



## The Mystical Qabalah

*Dion Fortune*

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## **The Mystical Qabalah** Dion Fortune

The Tree of Life forms the ground-plan of the Western Esoteric Tradition and is the system upon which pupils are trained in the Fraternity of the Inner Light. The transliteration of Hebrew words into English is the subject of much diversity of opinion, every scholar appearing to have his own system. In these pages I have availed myself of the alphabetical table given by MacGregor Mathers in *The Kabbalah Unveiled* because this book is the one generally used by esoteric students. He himself does not adhere to his own table systematically, however, and even uses different spellings for the same words. This is very confusing for anyone who wishes to use the Gematric method of elucidation, in which letters are turned into numbers. When, therefore, Mathers gives alternative trans literations, I have followed the one which coincides with that given in his own table. The capitalisation employed in these pages may also appear unusual, but it is the one traditionally used among students of the Western Esoteric Tradition. In this system, common words, such as earth or path, are used in a technical sense to denote spiritual principles. When this is done, a capital is used to indicate the fact. When a capital is not used, it may be taken that the word is to be understood in its ordinary sense. As I have frequently referred to the authority of MacGregor Mathers and Aleistet Crowley in matters of Qabalistic mysticism, it may be as well to explain my position in relation to these two writers. I was at one time a member of the organisation founded by the former, but have never been associated with the latter. I have never known either of these gentlemen personally, MacGregor Mathers having died before I joined his organisation, and Aleister Crowley having then ceased to be associated with it. The Society of the Inner Light, founded by the late Dion Fortune, has courses for those who wish seriously to pursue the study of the Western Esoteric Tradition. Information about the society may be obtained by writing to the address below. Please enclose British stamps or international postal coupons in your letter if you wish a response.

## **The Mystical Qabalah Details**

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## From Reader Review The Mystical Qabalah for online ebook

### Ayisha says

This book was my very first book that I have read on the mystical Qabalah, and the very first book I have read by Dion Fortune. I have read internet articles, watched videos and attended a workshop on this subject so I did have some understanding of the concepts that Dion Fortune wrote about (I would still consider myself a beginner however). This book mostly goes through the sephiroths and has these neat little references for each sphere which I liked. For example, for each sphere it will have the title, magickal image, Yetzirach text, titles given to the sphere, the God-name, the Archangel, the Order of Angels, mundane chakra, spiritual vision, virtue, vice, correspondences in microcosm, symbols, tarot cards, and associated colours. It does not discuss the pathways very much, but I think that's okay because then the book would probably be very large and complicated. She talks about the 4 worlds, the kingdoms and the pillars a bit in the beginning of the book. I think I will keep this book for future reference and reread it. To be honest, some sections of the book I had to reread and take some time to think about it because it was beyond my understanding. I'm sure that if I keep studying the mystical Qabalah I will understand it better. One thing that I might say is that this book is very detailed and "heavy". The way it is written is a bit old-fashioned, but the information is excellent. Take a look at it if you are interested in tarot, the mystical Qabalah, occultism or if you like Dion Fortune's work! I will definitely look into more of her books in the future.

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### Nienke Van kerkhof says

difficult to stay focused but very interesting

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### Steve Dotson says

My favorite basic book on the 17th century Kabbalistic tree of Life. Good explanation of how the sephiroth and paths work together. Great primer for building the proper correspondences to each part of otz chiim, which then leads to the phenomenological understanding of the inner workings of the tree. I've read this one several times, riveted all the more with every read as the concepts resonate and form a whole infrastructure.

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### Adrienne says

Review is also available on my blog [The Shameful Narcissist Speaks](#).

Let me just put this out there right now. I read this book because of Final Fantasy VII. It's about the Tree of Life, which is made up of the Holy Sephiroth, the emanations or "God-names" that focus principle archetypes behind evolving human activities. I had no idea the rabbit hole I was diving into, nor did I realize either how well SquareSoft (now Squeenix...unfortunately) had done their research or had managed to align their usage of that term with the appropriate symbolism. The Qabalah seeks to solve the paradox of "the Many and the One," speaks about microcosm and macrocosm, and essentially serves as a guide through the metaphysical and esoteric. Reading The MQ showed not only how much the symbolism of the Tree is present in my favorite game (and also favorite story), but in so many other narratives, as well.

One of the major points Fortune brings us to is that though they are named Holy and Unholy Sephiroth which would suggest two trees, in reality there is but the Holy Tree and its shadow. This is reminiscent of what Martin uses in ASOIAF for the religion of the Red God R'hllor (see my review of the Game of Thrones episode "The Dance of Dragons" here for more on that). It is a ubiquitous, all encompassing glyph that is frequently used without even the knowledge of invocation, and in either having knowledge or lacking it, creates a meta for the symbol itself as first and foremost knowledge is Qabalah's greatest concern.

Fortune does a phenomenal job laying out all aspects of the Holy Stations, and while I did have to be nominally awake to absorb some of the concepts, they were simply explained and easily laid out. The complication came in the rumination on higher meanings.

It took me over a decade to finish this book. Pay no attention to the "Date Added" and "Date Finished" above. I bought it years before Goodreads existed when I was still in my twenties and reading tarot regularly. Both that system of divination and astrology have heavy connections to the Tree of Life. Interestingly enough, I'd seen mentions of the Qabalah before I played VII, but it flew above my radar, because there was nothing connecting me to it. Once I played it and knew the origin of the name Sephiroth, I couldn't purchase this fast enough, but at the time, the esoteric symbolism was beyond me. I lamented that it was far too much to get through (at the time), but when I picked it up again approximately a year ago, I wondered what the hell my juvenile self had found such issue with.

