

The Greater Ritual of The Pentagram

Part 1. Invoking the elements



The Ritual

The Greater Ritual of the Pentagram

Begin with the "Qabalistic Cross":

Touch forehead and say **Ateh** ("to thee")

Touch genitals and say **Malkuth** ("the kingdom")

Touch right shoulder and say **ve-Geburah** ("and the power")

Touch left shoulder and say **ve-Gedulah** ("and the glory")

Clasping the hands upon the breast, say **le-Olahm, Amen** ("To the Ages, Amen").

Face East. Make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Active) and vibrate **AH IH** ("Eh-hee-eh").

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Air and vibrate: **YHVH** ("Ye-ho-vah")

Give the Sign of Air

Move deosil (clockwise) to the South and make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Active) and vibrate **AH IH** ("Eh-hee-eh").

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Fire and vibrate: **ALHIM** ("El-oh-heem")

Give the Sign of Fire

Move to the West. Make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Passive) and vibrate **AGLA** ("Ah-glah")

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Water and vibrate: **EL** ("ell")

Give the Sign of Water

Carry point to the North. Make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Passive) and vibrate **AGLA** ("Ah-glah")

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Earth and vibrate: **ADNI** ("Ad-oh-nye")

Give the Sign of Earth

Return to the East and end with "Qabalistic Cross"

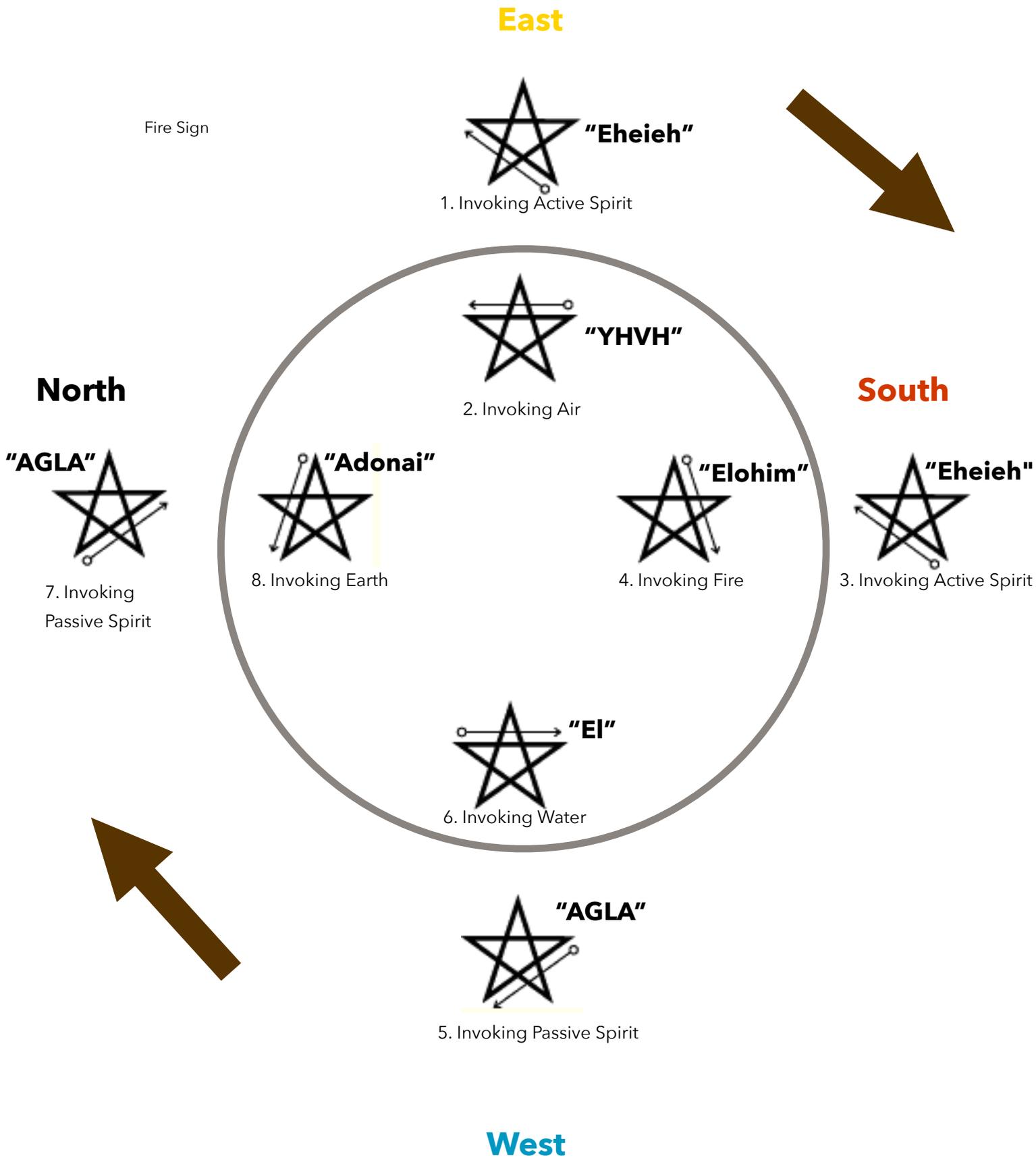
Touch forehead and say **Ateh** ("to thee")

