

The Senet Tarot of Ancient Egypt

Part 1

The Complete Works of Douglass A. White, Ph.D.
Volume 2

古埃及神圖塔羅(一)

白中道博士全集 第二冊



AWAKENED LIFE 覺醒的生命
SACRED SCARAB INSTITUTE 聖甲蟲學院

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古埃及神圖塔羅牌（一）

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Author : DOUGLASS A. WHITE (白中道博士)

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Contact information: gracetia6@gmail.com

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Enlightenment is a viewpoint every person already has available and always has had. It is our essential nature. No technique, practice, or special life style is necessary.

開悟是一個觀點，每一個人都已經可以利用它，而且每一個人都永遠擁有它，它是我們的本性，不需要任何技術、練習、或特殊的生活方式。



Douglass A. White, Ph.D. 1941~2021

He was born in Chicago in 1941, and he graduated from Harvard University in 1964 with Bachelor of Oriental Languages and Literature, after that he entered Taiwan University and began to study the Chinese literature of the former Qin Dynasty in 1965. In 1968, he completed his master's thesis on "Research on Zuo Chuan Quote Poems". Later he returned to Harvard University in the United States to complete his Ph.D. in Oriental Languages and Ancient Civilizations, and wrote the dissertation the Interpretation of the Central Concept of “The Book of Changer” by Scholars in the Han、Song and Ming Dynasties.

The content of all his works: 1) Research on the wisdom of ancient civilizations, including ancient Egypt, China, Buddhism, Judaism, India, etc., 2) Dialyze the authenticity of physical science from the perspective of an observer to connect with the spiritual, 3) Inspiring spirituality Wisdom to continue earth civilization. There are 24 books in total.

白中道博士於 1941 年出生於美國芝加哥，1964 年完成美國哈佛大學的東方語文學士畢業後，1965 年進入台灣大學開始研究前秦中國文學，於 1968 年完成了“左傳引詩研究”的碩士論文；後來又回到美國哈佛大學完成東方語言與古文明博士，論文寫“漢、宋、明代學者對易經中心觀念的解釋”。他畢生所有著作內容型態：1) 古文明智慧研究，包括古埃及、中國、佛學、猶太、印度..... 等等，2) 以觀察者角度來透析物理科學的真實面貌以與心靈接軌，3) 啟發靈性智慧以延續地球文明。總共著作 24 本。

【The Complete Works Catalogue of Douglass A. White, Ph.D.】

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The Senet Tarot of Ancient Egypt

Part I: A History from Pre-Dynastic Times to the Roman Era

Dr. White has written a breakthrough book about the early development of the Tarot in which he identifies the man who not only may have designed the first 78-card Tarot deck, but also who probably wrote the first book describing the deck and how to use it.

Dr. White describes how this work evolved into an effective educational tool for supporting the legitimacy of pharaohs as the leaders of ancient Egypt and a secret society that shaped the course of the 19th and 20th dynasties during which Egypt dazzled the world with its amazing civilization.

The "Da-Rekh" (Tarok) organization continued to clandestinely protect and preserve the knowledge and artifacts associated with their wisdom cult, ensuring in uniquely creative ways that they would last through the dark ages after the fall of Egypt until our day when. **they might shine again in a new age of enlightenment, planetary in scale.**

Dr. White also explores and documents the curious ways in which ancient Egyptian culture was transferred through the medium of sacred geometry and spiritual writing by means of special encoding techniques as part of the Kabbalah (Qabalah) technology used by Phoenicians and Hebrews. The process began as early as the Second Intermediate Period and continued into the Roman Era.

Part II: Discussion of the Cards, How to Do Readings, Spreads, and Games.

Part II of this 500 page work by Dr. White contains a detailed description of how and why he designed his popular Senet Tarot Oracle Deck of Ancient Egypt in the way he did and includes detailed information about each card as well as samples of how to interpret the cards during readings.

He presents his theory of card readings and explores some of the ways by which people from the time of pre-dynastic Egypt down to the Roman Empire may have consulted ingenious Tarot-like oracles.

As evidence he produces examples from the archaeological finds of oracle boards and amulets of various different designs that allowed consultations remarkably similar to Tarot readings of today even though they were not carried out with printed cards such as we use in our era.

The oracle boards also were calendars and astronomical charts as well as embodiments of sacred geometry, refined art, and the essence of ancient Egyptian wisdom culture.

Dr. White demonstrates how the ancient Tarot technology is a wizard's gateway for awakening spiritual awareness, intuition, and a relaxed, abundant lifestyle. He unveils for you a real ancient. Egyptian STARGATE Technology recovered from the drifting desert sands. The technology evolved from man's inherent love of games and the discovery that games can accurately model the way the universe functions. Mastery of the game's internal design leads to knowledge of past, present, and future. Every question has an answer. The challenge is how to interpret the information and apply it successfully.

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The Senet Tarot of Ancient Egypt:

Part I, A History from Pre-Dynastic Times to the Roman Era

by Douglass A. White, Ph.D.

A Delta Point Book

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***Companion for Study:** The Senet Tarot of Ancient Egypt, Part II and an Egyptian-style Tarot deck based on Dr. White's reconstruction of the divination system of ancient Egypt that was known as "Ra Passing Through [His Avatars]" (Senet Ra) [Book of the Dead, Chapter 115.] Available from

www.dpedtech.com.tw ****Highly Recommended:** The **Rider-Waite** version of the Tarot deck. You will find this deck extremely useful when you study the Tarot Card layouts and descriptions provided in Part II of this book. Much of the book's material refers to the drawings by Pamela Colman Smith made under the direction of Arthur Waite that form the Rider-Waite deck.

*****Highly Recommended:** The **Builders of the Adytum** version of the 22 Major Arcana. These drawings by Jessie Burns Parke under the direction of Paul Foster Case are well executed and frequent mention of them is made in this book.

******Also Highly Recommended:** The deck designed by Oswald Wirth.

*********Publication details are in the References at the back of the book. More detailed references are at the back of Part II.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to Thoth and all the great wizards and alchemists who have kept the knowledge of the Tarot alive over the countless millennia and who brought to the world the technology of enlightenment and the methods of preserving and teaching the Secrets through a system of symbols and the writing, engraving, and printing of the symbols in various media. I feel special gratefulness toward my German grandmother who was a poet, musician, psychic, and teller of cards. As a child I watched with curiosity as she laid out her ordinary deck of playing cards and mumbled readings in her German-English accent, calling me "Herzie" as she tried to explain what she was doing. Most of what she told me I later forgot, but she was my first inspiration and induction into the mystery of the cards. My mother, another musician -- and music director at a Jewish temple -- enticed me to sing in her choir during the High Holy Days. This started me learning the rudiments of Hebrew. Dennis Dowell, proprietor of the Oracle Tarot Shoppe, first introduced me to the Tarot cards and showed me how he did readings. I soon acquired dozens of decks and a library of books on the subject. My spiritual guides awakened in me the direct experience of Life. I am especially grateful to Baba-ji. He showed me so many of the Secrets of the Aakhu Light Beings that have become the contents of this book. If you are interested in exploring some of their amazing pathways to enlightenment, you will find mention of them in this book or in the reference materials. My academic mentors tried to teach me the essentials of scholarship. My wives Bonnie and Grace over the years put up with my unusual research and contributed in many subtle ways to making this work possible. Although these and many others -- especially my many wonderful students -- inspired me, I nevertheless have always stubbornly followed my own Star and must take responsibility for all the contents of this book.

