

ARCHONS AND ARCHES (THE “ARCH-PREPOSTEROUS”)

The word “archons” caused me to think of “arch.”

An *arch*, formed by an angle, is a relationship between two lines, just as a *ratio* is a relationship between two tones. The *arch*, or *arc*, mediates between two irreconcilable lines, causing movement, the relating function of the third force. It was the *Argonauts* on the ship *Argo* who sailed with Jason to find the treasure of the Golden Fleece.

Before going on, we might want to reflect upon the fact that, in ordinary language, “fleece” describes the coat of wool covering sheep or goats; while the verb, “to fleece” means to swindle, or overcharge. In the arcane language of myth, the Golden Fleece represents that precious covert thing called the *soul*. The soul is the median (or is it medium?) between heaven and earth. *But unless one knows how to read and spell, one can easily be deceived.* Simply *hearing* the word, one may find the **wool has been pulled over the eyes**. For instance, the sound of the word “soul” may cause one to assume the *sole* of the foot. The sole is the underpart of the foot that grounds one to the earth.

As for the arch, the foot itself has three arches, two longitudinal and one transverse (lateral). The arch of the foot is formed by the tarsal and metatarsal bones connected by ligaments and tendons. The arch allows the foot to support the whole weight of the erect body with the least amount of weight. The arch is what *bears weight*.

Wait! Wait! Bear in mind that the word arch links to Arcturus, > Gk. *Arktouros*, guardian of the *bear*. As the name suggests, *Arkt-ouros* was the archon who served as Guardian of the *Hours*. Also, in myth, the nymph Arkas was associated with *Artemis* the huntress. An *arch* is a bow-like curve, fitting for a huntress, a member of the Warrior caste. Some say Artemis’ bow connects with the star Sirius (> Gk. scorching, hot), having a magnitude of 1.6.¹ Sirius, known as the “dog star,” is the brightest star in the night sky. The home of Sirius is Canis Major (“Big Dog”). The number 1.6 is an approximation of the irrational, phi [φ]. It is surely no coincidence that *phi* is pronounced as “fee,” as in “feet”; or that throughout the ancient world, the “foot” measure (“pes”) was counted as *16, or 1.6 times 10*. The “foot,” the number 16 was the measure of length, that length being derived from the human foot.

We might also reflect upon the fact that the number 16 suggests the common unit measure of weight called the “pound.” The word bears scrutiny. The “pound” in general use is 16 ounces. There are 16 drams in one ounce, and 16 ounces in one pound. However, “pound” also refers to a monetary measure in England, having equivalence (at least in former times) to the American dollar. As a verb, “to pound” means to strike blows, or to beat rhythmically (as in the pounding of the heart, or the ocean surf, or the pounding hooves of a horse, or, in street vernacular, the sexual act). To grasp the true meaning of “pound,” one must be aware of the context of the phrase or sentence in which the word is used. A dog pound, for instance, is an enclosed space used for caging stray dogs.

The pound is also 7000 *grains*.

The word associations were carrying me far, far away, through the vast distances of outer space, where I was re-thinking that personage called Arkas, son of Callisto, Ursa Major, the Great Bear. I was

¹ See Hamlet’s Mill, p. 216 and 320, for example.

remembering that the Merovingians claimed descent from *Arkas*. The biblical Noah, according to hermetic tradition, was the ancestral father of the Merovingian priest-kings. Noah was from the time before the flood, a statement suggestive of a great earthly cataclysm and the subsequent disappearance of the boreal (Boar) civilization (note the letters “oar”). Some say the disaster was caused by a polar shift of the earth’s axis. *Noah’s remnant alone survived*. The angel gave Noah the calculations needed for the building the ark that saved the human race. Angel and ark sound like angle and arc, the calculus. The lineage suggests the arising of the new world order, the Order of the Bear (note the letters “ear”). Noah had the ears to hear the Word of the Lord, the angelic Voice. The reference to the voice suggests vowels. In the Greek language, there are seven vowels. The vowels are α , ϵ , η , ι , \omicron , ω , υ .

In the ancient Graeco-Roman world, the number seven was linked to the solar system. There were the seven celestial “wanderers”—Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn—and each was afforded a vowel sound: A E H I O Y Ω (alpha, epsilon, eta, iota, omicron, upsilon, and omega, respectively). In the words of Nicomachus of Gerasa, each of the seven spheres produced “by nature a single kind of sound; to each of which the elementary speech sounds called vowels are referred.”

