, WHICH ANIMATES HIS INFINITE LIFE IS ALSO OURS. IN LOVE'S RECIPROCAL UNION WE HAVE LEARNED THE WAY OF WONDER AND DEVOTION THAT HAS BROUGHT US INTO AN INTUITIVE, RELATIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, OURSELVES, AND CREATION, AND UPON THESE WE DISCOVER THAT THESE COALESCE INTO A SINGULAR MODE OF BEING THAT IS CHRIST'S OWN DIVINE LIFE THAT ALSO ANIMATES US AT OUR BEING'S CORE, AND THAT THIS SPIRITUAL MODE OF BEING CARRIES US WITH POWER IN THE EXTERNAL WORLD.

• THE ANAHATA, OR HEART CHAKRA, IS THE SOULS PORTAL INTO THE HEAVEN OF COURAGE.

In the Fourth Heaven we find a towering green island rising above a vast sea of infinite depths as the very heart of this heavenly dimension. The wind-swept grassy ridges of the island's mountains are lined with the shining company of saints from every corner of the cosmos. Here Lady Wisdom leads us to a sea-side throne where Jesus is seated. As we take Sophia's invitation to sit with Jesus, as our spirits commune with him, he hands us a sword with our name and mystical words of power, only we can read to us. This sword is a living symbol of the power of the Holy Spirit within us. He bends us then to the armory of the heavens where we are garbed in heavenly mighty armor and take our place in the company of saints as light warriors in Jesus' great cause in a world filled with darkness.

THROAT CHAKRA



VISHUDDHA

VISHA - POISON; SHUDDHA - PURIFICATION

• THE ELEMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE VISHUDDHA (THROAT CHAKRA) IS SPACE OR ETHER. IN THE HINDU TRADITION AKASHA (SPACE/AETHER) IS DERIVED FROM KAS (TO BE) AND REFERS TO THE PRIMARY ELEMENT THAT PERVADES THE WHOLE COSMOS.

• THE VISHUDDHA CHAKRA IS ASSOCIATED WITH PURIFICATION, BALANCE, THE BREATH (OF LIFE), HERE IN THE VISHUDDHA WE FIND THE POISONOUS ASPECTS OF LIFE SUBJECT TO THE PROCESS OF PURIFICATION AS THE INNER-WORLD OF THE SOUL IS BROUGHT INTO BALANCE.

• IN THE YOGIC TRADITION THE DUAL-GENDERED SHIVA, AS THE SWALLOWER/PURIFIER OF POISON IS SOMETIMES CORRELATED WITH THE VISHUDDHA, ALTERNATELY SO IS BRAHMA AS THE DIVINE LIGHT OF GOD.

THIRD HEAVEN



Heaven of Counsel

AS IRENAEUS TEACHES US THE CONTENT OF THE APOSTOLIC WITNESS HE NAMES THE FIFTH HEAVEN THE HEAVEN OF COUNSEL. HERE WE ASCEND INTO THE THIRD HEAVEN, WHICH IS THE DIVINE COUNSEL HIMSELF WHERE CHRIST IS ENTHRONED IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL RATIONAL BEINGS, AND EACH AND ALL TAKE COUNSEL TOGETHER. IT WAS HERE IN THE THIRD HEAVEN WHERE PAUL RECEIVED REVELATION OF SUCH GLORY THAT HE LACKED HUMAN LANGUAGE TO EXPRESS IT. IN THE THIRD HEAVEN, THE COUNSEL OF THE HOLY ONES WE LEARN THE VERY WORDS OF GOD AND THE WISDOM WITH WHICH HE SPOKE THE WORLDS INTO BEING SO THAT OUR WORDS ARE FILLED WITH HIS LIFE-GIVING BREATH AS THE DIVINE PLAN IS REVEALED TO US.

THE HEBREW TERM USED FOR COUNSEL IN ISAIAH 11:2-3 IS *ETSAH* (EITSAH), AND IS USED BY THE PROPHET WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GOD'S PLANS FOR THE BROAD SWEEPING WORK OF COSMIC RESTORATION. THE GREEK SEPTUAGINT SUPPLIES *BOULIS* (boulis) WHICH REFERS TO ADVICE (OR WITH *sympouleu/symbouleo*) A COUNCIL OR PANEL OF ADVISERS.

AS THE UNCONSCIOUS IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE MULADHARA AND RISES TO THE SUBCONSCIOUS IN THE SVADHISTANA CHAKRA, GIVING WAY TO CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE MANIPURA UNFOLDING IN THE HEART OR ANAHATA, SO CONSCIOUSNESS AND OUR PARTICIPATION IN IT IS EXPRESSED IN THE VISHUDDHA CHAKRA - AND AS WE BECOME MORE ADEPT IN DEALING WITH THE TOXINS (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL) IN OUR LIVES, OUR SPEECH REFLECTS THE PURITY AND BALANCE OF OUR CONSCIOUS AWARENESS.

THE VISHUDDHA CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE THIRD HEAVEN, OR THE HEAVEN OF COUNSEL.

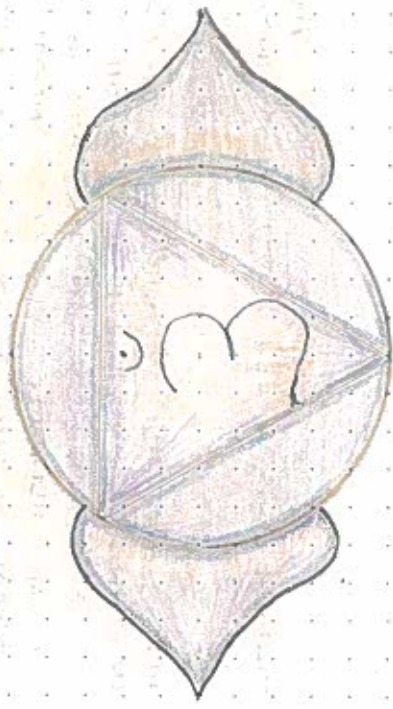
In the context of meditating through the Seven Heavens, the Vishuddha Chakra is an important way-station of the soul where we must deal with our poison by looking to learn as the Serpent raised in the wilderness, here we find healing and purification from the deadly poison of Adam who fractured our consciousness in Eden. There is a compulsion not through suppressing the toxicity, but by sitting with it, and allowing the Holy Spirit to purify the venom so that we are no longer truly harmed by evil, but can speak and act from a place of goodness even where the effects of evil are present. There is especially important when it comes to our words, where there is such a temptation to repay evil with evil, yet here our voice can be taken up in the cause of the Kingdom of the Heavens as we walk the path of purity, peace, and balance through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit.