The study of the history, content, and application of the Tarot is a vast and mysterious subject that ranges over the whole world and over long stretches of the human experience. Much of its development unfolded either within secret enclaves of wizards and magicians or among the vagaries of the common people as they entertained themselves over the ages. I welcome any corrections, suggestions, or further details on the subject and will include interesting new information in future editions of this work.

Please feel free to contact me at Dept. T, email address: dpedtech@dpedtech.com.

Douglass A. White

June, 2004; updated 2011, Fairfield, Iowa

A Vision

"Imagine the surprise that the discovery of an Egyptian book would cause if we heard it said that a work of the ancient Egyptians still existed in our time -- one of the books saved from the flames which consumed their superb libraries -- and which contained their purest beliefs regarding interesting things. Everyone would, no doubt, be eager to know such a precious and extraordinary book. If we added that this book is in very general use in a large part of Europe and that it has been in the hands of everyone for a number of centuries, it certainly would be surprising were it to be believed. . . .

"This Egyptian book does exist. . . . It is even so common that not one scholar has condescended to bother with it since no one before us has ever suspected its illustrious origin. . . . In a word this book is the game of Tarot. . . ."

-- Antoine Court de Gebelin

-- **Tarot Classic**, 34-36

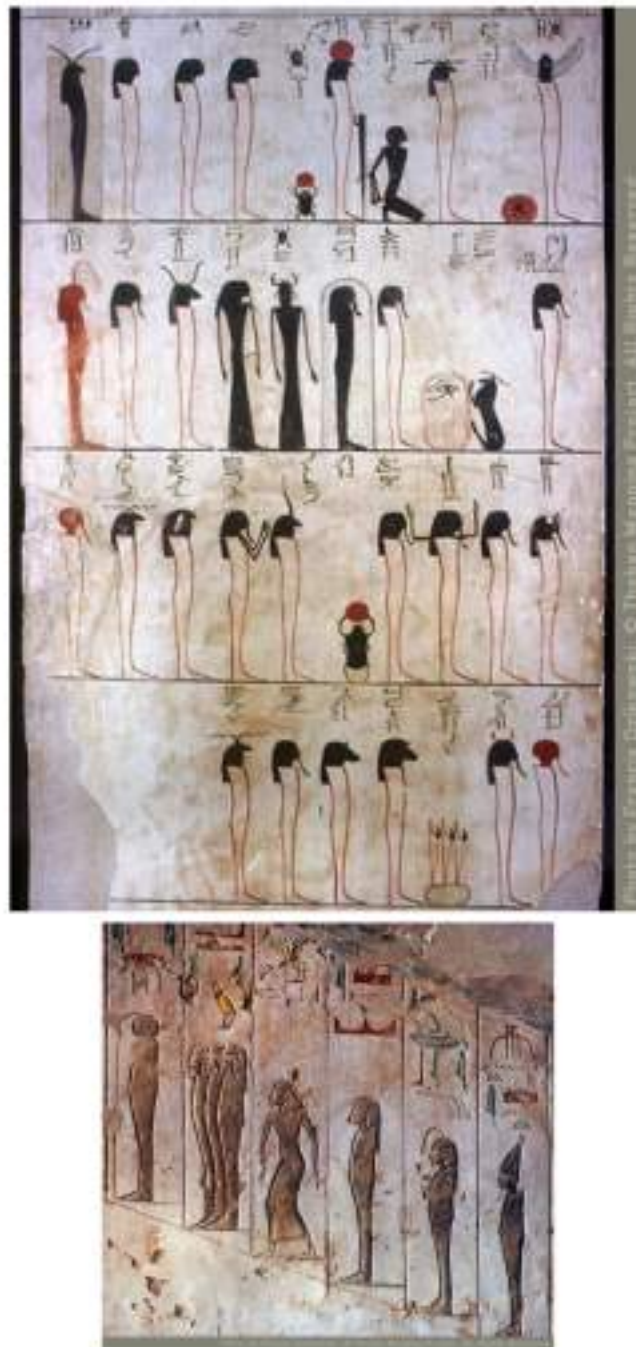
Gebelin (a late 18th century occultist) was wrong in many of the details of his hypothesis when he tried to argue his case for the Tarot as an ancient Egyptian book. But read on, and you may be surprised at some amazing new findings that may well vindicate Gebelin as a man of remarkable intuitive vision or possibly of inside knowledge passed on secretly over the ages by the masters of the wisdom tradition.

An Ancient Vision

"My hair is the hair of Nu. My face is the face of the Disk. My eyes are the eyes of Hathor. My ears are the ears of Up-uat. My nose is the nose of Khenti-Khabas. My lips are the lips of Anpu. My teeth are the teeth of Serqet. My cheeks are the cheeks of the goddess Isis. My hands are the hands of Ba-neb-Tet. My forearms are the forearms of Neith, the Lady of Sais. My backbone is the backbone of Suti. My phallus is the phallus of Beba. My reins are the reins of the Lords of Kher-aha. My chest is the chest of Aa-shefit. My belly and back are the belly and back of Sekhmet. My buttocks are the buttocks of the Eye of Horus. My hips and legs are the hips and legs of Nut. My feet are the feet of Ptah. My fingers and my toes are the fingers and toes of the Living gods. There is no member of my body which is not the member of a god. . . . I am he who cometh forth advancing, whose name is unknown. I am Yesterday. 'Seer of Millions of Years' is my name. I pass along the paths of the divine celestial judges. I am the Lord of Eternity; I decree and I judge like Khepera. . . . I am Un-Nefer, from one period even unto another, and what I have is within me. I am the only One, who proceedeth from an only One, who goeth round about in his course. . . . I open the door in heaven. I rule my throne. I open the way for the births which take place on this day. I am the child who traverseth the road of Yesterday. I am To-day for untold nations and peoples. I am he who protecteth you for millions of years. . . . I am 'He who cannot be known' The might of my strength is within my hand, I am not known by thee, but I am he who knoweth thee. I cannot be held in the hand, but I am he who can hold thee in his hand. Hail O Egg! Hail, O Egg! I am Horus who liveth for millions of years, whose flame shineth upon you, and bringeth your hearts unto me. I am master of my throne. I advance at this season. I have opened a path. I have delivered myself from all evil things. I am the golden dog-headed ape, three palms and two fingers high, which hath neither arms nor legs, and which dwelleth in **Het-ka-Ptah***. I go forth as goeth forth the dog-headed ape which dwelleth in **Het-ka-Ptah**."

-- **Book of the Dead**, Papyrus of Ani, Chapter XLII. (Translated by Wallis Budge.)