The seven vowels of antiquity were the holy sounds. Biblically speaking, the seven vowels relate to the Arch-angels. The earliest reference is in the Book of Enoch (which is not in the Jewish Canon, but nonetheless familiar to the Judaic tradition). The seven Archangels correspond to days of the week: Gabriel (Sunday), Michael (Monday), Raphael (Tuesday), Uriel (Wednesday), Raguel (Thursday), Remiel (Friday), and Sariel (Saturday). Over time, some of the names were changed, others exchanged places (for instance, that instigator of the Gregorian calendar, Pope Gregory, listed them as Gabriel, Michael, Raphael, Uriel, Simiel, Oriphiel, and Raguel).

Gurdjieff had connected vowel sounds to the word AIEIOIUOA, and to the atmosphere of the planet. The sacred process AIEIOIUOA is intimately connected to “air” and “breath,” since it is represented by a word made up solely of vowels which require breath for their utterance. Any bodily entity, to be surrounded by an atmosphere, requires a certain level of development. Vowels suggest higher development. The ancients recognized that without vowels, human speech is relegated to the state of the birds and beasts and insects, chirping and growling and hissing and buzzing our communications.

The seven vowel sounds were so holy, so sacred, so *secret*, in fact, that they were not to be uttered aloud. In that regard, we may want to consider that the bloodline of the Merovingians is said to trace to *Arcadia*, an ancient rural area in the Peloponnesus district of ancient Greece; and it was in the Peloponnesus where a secret language, or *argot*, was spoken only by the royals whose ears alone heard the sacred sounds. In Greek myth, Pelops was the King of Pisa in the Peloponnesus. The word Pisa reminded me of the “Leaning Tower of Pisa.” The leaning was attributed to the sandy grainy soil on which it was built. Over the centuries it had leaned first one way and then another, threatening to fall, but was still standing, having been duly propped up by ingenious architectural calculations.

Intuitively, the story of the Pisa King seemed somehow relevant to the topic of the seven vowels. In sacred geography, King Pelops represents the 22 bones in the skull. In ancient writings the number 22

was treated as being supremely important. In my own writings, I had linked 22 to the ancient Hindu musical system of srutis, the word significantly meaning “that which is heard.” (Incidentally, I also linked 22 to the game of *football*, which has 22 players on the gridiron; but that is a story reserved for a later telling).

I was finding it “suspicious” that there are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet; and there are 7 Archangels not found in the official Canon (in other words, knowledge of Archangels is reserved for the high priests, who alone have the “ears to hear”). Consider, now, that mathematical operator, pi, which, when calculated as the Archimedean value 22/7, instigates the “Canon”: 0.142857, 0.285714, and so on, the series of endlessly-repeating decimals, the result of division by 7: 1/7, 2/7, and so on: the “Law of Seven.”

I was having my own musical conceptions regarding this secret language. I was seeing that these canonic ratios also produced the ever-decreasing intervals of the *harmonic overtone series!*

- .285714/.142857 = 2:1 perfect octave
- .428571/.285714 = 3:2 perfect fifth
- .571428/.428571 = 4:3 perfect fourth
- .714285/.571428 = 5:4 major third
- .857142/.714285 = 6:5 minor third
- .999999/.857142 = 7:6 septimal third
- 1.142857/.999999 = 8:7 septimal second

At the tail end of the third repetition, at the culmination of the third series, one encounters the “kingly” Pi value: 3.142857. (The reader may wish to look at chapter eight of my book, *The Meaning of the Musical Tree*, where I have elaborated upon the three part series). The whole number “3” suggests the “Law of Three.”

Pi, of course, is the ancient **value of the circle**. Look, now, at this interesting tidbit. We know the Hebrew alphabet contains 22 letters, and each letter is assigned its own number. The number/letters, in three columns, are read from right to left: the first column of one’s, the second of ten’s, and the third (unfinished) of 100’s.

100	ק	10	י	1	א
200	ר	20	כ	2	ב
300	ש	30	ל	3	ג
400	ת	40	מ	4	ד
		50	נ	5	ה
		60	ס	6	ו
		70	ע	7	ז
		80	פ	8	ח
		90	צ	9	ט

The first column of numbers adds to 45, the second column adds to 450, and the unfinished third column adds to 1000. The number 1000 is the “kilo,” which sounds ominously similar to “kill”—the

“killing” of the third series. The five finals, hidden from ordinary eyes and ears, solely involve the royal priestcaste; ordinary man is blind to these finals, the “tail end parts,” which are assigned the letter names Koph, Mem, Nun, Pe, and Tsaddi. Notice that these same names were *already utilized in the first two columns*, and previously corresponded to the numbers 100, 40, 50, 80, and 90, respectively. These five numbers **sum to 360**, the number of degrees in the **complete perfect circle**. In other words, these “finals” from 500 to 900 **complete the third series**, that third column which now sums to 1360. That number, 1360, divided by the decimal number 10, is 136, or the sum of the first sixteen harmonic numbers: $1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16 = 136$.

