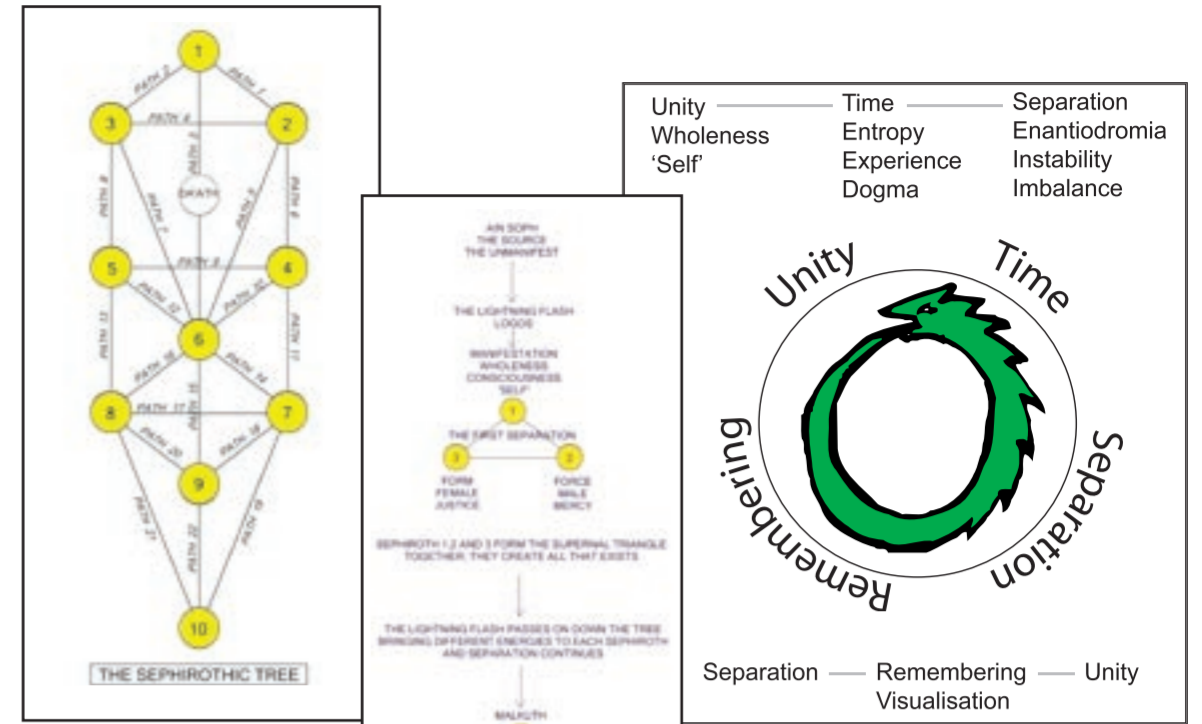
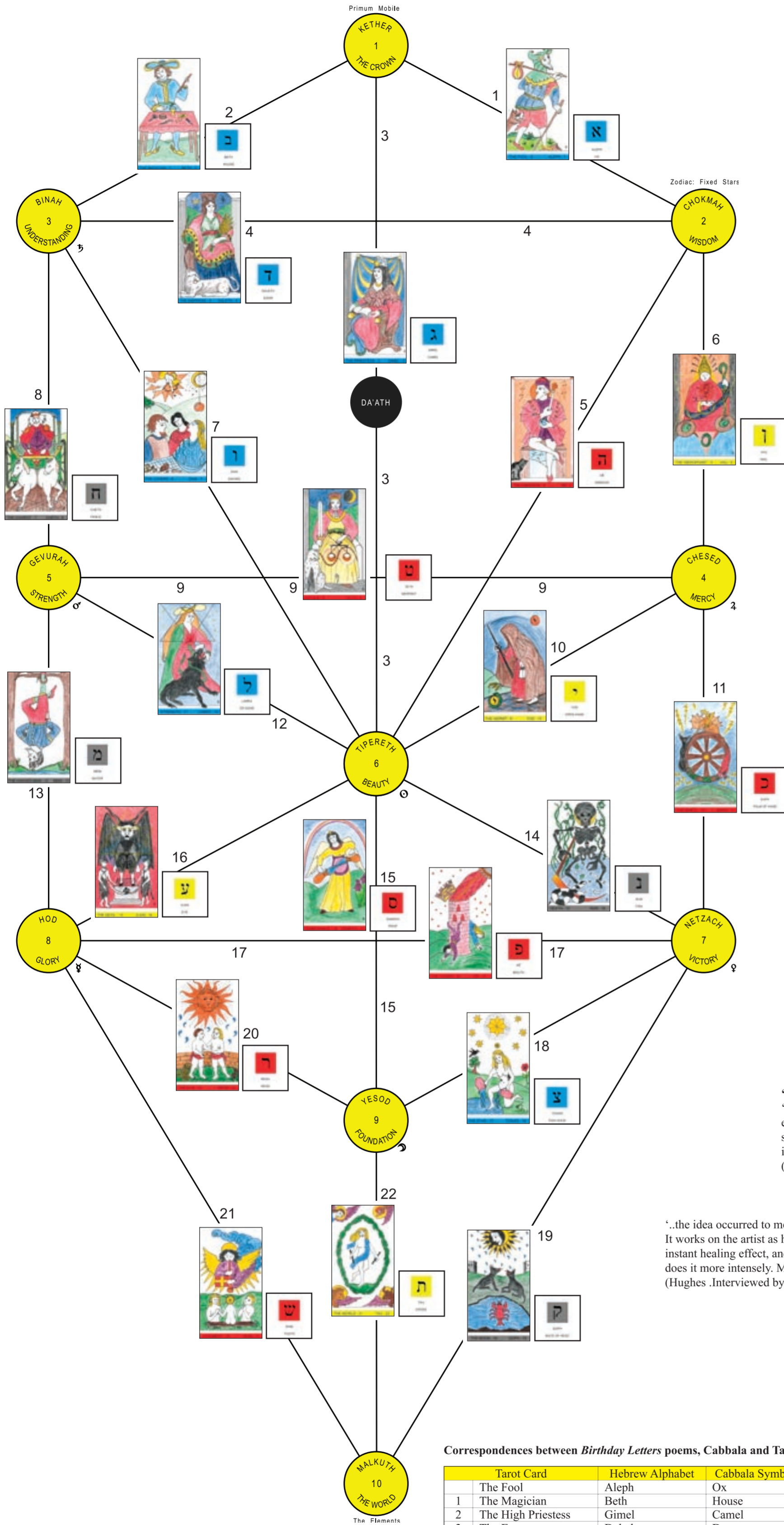


