

INITIAL AND RAW NUMBER CASTING

By Shepherd Hoodwin



In the Michael teachings, *casting* refers to a soul's position within consecutively larger groupings of souls, giving one certain qualities. There are two different kinds of casting for *entities* (soul families) on the physical plane: *initial (essence) casting* (first presented in *More Messages from Michael* by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro in the "Michael Math" chapter), and *raw number (incarnational) casting* (pioneered by Michael channel JP Van Hulle). There's a lot of confusion because the two physical plane casting systems have often been conflated. We cannot figure out our raw number from our initial casting. *They are two different kinds of casting.* One shouldn't expect them to work the same way.

INITIAL CASTING

Our initial casting is the order in which we were cast from the Tao, governing how we tend to direct our essence energies. It can give us flavors of other roles, but not their energies (as essence twin bleedthrough does).

On the third line of my charts are the terms *Casting: Cadence Position, Cadence,* and *Greater Cadence.* On the fourth is *Cadre* and *Entity.* These numbers are like our address. A cadence is a group of seven souls, almost always all of the same role. Our position in that is our primary casting. Our role and primary casting are

the most important items on our chart, along with our essence twin role bleedthrough when discarnate.

The numbers 1 through 7 resonate with the seven roles thus:

- 1—Server
- 2—Artisan
- 3—Warrior
- 4—Scholar
- 5—Sage
- 6—Priest
- 7—King

These number correlations are the basis of “Michael math.” They move from most populous to least, and from most ordinal (narrow-focused) to most cardinal (wide-focused). This applies to both initial and raw number casting.

To give an example of initial casting, I am a sage with 5/4/3 casting, so I am a sage-cast sage. Sage is my *primary casting* since 5 is the first number, and sages are the fifth-position role. I am a stereotypical sage, and therefore I tend to strongly direct my sage energies into the sage domain (communication, performance, writing, teaching, singing, etc.—fifth chakra activities). If I were a warrior-cast sage, with the numbers 3/4/3, I would direct my sage energies into the warrior domain, such as the business world, in addition to my normal sage proclivities. (I have a sage essence twin, so ET bleedthrough doesn’t bring in any new role energies.)

My *secondary casting* is 4, or scholar. I secondarily direct my sage energies into the scholar domain, which accounts for my collecting information as well as disseminating it. The 5 number applies only to me in my cadence, so it is the most concentrated or important for me. The 4 applies to everyone in my cadence of sages (seven of us), so it is more general. One could say that it makes a larger circle around me, diluted but evident from a little further away. Therefore, Sarah Chambers channeled that the number in this position stands out to friends and family.

The third number, 3, is the weakest influence on me personally, since it applies to everyone in my greater cadence, which is forty-nine sages, making a still-larger circle of influence. For me, it adds a bit of the warrior’s enterprising nature. I

include it on my charts to see whether it reinforces any other essence influences; in my case, it doesn't.

Our entity's number within our cadre is also part of our initial casting. Since it applies to all thousand or so entity members, it is far more diffuse, creating a much bigger circle around us. Therefore, according to Sarah, strangers (those farther away) will notice the casting of our entity's position. In my case, that is a general artisan quality, since my entity is in the number 2 position of its cadre. All number 2 position entities have a generalized artisan quality. It just so happens that my entity has a lot of sages, so people will also notice a light, general sage flavor in entity members who aren't sages. Therefore, my entity has a strong expression-axis quality, since artisan and sage are the two expression-axis roles.

I refer to myself as a sage-cast sage because primary casting, or our position within our cadence, is the most important part of our initial casting, but of course not the whole of it. I could accurately refer to myself as a sage/scholar/warrior/artisan-cast sage, but obviously that would be cumbersome. However, since secondary casting is also quite important, I might also refer to myself as a sage with sage and scholar casting.

Cadre numbers channeled through me have no casting implications, since they are not one out of seven or twelve, but one out of infinity, a unique number for each cadre so that people can know whether they are in the same entity as someone else.

A list of entities and cadres, with their positions and traits, are here:

<https://shepherdhoodwin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Entities—Traits-and-Celebrity-Members.pdf>

Michael through me refers to my cadre as 3, but it is first in its *cadre group* (or *energy ring*), which is twelve cadres. According to JP Van Hulle, its twelve positions are: *love, knowledge, compassion, mentor, beauty, child, humor, discipline, anchor, healer, enlightenment, and muse*. These positions particularly relate to how the cadres interact with one another. For example, cadres in the love (first) position tend to initiate new things for the cadre group; in our universe, all things begin with love.