Touch heart and say **Malkuth** "the kingdom")

Touch right shoulder and say **ve-Geburah** ("and the power")

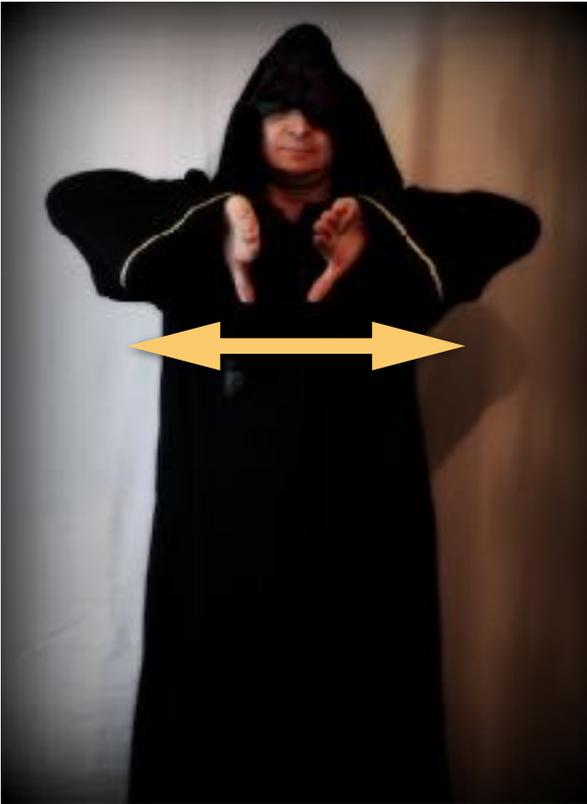
Touch left shoulder and say **ve-Gedulah** ("and the glory")

Clasping the hands upon the breast, say **le-Olahm, Amen** ("To the Ages, Amen").