Alchemy, Cabbala and Psyche

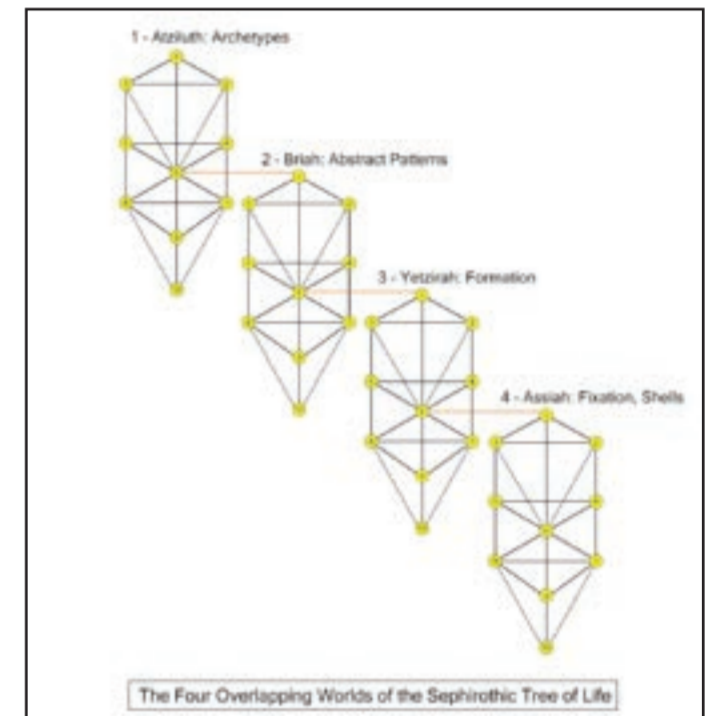
Ted Hughes's Disciplined Use Of Symbols, Memory And Visual Imagination In Birthday Letters



'The Self' is not only the centre, but also the whole circumference which embraces both conscious and unconscious. 'The Self is the archetype of unity - Here...the opposites cancel out'. [Symbols] 'bring the archetype images into consciousness. As the mind explores the symbol, it is led to ideas which lie beyond the grasp of reason.' (Jung. *Passages from Psychology and Alchemy, and Man and his Symbols*)

'Learning to Think'

