

## We Will Become The Story That We Tell: The Revolutionary Wheel Spread By Joy Vernon

The Revolutionary Wheel Spread is based on the mystical symbolism of the Wheel of Fortune card. It uses the metaphor of rising up to contact the higher self, then circling those spiritual ideals down into manifestation. This is a perfect spread to use when asking a question about what changes you can make within yourself to achieve your goals. Questions having to do with specific projects or creative endeavors will also benefit from this spread. Anytime you need advice on how to re-energize a sluggish undertaking, step innovative ideas down into reality, or even how to make dreams come true, trust this spread. The Revolutionary Wheel Spread will help you start a revolution.

The first step is to examine the imagery this spread employs, based on the characters engraved on the Wheel in Arcanum X, as seen in the RWS deck. Let's examine the word Tarot and its symbolic permutations.

Many students have looked at the traditional images of the Wheel of Fortune card and noticed the clever placement of the letters T, A, R and O such that they circle around, concluding where they began. And more advanced students are probably familiar with the various metatheses of the letters proposed by S. L. MacGregor Mathers, for instance: TARO (an alternate spelling of Tarot); TORA ("law" in Hebrew); TROA ("gate" in Hebrew); ROTA ("wheel" in Latin); ORAT ("it speaks" or "it argues" in Latin); TAOR (a variant transliteration of the Egyptian Täur, the Goddess of Darkness); and ATOR (Athor, the Egyptian Venus). The variations of the letters T-A-R-O speak eloquently to the symbolism of that card, demonstrating how something that appears to us one way can in fact be interpreted with equal relevance another way, or even many ways. It all depends upon our point of view, or where we sit on the wheel.

The second step for the seeker of mystical metaphor is the Tetragrammaton.

Again looking at the letters inscribed on the Wheel, we see that alternating between the T-A-R-O are four Hebrew letters. These letters form the Tetragrammaton, which simply means “The Name of Four Letters” and is the ineffable name of God in the Hebrew language, often transliterated by scholars as Yahweh or Jehovah. YHVH is considered by some Talmudic scholars as having been derived from the Hebrew verb HVH הוה, “to be, to become.” Alternately, some scholars argue that the name arises from the metatheses of its root letters: HYH היה: “He was”; HVH הוה: “He is”; and YHYH יהיה: “He will be.” The ideas of “was,” “is,” and “will be,” and the idea of “to become,” are especially relevant to the allegory of the Tarot itself. The images of the Major Arcana of the Tarot, interpreted through a mystical lens, tell a story of transformation through descent and resurrection into a more spiritual life: the story of who we were, who we are and who we will be. This is the Revolutionary Wheel and this symbolism informs the spread that we will be learning.

	Element	Tarot Trump	Chinese	Astrological	Family	Tree of Life
<b>Y</b>	Fire	Hermit	Yang	Virgo	Father	Chokma
<b>H</b>	Water	Emperor	Ying	Aries	Mother	Binah
<b>V</b>	Air	Hierophant	n/a	Taurus	Son	Tiphareth
<b>H Final</b>	Earth	Emperor	n/a	Aries	Daughter	Malkuth

Each of the four letters that form the Tetragrammaton has its own symbolism. The Yod, the first letter, represents the original initiating energy that instigates the process of creation. But with nothing to act upon, its energy is wasted. The force of Yod is like the tree falling in the forest—without the ear of the second letter to receive its vibration, its metaphorical sound waves travel uselessly through empty space. Heh, the second letter, represents the matrix upon which this fiery force of Yod acts. Without the interaction of Yod, Heh is passive, inert. When acted

upon by Yod, Heh becomes pregnant with potential. As the Sephirah Binah, the head of the pillar of Severity, Heh limits and directs the unfocussed but powerful energy of Yod toward a purpose. The third letter of the Tetragrammaton is Vau. Vau is the outcome or offspring of the union or interaction of Yod and Heh. It is the next generation assigned the task of carrying on the tradition or creating a new one. Vau now has the task of acting on the Final Heh, which is similar to the first Heh but works on a different level. Final Heh is the new matrix upon which a new force will act; it is the conclusion of the first project and the starting point for the next project. YHVH: the letters alone tell a story of existence, transformation and regeneration; the story of how thought becomes realized as form, the story of the undying cycle of procreation. The poetry of Hebrew in four simple letters spells out the vast symbolism of the Wheel of Life, that powerful cycle of becoming, of was and is and will be.