These sixteen ordinal numbers form the “weigh.” Or more to the point, they *are* the Way. They are the way to the truth about the matter of the soul. Another word for “soul” is the astral body. Gurdjieff talks about this soul part in the *Third Series* of his writings titled *Life is Real Only Then, When I Am*.

The soul really does exist, but not everybody necessarily has one. A soul is not born with a man and can neither unfold nor take form in him so long as his body is not fully developed. It is a luxury that can only appear and attain completion in the period of ‘responsible age,’ that is to say, in a man’s maturity. The soul, like the physical body, is also matter—only, it consists of ‘finer’ matter. The matter from which the soul is formed and from which it later nourishes and perfects itself is, in general, elaborated during the processes that take place between the two essential forces upon which the entire Universe is founded. The matter in which the soul is coated can be produced exclusively by the action of these two forces, which are called ‘good’ and ‘evil’ by ancient science, or ‘affirmation’ and ‘negation,’ while contemporary science calls them ‘attraction’ and ‘repulsion.’ In the common presence of a man, these two forces have their source in two of the totalities of general psychic functioning, which have already been mentioned. One of them coincides with that function whose factors proceed from the results of impressions received from outside, and the other appears as a function whose factors issue chiefly from the results of the specific functioning of the organs, as determined by heredity. . . .

In relation to these two worlds [outer and inner], man appears in reality to be merely a slave, because his various perceptions and manifestations cannot be other than conformable to the quality and nature of the factors making up these totalities. He is obliged, in relation to his outer world as well as his inner world, to manifest himself in accordance with the orders received from any given factor of one or the other totality. He cannot have his own initiative; he is not free to want or not to want, but is obliged to carry out passively this or that ‘result’ proceeding from other outer or inner results. Such a man, that is to say, a man who is related to only two worlds, can never do anything; on the contrary, everything is done through him. In everything, he is but the blind instrument of the caprices of his outer and inner worlds. The highest esoteric science calls such a man “a man in quotation marks”; in other words he is named a man and at the same time he is not a man. In the case of ‘a man in quotation marks,’ the ‘I’ is missing and what takes its place and ‘fills its role’ is the factor of initiative proceeding from that one of the two above-mentioned totalities in which the center of gravity of his general state is located.

The 'I' in a real man represents that totality of the functioning of his general psyche whose factors have their origin in the results of contemplation, or simply in the contact between the first two totalities, that is, between the factors of his inner world and of his outer world. The totality of the manifestations of this third function of the general psyche of man also represents a world in itself, but in this case it is the third world of man

Thus, it is quite obvious that the whole secret of human existence lies in the difference in the formation of the factors that are necessary for these three relatively independent functions of the general psyche of man. And this difference consists solely in that the factors of the first two totalities are formed by themselves, in conformity to laws, as a result of chance causes not depending on them, *while the factors of the third totality are formed exclusively by an intentional blending of the functions of the first two* [my italics]. And it is indeed in this sense that one must understand the saying, common to all the old religious teachings, that 'man receives all his possibilities from On High

And thus, every man, if he is not just an ordinary man, that is, one who has never consciously "worked on himself," has two worlds; and if he has worked on himself, and has become a so to say "candidate for another life," he has even three worlds.²

Gurdjieff says that "The necessary factors for the three totalities are formed in man, as is everything in the entire Universe, from corresponding vibrations." As we see, the formation of the "three totalities" (the three series or three columns) concern "the Law of Three," the 1s, the 10s, and the 100s: or, in other words, the two numbers, 1 and 0. The 1 (the line with end points) and the 0 (the line without end points) are the "two forms of what is." They are, as ancient texts put it, "from the source point of the eternal." But there is another law . . .

As Gurdjieff goes on to say, "Whether at a given moment these emanate from the source itself of their arising, or whether they were crystallized previously with a view to further arisings, in accordance with the second fundamental cosmic law, called "the Law of Seven." This second law, I believe, concerns the seven alphabetical letters: A B C D E F G.