* **Het Ka Ptah** means "The Temple of the Opener of the **Ka**" and was an ancient name for Memphis, the huge necropolis surrounding the Great Pyramid of Giza. Ptah was the blacksmith of the gods who forged the tool used for the opening of the mouth ritual to activate and empower the life energy (**Ka**) in a person so that they could express their full creative potential. Ptah is a special transformation of Baba (the transcendental yogi), and that transformation was especially important at Memphis, the site of the throat chakra in the ancient sacred geo-physiology of Egypt.



Examples of thin rectangular Tarok cards with labels found on the walls of the tombs of New Kingdom pharaohs in the Valley of Kings (see pages 55-86 for details).

Each complete deck contains 78 cards.

Photos from Theban Mapping Project

Preface/Postface: What is Intuition?

(Read or reread the following section after you read the book.)

We play with the Tarot to have **fun** and develop **intuition**. Tarot originated as a game and is the ancestor of many card and board games with which people find amusement around the world today. As an amusing set of games the Tarot is a gateway to **fun**. The development of these games into tools of divination opened a simple pathway to direct knowledge of self, intuitive understanding of human affairs, awakening to the present moment, and inspiration on the path of evolution to the future. This gives us an idea how the Tarot relates to **intuition**.

When I first began studying the Tarot, I was fascinated by the art involved with the designs on the cards, intrigued by the consistency of the tradition, and very curious to know where the tradition began and how it developed. I soon discovered that no one knew for sure what the origins of the Tarot were. The two most popular theories were that Tarot came from Egypt or that Tarot came from the Jewish Qabalah. Although Gebelin's theory that Tarot came from ancient Egypt influenced many of the Tarot artists in the past two centuries, the notion was rejected by archaeologists who found no recognizable Tarot decks in the tombs and temples that they excavated and fell into disrepute among scholars. So I began my research with the other popular theory: that Tarot was somehow connected to the mystical Jewish tradition of the Qabalah. At least there was some suggestive evidence with which to start an investigation. To my surprise I found that both theories are correct, but not exactly the way people imagined. In this book I present a new interpretation of the Tarot based on internal and archaeological evidence. I also present a large new body of solid evidence concerning the early history of the Tarot from the dawn of civilization to the rise of the Roman Empire. As we digest and integrate this evidence we may look forward to startling new revelations in coming years.

The Qabalah (Qabalah, Kabbalah, Cabbalah, etc.) Connection

The Tarot as we find it today often is associated with the letters used for writing the Hebrew language because there happen to be 22 Tarot Trumps and 22 letters in the original Hebrew alphabet. Hebrew words are written with letters that evolved from Phoenician letters. Phoenician merchants doing business in Egypt copied the idea of alphabet letters as a simplification of the Egyptian writing system and adapted it to their own language.

The ancient Egyptians wrote with letters to represent individual phonemes along with an elaborate system of syllabic and multi-syllabic symbols that also included many purely ideographic symbols used as semantic determinatives. The Phoenicians and Hebrews decided to use only phonetic letters for writing their languages and devised a simple set of letter symbols based on the Egyptian model, but without directly copying the Egyptian letters. All true alphabets in the world evolved from the Phoenician/Hebrew alphabet. The Phoenician scribes deliberately chose not to use the cumbersome cuneiform syllabic writing that was widely used in Mesopotamia by other Semitic cultures because clay tablets were not suitable for seafaring merchants and camel caravans. The semi-nomadic Hebrews apparently agreed with the Phoenician approach and adopted their alphabet as easy to learn and highly portable.

Many other cultures began to agree with this approach and the alphabet principle was adopted by many diverse cultures. How many communications in the world today depend in part or totally on alphabet letters? The first theory of this book is that the Tarot became a set of pictorial flash cards for learning the letters of the original Phoenician/Hebrew alphabet and the basic counting numbers. If this theory is correct and the Tarot turns out to be the key to understanding the letters we use to communicate with each other around the world, then the Tarot becomes an extremely important cultural document in the history of mankind.

As I studied the traditions and the possible relations of the Tarot Trumps to the Phoenician/Hebrew alphabet, one thing immediately became clear. The correlation of the Tarot Trumps and the alphabet is based on a set of 22 letters and a set of 22 Trumps. However, the Hebrew letters that we often see printed on Tarot cards make use of the Hebrew calligraphy that evolved from the later Hebrew alphabet that now contains 27 letters. The five additional letters used in today's Hebrew are orthographic variants of five of the original 22 letters. This suggests that we should study the earliest forms of the original 22 letters to understand their connection to the Tarot Trumps and not the modern script.

The Trumps usually are numbered from 0 to 21, often with Roman numerals. This is a problem for the hypothesis of a Hebrew origin for the Tarot Trumps, because the Hebrew letters are already numbers, and the Hebrew numbers do not agree with the Roman or Arabic numerals that are usually printed on the Trumps.

In the first place there is no zero in the Hebrew numbering system (or the Roman numeral system). Therefore the frequent assignment of the number zero to the Fool

Trump becomes suspect. Secondly, the Hebrew letter-numbers only go in natural number numerical order from 1 to 10. Then they continue by tens: 20, 30, 40, and so on, up to 100. After that they proceed by 100's: 200, 300, 400, and so on, up to 900 and end with 1000. The Hebrews used the same letter "aleph" for 1 and for 1000. The numbers 500, 600, 700, 800, and 900 are not in the set of original 22, and therefore must have been added later to the alphabet to complete the counting system. The five variant "final" letters (letters written differently when they occur at the end of a word) apparently were added in order to have symbols for the rest of the "hundreds" series of numerals. (Numbers over several thousand are still a real problem in Hebrew.) As a result of these considerations I found it necessary to reject the use of the later Hebrew fonts that are in use today and all of the Roman or Arabic numbers on cards as later accretions that do not relate to the original Tarot.

When I went back to the earliest recorded Hebrew letters, it was immediately clear that the letters were designed as iconic images depicting various aspects of Hebrew life. Each ancient symbol represents an important part of the human body or an important physical object used in the immediate daily life of the semi-nomadic ancient Hebrews. The meaningful names given by the Hebrews to their letters confirmed the correctness of this insight. When the Greeks copied the Hebrew letters for their own language, they copied the sounds of the names, but had no idea what the names represented. To the Greeks the letter names were meaningless identifying tags that they memorized by rote. Gradually the calligraphic scripts of the various evolving alphabets became stylized until the correspondence between the original icons and the modern letters is no longer recognizable. Here are some examples. Which symbols do you think most resemble the original concepts – the modern letters on the left decorated with variable line widths and serifs or the original simple icons?



Hebrew is based on a small set of primal icons that graphically represent physical objects. There is a connection between the letters, sounds, and meanings of many Hebrew words. Each letter additionally represents a number, as I explained above, and Hebrew words therefore are mathematical expressions. This is not as true for languages such as Greek, Latin, or English that simply borrowed the Hebrew letters and adapted them to their respective languages. Because of these ancient

correlations, we often can explore the meanings of Hebrew words from the ancient letter icons with which they are spelled as well as the traditional meanings of root words, but first we must know about the original letters.