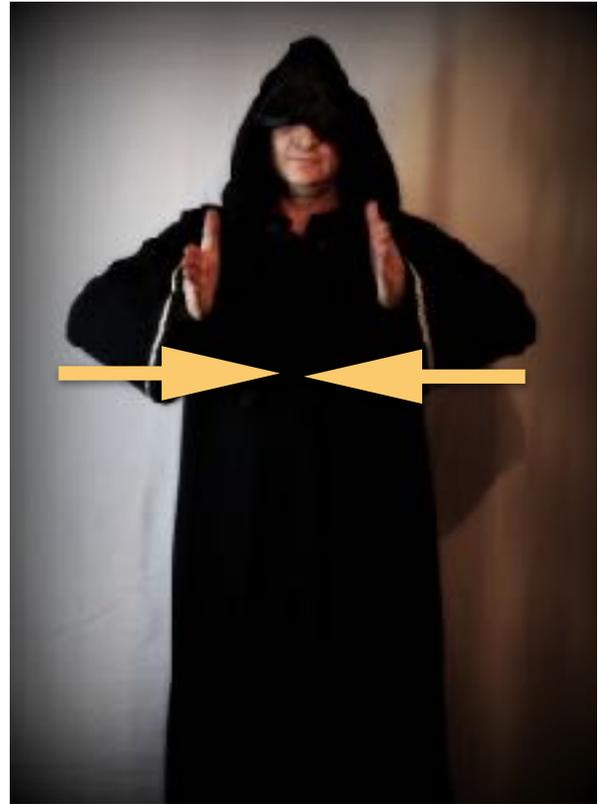
The Signs

The Rending of The Veil



Opening/Rending

East and South



Closing

West and North

In Crowley's example the hands are held with palms down and forearms parallel to the floor.

"Rending" implies a quality of violence to tearing the veil. It's debatable, but you may prefer to think more in terms of parting some really expensive curtains.

Air

The sign of the god Shu supporting the sky.



In Crowley's example the hands are directed outwards away from the head rather than to the rear.

Shu was an Egyptian god of light and air and was the personification of the wind and atmosphere.

Shu had the appearance of a man wearing a headdress with feathers, or a lion. Shu was often depicted holding up Nuit, separating the earth and the stars.

Shu was created by the self-created god, Atum, from his saliva. She was the husband of Tefnut and the father of Nuit (the sky, Our Lady of The Stars) and Get (the earth). Shu kept them apart from each other as depicted here, thus giving rise to the atmosphere.



A quick addition: in classical depictions, Shu has his left hand on Nuit's breast and his right on her lady parts. That should make it easy to remember and visualise.

Fire

The sign of the goddess Thoum-Aesh-Neith.



I'm indebted to the members of the Mind, Myth and Magick group for this one. Neith was the fierce feminine Egyptian deity who was a sky Goddess, depicted as a cow of heaven giving birth to the sun each morning. She was a virgin mother and amongst both things symbolised rule and power.

Thoum-Aesh-Neith appears to be a composite god with Aesh being Hebrew for fire. The origin of Thoum appears debatable with a number of possibilities, for example it may mean miracle (from Thaum in ancient Greek), and/or a possible connection with Neith's son, Daumetef, which translates as "He who adores his mother."

The actual connection with Neith and the triangle fire sign, or even to the element of fire appears tenuous at best.

Water

The sign of the goddess Auramoth.



Auramoth is another tenuous composite deity and is not the name of an Egyptian deity as is often stated. Correctly written the name would be thus: Aura-Mut.

Aura (Aure) was the ancient Greek goddess of the breeze and cool morning air. One of the Titan pantheon, she was a virgin huntress. Well, that was until after Nemesis sought to address this virginity and ordered her raped by Dionysus, the god of wine. Aura turned full Wuornos after this becoming a sadistic killer of men.

Mut (or Mot) was a creator deity associated with the primal waters from which all life emerges. She gave birth to, and adopted, moon deities.

I'm not able to locate any association with the sign.

Earth

The sign of the god Set fighting.



Correctly performed the right arm would be extended and straightened. In some versions "the sign of the magician" (above) is used in the above form (see in some tarot decks, The Magician, though most use the straight arms).

A trickster deity, Set was a troublesome god of Egypt causing storms, social disorder and violence. Set also crews on Ra's boat as it crosses the sky, employed to repel Apep. Set was the brute that killed and chopped up his brother Osiris (i.e. he who was "slain and risen" referenced in the hexagram ritual). As lord of the red deserts Set generally had a lot of fights with Horus who was in his role as god of the black lands. This is the only association I am able to find for Set's position in the ritual.

Glossary of terms (in order of sequence)

Touch forehead and say **Ateh** ("to thee")

Often given as "to thee" it is more correctly translated as "Thou art", Thou (i.e. "you") refers to God, the sum totality of existence, the BIG God, THE God, not any of the permutations or derivatives. This is Kether ("Crown"), the first emanation on the Tree of Life.

Image for Kether:

Brilliant white light, above and in head.

"The word 'ineffable' means beyond description, beyond speech. It refers to Kether, the ultimate Unity which is beyond all Understanding and cannot be comprehended even through the highest Wisdom." (**Helena & Tau Apiryon, 1998**)

Touch genitals and say **Malkuth** ("the kingdom")

The manifest world.