The letters YHVH are written יהוה in Hebrew and read from right to left. It is interesting to note a variation to their placement: written vertically with the Yod at the top, we see another axis of the Wheel. Yod is the only Hebrew letter that does not touch the “ground” or the base line of that invisible guide we use to write (remember the three line grid given to a schoolchild on which to form the letters; we think, for instance, of the English “g” as having a tail that goes below that bottom line). Yod is orbiting in space, unmanifested, simply an idea whose time has not, in this sense, come. It needs something to bring it down to earth, so to speak. As the Hermit, the lone figure, the isolated leader, holding aloft the dim lamp of inner wisdom in the dark landscape of the unconscious, Yod is withdrawn from the mundane, the flame that inspires us to a more spiritual journey. Below that is Heh, then Vau. Vau looks like Yod with a tail added, connecting it to the bottom line of the invisible writing grid (all the Hebrew letters in fact are comprised of Yods placed together in various configurations). The Vau is written like a Yod with

a lightning rod straight to the ground, and this is in fact a relevant symbol of the relationship of the two. Vau is the Hierophant, the recognized leader of organized religion, belonging to the world of institution as opposed to that of Nature; his job is to teach established doctrine. Then the Final Heh is at the bottom of this vertically stacked word. In this metaphoric image, Yod the Hermit is transformed by Heh into the Hierophant, resulting in Final Heh, where the process is renewed in a never-ending cycle of the Hermit's isolation in study and contemplation, followed by the Hierophant's interaction as a teacher and giver of law. This is yet another powerful metaphor derived from these four seemingly simple letters, a story of the periods of introversion and inner work followed by the equally important sessions of extroversion and sharing of what one has learned.

So far, we have discovered that TARO suggests that the way we interpret events—the story that we tell—is influenced by our unique viewpoint. YHVH is the story of what was, what is and what will be, the power of transformation. It goes further, putting the ability into our own hands by giving us the method to achieve this transformation through alternating inner and outer work. If we were to reduce these three conclusions into a single sentence, we would gain an interesting understanding of Trump X, and of the metaphor of The Revolutionary Wheel Spread. “Our unique outlook (TARO) will transform us (YHVH) when we share it with others (Hermit→Hierophant).” Or, “We will become (YHVH) the story (TARO) that we tell (Hermit→Hierophant).” These two possible interpretations for the Wheel of Fortune card are based solely on the letters inscribed on the Wheel, but are nonetheless powerful and revolutionary ideas.

The Revolutionary Wheel spread utilizes the symbolism of TARO and YHVH in the layout and interpretation of the cards. It is performed as follows. Cards 1-4 follow the symbolism

of YHVH. They are considered the noumenal world, or the world of thought, the world that has not yet been manifested. Cards 5-8 follow the symbolism of TARO. They are considered the phenomenal world, or the manifested world of the senses.

You may find as you work with this spread that the inner world (noumenal) and outer world (phenomenal) will actually change places within the reading, turning like the wheel they represent. The YHVH spirals inward to self-reflection and the TARO spirals outward as you share with others. Like the repetition and expansion of a fractal, the Yod/Hermit of YHVH expands to incorporate the whole of the YHVH, and now the YHVH/Hermit of the spread becomes realized as the TARO/Hierophant. The world of thought is born into the world of the senses, and in turn the achievement of the world of the senses becomes a new idea to be pursued, understood, and in turn, told.

Noumenal World:

Card 1. Yod, the First Spark: *What inspires you.*

Card 2. Heh, the Matrix: *Where to direct this inspiration.*

Card 3. Vau, Progress: *What you can accomplish.*

Card 4. Heh Final, Completion and starting point for next cycle: *Where you will go from here.*

Phenomenal World:

Card 5. T, Tora, The Law: *What is constant in your world.*

Card 6. A, Ator, To Love: *Your emotional state/what you love.*

Card 7. R, Rota, The Wheel: *What is changing in your world.*

Card 8. O, Orat, To Argue: *Your mental state/what you believe.*