IN THIS UPWARD JOURNEY INTO THE HEAVENS WITH CHRIST, WITH OUR CONSCIOUSNESS REVEALED IN THE LOWER HEAVENS AND ESTABLISHED IN THE ENERGETIC CENTERS OF OUR SOULS (THE LOWER FOUR CHAKRAS) WE ARE INVITED INTO THE DIVINE COUNCIL WHERE CHRIST IS ENTHRONED UPON A FLOOR OF BLAZING STONES, AND ALL OF GOD'S CREATURES IN THEIR GLORY-BODIES DISCUSS AND TRACE INTO THE MYSTERIES OF THE DIVINE PLAN AS IT IS REVEALED. IF ONE REMAINS HERE LONG ENOUGH THE LIVING WORDS OF GOD, AND THE WISDOM OF ALL GOD'S CREATURES, BECOME ONE'S OWN.

• THE VISHUDDHA (THROAT) CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE SEVENTH HEAVEN.

In the Third Heaven, Sophia guides us to the throne room of Christ in the company of all rational creatures that dwell in glorious union with God, including the human (and non-human) saints, the angels, the twenty-four elders, four living creatures, the seven-fold Spirit, and the Father at whose right hand sits Jesus. We take with us the sword the Spirit gave us in the Fourth Heaven, and here Christ plunges it into our throat. As the sword penetrates outward and spirit at Christ's feet as light within in our own words are illumined by the living Word of God so that the voice of God becomes our own.

THIRD EYE CHAKRA



AJNA

AJNA / AGYA = "BROW" | "COMMAND, KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM"

WHILE THE AJNA, OR THIRD EYE CHAKRA IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ONE OF THE FIVE ELEMENTS LIKE THE LOWER FIVE CHAKRAS ARE, IT IS DEPICTED WITH TWO PETALS THAT SYMBOLIZE DUALITY (E.G. LIGHT & DARKNESS). WE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER THIS DUALITY AS AN ABSOLUTE, RATHER AS AN EXPRESSION OF A HIGHER UNITY. DUALITY ALLOWS US TO SEE AND PERCEIVE DISTINCTION AND DIFFERENCE AMONG ALL THINGS, THOUGH THEY SHARE A COMMON, UNIFIED SOURCE IN THE ONE (WE, GOD).

• AJNA IS ASSOCIATED WITH WISDOM AND THE POWER OF TRUE PERCEPTION.

• IN SOME YOGIC TRADITIONS THE AJNA IS CORRELATED WITH THE DEITIES OF SHIVA & SHAKTI AS MASCULINE AND FEMININE PRINCIPLES. UNDERSCORING THE DUALISTIC NATURE OF THIS CHAKRA, IT IS ALSO ASSOC-

THE SOUL'S JOURNEY THROUGH HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS DRAWS NEAR COMPLETION AN THE THIRD-EYE CHAKRA (IN PREPARATION FOR ASCENSION INTO DIVINE CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE CROWN CHAKRA). HERE CONSCIOUSNESS EXPRESSED IN THE THROAT CHAKRA IS ENLIGHTENED IN CONSCIOUSNESS OF TRUE PERCEPTION AS THE MIND CAN SEE INTO THE TRUE NATURE OF REALITY UNDERSTANDING BOTH THE UNITY AND DISTINCTIONS THAT BIND ALL THINGS TOGETHER.

THE AJNA CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE SECOND HEAVEN.

In this Christian adaptation of yogic practice, the third-eye chakra is a vital centre of self-conscious perception. Opening the Ajna is to unlock the self-power to observe and understand the inner and outer worlds. Though all creation exists in God as unity, in the realm of creation, the finite world appears to us as distinct and diverse. The third-eye perceives difference, and duality, in all of its mind, spiritual and aesthetic diversity, discerns qualitative and quantitative differences between objects in creation, yet beneath and above, there the Ajna sees the unity in all things and the Truth which pierces the veil of illusion. For the Christian practitioner, the highest vision of the third-eye is the capability to see Christ eschatologically present in every quantum of reality. When He is seen in all things, the pilgrim is ready for the Divine Consciousness contained in the Crown chakra.

SECOND HEAVEN



Heaven of Understanding

THE SECOND HEAVEN, ACCORDING TO IRENAEUS, IS THE HEAVEN OF UNDERSTANDING. AS WE ASCEND WITH JESUS FURTHER INTO THE HEAVENS, WE COME INTO THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF UNDERSTANDING. UNDERSTANDING HERE IS THE PERCEPTIVE POWER OF KNOWING, OR PERCEIVING WHAT IS KNOWN (ESPECIALLY THE KNOWLEDGE CONTAINED IN THE FIFTH HEAVEN, THOUGH HERE ALL SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE CAN BE KNOWN). THIS UNDERSTANDING IS NEVER GAINED BY THE SOLITARY SELF, BUT IS LEARNED TOGETHER IN THE COMPANY OF ALL WHO INHABIT THE HEAVENS. THE "I" WHO SEES AND UNDERSTANDS IS NOT THE SELF IN ISOLATION, BUT THE "I" SUBSUMED IN THE INFINITELY UNFOLDING "WE" OF CREATION. BRINGING ITS UNIQUE PERCEPTION INTO THE PERCEPTIVE RANGE OF THE COMMUNITY OF RATIONAL CREATURES.