Without the letters, the sixteen numbers are numb, dumb, unable to speak. What is needed, as is said in Isaiah 35:6, for "the tongue of the dumb to sing," are the *letters*. In our modern secular culture this astonishing dual aspect of the harmonic series is casually depicted, without fanfare, in music texts.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
C	C	G	C	E	G	Bb	C	D	E	F#	G	A	Bb	B	C

² Gurdjieff, *Life is Real, Only Then*, p. 169-75

As scripture states, “In the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.” Surely the “wilderness” refers to the endless proliferation of dumb numbers, while the “streams in the desert” reference the holy sounds, the seven Archangels, the *openings* (holes) that bring a “stream of consciousness” into the dark unconscious solid material world. Look! See how the letter C (the letter which, itself, depicts a circle with an “opening,” or perhaps an “arch” turned 90⁰) brings “light” in between the numbers. See how, in the beginning (1C:2C) it is “dark,” but then, just as the biblical text hints, “God said LET there be light.” in between 2C and 4C, a “crack of space appears, the letter “G.” The “cracks” become larger . . . in between 4C to 8C are three letters, E G Bb, a whole “chord”; and then, between 8C to 16C, voila! seven letters, a full-scale of “daylight.”

The point is that presence of the seven letters creates the “cracks in the cosmic egg,” the “openings” that afford the possibility of escaping from the tomb. Who realizes that “let” (as in “letting blood”) means allowing escape? *Letters* are the veritable escape hatches letting in the space that keeps the universe from running down! In studying harmonics, this must be understood before anything else can be understood. The seven letters are the seven holy vowel sounds. These fundamental entities are needed for alphabets and words, for spelling and writing. Listen! Do you hear the “songs” of the Archangels? Do you see how these seven vowel sounds, the “holey writ,” are at the veritable foundation of all human language?

Written language is something that only human beings possess. Here, surely, is the real reason why Gurdjieff, in the third part of his life, chose to be an “author.” An author is a man who employs “self-authorizing language” (as he said), and fulfills the role of a “real man,” an individual with a fully-developed soul.

There is something more to be said about this “self-authorizing language.” It also allows the one using it to see *who else* might know what is being said. That is, by means of certain words or phrases, an exchange can take place that shows very quickly who is a “comrade” and who is not. Those that “know the language” are able to communicate, while those that do not are none the wiser. As the ancient Greek philosopher, Nicomachus of Gerasa, wrote, “The ancients, who under the leadership of Pythagoras first made science systematic, defined philosophy as the love of wisdom. Indeed the name itself means this, and before Pythagoras all who had knowledge were called wise indiscriminately—a carpenter, for example, a cobbler, a helmsman, and in a word anyone who was versed in any art or handicraft. Pythagoras, however restringing the title so as to apply to the knowledge and comprehension of reality, and calling the knowledge of the truth in this the only wisdom, naturally designated the desire and pursuit of this knowledge philosophy, as being desire for wisdom.”³

A philosopher is a man who deals primarily in words and language. Unlike the physicists, whose authority lies mainly in laws of numbers whose mathematical functions operate the physical plane, the philosophers’ domain tends toward the study of words, and their corollaries, thoughts, which operate in the immaterial (metaphysical) realm.

³ Nicomachus of Gerasa, Introduction to Arithmetic, Bk. 1:1. trans. Martin D’Ooge

The search for the origin of words has a long history rooted in mythology and religion. Most stories do not credit human beings with the invention of words and language; rather, words are the “gift of the gods,” or even *God himself*. Arguably the most esoteric book of the New Testament is the Fourth gospel. Its author is Saint John, Christ’s most beloved disciple, who clearly states (John 1:1)

In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

While it is accepted that the ability to communicate through speech and writing sets humans apart from the rest of the animal kingdom, the scientists in academia are quick to disregard the “embarrassing” connotations of “divinity.” The shortage of empirical evidence has caused scholars to set aside the topic as unsuitable for serious study. At present, no one really knows how or where using words began, and those scientists who have attempted to divine the answer to that question admittedly consider it the hardest problem in science. To date, the current findings have managed to bring only “divisive” and discord into the fractured scientific community.