RAW NUMBER CASTING

José Stevens writes in *Tao to Earth* that before we as eternal sparks of the Tao commit to a grand cycle, we may explore the planet as a deva (nature spirit) in order to get a feel for it and see whether we like it. Devas link directly to the Tao. The fact that I am passionate about trees suggests that I was likely a tree deva then. Before the devic stage, we tentatively gather together into entities. After it, most if not all entity members commit to a grand cycle. Then, things like casting order are finalized, perhaps with some changes, and the initial casting occurs.

The entity settles on the astral plane of the chosen planet to organize its time on the physical plane prior to beginning incarnations. Each soul volunteers for specific *global jobs* and *community responsibilities*. It is the same entity but its members take different positions that are not so much about the soul's inner qualities (as in initial casting) as about what it does on the physical plane. Raw number casting is like shuffling a deck of cards; each card retains its type (e.g., four of clubs, or server-cast warrior) but is now in a different order. This is raw number casting. Raw numbers are a unique number each entity member has, from 1 to however many members the entity has, typically around a thousand but it can be fewer or greater. If we know our raw number, we can look up where we are in its structure, which determines our global job and community responsibility.

This stage of planning is like forming a search party—the entity splits up to search for different kinds of experiences to bring back to the entity. Then the entity's first incarnation begins, usually by the soul with the raw number 1 (1/1/1 casting), since 1 casting tends to lead the way or go first. 1 resonates with the role of server, the most ordinal role, but it is in the most cardinal position since it is first; those with 1 casting are predisposed to do server things on a large scale. JP has a raw number of 1. Her entity also happens to be first in its cadre and cadre group (twelve cadres), so she is in a very cardinal position, although her warrior role is ordinal.

According to JP, my raw number is 41. Looking up 41 on the *Raw Numbers/Casting Blocks* PDF, I see that I am in the sixth (priest) position of my row (a row is like initial casting's cadence), characterized by a *community responsibility of trust and faith*. The row itself is also sixth in its block (forty-nine souls, like a greater cadence), characterized by *welcome*, which is my *global job*.

This block is in the first (server) position in its *side* of entity, which is seven blocks, or 343 souls: 7 x 7 x 7. It has a *motivation* of *bonding*, so it is called the *server bonding block*.

Raw Numbers/Casting Blocks:

<https://shepherdhoodwin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Casting-Blocks.pdf>

Community Responsibilities:

<https://shepherdhoodwin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Community-Responsibilities-JP-Van-Hulle.pdf>

Global Jobs:

<https://shepherdhoodwin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Global-Jobs-JP-Van-Hulle.pdf>

(If you received a chart from me, PDFs are also in the accompanying Chart Reference Material folder.)

So my casting in this system is 6/6/1 (or if one starts with the block first, 1/6/6.) I otherwise have no inspiration-axis qualities on my chart, so this explains where those traits come from (priest and server are the two inspiration-axis roles).

Independently, German Die Quelle channel Varda Hasselmann also received information about raw numbers. Die Quelle's *Paths* are our position within our cadence in the raw number system. They call that sixth position the Path of Silence.

The Seven Paths of the Soul

- 1—Path of Touch
- 2—Path of Knowledge
- 3—Path of Strength
- 4—Path of Form
- 5—Path of Longing
- 6—Path of Silence
- 7—Path of Search

See the *Paths of the Soul* PDF for more information:

<https://shepherdhoodwin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Paths-of-the-Soul-Varda-Hasselmann.pdf>

The *Raw Numbers/Casting Blocks* PDF shows that in raw number casting, there are seven possible community responsibilities for each position. A block has seven *casting columns*, each containing the seven members in a particular position. (There's no comparable term for that in initial casting.) For example, every member in the sixth position of its row is said to be in the priest casting column, since six is the priest number.

I am also in the *priest salvation row*, so I have double priest casting in the raw number system. In other words, I am in the priest position both vertically and horizontally within my block on the *Raw Numbers/Casting Blocks* chart. My community responsibility of trust and faith suggest that double priest influence. The soul directly "above" me in my priest casting column, with a raw number of 34 (41 minus 7) is in the sage communication row, with a responsibility of *interpretation*, which reflects the combination of sage and priest.

There are three sides of 343 souls in an entity. The first is the *truth side*, the second is the *love side*, and the third is the *energy side*. If an entity has more than 1029 members, the others are *wild cards* outside of the basic structure who attach to it between two other members. (There are no wild cards in initial casting; they only exist in raw number casting.)

Wild cards, which are relatively rare, determine their community responsibility and global job a little differently. The raw number of the third wild card in an entity, for example, could be considered to be 1032 (1029 + 3). That soul's community responsibility is the same as the soul with the raw number of 3, *support*, so entity numbering starts over in that regard. Its global job, however, is the same as that of the two other members to whom that soul attaches. So if it attaches between those with raw numbers 12 and 13, which is in the second row of the first block, it shares the global job of the seven members of that row: *health*, which is the second global job out of the forty-nine. If it attaches to souls who straddle two rows, such as 14 and 15, it combines the global jobs of health and *domestication*.