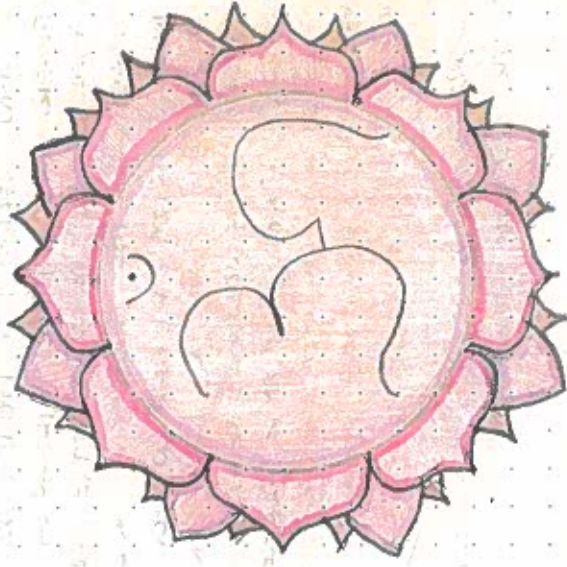
THE HEBREW TERM IN ISAIAH 11:2 IS תִּיבּוֹן (BIBAH) REFERRING TO THE INSIGHT THAT COMES FROM KNOWLEDGE. IN THE GREEK ΤΥΧΗ, THE TERM IS ΟΥΚΕΤΟΙΣ (SYNESES), REFERRING TO THE BRINGING TOGETHER OF DIFFERENT THINGS INTO THE DOMAIN OF KNOWLEDGE.

HAVING ASCENDED WITH CHRIST INTO THE SECOND HEAVEN, LADY WISDOM, GUIDES US TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF ALL THAT WE HAVE LEARNED IN THE FIVE LOWER HEAVENS IN ORDER TO ATTAIN TO TRUE SPIRITUAL VISION. THE PERCEPTION WE GAIN IN THE HEAVEN OF UNDERSTANDING IS THE ABILITY TO DISCERN ALL THINGS IN THE REALM OF CREATION, BY UNDERSTANDING DISTINCTION AND DIFFERENCE, AS WELL AS UNITY WE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THE GOOD IN ALL THINGS AS GOD IS PRESENT IN ALL, AND WE WILL ALSO SEE HOW & WHY EVIL TENDS TO WARP AND OBSCURE WHAT GOD HAS MADE GOOD.

• THE AJNA CHAKRA (THIRD EYE) IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE SECOND HEAVEN.

Sophia guides us into the Second Heaven with the ascended Christ, and here, among the infinite marvels of the heavens we see a large marble and onyx mosaic depicting the yin and the yang, encircled by colored stones of each hue in the rainbow. This signifies our ability to perceive the unity of reality in duality and diversity. The understanding, which is attained to but never learned upon, we see truly the way things present themselves to us; both as they appear (which is all former mixed with lust & illusion) and as they actually are in God's creation. Only when we have gained this understanding can God's presence and in the company of a glorified rational creature are we prepared then to ascend into the all encompassing Heaven of Divine Wisdom.

CROWN CHAKRA



SAHASRARA

SAHASRARA "THOUSAND" OR "INFINITE"

THE SAHASRARA OR CROWN CHAKRA IS OF THE INFINITE ELEMENT (TATVA) THAT IS WITHOUT BEGINNING AND WITHOUT END WHERE THE PURE LUMINOUSITY OF GOD'S DIVINE LIGHT SHINES IN ALL ITS SPECTRAL RADIANCE UPON, IN, AND THROUGH ALL THAT IS. THE THOUSAND-PETALED LOTUS IS THE SACRED HOUSE OF THE INFINITE LOCATED WHERE THE BODY AND SOUL ARE JOINED AT THE CROWN, WHERE ALL OF CREATION'S ELEMENTS ARE JOINED IN UNITY. IN THE ONE, HERE THE MEDITATOR ENTERS INTO THE INFINITE VAULT OF GOD'S CONSCIOUSNESS.

IN THE YOGIC TRADITION THE FIFTY ASPECT OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SAHASRARA IS SHIVA AS AHI ANADI (WITHOUT BEGINNING, WITHOUT END), SHIVA HERE REPRESENTS SAT-CHIT-ANANDA (BEING, CONSCIOUSNESS, BLISS) IN ALL ITS DIVINE PERFECTION.

AS THE SOUL'S ENERGY ASCENDS TO THE CROWN CHAKRA, THE MEDITATOR TRANSCENDS ALL CREATURELY CONSCIOUSNESS AND ENTERS INTO DIVINE CONSCIOUSNESS. HERE WE ARE GRANTED A DIVINE VISION OF THE INFINITE WISDOM OF GOD, THAT IS REFLECTED IN AND CONSTITUTES THE VERY BEING OF ALL THINGS AND THESE ARE UNIFIED AS ONE IN GOD.

THE SAHARARA OR CROWN CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE FIRST AND ALL ENCOMPASSING HEAVEN

When the Christian yoga practice has reached the Saharara, the meditator has transcended the mutable world of forms and ascended into the realm of eternal ideas where God exists as the All in all things. The wisdom that the soul attains here is direct and flows from its Infinite Source. The "I am" of subjective consciousness enters into the pure consciousness of "I AM THAT I AM" of God's very nature. Here the self is liberated from itself to be itself in God. Purity, liberation, being, consciousness, bliss are all One in the crown chakra. From this transcendent union of God, and the true nature of reality, we can then re-enter our illusion-prone world and discern what in it is really real, and what only appears to be but will one day pass. It is with the wisdom in the Saharara that we can live and be in this world in such a way that we are not hindered in our journey through life as well as guided that helps our journey to the enlightenment that comes from truly knowing the infinite love of God.

FIRST HEAVEN



Heaven of Wisdom

ST. IRENAEUS TEACHES US IN ON THE APOSTOLIC PREACHING THAT THE FIRST HEAVEN IS THE HEAVEN OF WISDOM. THIS HEAVEN ENCOMPASSES ALL THE HEAVENS SO THAT EACH OF THE SIX LOWER HEAVENS ARE BUT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE FIRST AND HIGHEST. THIS IS THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF HOLY SOPHIA OR LADY WISDOM WHOSE SUPRA-PERSONAL PRESENCE IS THE TRINE ESSENCE OF GOD AND THE DIVINITY WHICH IS THE CONSTITUTING PRINCIPLE OF ALL THINGS IN WHICH THE SON OF GOD IS PRESENT AS LOGOS AND WHICH IS IRRADIATED BY THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO IS THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD.