The one complaint I have has to do with some caustically casual racist remarks that are sprinkled throughout the volume. Unfortunately, as mystical as Fortune was, she was still a product of her time. This is used as an explanation and not an excuse. So if you read The MQ, prepare for a few cringe worthy moments. This almost made me lower the rating by a star, but the information and the way it's presented is excellent, so it retains a high rank but with that caveat.

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### **Eyre says**

A great book for those who want to delve more deeply into Tarot. Fortune's writing style is more accessible and practically oriented than is offered by most occult writers. Her work is as researched and as complex--focusing on good/evil-- as that of her male contemporaries (Crowley, eg.) She is not as hip amongst neo-occult, post-wicca circles--probably due to a cultural bias which elevates the contributions of male writers to high art (when men cook they are chefs, when they make crafts they are artisans, et al.) Fortune seems very relevant to me, though, for I feel even the most cynical postmodern could relate to her occult-as-meditation approach.

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### **Ryan says**

I am always "currently reading" this book as it is not the kind of book that one can "finish".

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### **Amanda says**

Forget the Qabalah you hear about from Hollywood and Madonna. This is an excellent book devoting a chapter to each of the sephiroth on the Tree of Life. Philosophically interesting regardless of your beliefs.

## Princessjay says

A clear explanation of the philosophical structure of the Hermetic Kabbalah, filled with easily-understandable but profound analogies and metaphors to point the way towards true understanding.

Dion Fortune, being a magician and psychic in the early 20th Century, clothed her discourse with much discussion of the practicum of magic. My interest being primarily to use the Kabbalah as a vehicle to aid thought, I skipped through all the discussion of invocations and ether and psychic emanations.

What is left remains immensely valuable. I think I *finally* have an idea of what the Tree is all about.

Highly recommended!

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## Felipe says

Obra extremamente difundida entre os ocultistas, este tratado acerca do esquema diagramático conhecido como a Árvore da Vida (Otz Chiim) traz interessantes divagações a respeito de sua aplicação prática e as diversas co-relações entre cada uma de suas esferas — tanto no aspecto macrocósmico como microcósmico — e as manifestações da cosmogênese e da antropogênese. Contudo, ainda que utilizada como referência por iniciantes e mesmo neófitos nas artes dos mistérios por muitas escolas iniciáticas, "A Cabala Mística" aponta considerações confusas, ora atribuídas à análise psicológica, ora a tradições que não foram explicadas anteriormente, além de se encontrar uma certa discrepância entre algumas considerações da autora e de cabalistas mais ortodoxos, o que revela o viés opinativo e em alguns momentos pouco técnico do livro. Neste caso, torna-se conveniente buscar referências como Arieh Kaplan, Knorr Von Rosenroth, Frater Achad, Helena Blavatsky e Aleister Crowley e sintetizá-las à luz de uma avaliação mais aprofundada. Mesmo assim, as considerações de Dion Fortune podem ser de serventia para estudos comparados.

É importante ressaltar ainda que a divisão de cada capítulo em tópicos mal diagramados (edição brasileira) e a retórica utilizada tornam o livro EXTREMAMENTE massante, o que agrava sua incompreensão às mentes mais dispersas.

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## S Shah says

"Zayin... I represent the observance of the Sabbath, as it is written, 'Remember (Zakhor) the day of the Sabbath'" (p.315)

"Above the Abyss the Spirit functions through states from which emerge the qualities of Love, Wisdom and Strength." "On the emotional level there are feelings extended to the ecstasy of divine union which is love, and on the sensory level there is perception extended to the ecstasy of immortality which is strength."(p. 333)

I got really into this book, but at about halfway, it disappeared. I read other things, and then finally decided to order another copy. I wasn't able to get into it the way I had before. Hard to say why. It is, in some ways very logically organized, but then in others seems to dive off into tangents that make its use as a reference

somewhat complicated. At any rate, I wasn't nearly as receptive as I had been a few years ago. Reading mostly in transit, the completion of the book took an inordinate amount of time, so a rhythm was never established. These faults are mine.

Fortune beats not around the proverbial bush, and attempts to lay the concepts out as clearly as possible. Still, 80 year old English can be significantly more circuitous than the contemporary vernacular. A second attempt with more focus is needed, but for now other texts await.

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### **Christina Croft says**

I love Dion Fortune but I found this book quite difficult to fully absorb and understand. Perhaps it is a life's work to understand it and I have been told this is one of the most straight forward and simple books on the subject. It is something to which I shall return, I am sure, but it is certainly not an 'easy' read, I think!!

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### **Fredstrong says**

The Qabalah is a very complex system, and one can spend lifetimes studying it. This is the best introduction to what can seem overwhelming at the start.

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### **Justin says**

Not for me

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### **Gwyndyllyn says**

Very clear introduction to the Qabalah - for NON-Jewish mystics. It is important to note that the Qabalah is used differently in a lot of non-Jewish mysticism than it is in Jewish circles. Very good book. Focuses primarily on the Sephiroth rather than the paths. Fantastic introduction to the topic.

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### **Chris says**

So far, the best, most concise book on Qabalah.

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