

Ritual Numerology



Much has been written about the significance of numbers. From Kabbalah to Free Masonry, from Demonology, Bible codes, Tarot to conspiracy theory, each has it's opinion about the power of each number. When we start to compare all these sources however they do not all seem to be pointing towards one reality or system underlying all of them.

- Is each system then a world onto itself?
- It's power applying to nothing outside it's realm?

This is also not the case.

Each number has significance because of it's relation to the cosmos. It has power because it points to something greater, a source of higher vibrations which will work upon worlds of lower vibration.

So a number is actually a magical symbol representing a part of the cosmos.

Each culture and language has it's own symbology, but since we have adopted arabic numbers into almost every culture and language the original symbols have become mapped onto their arabic equivalent. This makes the arabic numbers indicate several possible sources. The same number could bring forth different influences depending on which linkages are established.

To get a grip on using numbers we need to understand how numbers relate to the cosmos in different systems.

Element based systems follow the idea that everything is composed of several elements and that depending on the mixing and quality of these elements different forms and traits arise. The ancient systems postulated as few as two, three or four elements to as many as 2.000. The elements can be viewed as being separate and equal to each other, as polar opposites or as part of a cycle. By using the appropriate number the pure source of a specific element can be accessed. The modern periodic table of elements is another example of such a system.

4, 6 and 12 are commonly used numbers of elements in respectively systems based on the ancient greek philosophy, oriental healing and religion, zodiac astrology.

Cosmological systems use numbers to indicate a specific realm within the Universe. A specific vibration or level is assigned to each number. Some systems use a top-down others a bottom-up numbering system. 3, 7, 9 and 10 are commonly used divisions in respectively shamanism and paganism, western planetary astrology and mysticism, catholic demonology and angelology, kabbalah.

This makes it impossible to state that a specific number always has the same specific power or vibration.

The power and vibration of a number depends on the context in which it is used as a representation.

Despite the complexity and differences some numbers have become commonly accepted as being significant in western culture as part of a growth progression expressed for instance in the tarot.

0 - the ungraspable

1 - start or beginning

2 - duality or opposition

3 - transformation of duality into harmony, peace or love

4 - stability and family

5 - power or challenges

6 - the ego, freedom

7 - completion, harmony and perfection

8 - wealth, abundance and infinity

9 - truth, the pantheon

10 - the end of a cycle, transformation to another level

In modern western rituals it is common to summon the elements by using the numbers 2, 3, 4 or 12. Calling upon the creative-destructive light-dark or male-female polarity, the maiden-mother-crone creator-upholder-destroyer, earth-water-air-fire or zodiac respectively.

The call for powers is often done using the numbers 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 depending on whether the transformative power should bless the participants with peace, strength, freedom, harmony or knowledge/guidance respectively.

I would like to express my thanks to the benefactor who ordered this article.

Star Hawk Dreamer, dec 2016