THE HEBREW TERM GIVEN IN ISAIAH 11:2-3 IS HOKMA (HOKMA), A FEMINE NOUN THAT CAN REFER TO ANYTHING RANGING FROM SPIRITUAL WISDOM TO SKILL. THE GREEK ΣΟΦΙΑΝΗ SURPLIES SOPHIA (SOPHIAS), THAT CAN LIKEWISE REFER TO A FACIL OR A CRAFT, BUT ALSO TO A MASTERED KNOWLEDGE THAT LEADS TO A WISE AND PRUDENT LIFE. FOR BOTH HOKMA AND SOPHIA HERE ARE REFERRING TO THE ENCOMPASSING WISDOM OF DIVINITY IN HER SOPHIANIC SPLENDOR.

CHRIST HAS LED US AT LAST IN HIS TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION TO HIS INFINITE THRONE IN THE VERY WISDOM OF GOD. HERE HE IS CROWNED IN HIS SPLENDOR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, RADIATING THE FATHER'S GLORY INTO ALL THINGS AS THE VERY WORD OF THEIR BEING. HERE IN THE INFINITE VAULT OF HEAVEN, ALL THINGS RESOUND IN HARMONIOUS CHORUS WITH THE LOGOS OF LIFE, ROBED IN THE LUCENT GARMENTS WOVEN FOR THEM BY LADY WISDOM. HERE IN THE FIRST HEAVEN WE FIND OUR TRUE SELVES SEATED WITH CHRIST IN GOD, PARTAKING OF THE DIVINE NATURE WITH HOLY SOPHIA AS THE RECEPTIVE BEING OF OUR BEING, GIVEN RATIONAL EXISTENCE BY THE CONSCIOUS, LIVING WORD OF CHRIST WITHIN US.

THE SAHARARA OR CROWN CHAKRA IS THE SOUL'S PORTAL INTO THE FIRST HEAVEN

Here in the First Heaven we are united to God, Being, and all beings as Body Wisdom when in the Throne of Life in this spiritual dimension or Pure Light of the Holy Spirit's radiant Presence. The Tree of Life might occlude in our vision as both Crown and Throne where Christ reigns at the Father's right hand. We dwell here in the mysterious vaults of the Infinite where every being is identical to the Divine Idea that conceived them, encircling Spirit's throne in the blissful, protegee dance of life eternal. Here each is both a window and a mirror reflecting and absorbing the prismatic spectrum of God's uncreated light. This is our true home above and we harken the day when the highest Heaven is poured to Earth in the new creation by living from the transcendent wisdom of the Spirit and all-encompassing heaven in our daily lives, chance, and relationships.

VIRTUE OF TEMPERANCE



(The Gift of Wonder)

ENKRATEIA (ENKRATEIA - GREEK); DAMA (DAMA - SANSKRIT)

IN EVERY HEAVEN THE HOLY SPIRIT BESTOWS GIFTS TO THOSE WHO ASCEND WITH THE DESCENDED LORD. IN THE SEVENTH HEAVEN THE SPIRIT GIVES TO US THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF WONDER, AND THIS WONDER PRODUCES IN US THE VIRTUE OF TEMPERANCE, OR SELF CONTROL AS WE ABIDE IN GODS PRESENCE WITH THE WHOLE COMPANY OF RATIONAL CREATURES WHO LIVE IN GRATITUDE TO THEIR MAKER.

ST. PAUL LISTS TEMPERANCE (ENKRATEIA) AS A FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN GALATIANS 5. THE POINT OF TEMPERANCE IS NOT EXCESSIVE ASCETICISM (SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES) BUT THE ATTAINMENT OF BALANCE IN THE MIDST OF LIVES MANY PASSIONS, WHICH WHEN OUT OF BALANCE HINDERS THE EXPERIENCE OF BLISS AND CONTENTMENT IN OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.

THE VIRTUE OF TEMPERANCE IS CELEBRATED ACROSS MANY CULTURES, PHILOSOPHICAL SCHOOLS, AND SPIRITUAL TRADITIONS. IN THE HINDU TRADITION DAMA IS CONSIDERED VITAL TO BECOMING A WELL DEVELOPED PERSON, LIKEWISE SOCRATES, PLATO, AND ARISTOTLE VIEWED VIRTUE AS AN IMPORTANT VIRTUE IN MANAGING LIFE IN THE BODY.

AS WE DWELL IN THE HEAVENS, WE NOT ONLY RECEIVE GIFTS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT SO THAT WE MIGHT GROW IN VIRTUE, WE ALSO ARE EMPOWERED TO OVERCOME OUR VICES. THOUGH THIS TRANSITION INTO A VIRTUOUS LIFE IS GRADUAL, SO LONG AS WE PERSIST ON THE PATH THROUGH THE HEAVENS, THE SPIRIT WILL GRACE US WITH THE STRENGTH TO LIVE ABOVE THE VICES THAT HINDER OUR COMMUNAL AND SPIRITUAL LIFE.

THE VICE OF DESPONDENCE, ALSO CALLED SLOTH, OR DESPAIR WAS DEPICTED AS ACEDIA (σκηδία) IN THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD. ACEDIA WAS COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD TO BE AMONG THE MOST DEADLY OF VICES BY THE CHURCH FATHERS BEING THE NOONDAY DEMON WHOSE VENOM SABS US OF SPIRITUAL VITALITY.