'There is an inner life, which is the world of final reality, the world of memory, emotion imagination, intelligence, and natural common sense, and which goes on all the time, consciously or unconsciously, like the heart beat. There is also the thinking process by which we break into that inner life and capture answers and evidence to support the answers out of it. That process of raid, or persuasion, or ambush, or dogged hunting, or surrender, is the kind of thinking we have to learn and if we do not somehow learn it, then our minds lie in us like the fish in the pond of a man who cannot fish'. (Hughes. *Poetry in the Making*)



'...the art of seeing'

'It is much needed to teach people the art of seeing. For it is obvious that far too many people are incapable of establishing a connection between the [outward forms of] sacred figures and their own psyche [soul]: they cannot see to what extent the equivalent images are lying dormant in their own unconscious. In order to facilitate this inner vision we must first clear the way for the faculty of seeing'. (Jung. 'Introduction', *Psychology and Alchemy*)

'...the idea occurred to me that art was perhaps this: the psychological component of the autoimmune system. It works on the artist as healing. But it works on others, too, as a medicine...we recognize that medicinal element because of the instant healing effect, and we call it art. It consoles and heals something in us...Prose, narratives, etc., can carry this healing. Poetry does it more intensely. Music, maybe, most intensely of all.' (Hughes. *Interviewed by Drew Heinz. Paris Review. Vol. 37. No 134*).

'How do you know but that ev'ry Bird that cuts the airy way,
Is an immense world of delight, clos'd by your senses five?'

'If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is, infinite.'

'All deities reside in the human breast.'
(William Blake. *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*)

Correspondences between *Birthday Letters* poems, Cabbala and Tarot.

Tarot Card	Hebrew Alphabet	Cabbala Symbol	World of Atziluth	World of Briah	World of Yetzirah	World of Assiah
1 The Fool	Aleph	Ox	"Fullbright Scholars"***	"Chaucer"	"Isis"	"Dreamers"
2 The Magician	Beth	House	"Caryatids (1)"**	"Ouija"	"Epiphany"	"Fairy Tale"
3 The High Priestess	Gimel	Camel	"Caryatids (2)"**	"The Earthenware Head"	"The Gypsy"	"The Blackbird"
4 The Empress	Daleth	Door	"Visit"	"Wuthering Heights"	"A Dream"	"Totem"
5 The Emperor	He	Window	"Sam"	"The Chipmunk"	"The Minotaur"	"Robbing Myself"
6 The Hierophant	Vau	Nail	"The Tender Place"	"Horoscope"	"The Pan"	"Blood and Innocence"
7 The Lovers	Zain	Sword	"St. Botolphs"	"Flounders"	"Error"	"Costly Speech"
8 The Chariot	Cheth	Fence	"The Shot"	"The Blue Flannel..."	"The Lodger"	"The Inscription"
9 Justice	Teth	Serpent	"Trophies"	"Child's Park"	"Daffodils"	"Night-Ride on Ariel"
10 The Hermit	Yod	Hand	"18 Rugby Street"	"9 Willow Street"	"The Afterbirth"	"Telos"
11 The Wheel of Fortune	Kaph	Palm/Fist	"The Machine"	"The Literary Life"	"Setebos"	"Brasilia"
12 Strength	Lamed	Ox Goad	"God Help the Wolf..."	"The Bird"	"A Short Film"	"The Coat"
13 The Hanged Man	Mem	Water	"Fidelity"	"Astrangency"	"The Rag Rug"	"The Ventriloquist"
14 Death	Nun	Fish	"Fate Playing"	"The Badlands"	"The Table"	"Life After Death"
15 Temperance	Samekh	Prop	"The Owl"	"Fishing Bridge"	"Apprehensions"	"The Hands"
16 The Devil	A'Ain	Eye	"A Pink Wool..."	"The 59th Bear"	"Dream Life"	"The Prism"
17 The Tower	Pe	Mouth	"Your Paris"	"Grand Canyon"	"Perfect Light"	"The God"
18 The Star	Tzaddi	Fish-hook	"You Hated Spain"	"Karlsbad Caverns"	"The Rabbit Catcher"	"Freedom of Speech"
19 The Moon	Qoph	Back o' head	"Moonwalk"	"Black Coat"	"Suttee"	"A Picture of Otto"
20 The Sun	Resh	Head	"Drawing"	"Portraits"	"The Bee God"	"Fingers"
21 Judgement	Shin	Tooth	"Fever"	"Stubbing Wharfe"	"Being Christlike"	"The Dogs are Eating..."
22 The World	Tau	Tau Cross	"55 Eltisle"	"Remission"	"The Beach"	"Red"

** In the Atziluthic World these three poems are ordered according to Sephiroth 1, 2 and 3 on the Tree, not according to the alphabet.

