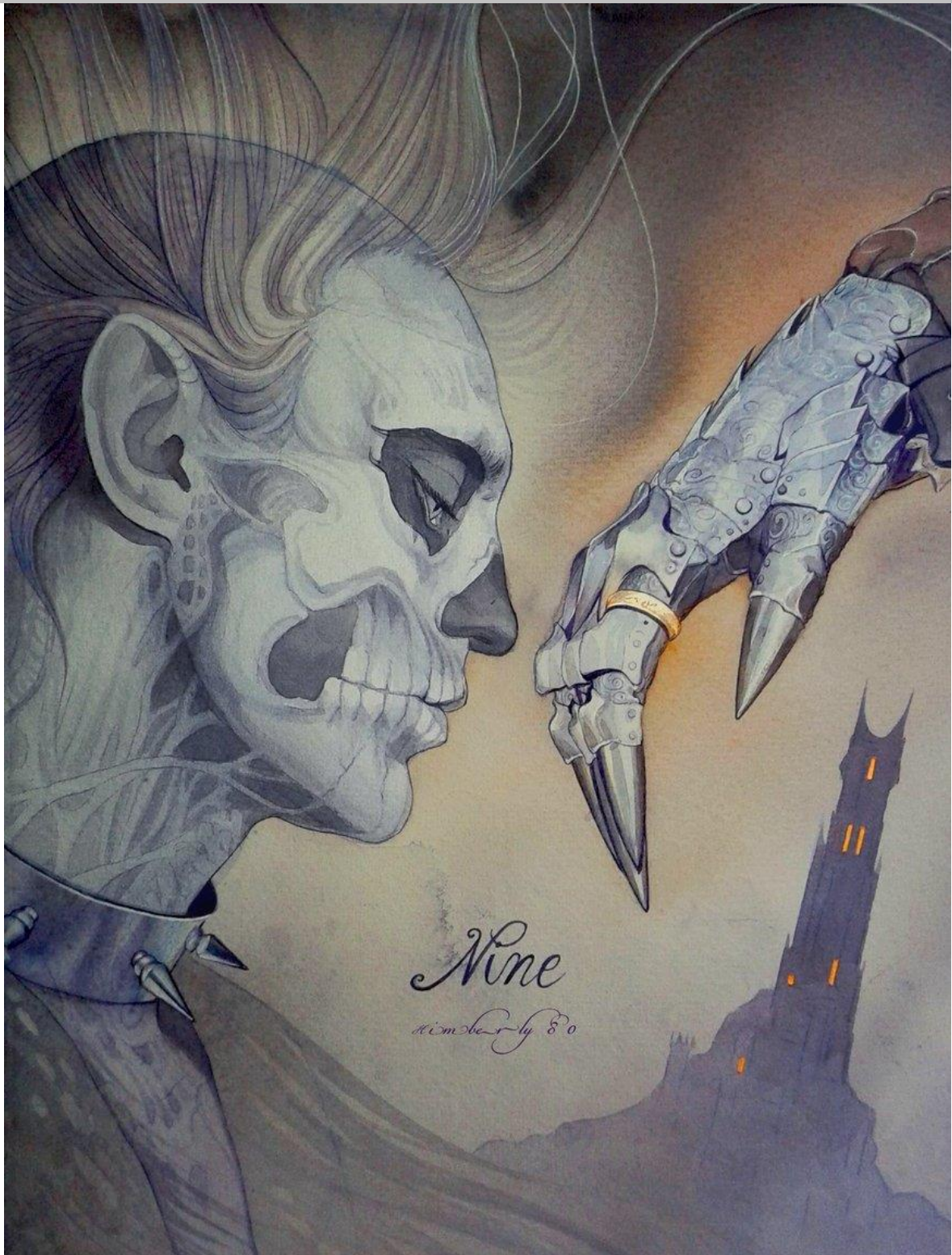


*The natural depravity  
of number nine*



## Number 9 represents the earth under the influence of an evil principle.

Edited from H.P. Blavatsky's article "1890! On the New Year's Morrow," first published in: *Lucifer*, Vol. V, No 29, January 1890, pp. 357-64. Republished in: *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, XII pp. 67-78. Full text in our Blavatsky Speaks Series.

**Number 8 indicates the perpetual and regular motion of the universe.**

But if perfect as a cosmic number it is likewise the symbol of the lower *Self*, the animal nature of man.<sup>1</sup>

**Number 9 is a digit terribly dreaded by the ancients.**

With them it was a symbol of great changes, cosmic and social, and of versatility, in general; the sad emblem of the fragility of human things.

- 1 Figure 9 represents the earth under the influence of an *evil principle*;
- 2 the Kabbalists holding, moreover, that it also symbolizes the act of reproduction and generation.<sup>2</sup>
- 3 *Three times three* is the great symbol of *corporisation*, or the materialisation of spirit according to Pythagoras — hence of gross matter.<sup>3</sup>

Every material extension, every circular line was represented by number 9, for the ancient philosophers had observed that, which the philosophicules of our age either fail to see, or else attribute to it no importance whatever. Nevertheless, the natural depravity of this digit and number is awful.

- 4 Being sacred to the spheres it stands as the sign of circumference, since its value in degrees is equal to 9 — *i.e.*, to 3 + 6 + 0.

---

<sup>1</sup> Thus, we augur ill for the *unselfish* portion of humanity from the present combination of the year-numbers. For the central figures 89 in the year 1890, are but a repetition of the two figures in the tail-end of 1889.

<sup>2</sup> That is to say that the year 1890 is preparing to reproduce all the evils of its parent 1889, and to generate plenty of its own.

<sup>3</sup> The reason for this is because according to the Pythagoreans each of the three elements that constitute our bodies is a *ternary*: water containing earth and fire; earth containing aqueous and igneous particles; and fire being tempered by aqueous globules and terrestrial corpuscles serving it as food. Hence the name given to matter, the "nonagous envelope."

- 5 Hence it is also the symbol of the human head — especially of the modern average head, ever ready to be parading as 9 when it is hardly a 3.
- 6 Moreover, this blessed 9 is possessed of the curious power of reproducing itself in its entirety in every multiplication and whether wanted or not; that is to say, when multiplied by itself or any other number this cheeky and pernicious figure will always result in a sum of 9 — a vicious trick of material nature, also, which reproduces itself on the slightest provocation.

Therefore it becomes comprehensible why the ancients made of 9 the symbol of Matter, and we, the modern Occultists, make of it that of the *materialism* of our age — the fatal *nine*teenth century, now happily on its decline.



What shalt thou endow the world with, O fatal Year 1890, with thy figures between a unit and a cipher, or symbolically between living man *erect*, the embodiment of wicked mischief-making, and the universe of matter.

It is only when the cipher or nought stands by itself and without being preceded by any digit that it becomes the symbol of the infinite Kosmos and of Absoluteness or Deity.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Cf. *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (1890! ON THE NEW YEAR'S MORROW) XII p. 77 & fn.