WONDER BESTOWS THE VIRTUE OF TEMPERANCE WHICH HELPS US TO NOT IDENTIFY WITH AND OVERINDULGE THE DEPRESSIVE EMOTIONS, THOUGH GRIEF, AND SORROW CAN BE HEALTHY FEELINGS TO EXPRESS, SINCE WE ALL EXPERIENCE THESE, WHEN WE LOOSE OUR SENSE OF WONDER AND GRATITUDE, WE CAN OFTEN SINK UN-INTENTIONALLY INTO DESPAIR AND SPIRITUAL LAZINESS WHERE WE LOSE OUR CAPACITY TO CONNECT TO GOD, OTHERS AND EVEN OURSELVES. TEMPERANCE HELPS US REGULATE OUR EMOTIONAL LIFE IN SUCH A WAY WHERE WE CAN EXPERIENCE THE WHOLE RANGE OF HUMAN EMOTION, BUT GRANTS US A TRANSCENDENT PERSPECTIVE THAT GUARDS US FROM THE

DESPONDENCE (Vice of Acedia)

TO OVER-IDENTIFY WITH AND EMOTIONS. IN OVER INDUERGE OUR TEMPERANCE GUARDS US FROM ACEDIA, WHICH HINDERS US GREATLY FROM SPIRITUAL GROWTH



VIRTUE OF JUSTICE



(The Staff of Devotion)
δικαιοσύνη (GREEK DIKAIOSYNE) DTY (TAEDEK - HEBREW)

AS WE IMMERSE OURSELVES IN THE 6TH HEAVEN, WE GROW IN THE GIFT OF DEVOTION. OVER TIME AND WITH PRACTICE WE GAIN STRENGTH AND INSIGHT FROM THE SPIRIT WHO INSTRUCTS US IN THE VIRTUE OF JUSTICE.

WHILE THE VIRTUE OF JUSTICE (OR RIGHTEOUSNESS) CERTAINLY CARRIES THE NOTION OF LEGAL OBLIGATION AND CIVIL VIRTUE, AT THE TRANSCENDENTAL LEVEL JUSTICE RUNS FAR DEEPER: IT SPEAKS TO MUTUALITY, RIGHTEOUSNESS, EQUITY, AND EVEN HARMONIOUS BALANCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND CREATION. THIS SOCIAL RELATIVITY AND RECIPROCALITY IS AT THE HEART OF JUSTICE. THIS SURPASSES JUST FOLLOWING THE RULES SINCE RULES AND LAWS CAN OFTEN BE USED TO DISTORT OR PERVERT JUSTICE. AS A VIRTUE, JUSTICE, AS THE PROPHET MICAH TEACHES US, IS NO MORE AN ABSTRACT IDEAL TO UPHOLD, IT IS AN ACTION TO BE MINDFULLY ENGAGED IN (MICAH 6:8). AS WE GROW IN THE VIRTUE OF JUSTICE WE ARE ABLE TO SEE MORE BALANCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS DUE TO THE SOCIAL NATURE OF JUSTICE, AND THIS PARTICULAR GRACE IS PARTICIPATED IN AS WE WALK THE PATH OF DEVOTION.

AS WE WALK IN THE GIFT OF DEVOTION IN THE 6TH HEAVEN THE SPIRIT FORMS IN US THE VIRTUE OF JUSTICE WHICH EMPOWERES US TO OVERCOME THE VICE OF ANGER (OR WRATH). IN MANY WAYS JUSTICE AND VICIOUS ANGER MIRROR EACH OTHER, YET WRATH PARODIES JUSTICE BY WARPING IT IN THE SELF-ABSORPTION OF THE EGO.

THE VICE OF ANGER (WRATH) IS TRANSLATED AS 'AN' (אָן) IN HEBREW, 'ΑΡΗ (ARH) IN GREEK, AND 'KROHA' (क्रोहा) IN SANSKRIT. THIS DOES NOT REFER TO ANGER AS A NATURAL PASSION WHICH CAN BE EITHER GOOD OR BAD DEPENDING ON THE CONTEXT, RATHER IT IS WHEN ANGER BOILS OVER INTO DESTRUCTIVE RAGE OR WRATH. THIS VICIOUS ANGER CAN NEVER BRING ABOUT TRUE JUSTICE SINCE IT IS AN INTENSIFIED, UNBALANCED RESPONSE.

IN GROWING MORE IN BALANCE, LEARNING TO DO JUSTICE IN OUR LIVES, AND DEEPENING OUR SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO GOD AND OTHERS THROUGH DEVOTION IN THE HEAVENLY PRESENCE OF GOD, WE FIND OURSELVES LESS AND LESS IN THE PARALYZING, IMPLOSIVE AND SOMETIMES EXPLOSIVE GRIP OF ANGER. IN THE HEAVENS WE LEARN TO GAIN BETTER CONTROL OVER OUR PASSIONS SO THAT THEY DO NOT CONTROL US.

ANGER

(Vice of Wrath)



VIRTUE OF HOPE



(The Gift of Knowledge)

ΕΛΠΙΣ (ELPIS - GREEK), TIPP (QAWAH - HEBREW), प्रीति (PRITIH - SANSKRIT)

THE ORIGINS OF THE HEBREW TERM FOR HOPE REFER TO THE TENSION OF A STRING SUSPENDED AND STRETCHED BETWEEN TWO OBJECTS. HOPE IS AN IN-BETWEEN VIRTUE THAT SITS IN PATIENCE WITH THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE WHILE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE OBJECT HOPE FOR. THIS MAKES THE CONTENT OF HOPE VITAL BECAUSE FALSE HOPE CAN DO GREAT DAMAGE TO A SOUL.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE FIFTH HEAVEN IS THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE. THIS INTUITIVE KNOWING THAT IS FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE MANIPURA (NAVEL/SOLAR PLEXUS) CHAKRA IS HIGHLY INSTRUCTIVE IN THE VIRTUE OF HOPE, BECAUSE HERE WE LEARN WHAT IS WORTHY OF HOPE AND WHAT IS NOT. THE PERSON WHO HAS, BY PRACTICE IN THE DIVINE PRESENCE, LEARNED TO HOPE IN GOD, MAY ENDURE MUCH IN LIFE, BUT THEIR HOPE REMAINS UNBROKEN BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT ALL WE HOPE FOR AND DESIRE FINDS ITS ULTIMATE SATISFACTION IN GOD.