One piece of emerging research is interesting. There is a region considered the “language area” of the human brain. It is located in the inferior frontal cortex, close to what is called “Broca’s area.” The sending and receiving of messages is said to reflect a pattern of activity taking place here, and this activity is associated with transmittal of words, which can be transferred from one brain system to another by the use of “mirrors.” Research indicates that there are “mirror neurons” in this area that provide the mechanism for imagining, for shadowing, for imitative behavior, and for simulation of gestures and sounds. Scientists hypothesize that these mirror neurons may be the way humans learn to speak: first, with hand gestures, then with word sounds, which, for purposes of preservation, evolve into holy writ and ritual, and ultimately become written language. Note that the word “motor,” at its root, is “mot,” which in the French language means . . . “word”! The motor aspect of language takes place in this third part of the brain, the neocortex. The lower primates may make gestures, and use guttural noises that simulate speech, and may even understand some verbal commands, a result of the activity in this motor region. However, even the great apes are unable to read and write. No creature other than man builds libraries filled with books which can preserve information for centuries and even millennia. To read and write is not “natural,” but learned behavior, and must be taught by someone who knows the language.

I propose that this ability to use written language requires the “tail part,” the last five numbers in the “third series.”

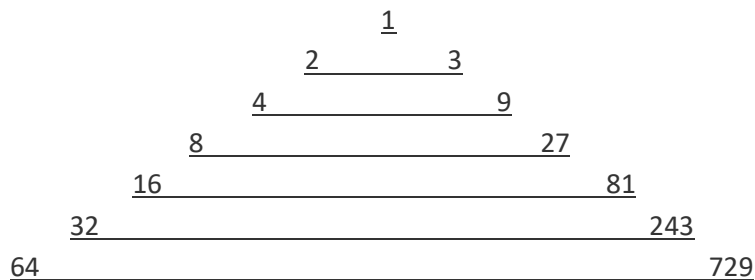
Humans alone are the highborn creatures that (seemingly illogically) are afforded the “end tail.” In English common law, the *entail* is defined as a trust, a formal legality established by the deed (or is it the dead?) which restricts the inheritance of real estate, and instead causes the property to pass down automatically to the male heir next in line. Keep in mind that, historically, commoners do not inherit. Only those of royal blood *inherit* the privilege of the “entail.”

the powers. In musical terms, the two legs of the tetractys express the powerful intervals of octaves (powers of 2) and fifths (powers of 3).

Arithmeticians and geometers and astronomers occasionally acknowledge the Pythagorean legacy (for instance, the Pythagorean Theorem or Pythagorean triples or Pythagorean “trees”), but rarely mention the tetractys. Musical theorists, on the other hand (whose craft owes a great deal to Pythagoras: the comma, the intervals, the scales, the circle of fifths, the octochord) have very nearly succeeded in obliterating his name from all contemporary music books. I felt it a sad commentary on the current state of the arts. Even so, I was coming to the conclusion that the tetractys was something far different than anyone suspected. In fact, there was something very, very “crafty” about the whole thing. . .

At the risk of being ostracized by just about everyone, I confess that the tetractys reminded me of the “tractor beam,” that hypothetical device that projected a strange force which could manipulate craft by locking in and then entrapping them in a gravitational field. As the hero Han Solo famously exclaimed in Star Wars, the movie: “We’re caught in a tractor beam! It’s pulling us in!” Yes, indeed. Things were becoming very peculiar. In fact, in terms of this tetractys, I was finding it difficult to tell the difference between “reality” and a “psyops.”

Consider the fact that NASA has a craft named “Falcon 9” which is a three-stage rocket used to lift great rocket ships off the earthly platform and into outer space. How very curious that on January 18th, 2016 (my 72nd birthday) the New York Times reported the incident of the attempted landing of the Falcon 9 on a platform in the ocean. This attempt by SpaceX to launch the rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base was only partially successful. The first stage lifted the rocket into orbit, and the second stage allowed the separation carrying the satellite (named “Jason-3”—Jason, as in the hero looking for the “golden fleece”!) into low-earth orbit. So far, so good. *The Falcon 9 reversed direction and returned to earth.* Everything worked perfectly until it tried to land on a barge in the Pacific. Shock! **The collapse of the legs** sent the whole thing toppling, causing the Falcon to explode violently. The scientists immediately began working on a way to make the **legs function properly**; otherwise, the next stage, that of sending humans up into orbit, remains too dangerous to be allowed. The next evolutionary stage in rocketry depends on **fixing the exasperating problem of the legs**. The scientists admit that the last “leg of the journey” seems fraught with inordinate perils and uncertainties. As immodest as it sounds, I propose a solution. To rectify the problem requires “the addition.”



The legs now extend out to 729. Hopefully, on that *tritone*, the F#, we can successfully land the plane.