Entity members who are not wild cards have six especially close connections: with the two on either side of them (in my case, 40 and 42), the two above and below (34 and 48), and the two in the same position on the other entity sides (384 love side and 727 energy side). Wild cards have just two strong connections; in the example above, it is with 12 and 13.

The three souls in the same position in their entity's sides (41, 384, and 727) have a *tri-bond* that can explore three sides of issues together over a number of lifetimes. For example, if the issue is abuse of power, in one lifetime, 384 might be the abuser, 727 might be the abused, and 41 might be a neutral witness unable to do anything about it. In two other lifetimes, each takes another position; e.g., 384 is the abused in the next lifetime and the neutral witness in the one that follows. Although this is obviously a negative example, any shared experience is bonding and can help to later draw the entity together when it is reuniting.

Within each side of 343 souls, everyone has a unique combination of community responsibility and global job, but since there are three sides, there are three people who have the same combination. For example, three entity members have a community responsibility of *socialization* and a global job of *partnership*: on the truth side, it's the member with the raw number of 33; on the love side, 376; and on the energy side, 719.

There is a third kind of casting once an entity cycles off and starts to reunite on the upper astral plane. That affects its experiences moving forward, giving its members new tasks apropos to a reuniting entity.

The "Michael Math" chapter explains that with casting numbers, cardinality and ordinality are reversed: server is the most ordinal role, but 1 casting, which resonates with server and all the ordinal inspiration overleaves, is most cardinal since it comes first. That allows souls to experience each role's qualities in a cardinal as well as an ordinal way, other than 4/scholar, which stays neutral since it's in the middle. This is true of both kinds of casting.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SYSTEMS

Initial casting groups souls by roles: a string of greater cadences of, say, sages first, then servers, etc. In raw number casting, the basic groups of seven, rows, can have mixed roles. That is one giveaway that they are different systems.

In initial casting, the first number (position in one's cadence) has the strongest impact on the individual and the following numbers become progressively weaker. With raw number casting, the importance of its three numbers varies by circumstance.

Entity structure in its initial casting from the Tao can be complex and variable. There are some classic patterns in entity structure, but it can be tailored to what its members want to experience during the upcoming grand cycle. As Michael is fond of saying, “All is choice.”

For example, there can be several strings of greater cadences of one role clustered together, but no set number—there could be one greater cadence of sages in an entity, or eight. There could even be empty, uninhabited spaces in cadences or greater cadences, although this is rare.

Many entities have just one string of each role, but some entities choose to have more than one of certain roles spread throughout the entity. If that is the case, there could be, for example, two or more sages with 1/1/1 initial casting, because the third number refers to our greater cadence’s position within our string of greater cadences, not within, say, all the sages in our entity—our entity may have more than one cluster of sages. For example, there could be two greater cadences of sages followed by six of servers, one more of sages, four of scholars, five of kings, and two more of sages—so not all the sages are in one “place.”

In addition, some entities might choose to have all seven roles rather than the more common two to four.

Raw number casting is more uniform: $7 \times 7 = 49$. $49 \times 7 = 343$. $343 \times 3 = 1029$. It is about specific global jobs and community responsibilities, forty-nine of each, and not about the structure of the entity itself. These are inherent to working on the physical plane, so it’s a matter of choosing from these naturally occurring energies, just as we pick from one of seven with each of the roles and overleaves.

Side of entity in raw number casting is not the same as *love, truth, or beauty* orientation on my charts. There are no sides in initial casting; initial entity structure isn’t in three parts.

In our universe, the emanation from the Tao divides, like through a prism, into three fundamental forces: love (emotion), truth (intellect), and beauty (vitality, or pure energy). On the Michael chart, these show up as the inspiration, expression, and action axes. Each soul must tie into these universal forces in order to maintain the existence of the entity.

In raw number casting, this is done by having three equal sides (other than the wild cards). In initial casting, orientations are distributed randomly through entities by the choice of the individual entity member. An entity doesn't necessarily have equal numbers of each orientation. A whole cadre is more likely to, but it's not required.

I have a truth/love orientation, which means that from my initial casting, I am always working to integrate truth and love. Orientations are usually just love, truth, or beauty, not a combination, but some sparks do choose to work with integrating two of the three forces.

We could theoretically also have a raw number in initial casting, but the potential complexity and variability of entity structure makes it less well suited to assigning a unique, definitive number to each essence. It would be like trying to assign a numerical order to people on a field where many are lined up in the center but some are lined up off to the side—our decisions about where to integrate those on the side into the main line would be somewhat arbitrary.