THE ONE WHO HAS ACQUIRED THE VIRTUE OF TRUE HOPE BECOMES A CONDUIT OF HOPE FOR THE WORLD AROUND THEM.

अतिभ्र (ATYAHARA SANSKRIT), זָהָר (ZALAL HEBREW), κοιλία (KOILIA GREEK)

IN THE FIFTH HEAVEN AS WE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF KNOWLEDGE AND GROW IN THE VIRTUE OF HOPE WE OVERCOME THE DEVOURING VICE OF GLUTTONY. FOOD AND DRINK AND ALL THAT WE HAVE AN APPETITE FOR CAN BE TREMENDOUS GOODS TO BE ENJOYED, HOWEVER WHEN OUR APPETITES CONTROL US WE BECOME DEVOURED BY THE THINGS WE SEEK TO DEVOUR, AND ALL THE WHILE TRUE SATISFACTION ELUDES US.

WITHIN THE DEVOURING VICE OF GLUTTONY IS A PERPETUAL LACK, A NAGGING FEAR THAT A GOOD THING WILL RUN OUT, OR THAT THERE WON'T BE ENOUGH FOR ALL, SO YOU MUST GET AS MUCH AS YOU CAN AS SOON AS YOU CAN. MANY WHO ARE DEVOURED BY GLUTTONY ARE RULED BY THIS FEAR AS IT INFECTS ALL THEIR DESIRES. HOWEVER AS OUR SOULS ARE STRENGTHENED IN THE MANIPURA CHAKRA WITH THE VIRTUE OF HOPE, WE LEARN THAT IN GOD EVERY GOOD THING IS INEXHAUSTIBLE AND EVERY TRUE DESIRE IS SATISFIED. HOPE TEACHES US THAT IN THE HEAVENS, THERE IS NO LACK OR NEED TO BE DRIVEN BY FEAR. AS WE LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE LACK IS A REAL EXPERIENCE, KNOWING THAT OUR HEAVENLY INHERITANCE IS OTHERWISE, WE CAN NAVIGATE LEAN TIMES WITH GRACE, KNOWING THAT GOD WILL NEVER LET US GO WITHOUT WHAT OUR SPIRITS NEED MOST.

DEVOURING

(Vice of Abstinence)



VIRTUE

OF

WILLPOWER



(The Gift of Courage)

δύσκολα (DYSPOLA GREEK), יָמִין (AMOS HEBREW), श्रुति (SHRUTI SANSKRIT)

AS WE ASCEND WITH CHRIST INTO THE FOURTH HEAVEN, IN THE ANAHATA (HEART) CHAKRA, OUR SOULS GROW IN THE VIRTUE OF WILLPOWER FROM THE GIFT OF COURAGE. WE RECEIVE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR LIVES ON EARTH ARE FILLED WITH MANY OBSTACLES THAT TEST OUR COURAGE AND RESOLVE, YET IN THE HEAVENS WE GAIN THE SPIRITUAL STRENGTH TO MEET EACH CHALLENGE ON OUR PATH WITH THE WILLPOWER TO OVERCOME.

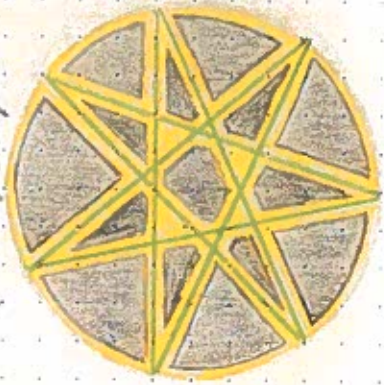
THIS VIRTUE OF WILLPOWER GROWS WITH COURAGE, BUT NEVER IN A WAY WHERE WE MUST SUFFER OR RUN AWAY FROM OUR WEAKNESSES. AS ST. PAUL TELLS US, GODS POWER IS PERFECTED IN OUR WEAKNESS. AS WE COME TO SEE OUR HEARTS AS CONDUITS OF DIVINE POWER, WE SEE THAT ALL OF OUR STRENGTH FLOWS FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD, AND WE NEED NOT FEAR EVEN OUR WEAKNESSES.

RESENTMENT, OR THE VICE OF ENVY, IS A PARTICULARLY CANCEROUS VICE THAT ARISES FROM A DEEP INWARD SENSE OF LACK, THAT THEN LOOKS AT THE GOODS (PERCEIVED OR REAL) ENJOYED BY OTHERS AND OBJECTIFIES THESE AS DESIRES THAT TURNS A FRIEND INTO AN ENEMY AND THE NEIGHBOR AS AN OBSTACLE. IF THE VICE OF RESENTMENT ISN'T DEALT WITH BY FINDING INNER CONTENTMENT, IT WILL FOSTER ALL THE VIRTUES, AND MAKE THEM OPERATE AS VICES.

AS THE ANAHATA CHAKRA OPENS AND THE HEART IS HEALED IN THE FOURTH HEAVEN, THE PILGRIM GROWS IN SPIRITUAL PERSPECTIVE, PERCEIVING THAT THEY'RE BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES, AND THEIR HEART IS GIVEN THE GIFT OF COURAGE FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. IN THIS PROCESS, THE VICE OF RESENTMENT LOOSENS ITS GRIP, AND THE SOUL IS FREED TO REJOICE IN THE REJOICING OF OTHERS, BECAUSE IT IS ANCHORED IN ABUNDANCE IN GOD'S PRESENCE.

THE PILGRIM WHO IS NO LONGER MASTERED BY ENVY HAS MASTERED THEIR OWN DESIRES BY LEARNING THAT EVERY DESIRE IS SATISFIED IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

RESENTMENT (Vice of Envy)



VIRTUE OF DISCERNMENT



(The Gift of Council)

σοφρονης (PRONESIS: GREEK) / נִסְיָן (NIGMAN: HEBREW), ΤΑΙ (PRINNA: SAMARITAN)

AS WE ASCEND INTO THE UPPER HEAVENS WITH CHRIST, WE GROW IN THE PRESENCE OF LADY WISDOM. IN THE FIFTH HEAVEN, THE SPIRIT BESTOWS UPON US SOPHIA'S GIFT OF COUNSEL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD & ALL RATIONAL BEINGS IN GROWING IN THE GIFT OF COUNCIL WE ACQUIRE THE VIRTUE OF DISCERNMENT (OR PRUDENCE).

