Sevens

by Sam Aurelius Milam III

c/o 4984 Peach Mountain Drive
Gainesville, Georgia 30507

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Some time ago, I read Dawn Behind the Dawn, A Search for the Earthly Paradise, by Geoffrey Ashe. See the References Section. I was particularly interested in his comments about the special reverence that’s often associated with the number seven. Since I read the book, I’ve become somewhat sensitized to the use of the number seven when there doesn’t seem to be any real reason for it. I’m not saying that the number seven necessarily has any inherently special properties, but people do seem to act as if it does.

Since I read the book, I’ve been noting down uses of the number seven when I noticed them, and it was convenient for me to do so. This document is that list. I’ll probably update it from time to time.

Wikipedia has an interesting article about the number seven. See the References Section.

—Sam Aurelius Milam III
founder and curator
The Sovereign’s Library
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• In the movie *Artificial Intelligence*, there were seven key words in David’s imprint procedure. When Monica executed the procedure, she added her name at the end of the list but seven words were specified in the list. Near the end of the movie, even though David, being a robot, had never been born and was over 2,000 years old at the time, there were seven candles on his birthday cake.

• The Buddha is reputed to have sat in meditation for 49 days under a pipal tree, at the age of 35 in Bodh Gaya, India, during which time he attained enlightenment.

• There are seven points on the head of the Statue of Liberty.

• There are seven days in a week.

• According to Wikipedia, in the early days, seven guns was the recognized British national salute because seven was the standard number of weapons on a vessel. Twenty-one gun salutes are the most commonly recognized of the customary gun salutes that are performed. See the Wikipedia article 21-gun salute.

• The Hebrew Menorah has seven lamps.

• There are seven dwarves in the Snow White fairy tale.

• The beast from the sea (Revelation 13 and 17) had seven heads.

• There are seven novels in the Harry Potter series.

• Muslim pilgrims walk around the Kaaba seven times.

• Space shuttle crews consisted of seven people.

• I was married to my first wife for 14 years.

• Throughout my life, I had sexual relationships with 14 different women. The first woman with whom I had such a relationship was also the last woman with whom I had such a relationship. So, I went full-circle, through relationships with 14 different women, having both my last such relationship and my first such relationship with the same woman, of the 14 of them.

• When the older of my two daughters was in daycare, or preschool, or whatever euphemism they’re using nowadays for farming out the kids, she made a yarn toy for me. She intended for it to be an octopus. Her natural and spontaneous efforts produced a different result. See the picture. I call it a septipus.

• I lived at Mecham’s farm, in Idaho, for seven years.

• In *By Any Means Necessary*, Season 1, Episode 12 of *Babylon 5*, there were seven Narns in attendance at the G’Quan ritual.

• In *The Geometry of Shadows*, Season 2, Episode 3 of *Babylon 5*, a technomage named Elric made this statement during a conversation with Captain John Sheridan.

  It is within that ambiguity that my brothers and I exist. We are dreamers, shapers, singers, and makers. We study the mysteries of Laser and circuit, crystal and scanner, holographic demons and invocations of equations. These are the tools we employ, and we know many things.... The true secrets, the important things, 14 words to make someone fall in love with you forever, seven words to make them go without pain, how to say goodbye to a friend who is dying, how to be poor, how to be rich, how to rediscover dreams when the world has stolen them from you. That is why we are going away. To preserve that knowledge.

• Flagstaff, Arizona is known as the City of Seven Wonders.

• Kwanzaa has seven core principles.
Sevens

- Although there are various stars that might be interpreted as comprising the constellation Orion, there are generally presumed to be seven primary stars in the constellation.
- There are seven stars in the constellation Ursa Major.
- There are seven notes in the music scale.
- Many years ago, when personal computers were first becoming common, I encountered a cartoon about a wacky computer. See the picture. Notice that the wacky computer has seven arms.
- So-called human survival bottlenecks allegedly occur every 70,000 years.
- Yellowstone allegedly explodes every 700,000 years.
- The mailing labels that I use for my newsletter have 14 labels per sheet.
- The Mercury spacecraft Friendship 7 lifted off from Launch Complex 14, at Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- In *The Serpent Princess*, Chapter VI of *The Goblin Tower*, by L. Sprague de Camp, a holy man named Ajimbalin referred to “the secrets of the forty-nine Mulvanian heavens of the gods and of the forty-nine hells of the demons.”
- Fox Mulder’s apartment is #42.
- The structure in which I presently live, as of December 2019, is a large square room with a bathroom built in one corner. The outer walls of the main structure meet at four corners. The inner walls, the walls that enclose the bathroom, form three corners. That’s seven corners. I used a lot of bookcases to divide the big space into smaller spaces, similar to the way that walls divide a normal house into rooms. Thus, I have a bathroom, a utility room, a kitchenette, a bedroom, a work room, an office, and a central hallway. That’s seven spaces. I call the place the Samcave. The word Samcave has seven letters.
- In Chapter Three of *The Complete Compleat Enchanter*, by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt, when speaking to Harold Shea, Heimdall said, “And now, child of an ignorant mother, it is yet to be seen that you have knowledge of strange things. I propose that we amuse ourselves with the game of questions. Each shall ask the other seven questions, and he who answers best shall be adjudged the winner. Ask, mortal!”
- Vulcans (from *Star Trek*) mate once every seven years.
- There are 49 gods in the Centauri pantheon. See *Sleeping in the Night*, Season 5 Episode 22 of *Babylon 5*.
- In *Memphis Bound*, Season 2 Episode 21 of *Grace Under Fire*, Grace referred to a situation in her past, in which she’d been 21 years old, her sister Evie had been 14 years old, and was dating a man who was 35 years old.
- On Saturday (the seventh day of the week), March 7, 2020, I saw a Grubhub (seven letters) commercial in which the claim was made that one out of every seven children in America “lives with hunger”.

![Wacky Computer](image)
• Mir was the first modular space station. It eventually consisted of a total of seven pressurize modules. Intercosmos was a Soviet Union space exploration program that allowed members from Warsaw Pact nations to participate in space exploration missions. The Intercosmos program consisted of a total of fourteen missions, the last three of which included expeditions to Mir. During Phase One of the International Space Station program, which involved Mir, a total of seven American astronauts served on Mir.

• Discoverer 14, launched on August 18, 1960, was the first space mission to put a spy satellite into orbit.

• In the British comedy *As Time Goes By*, Jean Pargetter’s street address is number 21.

• In Arthur C. Clarke’s short story *The Wall of Darkness*, it took seven years to build the great stairway. Strangely enough, that passage appears on page 77 of my copy of the anthology, *The Other Side of the Sky*. 
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References
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