

# Journey into the Tree of Life



**An introduction to the Western tradition of hidden knowledge**

*Presented by the Boston Kabbalah Society study group*

## The Tree of Life

Kabbalah is a living tradition both oral and written.

The oral tradition has continued for thousands of years.

The basic practices are  
the Way of Action  
the Way of Devotion  
the Way of Contemplation

## The Tree of Life



The Tree of Life is a sacred mandala, a key to your Self, the universe, and union with the Divine

**By working with the Tree of Life one can learn to balance inner and outer energies integrating body, soul, and spirit, and thus eventually to “know God”.**

## The Tree of Life



No one can say exactly where the sacred diagram of the Tree of Life originates but its roots trace back over 2000 years

The Tree of Life is the foundation of the philosophy, practices and methods of Western spiritual traditions

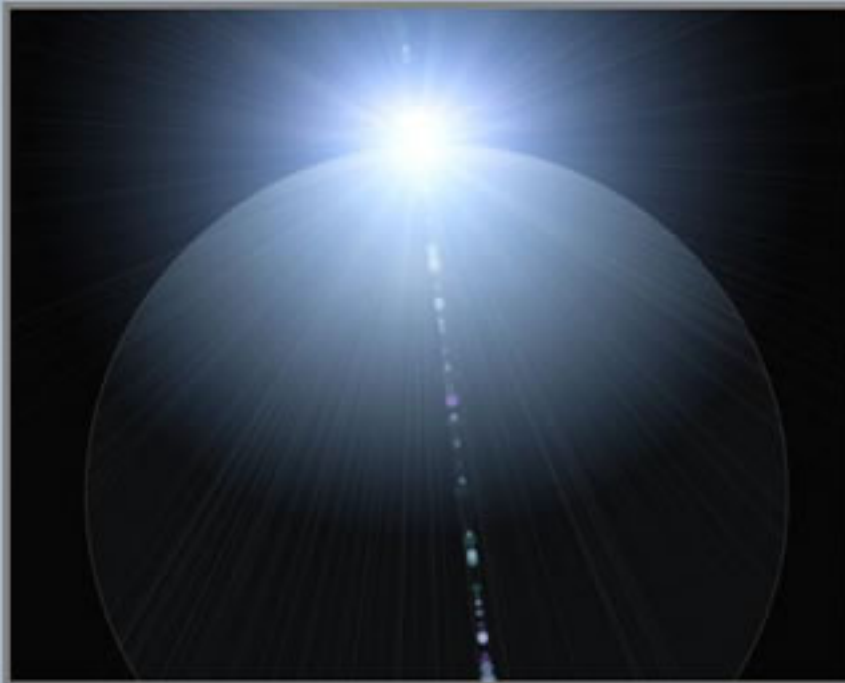
### **Tradition says that**

Melchizedek, the King of Righteousness and of Salem, and priest of the most high God, initiated Abraham into the knowledge of the esoteric Teaching, which concerns humanity, the universe and God. He is also seen as Enoch and Elijah - the instructor of mystics down through the ages.



Out of this encounter between a celestial (Melchizedek) and a terrestrial (Abraham) came the spiritual line known later as Kabbalah (Cabala, Qabalah)

Kabbalah means "to receive" - it is through receiving this hidden knowledge that man comes to know himself, the universe and God



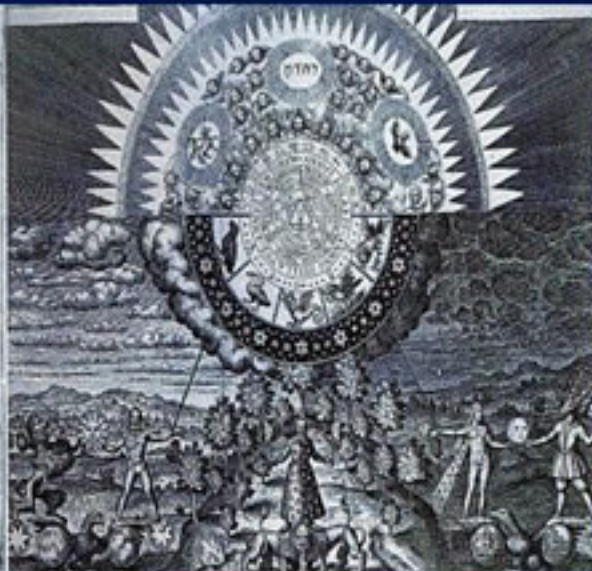
Kabbalah is the mystical heart of



Judaism



Esoteric Christianity



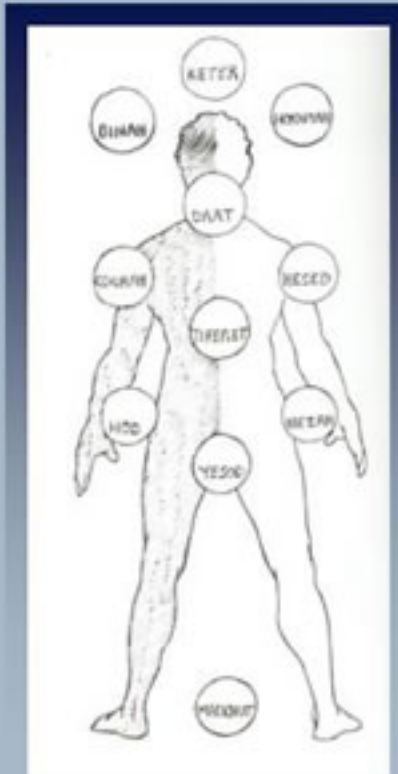
Western Mystery schools

# The Tree of Life

Every age has seen it through its own eye but it always contains same principles.



## The Tree of Life



Kabbalistic Tradition says that Man, the meeting point between heaven and earth, is an image of his Creator.

“ A complete but unrealized Tree in miniature, and lower than the angels, his is to choose to rise higher by climbing the branches of himself and so gain the ultimate fruit ”

## The Tree of Life



**This line of Kabbalah follows the Toledano Tradition.**

**The Toledano Tradition dates back to medieval Spain where the three branches of the Abrahamic revelation met in a civilised cosmopolitan atmosphere, not unlike our own epoch and the Kabbalah brought together an esoteric fusion of religion and philosophy.**

## The Tree of Life

The hallmark of the Toledo line is Jacob's Ladder, a metaphysical scheme of four interlocking worlds that originate in the primordial Tree of Life mandala of Kabbalah.



This diagram composed of Divine principles, paths and triads is the key to comprehending the plan of Existence and our part in it.

*Jacob's Ladder or the Extended Tree as disseminated by Z'ev ben Shimon Halevi*