ARISTOTLE SAYS THE FOLLOWING OF *σοφρονης* (PRUDENCE) OR DISCERNMENT: IT IS "A STATE OF GRASPING THE TRUTH, INVOLVING REASON, CONCERNED WITH ACTION ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE GOOD OR BAD FOR A HUMAN BEING."

IN ROMANS 7, ST PAUL SAYS THAT THE MIND (*νομος*) OF THE FLESH IS DEATH, BUT THE MIND OF SPIRIT IS LIFE AND PEACE. THE BODY, WITH ITS EGO-DRIVEN IDENTITY IS BOUND TO YIELD DISCERNMENT THAT IS BOUND TO THE DEATH OF MORTALITY. HOWEVER, THE VIRTUE OF SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT DRAWS US INTO IMMORTALITY AND THE PERFECT PEACE OF GOD'S PRESENCE. AS WE LEARN TO LIVE FROM SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT, PAUL TELLS US THAT EVEN OUR MORTAL BODIES WILL RECEIVE THE DIVINE LIFE, HERE, WITH THE VIRTUE OF DISCERNMENT OUR FRAIL MORTAL LIVES BECOME CONDUITS FOR THE DIVINE LIFE TO BE SHARED WITH OTHERS.

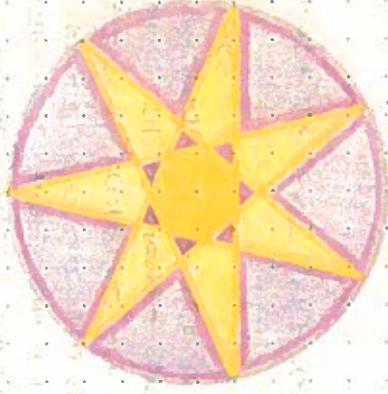
OBJECTIFICATION, OR THE VICE OF LUST ARISES IN US AS THE DESIRE FOR PLEASURE BECOMES OBJECTIFIED, AND WE FIXATE ON THESE OBJECTS REGARDLESS OF THE COST SATISFYING THESE DESIRES INFLICT ON US OR OTHERS WHILE THE PLEASURES ASSOCIATED WITH LUST (SEXUAL OR OTHERWISE) ARE OFTEN GOOD AND SOMETIMES EXCEEDINGLY SO, WHEN THESE ARE PURSUED WITHOUT DISCRETIONMENT, WE LOSE OUR FOOTING ON THE SPIRITUAL PATH AND OUR DESIRES, INSTEAD OF SERVING US END UP CONTERLING US.

THE VIRTUE OF DISCERNMENT WHICH THE SPIRIT BESTOWS UPON US IN THE 3RD HEAVEN HELPS US ORDER OUR DESIRES IN THE LIGHT OF REASON. WHAT WE FIND WITH LUST, THEN, IS THAT IT IS A DISORDERED DESIRE, AND THAT OUR DESIRE FOR PLEASURE CAN BE RE-ORIENTED TOWARD OUR HIGHEST GOOD. IN THIS CASE, FORTNIVE ABSTINENCE CAN GIVE OUR VICE AS MUCH POWER AS OVERINDULGENCE WE GROW IN PRUDENCE AND DISCERNMENT AS WE LEARN TO EXPRESS OUR DESIRES IN A WAY THAT IS GOOD FOR US, OTHERS, AND RESONATES WITH THE UNIQUE PURPOSE FOR WHICH GOD PLACED US IN THIS LIFE. DISCERNMENT AS A VIRTUE OVERCOMES VICES SUCH AS LUST BY HELPING US UNDERSTAND WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOOD FOR US, AND IN RECEIVING THE SPIRITUAL POWER TO PURSUE IT.

OBJECTIFICATION (Vice of Lust)



VIRTUE OF FAITH



(The Staff of Understanding)

TRUTHS (FAITHS: GREEK) INOX (EMMANUEL-HEBREW), STAFF (SRADHA-SANSKRIT)

AS CHRIST GUIDES THE PILGRIM UPWARD INTO THE SECOND HEAVEN, THE AJNA CHAKRA IS OPENED AND THE HOLY SPIRIT GRANTS TO US THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING. AS WE GROW IN THIS SECOND SIGHT THAT ENABLES US TO RECOGNIZE THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN ALL THINGS WE ALSO GROW IN THE VIRTUE OF FAITH

THE VIRTUE OF FAITH CERTAINLY INCLUDES THE ABILITY TO BELIEVE IN WHAT OUR PHYSICAL EYES CANNOT SEE. HOWEVER THE VIRTUE OF FAITH EXCEEDS MERE INTELLECTUAL ASSENT TO A SET OF TRUTHS - RATHER IT INCLUDES BOTH TRUST AND TRUSTWORTHINESS, FAITH AND FAITHFULNESS, TRUTH AND TRUTHFULNESS. THE VIRTUE OF FAITH IS EXPRESSED IN A MODE OF LIVING IN ACCORD WITH WHAT ONE UNDERSTANDS TO BE TRUE.