Tarot as an Educational Tool

The first theory of this book, therefore, is that the Tarot card images became elaborate illustrations of the ancient Phoenician/Hebrew letters. Or we can say that the letters became extremely simplified line drawings of the images from which they were derived, and the Tarot Trumps became more detailed drawings of the images. In other words the Tarot cards formed a game consisting of flash cards representing the ideas and images behind the alphabet letters and graphic representations of the counting numbers. The Tarot was an ancient Sesame Street game to teach illiterate people the alphabet and counting numbers in times when schools for the general population were essentially non-existent. The images of the Trumps also introduced psychological, physiological, sociological, and natural archetypes that could help people better understand their lives. Over time the gaming aspect of Tarot persisted, but its educational value gradually faded, especially as the cards adapted to different languages and cultures. What remained was a vague sense that the Trump Cards related to certain archetypal qualities or virtues. The numerical values of the Pip Cards of course remained unchanged, but as the population gradually became more sophisticated, learning the basic counting numbers was only of value to small children. Awareness of the value of the archetypes expressed by the Trump images persisted only in circles where people used the cards for divination.

As part of the first theory I will describe how the original Phoenician/Hebrew iconic letters can be derived from a simple concept of geometry that has extremely profound cultural implications, and then show how the derived letters came to represent the archetypes of human life that form the core of the Qabalah tradition as it is encoded in the Tree of Life. The basis in abstract sacred geometry was artfully combined with images from human life and then fleshed out into the detailed pictures on the Trump Cards.

The Egyptian Origin of the Tarot

The second major premise of this book is that Gebelin's hypothesis that the Tarot came out of Egypt was basically correct, although he could not back his claim up with archaeological data because the discipline of archaeology had not yet arisen in the 18th century and the Egyptian language had been in disuse for so many centuries that no one could read the hieroglyphic records. Over the past century and a half scholars

have recovered the art of reading ancient Egyptian and assembled a vast collection of documents from the remains of classical Egypt. Based on a careful study of the documents and artifacts that we possess today, I have reconstructed the history of how the Tarot evolved in ancient Egypt. I not only can produce solid artifacts as evidence for my claims, I have identified several ancient Egyptian books on versions of the Tarot as it evolved in Egypt. I can identify early prototype versions, the probable designer of the original deck of 78 cards, and the subsequent development of the system in Egypt with its own inner circle of cultic tradition as well as a popular art form used for amusement and divination.

Once we understand the Egyptian background for the development of Tarot, we can realize the extent to which it characterized the very essence of Egyptian culture and then we can identify how the Semitic guests and residents in Egypt transferred the concepts into their Qabalah tradition, encoding the correspondences for private oral transmission to initiates only so that the general populace in later generations became unaware of the deep connections. With these keys the attentive reader can unlock many secrets that go far beyond the scope of this book and be inspired to explore other writings by this author and the many new discoveries that modern investigators are revealing as they uncover new evidence and analyze ancient artifacts with the latest research tools.

Tarot as a Tool for Recovering Intuition

The third major insight of this book is an explanation of how playing with the Tarot letter-cards can effortlessly develop a person's intuition. Intuition is an ability of "insight" that each person innately has that allows him (or her) to see directly into a situation and know or sense its significance and how to deal with it in an appropriate manner. Intuition is not a substitute for thinking and analysis – it is an important precursor and adjunct.

If intuition is innate, why do people seem to lose it or lack it? The most common way is by accumulating stress through excessive complexity. When a person develops a complex lifestyle, a habit of pretense sometimes develops as a shortcut through the complexity. This only adds more complexity and often mental stress as well. Eventually a person embroiled in complexity loses the ability to view things simply just as they are and deal with them in an honest, forthright, and effective manner. This is not to say that complexity is a bad thing. The point is to enjoy the benefit of complexity without becoming lost and confused in it.

If the Tarot is a tool for recovering one's intuitive ability, then a person with a fully developed intuition does not need to "divine" with the Tarot, but is able to see what is what and how to deal with it right off the bat without any assistance. Part of my goal in this book will be to explain how the Tarot can help a person recover intuition. Tarot can be a path to solving problems and attaining relief from confusion, anxiety, and other forms of stress in personal life. I will introduce practical techniques for using the Tarot in ways to achieve these results that have long been lost from the public awareness.

Thoth and the Tarot

Tarot has been called **The Book of Thoth**. The Egyptians considered that Thoth (called Hermes by the Greeks) was the founder of human civilization. He invented the technology of writing that enabled mankind to record knowledge and wisdom for later generations. This made possible the accumulation of information and the rapid evolution of technology. In Egyptian Thoth was called Jehuty (or Dehuty), the Heavy One. He was also often called "Tekhy" because one of his totem animals was the ibis, called in Egyptian by that name. The ibis was a water bird found living among the papyrus reeds along the Nile, so the Egyptians used it as the totem for the technology of papyrus paper and reed pens. Thoth also represented the link between the Intellect and the Heart that is achieved through the awakening of the intuition. Thoth's other animal totem was the baboon, a symbol of the Egyptian recognition that man's clever wisdom is no more than a fancy version of a baboon's foolishness. Baba the Baboon totem emphasized the importance of being able to laugh at the joke of man's serious pretense of wisdom. The use of symbols came from Thoth as the ibis of tech-know-ledgy. The importance of fun came from Thoth as the baboon of play-full-ness.

Intuition is the gentle voice of the Higher Self that whispers to your ego self the way to go on the path of life that is right for you. For more on the subject of intuition, study the King of Swords (Spades) -- the last card in the Tarot according to some sequences. You also should study the Trumps of the Fool and the Magician, the traditional first cards in the **Book of Thoth**. They hold the secret keys to unlocking the physical manifestation of Intuition in the body. The interaction of these two Trumps forms the crossed keys that often appear on the High Priest card (Thoth's Trump) and is the Qabalistic symbol of the Lover Card Trump. The thread connecting the upside down Ego Self to the Higher Self is the rope from which the Hanged Man hangs. The whole thread of the Tarot story hangs in that Trump. At first glance the Way of Intuition may not make much sense from the viewpoint of

logic or conventional wisdom. It is an exploration from the Known into the Unknown. It is the real **Torah**: a Tour of Possibilities, and Exploration of the Wonderful World of What If. Above all Thoth-Hermes teaches us to be the qualities of Compassion, Presence, Bliss, and Freedom. When people live from the level of Intuition, they tend to live lives that spontaneously express love, peace, creativity, happiness, harmony, and cooperation. These are symptoms that you can recognize in life experience.

The Tarot cards are wonderful tools for developing intuition. As you play with the cards you will begin to learn how to read the suggestions they make and the energy that they display. In a layout you will see how each card relates to the situation at hand. You will also learn to become sensitive to the patterns and relationships that they reveal. As your intuition grows, you will learn to discover in your readings the clues they display on the path to compassion, presence, bliss, freedom, love, peace, creativity, and cooperation in your life.

Is there anything else that you can do to develop intuition? In my nearly seventy years in this lifetime, I have encountered many wonderful paths to explore. There are three that I recommend highly as the most elegant, effective and general tools you can find. If you choose to explore any of them, they will speed up the pace with which your Intuition Eye opens. Once it opens it will unerringly lead you to discover what path in life is right for you.

Just as a suggestion, here they are. Each works primarily from one of the three fundamental fields of Life: Action, Thinking, and Being. Let's start from Being.

