

Paradoxos Alpha *R+C Tattoo Symbolism*



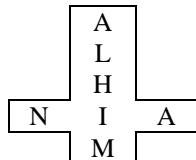
The original basis for the design is Martin Luther's seal (at left), a design that was created during or just before the first heyday of Rosicrucianism. Luther's seal, subsequently adopted as a symbol of the Protestant church he founded, shows a Latin cross within a red heart, inside a white rose of five petals.

(Paradoxos Alpha was subjected to infant baptism in a Lutheran church of Protestant Christianity, where he went on to be confirmed, and to serve actively in various capacities until leaving his parents' household. He was the "youth representative" on the church council, and even once preached a fairly incompetent, but soundly heretical, church sermon to that congregation.)

The tattoo design differs from its Lutheran antecedent on several points. Aesthetically, it incorporates traditional tattoo elements, such as more naturalistic rose petals (as opposed to the severely geometrical, heraldic style), a couple of "sprays" from the bloom, and more shading and dimensionality to the heart.

The tattoo rose has seven petals, rather than five. Thus it alludes to the seven rungs of the ladder, the seven planets, the seven letters of BABALON, and other important septenaries.

The cross is a Saint Peter's cross of gold, with two intersecting words in Hebrew. Counting the shared letter once, there are seven letters. Transliterated (but still reading the lateral word from right to left), it is:



The St. Peter's cross is a traditional Christian symbol; St. Peter (the "stone," who is sometimes identified with Simon Magus) was said to have been crucified head-down. Compare the posture of the MWS in the Black Room during the 33 years and the obligation. Note that the basis of the cross (i.e. the bottom letter) is *mem*, the Hanged Man on the Cross of Suffering.

The Hebrew phrase *ain elohim* appears most conspicuously in Psalm 53, which is a duplicate or twin of Psalm 14. (Verse 1: "The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no god.*") The twinning of the Psalm suits the dual nature of Heru-ra-ha, and the idea of the initiate as the twin of his profane identity (see chapter 56 of *The Book of Lies*). It also alludes to the astrological nativity of Paradoxos Alpha, with the sun in Gemini at the midheaven. Both Hebrew words begin with *aleph*, the Fool. "Fool" is from the Latin *follis*, bellows, from the Greek *phallos*. The *aleph* is the only duplicated letter in the figure.

The *yod* at the point of intersection represents the Secret Seed. It is the germinal character of all other Hebrew letters. It is also the initial of YHWH, having the value of 10, and therefore summing the emanations. In English transliteration, it is a pun on the first-person pronoun in the nominative case. "I am alone. There is no god where I am."

The letters of the divine name ALHIM (*elohim*) are attributable to the five elements. See chapter 86 of Liber CCCXXXIII, in which this formula is converted to NIHIL (Latin for *ain*).

Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor **print any marks** upon you: I am the LORD.
—*Leviticus XIX:28*

See now that I, even I, am he, and **there is no god** with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. —*Deuteronomy XXXII:39*

The fool hath said in his heart, **There is no God.** —*Psalms XIV:1*

The fool hath said in his heart, **There is no God.** —*Psalms LIII:1*

And said in their heart, that **there is no God;** yea, and that knowing they must die. —*IV Ezra 8:58*

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. —*Isaiah XXXV:1*

I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. —*Canticles II:1*

And he that taketh **not his cross**, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. —*Matthew X:38*

Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for **ye know the heart** of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. —*Exodus XXIII:9*

A good man out of the good **treasure of the heart** bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. —*Matthew XII:35*

I am alone. **There is no god** where I am. —*Liber Legis II:23*

I am uplifted in thine heart; and the kisses of the stars rain hard upon thy body. —*Liber Legis II:62*

Also I was in the spirit vision and beheld a parricidal pomp of atheists, coupled by two and by two in the supernal ecstasy of the stars. They did laugh and rejoice exceedingly, being clad in purple robes and drunken with purple wine, and their whole soul was one purple flower-flame of holiness. They beheld **not God;** they beheld not the Image of God; therefore were they arisen to the Palace of the Splendour Ineffable. A sharp sword smote out before them, and the worm Hope writhed in its death-agony under their feet. —
Liber Cordis Cincti Serpente V:34-35

And the Cross was formulated in the Universe that as yet was not. —*Liber Trigrammaton*

Seven are the veils of the dancing-girl in the harem of IT.

Seven are the names, and seven are the lamps beside Her bed.

Seven eunuchs guard Her with drawn swords; No Man may come nigh unto Her.

In Her wine-cup are seven streams of blood of the Seven Spirits of God.

Seven are the heads of THE BEAST whereon She rideth.

The head of an Angel: the head of a Saint: the head of a Poet: the head of An Adulterous Woman: the head of a Man of Valour: the head of a Satyr: and the head of a Lion-Serpent.

Seven letters hath Her holiest name; and it is BABALON.

—*The Book of Lies*, chapter 49