Initial casting is more “baked into” our essence than raw number casting; it is more likely to show up in one's appearance. The latter is most relevant to the sorts of tasks undertaken on the physical plane, although, like initial casting, it continues to color the soul as it moves through the higher planes, especially the astral and causal. (Our experience on the three high planes is abstract and more unified.)

CASTING VERSUS ROLE

Neither kind of casting is more important than our essence role, which is our basic nature. Sometimes, however, our secondary influences, especially our initial primary casting and/or ET bleedthrough, jump out at others first. The roles of server, artisan, and scholar tend to be more mild-mannered, whereas the other roles have stronger flavors. If secondaries have a stronger flavor than a person's role, they have a greater tendency to be noticed first.

Also, our essence role is more internal—it is literally our essential nature—whereas our initial casting is how we project that into the world, another reason it might be noticed first.

If secondary influences are reinforced elsewhere on our chart, that makes them all the stronger. Let's say that a scholar has warrior primary casting, is third-level young (the warrior level of the number three/warrior soul age), a discarnate warrior essence twin (whose energy bleeds through), and has the warrior attitude of cynic. You would probably think that the person is a warrior unless you carefully studied their eyes.

PREVIOUS CYCLES

This is probably not the first time that we as sparks of the Tao (our innermost nature) have inhabited a physical life form capable of reason. The average person on Earth has done it four times before, each time in a different life form on another planet. Some humans have done it as many as nineteen times. Each time we do a grand cycle, we develop more complexity—we become more skilled at this game. If an entity has a high average number of previous cycles, the consensus might find it interesting to vary initial casting's usual entity structure. (See Chapter 15, "Previous Cycles," in my book *Journey of Your Soul*.)

Nothing on a Michael Reading chart, including our casting, describes traits of the spark of the Tao or is carried forward from previous grand cycles. If we choose to embark on another grand cycle after reuniting with the Tao, we start with a blank slate and can choose everything new. As they say, variety is the spice of life. We are here partly to grow, and a variety of experiences gives us more growth.

It's not likely that we'd want to have the same combinations of traits again. If we already did a grand cycle as a server with a server essence twin and king primary casting, the next time we're a server, we might choose to have a sage essence twin and scholar primary casting, which would give us a more informational orientation.

We *are* likely to join with some friends from previous cycles on new adventures, so members of our current entity or at least cadre might be sparks we knew during at least one previous cycle, albeit in new configurations. The Michael teachings name a relationship *essence mate* to refer to a soul who was our essence twin during a previous cycle. *Task mates* are former task companions.

Since "all is choice" and entities reconfigure each cycle, an entity could include essences with three previous cycles alongside those with eighteen. We choose how we want to experience each planet, and with whom. In addition, we choose

the speed with which we move through the physical plane, so an entity could include baby souls alongside old souls, although entity mates tend to move more in tandem. There are few rigid rules in the universe, just tendencies.

CONCLUSION

As complicated as this all might sound, virtually everything taught in metaphysics, including the Michael teachings, is already a simplification of a reality far too complex for us to understand in human bodies limited by five senses and our modest brain. We can only work with models that approximate reality. Entities are not physical objects with different locations within them, like street addresses, but we use that model for our convenience. We are actually talking about different vibrational frequencies.

As we ascend through the higher planes, consecutively larger groups reunite; consciousness as an individual lessens and consciousness as the larger unit increases. Michael is on the mid-causal plane and they speak of themselves as a reunited entity—the one thousand fifty warrior and king souls work together much more directly and are more integrated than when they were incarnating on the physical plane in their own individual lifetimes. They identify with the whole entity, just as our thumb might identify as being our body. However, reunification occurs without the parts dissolving. I can communicate, for example, with the specific member currently most responsible for dictating my charts, a server-cast king in terms of initial casting.

Michael will experience more integration still as they move through the higher planes. At one point, they will identify as being their cadre, and later, their cadre group, etc. until they have completed this grand cycle and are again fully integrated with the Tao.

RESOURCES

If you've had your raw number channeled, look it up on the *Raw Numbers/Casting Blocks* PDF. At the bottom of the box is your community responsibility. To the left is your global job.

Ed Hamerstrom had a series of individual Michael channeling sessions around 2010 with JP Van Hulle on this subject. They discussed each of the forty-nine community responsibilities and forty-nine global jobs. You can look up yours by

searching the two PDFs of the transcripts. Many thanks to JP and Ed for this invaluable resource, and to Barbara Taylor for creating the graphics for the *Raw Numbers/Casting Blocks* PDF, based on JP's work. Also, big thanks to Varda Hasselmann for her permission to include the *Paths of the Soul* PDF, an excerpt from one of her books, generously translated by Torsten Sohns.

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