Silent Being – Meditation

Being is Source Awareness. One of the fastest ways to open Source Awareness is meditation. Meditation is a simple, natural, effortless technique for relaxing and quieting the mind and body. A person can learn to meditate in a few minutes and use it throughout life. The most efficient technique of meditation I have encountered the ancient Egyptians called "Ocean Awareness Meditation". The Transcendental Meditation (TM) technique as taught by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi is one example of this ancient technique as it is taught today. There are many other variations on the same approach. Zen meditation is very effective as are meditation techniques taught by many yoga instructors. You can learn to meditate in a few minutes from a book or a trained coach can guide you on your first experience of the shift from thinking thoughts to Source Awareness. During meditation the attention follows its

own natural tendency in a gentle and relaxed manner, experiences subtler and subtler realms of experience, and suddenly there you are in Source Awareness. Once you've got it, you've got it. You can do it any time you like and it works like any reliable scientific procedure. The rest is just regular practice and then enjoying the fun of exploring whatever possibilities you may like to explore in your life.

Creative Thinking: Avatar

Meditation is a wonderful way to go directly to Source. However it does not help you to manage the issues in your life. It shows you where Source is and starts the process of clearing your mind and body for more refined experiences, including the awakening of the Intuition. It also relaxes you in a general way from stress in your life. However, for handling the practical issues of daily life, you need to know how to manage your attention. For this I recommend a course created by educational psychologist Harry Palmer. Palmer calls his course Avatar®. There are other such courses, but this one is very systematic and all-encompassing. An avatar is a being that lives deliberately. An avatar decides where to be and what to do, and then appears there and does what was intended. Then the avatar leaves.

Like meditation the Avatar path is extremely simple, elegant, and effortless. Ocean Awareness Meditation takes you to Source Awareness and gives you an experience of relaxed heightened awareness. An avatar uses something Palmer calls the Creation Handling Procedure to define an intended creation and then to manifest it as an experience. The main principle behind it is that your experiences depend on the beliefs that you hold in awareness. You use will to define the beliefs that you prefer, and then activate them as experiences by means of the intensity of attention you give to them. Therefore, to manage your life experiences, the most effective approach is to learn how to manage your beliefs. First discover what you believe, and then learn how to let go of beliefs that generate experiences you do not prefer and create new beliefs that generate experiences that you do prefer. Just like intuition and meditation, belief management is an innate ability that sometimes tends to get lost in the shuffle of life experiences. However, there is no limit to what is possible once you reawaken these skills.

Dynamic Action: Baba's Kriya Yoga

Some people prefer to go at life from the physical level. Reality is an integrated wholeness, so you can grasp the wholeness from any side and manage it.

The ancient Egyptians practiced forms of this physical technology for several

thousand years based on a science of life energy they attributed to a shape-shifting transcendental entity called Baba. Baba is the esoteric identity of Thoth as the teacher of yoga in the Egyptian tradition and often tends to appear as a young man with shoulder-length hair. Thoth is the master of the intellect, but as Baba he becomes the master of ways to stimulate physical sensations of bliss until it becomes a permanent foundational experience for a person. In ancient India the tradition goes back to Shiva and the Nagas of South Asia and Polynesia. Later the Vedic Seers carried on the tradition and celebrated it in Vedic Literature. Most of the 18 Arhats or Siddhas mastered these techniques. In India spiritual guides came to be called by the honorific "Baba" (a father, grandfather, or wise man). Sufi, Hindu, and Sikh ascetics often have this honorific appended to their names. There is a tradition that the transcendental Baba himself incarnated as the Maha-Avatar Baba-ji Naga-raj around the year 203 in south-east India and continues to appear from time to time in the form of a handsome young man with shoulder-length hair who teaches the ancient dynamic Kriya Yoga and sense of loving unity that has existed from time immemorial. The "ji" suffix sometimes added to the "baba" honorific is an expression of endearment and respect.

The essence of Kriya Yoga is to cultivate Bliss in the Body through simple manipulations of the physical body, breath, and life force energy.

All three of the technologies I briefly described are simple to learn and easy to practice. They all take you to the same place, but involve quite different procedures. In my experience they are also complementary and work together nicely as a program of personal cultivation. On the other hand, these are just my personal choices. Today we live in a world with many wonderful choices. Perhaps the right-for-you path is different. That is fine. Enjoy your progress on the path of your choice. Feel free to share your experiences, ideas, and feedback with me if you like. The intuition is a natural faculty that we all have. You do not need any technique to open it up. Just start to use it. It is your native ability. You may have gotten busy with some other things and forgot about it for a while. So dust it off and have fun.

The Senet Tarot of Ancient Egypt

by
Douglass A. White, Ph.D.

The Components of a Tarot Deck

A standard Tarot deck consists of 78 cards arranged in three groups. The first group contains 22 Trump cards that are also sometimes called Major Arcana (the great mysteries). Then there is a set of 16 Court cards. The third group has 40 Pip cards.

The 22 Trump Cards are usually numbered in sequence from 0 to 21 and illustrated with stylized archetypal images that contain traditional symbols as well as embellishments supplied by each deck's designer and artist.

The 16 Court Cards consist of four "royal" families with four cards each. Usually each royal family consists of a King, a Queen, a Knight, and a Page (or Princess), although some decks substitute other representative characters.

Each royal family also has a suit symbol as its heraldic "coat of arms". The heraldic suits also symbolize the four basic aspects of a society: educators and spiritual guides (suit of hearts or cups), administrators and civic leaders (spades or swords), merchants and business people (diamonds or coins), and craftsmen and workers (clubs or staves). The suits also correlate to the four classical elements: water, air, earth, and fire.

Finally there is a set of 40 Pip Cards with ten cards belonging to each suit. The Pip Cards of each suit are numbered in sequence from 1 to 10. The word "pip" originally meant a small seed and came to be used for a small dot or mark. In the Tarot deck the suit signs became known as "pips" or "spots" (in the manner of dominoes) and usually were repeated on the card as many times as the number for the card.

Modern poker decks are Tarot decks reduced from 78 to 52 cards by removing the 22 Trump Cards and the 4 Knights while retaining 12 Court Cards and 40 Pip Cards. Many other less popular variations of deck structure occur among playing cards.

The Primary Hypothesis of This Book

The Primary Hypothesis of this book is that the Tarot deck is a loose-leaf textbook that was developed in ancient Egypt and later adapted by the Phoenicians and Hebrews in various formats to present the basic knowledge necessary for becoming an educated person. It is a complete educational text unbound so that the student can play with it as a deck of flash cards or a game. The Trump Cards of the Major Arcana evolved into a method for teaching the fundamental concepts of civilization and personal development. Eventually the system included the alphabet. The Court and Pip Cards of the Minor Arcana taught the nuclear family structure basis of social relations and the numbers. The system became a resource for promoting literacy and simple social and accounting skills. The icons of the Majors additionally provided an anatomy of human psycho-physiology and presented the basic archetypes of human life, while the Minors introduced the dynamics of physical processes as well as the relationships and responsibilities of society. As a student becomes more familiar with the cards, the symbolism, and how they developed, he or she may begin to discover the higher spiritual teachings that they contain.