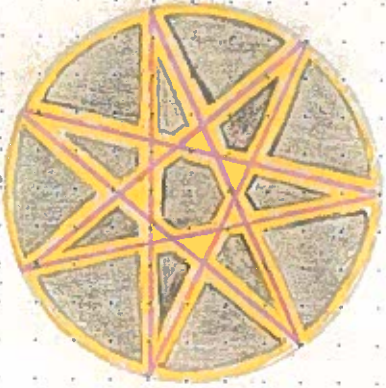
IN A VERY REAL SENSE THE THIRD EYE PERCEIVES UNSEEN TRUTH BY FAITH, MAKING THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD AND CREATION, TRANSPARENT TO THE MIND, WHICH CAN, BY FAITH'S VIRTUE SEE THROUGH THE ILLUSORY ASPECTS OF THE WORLD INTO THE TRUE NATURE OF REALITY, LIVING LIFE ANCHORED IN GOD

THE LORD TEACHES US "BE WARY AND GUARD AGAINST ALL GREED, BECAUSE ONE'S LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST IN THE ABUNDANCE OF POSSESSIONS." (LUKE 12:15) LAO TZU SAYS "THE SUFFICIENCY OF ENDURING WHAT IS SUFFICIENT IS UNCHANGINGLY SUFFICIENT. CONSCIOUSNESS OR GREED LIKE ALL OTHER VICES ARISE FROM THE ILLUSION OF LACK. WHILE THE EXPERIENCE OF SCARCITY IN THE MATERIAL WORLD IS, AS EXPERIENCES GO, VERY REAL, THIS TOO IS AN ILLUSION THAT OBSCURES THE ABUNDANCE THAT IS INHERENT TO OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL NATURE. IF WE LIVE IN THE ILLUSION OF LACK, THE VICE OF GREED COMES AS NATURAL TO US AS BREATHING, AS WE SEEK TO ACQUIRE THINGS THAT CANNOT LAST IN SAD MIMICRY OF WHAT WE ALREADY POSSESS IN THE HEAVENS."

AS WE GAIN THE GIFT OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE SECOND HEAVEN AND GROW IN THE VIRTUE OF FAITH, THE LIE THAT THE VICE OF GREED, THE CRIPPLING DESIRE FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE OTHERS HAVE, THAT WE DO NOT POSSESS, IS THOROUGHLY EXPOSED. IN THE HEAVENS JESUS HAS BLESSED US WITH EVERY PRECIOUS THING, WE HAVE AN IMMORTAL INHERITENCE OF INFINITE ABUNDANCE. THE VIRTUE OF FAITH HELPS US SEE THAT THE VICE OF CONSCIOUSNESS IS A CRIME NOT ONLY AGAINST OUR NEIGHBOR, BUT AGAINST OUR TRUE SELVES, BECAUSE IT OBSCURES OUR ABILITY TO SEE WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE IN GOD - EVERY GOOD AND ENDURING THING IS OUES IN THE INFINITE VAULT OF THE SEVEN HEAVENS.

COVETOUSNESS

(Vice of Greed)



VIRTUE OF LOVE



(The Staff of Wisdom)

TOY (HEBREW: HEBREW); אֱמוּנָה (AGAPE - GREEK); ԺԱՏ (ARMENIAN: SACRIFICENT)

ΕΠΙΩΣ (GREEK); ԹԻԼԻԱ (PHILIA: GREEK); ԺՊՐՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ (GREEK)

AS WE ASCEND TO THE HIGHEST HEAVEN, WE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF WISDOM. AND AS THE HOLY SPIRIT CAVEES US TO SLOWLY COME TO KNOW THE INFINITE BEAUTY OF GOD'S WISDOM WE GROW IN THE VIRTUE OF LOVE. JUST AS ALL OF THE HEAVENS ARE CONTAINED IN THE HEAVEN OF WISDOM, SO ALSO ARE ALL THE VIRTUES CONTAINED IN THE VIRTUE OF LOVE.

THE DIVINE LOVE RADIATES AS AGAPE, OR CHARITY - THE LOVE THAT SEEKS THE GOOD OF OTHERS INTO ALL FORMS OF LOVE. THE EROTIC LOVE OF LOVER AND BELOVED IS GIVEN STABILITY WITH AGAPE. THE EMPATHETIC LOVE OF STORGE IS MET WITH OTHERS' DRIVEN ACTION WITH AGAPE. THE FAMILY AND KINSHIP LOVE OF PHILIA IS GIVEN POWER BY THE SELFLESS LOVE OF AGAPE.

IF THE PILGRIM HAS MANAGED TO ASCEND TO THE HEIGHTS OF WISDOM YET LACKS IN THE VIRTUE OF LOVE, NOTHING HAS BEEN GAINED, FOR THE GOAL OF WISDOM IS LOVE IN ACTION.

THE VICE OF PRIDE IS AS SEDUCTIVE AS IT IS DEADLY BECAUSE OF ITS UNCANNY TENDENCY TO IMITATE AND WARP THE TRUE VIRTUES, SO THAT ONE CAN LIVE WITH THE ILLUSION OF VIRTUE AND PROJECT THIS INTO THE WORLD. JESUS, HOWEVER, AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEAVENS, EXPOSES OUR PRIDE, AND TEACHES US THE WAY OF KENOSIS WHICH BREAKS US OF THE EGOTISTICAL ILLUSION OF PRIDE.

TRUE WISDOM HAS NO NEED FOR PRIDE, BECAUSE IT LACKS NOTHING. THE VICE OF PRIDE ARKES FROM THE EGO'S INSECURITY, SO IT SEEKS TO ELEVATE ITSELF FROM THIS LACK BY PRESENTING THE ILLUSION OF ABUNDANCE (MATERIAL WEALTH, VIRTUE, KNOWLEDGE, ETC). YET THE EGO, AS CHRIS SHOWS US, IS KENOTIC OR SELF-EMPTYING, NO LONGER A PRINCIPLE OF LIFE, BUT A VEHICLE FOR EXPERIENCING AND EXPRESSING THE DIVINE LIFE POWERED BY THE SPIRIT. AS WE GROW IN THE SPIRITUAL GIFT OF WISDOM AND GAIN MATURITY ON THE PATH WE COME TO UNDERSTAND HOW INFANTILE AND DESTRUCTIVE PRIDE IS, AS IT INHIBITS OUR ABILITY TO LIVE FROM AND EXPERIENCE THE LIFE OF GOD.

THE VIRTUE OF LOVE IS OUR MOST POWERFUL TOOL IN WORKING AGAINST PRIDE BECAUSE LOVE LOOKS BEYOND THE SELF TO DISCOVER THAT CHRIST, AND OUR TRUE SELVES ARE ACTUALLY BEHELD WHEN (Vice of Vanity) WE LEARN TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES.