Colours: Citrine, olive, russet, and black.

Magical Power: The Vision of the Holy Guardian Angel or of Adonai.

Touch right shoulder and say **ve-Geburah** ("and the power")

Strength.

Colour: Scarlet red.

Magical Power: Vision of Strength.

Planetary attribution: Mars (qualities: war, aggression, anger, survival, active energy).

Touch left shoulder and say **ve-Gedulah** ("and the glory")

Representative of Chesed (Mercy - "Gedulah" means "Majesty/Glory"), the fourth emanation on the Tree of Life.

Colour: Blue.

Magical Power: The Vision of Love.

Planetary attribution: Jupiter (qualities: abundance, insight through knowledge, morality, gratitude, hope, honour, and the law.)

Clasping the hands upon the breast, say **le-Olahm, Amen** ("To the Ages, Amen").

Face East. Make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Active) and vibrate **AH IH** ("Eh-hee-eh").

Active/Passive Spirit:

It may be easiest to think of the active/passive spirit in terms of a plug and a socket. The plug being active, the socket being passive. Or, if we want to be more Thelemic about it, Lingam (man parts) as active and Yoni (lady parts) as passive.

Active spirit is a dynamic active force. Effective application of this force can only occur if all four elements - earth, air, fire, water - are equilibrated (balanced). A lack of balance may lead one to apply more force with an elemental bias.

For example, for an excess of fire and deficiency of water, one may be overly wilful without creativity. An excess of water may lead one to be too emotional, lack of earth may lead to poor physical health and an unclean house, and so on.

Meanwhile, Passive spirit is the receptive 'force', or better, the force to be receptive. Unbalanced it renders one to be a naive and gullible fool open to all sorts of influences. For example, we may be more open to ideas (air) whilst ignoring action (fire)

AH IH

AH IH = Eheieh, meaning, "I am". "Eheieh Asher Eheieh" ("I Am That I Am" or more correctly, "Being is Being") is the name God gave to Moses at the burning bush when Moses asked who was speaking to him. "Eheieh Asher Eheieh" is the God throughout the story of Moses, the Exodus from Egypt and subsequent desert adventures.

Qabalistically, this god-name corresponds to Kether.

Make the **Signs of the Portal** (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Rending means to rip, or tear. This carries a number of religious and mystical connotations and themes.

At the death of Jesus upon the cross, "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent"

Matthew 27:51

The veil refers to the curtain that separates the "Holy of Holies", the inner holy

sanctum of the temple, from the rest of the temple. Symbolically it is shielding God from sinful man, and vice versa.

The *Veil of Paroketh* is an oft contended concept within qabalah but generally can be interpreted as the veil of the four elements. It lies just beneath Tipheret on the Tree of Life separating Hod, Netzach, Yesod and Malkuth from Tipheret and above.

The goddess Isis was covered by a veil, spiritual knowledge can be found by metaphorically uncovering this goddess, i.e. "Isis Unveiled" by Madame Blavatsky.

Tenuous masonic lore links the goddess Isis with "Eheieh" giving some masonry a strong Egyptian flavour.

East / Air (Aleph)

Make the invoking pentagram of Air and vibrate: **YHVH** ("Ye-ho-vah")

YHVH - Tetragrammaton - is the fourfold name of God. The Big Guy. This is the god name attributed to the 11th path on the Tree of Life (connecting Kether to Chockmah), the Hebrew letter Aleph which corresponds to the tarot card, The Fool. The elemental attribution of this path is air.

Give the Sign of Air

East is attributed to the element of air (or, if you prefer, Air is attributed to the east). Airy concepts are things like intellect, thought, ideas, concepts, innovation.

To air and the east we have:

- The archangel Raphael.
- The elemental weapon of swords/dagger
- The colour yellow.
- The elemental spirits called Sylphs.

Remember, air is also the elemental attribution of Kether, the first emanation.

South / Fire (Shin)

Move deosil (clockwise) to the South and make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Active) and vibrate **AH IH** ("Eh-hee-eh").