Historically the Tarot appeared as a game in ancient Egypt and evolved into a condensed version of Egyptian culture and a tool for divination and spiritual practice. The Phoenician and Hebrew people in ancient times later adapted the system to their own cultures and introduced major modifications. Other cultures also influenced the evolution of the imagery, and by the time of the European Middle Ages the introduction of printing techniques from China enabled the Tarot to become widely popular in the format of printed decks of cards. Modern media have popularized the Tarot throughout the world.

In this book I will first discuss my investigations into the historical origins and development of the Tarot, and then provide materials that facilitate the study and application of the Tarot in its various educational dimensions. Much of the materials that I present in this book and my other books and articles that deal with the Tarot directly or tangentially have never appeared before in works on the Tarot by other writers, and necessarily will be controversial. This is a research project in progress, and new evidence and insights regularly surface. You may wish to disagree with my interpretations but the data is real and verifiable. The material in this book is intended for reference and to inspire further research. The reader must play with the cards and their sources in order to discover the endless paths of revelation they embrace.

The Historical Origins and Development of the Tarot Cards.

The concept of “cards” (small portable sets of symbolic and mnemonic tokens) with various themes and dedicated to all manner of serious purposes, spiritual growth, games, or gambling far predates the invention of paper. It must go back to when man first began to make symbols and develop tokens for inscribing them. Such tokens could be used for business or pleasure, religion or art. Some of the earliest examples of symbolic tokens that we have that were designed for business purposes are the Sumerian clay Bullas. These hollow clay balls held little clay tokens of various standardized shapes that were used to represent various objects used in commerce. The bulla was a sealed document or invoice listing the goods in a shipment. Statues and images of animals, gods, kings, and other important figures occur in almost all early societies. We also have clay game pieces shaped like animals that go back to pre-dynastic times in Egypt. Recently archaeologists found in Africa decorative shells that go back tens of thousands of years.

In this book we are going to focus on a particular set of images that came to form the pack of cards commonly known as the Tarot. For hundreds of years this pack has been used for cartomancy (divination with cards) as well as for playing many amusing card games. The design and contents of the Tarot deck have shown remarkable consistency over the years. Students of the occult have claimed that the pack's Trump cards originated in ancient Egypt or came from the Jewish Qabalah. However, modern scholars scoff at these claims pointing to the lack of playing cards in Egyptian tombs and declaring that the agreement between the number of Hebrew letters and the number of Trumps is coincidental. Yet no one has proposed a coherent theory to explain the origin and development of the set of powerful archetypal images that constitute the Trumps. Why were these particular images chosen, and why have they remained so consistent over the centuries?

We know that playing cards existed in Europe as early as the 14th century and Tarot decks definitely were in use there by the 15th century since a few cards from that time survive. Remarkably the basic themes depicted on the Major Arcana cards were already established when the cards first appeared in medieval times and have remained consistent to the present day.

The Tarot cards as they exist in the 21st century are the product of contributions from several major civilizations over a period of many centuries and represent a wonderful combination of folk art and the highest teachings of learned scholars. Thus we can

not attribute the creation of the Tarot to the genius of any one individual. In fact the natural division of the deck into Major and Minor Arcana, with the subsequent evolution of modern poker-style playing cards from the Minor Arcana suggests that the Tarot may be a merging of several games or systems of knowledge over time to form a single large set of images.

The Major and Minor Arcana may come from the same source, but it is also possible that the Minor Arcana developed independently in several locations. The simple reason for this is that the Minor Arcana are based on the number ten displayed with four suits. Ten is the most widely used base for the counting numbers because people have ten fingers. In many parts of the world the year clearly divides into four seasons due to earth's orbit around the sun and the ancients observed that the phenomenal world naturally consists of four basic states of matter: solid (earth), liquid (water), gas (air), and plasma (fire). These states became known as the classical four elements and are still recognized today by modern physicists. Life (consciousness) is the ineffable fifth element that interpenetrates all four material states and is granted default recognition because people resist the idea that they might be dead, but has not yet received proper definition and acceptance into their disciplines by "objective" scientists. The directions in space also tend to form a natural set of four because of the revolution of the earth on its axis and the convenience of building quadrilateral architectural structures. Those who enjoy life within these spaces form the fifth element.

Therefore we should not be surprised to find the emergence of games based on four and ten in ancient China, India, and the Middle East. Indeed we find evidence of the ancient Chinese playing games such as Mahjong that use representations of money such as nine tiles with coin-like disks and nine tiles with bamboo staffs (representing strings of coins plus a bonus tile for each suit). Chinese game tokens were drawn or incised on various media such as bamboo strips, wooden slips, and ivory tiles, or printed on paper. We also find the Indians celebrating in card designs the ten avatars of Vishnu and his human form with four arms, each hand wielding a symbolic implement (lotus, mace, conch, and discus). In the Middle East we find the ancient Qabalistic tradition of the Tree of Life unfolds in ten major stages with four traditional levels of creation (Atziluth, Beriah, Yetzirah, and Assiyah). The Tree of Life thus can be treated as a game board. We also find in ancient Egypt that the four sons of Horus represent the four classical elements (fire, water, air, and earth) and are commonly depicted on a table before Osiris, the god of the mature intuition. The symbolic Djed tree amulet represents the "Tree of Life" in which the body of Osiris

was found entombed. Traditionally it has four parallel branches along the upper portion of its trunk that also suggest the four elements. The Egyptian solar calendar was organized into a system of 36 dekan weeks of 10 days each, with a final half-dekan five-day week at the end of the year. Thus we find that the Tarot system with four sets of ten Pip Cards could have arisen independently in many different cultures. In this book we will follow one particular story and allow that other cultural streams may have influenced it.

The Origin of “Paper”

The practice of using paper cards of course depends on the invention and availability of paper. The ancient Egyptians developed a primitive form of paper made from the papyrus reed that grew along the banks of the Nile and there is evidence of its use as early as the first dynasty. The English word “paper” derives from “papyrus”, a Greek word. The word Bible is derived from “biblios”, the Greek word for book and a variant spelling of “papyrus”. Notice the “b” and “p” alternation and the “r” and “l” alternation in the spellings, the latter being especially common because Egyptian lacked a clearly differentiated “l” sound.

Since the Egyptians invented papyrus paper as a product of the papyrus plant that grew along the Nile, we naturally would expect that this word would come from their language. However, none of the several words used for the papyrus plant in Egyptian suggest the words “papyrus” or “biblios”. The usual word for book in Egyptian was **mejat**, and a term for a library was **per mejat** (House of Books). Although the word **per** resembles the second part of “pa-per”, the gloss does not resolve the question of how the word “paper” arose.

One theory is that the word comes from “pa-per”, a purported idiom with the sense “that which belongs to the royal palace” -- that is, the records of the Egyptian royal bureaucracy. “Pa” is a masculine demonstrative pronoun or has the notion of belonging to and “per” is a masculine noun meaning a temple or palace. Egyptian libraries of spiritual and literary works were usually housed in temples, whereas documents and records would be stored in a dedicated room of the palace.

Another possibility is that the word “papyrus” derives from the expression “Baba-red” or “Baby-ret” or “Bebe-reth” (with several variant spellings). “Ba” is another word for book in Egyptian, and Baba is the name of Thoth’s transcendental aspect as well as his avatar as the baboon totem tutelary deity of scribes, — the eldest son of Osiris, and as the traditional master of yoga in ancient Egypt. “Ba” also

stands for the leopard skin worn by initiatory priests and is an important totem animal symbol for *Baba*.

The letter “b” in Egyptian is a pictograph of a leg and foot in standing position. *Baba*’s name was often simply symbolized with two such leg glyphs. “Ret” or “red” or “reth” also means a human leg and by extension came to stand for mankind, the creature that walks upright on two legs. (A nasal “m” was sometimes infixed between the “r” and the “t” when the word meant mankind [e.g., **remeth**].) “Redwy” two legs in motion came to signify a staircase. The staircase was the means of ascending to Heaven, and its two leg glyphs were bent into a walking posture. The two legs of “redwy” often served as code for *Baba*’s name, and this code is frequently seen in the **Pyramid Texts**. *Baba*, as the master of the yoga tradition was the staircase to Heaven.

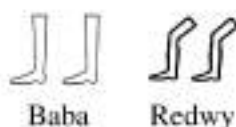
The “ba” leopard skin totem of *Baba* is remarkable for the orderly rows of dots that form the markings on its pelt. Before the discovery of papyrus paper, people wrote or incised primitive glyphs on other media such as stone, bone, wood, and so on. The closest medium to paper in ancient times was an animal skin. It is even very possible that the original inspiration for humans to create artistic drawings and glyphs that eventually became writing was by observing the markings on animals that appeared decorative or served some protective or communicative purpose – such as for camouflage or to attract a mate. The rows of dots on a leopard skin resemble rows of glyphs written in a book.

Down through the Middle Ages until modern paper making was introduced into Europe the literati routinely wrote books manually on vellum or parchment sheets that were prepared from the skins of lambs, calves, and goats. This technology was refined during the last two centuries BCE and early CE, but no doubt had some use in primitive form at much earlier times. This may be the origin of the word “ba” used for a book as well as a sheep, or a leopard skin in Egyptian.

Thus our word for paper may derive from a very ancient Egyptian tradition that the first books were written on animal skins prior to the development of paper that used the vegetable matter of the papyrus plant.

The Greeks routinely transliterated Egyptian words into their language by replacing final “t” with a final “s”. Thus we would get “babylus” or “papyrus” from the hypothetical Egyptian phrase **Babyret**. Unfortunately, I have not been able to

document any occurrence of this phrase in extant texts. However, we can infer the code link between **red** and Baba's name, because his sacred site in Egypt was a district of Heliopolis (old Cairo). This district consisted of two components called "North **W@ret**" and "South **W@ret**". The word **W@ret** (read Wa'aret) is another word for leg in Egyptian and also came to mean a sacred district in a town, probably from the connection to the Heliopolitan site. The name was written with the same leg glyph as **red**. The two districts combined meant two legs (**redwy**), and spelled the name Baba in the code – since this was his sacred site in Northern Egypt. Later the area came to be known as "Babylon", and this reinforces the connection with the Lord of Yoga, Baba. The name **Wa-@ret** analyzes into "Cobra [**@ret**] Meditation [**Wa**]", the specialty of Baba. The name Babylon may be a Greek rendering of **Beby-ren** (The Name of Baba). As we shall see, this site was at the geographical location of the throat chakra in Egypt's geo-physiological map. So we could translate the name **Beby-ren** as "The Throat Chakra of Baba." There was another special **W@ret** site at Abydos, the sacred town of Osiris in the south. This site may have been dedicated to Baba as the first son of Osiris, whereas the site in Heliopolis connected him to Ra.



In general the entrances to sacred temples had grand gateways with pylons and an obelisk or stele on each side. You ritually walked between the legs of Baba as you entered the sacred space. Semitic languages then borrowed the term "Baba" to mean a gate, and thence "Babylon" became adopted as the name for the well-known great city in Mesopotamia.

A third theory is that the word "paper" derives from **Pa @per** or **Ba @per**. The deity **@per Pehwy** is identified as a hawk-god, a patron of learning and letters, who is one of the seven wise sons (**Jaasu**) of **Meh Weret** (Great Fullness = a Cosmic Cow form of Hathor, Goddess of Love and Light) that brought about literature. Together with Thoth (the Intellect) these seven wise ones planned the world. They came from the pupil of Ra's Eye (the womb of Sekhmet Hathor, the Eye of Ra, the Viewpoint of the Higher Self), and flew upward as hawks with **Asden** (another epithet of Thoth's baboon scribe = the writer who conveys the Higher Self and beyond).

Chakra Ten: **Jehuty** (Cosmic Intelligence)

Chakra Nine: **Aryt R@** (The Focused Intent of the Higher Self)

Chakra Eight: **Asden** (Baba the Baboon, the Scribe with a Sense of Humor)

Chakra Seven: **San** (Fragrant Rubbing Ointment = Content to Think About)

Chakra Six: **Neb Desheru** (Lord of Red Ones = Eye-catching Rubrics, good titles)

Chakra Five: **Khekh** (Throat = Rhetorical Expressiveness)

Chakra Four: **Nefer-Haty** (Beautiful Heart = Ability to Touch the Feelings),

Chakra Three: **Ba-k** (Hawk = Your Personal Divine Soul, What You Want to Say)

Chakra Two: **Ka** (Creative Energy, Vivacity, Sexiness)

Chakra One: **@per Pehwy** (Obelisk Base, Foundation for Ornamentation)

Written expression requires the eight qualities expressed by the seven hawks plus **Asden-Baba** the scribe, the Higher Self Source, and the organizing power of Intelligence. The **@per Pehwy** is the papyrus on which the scribe records his literary creations. **Pehwy** can also be read as **Pehety**, the Mighty One, which is an epithet of **Hew**, a special avatar of **Baba** who initiates into the secret and sacred most powerful mantras.

Baba takes the form of **Ptah (Peteḥ)** to carry out the cosmic designs of Thoth and his seven Wise Ones. The consort of **Ptah** is **Sekhmet** (also called **Tefnut**), the lioness goddess – the Eye of Ra. From this we know that **Baba** is both Ra and Thoth. Thoth conceives an idea, and Ra embodies that idea as a dynamic plan. **Baba-Peteḥ** carries the plan into physical form. **Baba** also takes the form of **Bes (Bas)**, the playful dwarf god who likes to wear a leopard skin, and then his consort is **Baset**, the cat goddess). **Sekhmet**, **Tefnut**, and **Baset**, are all variations of **Hathor**, the Mother Goddess. (See Budge, **The Gods of the Egyptians**, Volume 1, p. 526.).