AH IH = Eheieh, meaning, "I am". "Eheieh Asher Eheieh" ("I Am That I Am" or more correctly, "Being is Being") is the name God gave to Moses at the burning bush when Moses asked who was speaking to him. "Eheieh Asher Eheieh" is the God throughout the story of Moses, the Exodus from Egypt and subsequent desert adventures.

Qabalistically, this god-name corresponds to Kether.

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Fire and vibrate: **AL HIM** ("El-oh-heem")

Elohim

Grammatically, Elohim is the plural for God, -im as a suffix denoting a plural masculine, but it is frequently used as a singular name. Elohim is the plural of Eloah.

Amongst other things, Elohim also refers to the pantheon of the Canaanite Gods (most of whom were rendered demons in the Goetia) and also to angels/judges (Bible).

Elohim is the god name attributed to the 31st path on the Tree of Life which connects Hod with Malkuth, the Hebrew letter Shin, the tarot card, The Aeon (or, The Last Judgement) and the element of fire.

Give the Sign of Fire

The element of fire is attributed to the south. Typical fiery concepts are things such as dynamic will, action, motivation, force of action.

To the south we have:

- The archangel Michael.
- The elemental weapon, wand.
- The colour scarlet red.

- The elemental spirits called Salamanders.

As well as Shin, Fire is also the elemental attribution of Geburah, Chockmah and Netzach.

West / Water (Mem)

Move to the West. Make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Passive) and vibrate **AGLA** ("Ah-glah")

AGLA

This is an acronym using the kabbalistic principle of notarikon. AGLA is pronounced "Ahh-gla" although many magician will intone the complete sentence instead. It stands for: Atah Gibor Le-olam Adonai which translates as, "You, O Lord, are mighty forever."

Ateh: You, Thou Art

Gibor: Mighty

Le-Olahm: unto the ages, forever, across time

Adonai: Lord

It might help with memory to know that the god name for Geburah is Elohim Gibor ("Mighty God" or to be grammatically correct, "The Mighty Gods").

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Water and vibrate: **EL** ("ell")

EL

This was the name of the supreme god of the Canaanites, in Hebrew it means "god" (little g) or "deity".

El is the god name associated with Chesed (Mercy/Loving Kindness) which laterally balances Geburah on the tree of life.

Water is the elemental attribution of Chesed, Binah, and Hod.

El is also the god name associated with the 23rd path on the Tree of Life connecting Geburah with Hod, the elemental Hebrew letter Mem, the tarot card The Hanged Man and the element of water.

Give the Sign of Water

Water is the element attributed to the West.

Typical water qualities are: creativity, emotions, fertility, artistry.

To the west we have:

- The archangel Gabriel
- The elemental weapon of cups.
- The colour blue.
- The elemental spirits called the Undines.

Water is the element attributed to Binah, Chesed and Hod.

North / Earth (Tau)

Carry point to the North. Make the invoking pentagram of Spirit (Passive) and vibrate **AG LA** ("Ah-glah")

Make the Signs of the Portal (the Rending and Closing of the Veil)

Make the invoking pentagram of Earth and vibrate: **ADNI** ("Ad-oh-nye")

Adonai

Meaning "My Lords." It is plural of adon, which means "lord." Adonai is the name that is used in place of the tetragrammaton to avoid the accidental cessation of the universe that accompanies the corrected pronunciation of YHVH.

Adonai is the god associated with Malkuth, often in the forms of Adonai Melek ("The Lord Reigneth" or "Lord my King") or Adonai ha-Aretz ("Lord of the Earth").

Adonai is also the god name for the 32nd path on the Tree of Life connecting Yesod with Malkuth, attributed to the elemental Hebrew letter Tau, the tarot card The Universe and the element of earth.

Give the Sign of Earth

The element of earth is attributed to the north. Typical earthy attributions are the physical world, buildings, the body, money/coins.

To the north we have:

- The archangel Auriel.
- The elemental weapon of the pentacle.
- The colours citrine, olive, russet, and black.
- The elemental spirits called the Gnomes.

The element of earth is also attributed to Malkuth.