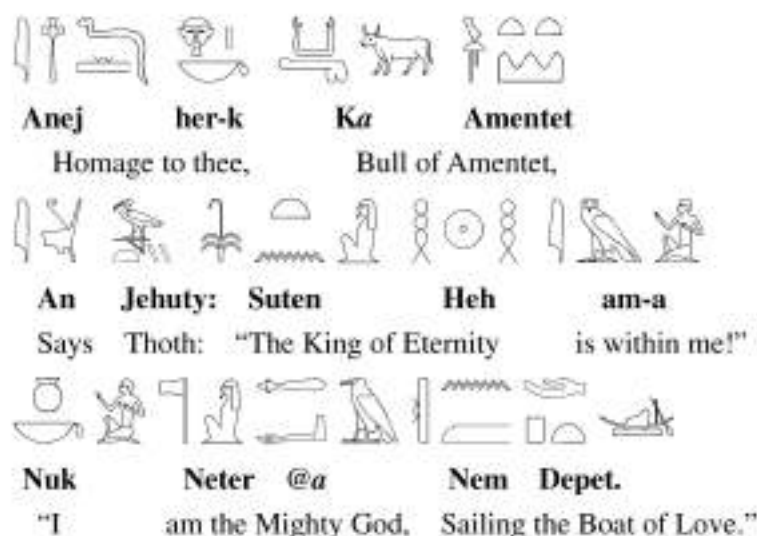
Ba @per* (the fully ornamented, documented, furnished book) or **Pa @per*** (that which is fully ornamented, documented, furnished) would be excellent hypothetical epithets for the paper on which books were written. (The star indicates that these are hypothetical reconstructions.) Egyptians loved to fully ornament their potential formal writing spaces with hieroglyphs. This is obvious when you look at the walls and pillars of temples and tombs where every available space is filled with text or decorative motifs and illustrations.

Of the three theories, I like the third one best, but will await further research that reveals textual examples of these theoretical expressions or other confirming evidence before giving any strong opinion on the matter of this interesting question of the

etymology of “paper”, “papyrus”, and “biblios”.

The Book of the Dead and the Tarot Trumps

One of the oldest books in the world is the Egyptian “Book of the Dead”. Papyrus scrolls with its text go back to the golden age of Thebes during the New Kingdom (around 1550 BC). Its real title is **Pert em Heru**, which we may translate as “Coming Forth into the Daylight” or more freely as “Ascension into Enlightenment”. The work served not only as a guidebook intended to assist the dead, but also to enlighten the living. “Heru” is a close homophone for the name Heru (Horus), the Sun God. What is it that comes forth into the Light? What gets enlightened? Of course we know that the sun rises into the sky each dawn and brings a new day. Metaphorically speaking the conscious mind ascends into the light of awareness. Indeed the book speaks in detail about how the **ba** harnesses the bull-like creative **ka** energy and “rides it” to enlightenment and freedom. The resurrected (spiritually reborn) person becomes Osiris and praises the secret **ka** energy (Papyrus of Ani, Plate V).



This is a phrase to be uttered by the reader during initiation and is also used during the funeral rites to be said for the deceased. “Amen” means west and hidden. “Amentet” is a name for the Astral Realm, the land of the setting sun when we go to sleep, die, or enter deep meditation. The Lady of Amentet is Hathor, the Goddess of Love and Light. Her ancient name is Amenet, the consort of Amen, the Hidden One. During the night she transforms into Newet (Nut), the goddess of the night sky. The Bull of Amentet is Osiris, Lord of Amentet. During the night the sun god Ra passes through the underworld and Osiris recognizes that Ra is his true identity. Thoth

declares that he is Ra. Thoth is Intelligence, and Ra is the Higher Self – the expression of Intelligence as a Plan for the Evolution of the Cosmos. The true identity of Ra is Amen (not the visible sun, but the invisible sun of the Higher Self). The Bull is an icon for the creative power of the sun. The Egyptian word **ka** also means the living energy that earth receives from the sun. Its most powerful form in a human is male sexual energy, but all forms of life energy are variations of electromagnetic energy. The initiate identifies with Osiris, and Osiris identifies with Ra and thereby becomes Amen, the spouse of Amenet. This tells us that the true identity of Isis, the consort of Osiris, is Hathor-Amenet. Osiris is the ability of awareness to witness phenomena, and Isis is the ability to feel experiences. Hathor-Amenet is the Invisible Awareness that manifests as light and love, the essential material out of which all creations and experiences are made.

Thoth is the archetype of the highest intelligence and wisdom. He says that the King of Eternity is found in himself – the Highest Intelligence – which is Thoth's identity. He also says that the King of Eternity is within you, the reader, and becomes your reality whenever you utter that statement with belief. The word **Suten** survives as the word sultan, an ancient title for a king. **Heh** is another of the Eight Primordials created by Thoth along with Amen and Amenet. He represents Eternal Time.

The third phrase is a great mantra in which the initiate declares his divine power. **Nem Depet** has several meanings. **Nem** is to travel by Boat (**Depet**). However, **nem** also can mean to sleep, which suggests the idea of becoming the Boat of Sleep. **Depet** is an epithet of Hathor, the Love Goddess. It also means the sense of taste. Dep-Pe was a twin city in northern Egypt that represented the crown chakra. Another word for boat (**waa**) was often used as a punning code for meditation (**waa**). Sleep and meditation are very similar, except that during sleep alert awareness is lost, but during meditation wakeful awareness remains.

We discover from this brief passage at the beginning of the first chapter of the "Book of Enlightenment" a multi-layered symbolic code that evolved in Egypt over several thousand years from at least as early as the Pyramid Texts that survive from the 5th and 6th dynasties. These few words encapsulate the entire core teachings of ancient Egypt once we are able to enter into the elaborate hieroglyphic communication system. Here is a sentence that summarizes the Book of Enlightenment in a few words.



H@ em sethesu s-aakhu

Begin with exaltations and glorifications

**Peret hayt em Kheret Neteret Aakhut em Amenetet Neferet**

Ascending and descending in the Enlightened Netherworld and the Beautiful Hidden Realm.

**Peret em Hru em kheperu neb[u] mery-f,**

Ascending into the Daylight in any forms that he prefers,

**Heb@ er Senet, hemes em Seh.**

Playing at Senet while sitting in a [divination] booth

**Peret em Ba @nekhy.**

And going forth as a living soul.

(Plate VII, Chapter 17, Rubric; Budge page 27-28.)

The words exaltation and glorification are in the causative mode, and the hieroglyph for glorification and glorious is a pictograph of a bird similar to the ibis totem of Thoth, but with a special crest that resembles a head scarf. The **Aakhu** are Great Immortal Light Beings who live and love forever. **Khu** is one of the secret epithets of Jehuty (Thoth), the creator of the Tarot. Amentet is the invisible Astral Realm. The Light Beings exist forever as immortals in the paradise of Undefined Awareness. Their bodies are pure light and light never decays. By the daylight of consciousness the gods and Light Beings come forth and assume various forms of existence as creations (**kheperu**). The root **mer** means to love someone or something. **Mery-f** means whatever a person prefers. Our word **amorous** comes from this ancient Egyptian word. The gods come forth as living souls and sit in a special booth or tabernacle (**seh**) and play a game called **Senet**.

The Ancient Egyptian Game of Senet

Senet, like Mancala, is one of the oldest games in the world. People have played such games for thousands of years in Africa. However, Mancala is merely an amusing game played with pebbles or seeds dropped into little cups or holes in the