

Sevens

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caveat lector

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Introduction

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, or exact multiples thereof, when there doesn't seem to have been 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 when it was convenient for me to do so. This document is that list. I update the list 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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1. In the movie *A.I. 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.

2. 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.

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

4. There are seven days in a week.

5. 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*.

6. The Hebrew Menorah has seven lamps.

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

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

9. There are seven novels in the Harry Potter series. There are seven players on a Quidditch team. There are seven secret passageways out of the castle.

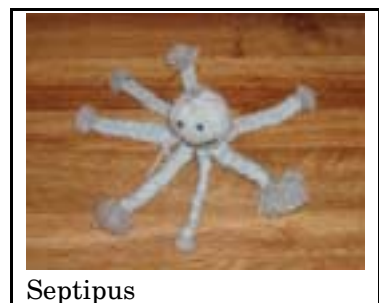
10. Muslim pilgrims walk around the Kaaba seven times.

11. Space shuttle crews consisted of seven people.

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

13. Throughout my life, I had romantic 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 such 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.

14. 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.



15. 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.

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16. I lived at Mecham's farm, in Idaho, for seven years.

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

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

19. Kwanzaa has seven core principles.

20. Although there are various stars that might be interpreted as comprising the constellation Orion, there are generally presumed to be seven primary stars in that constellation.

21. There are seven stars in the constellation Ursa Major.

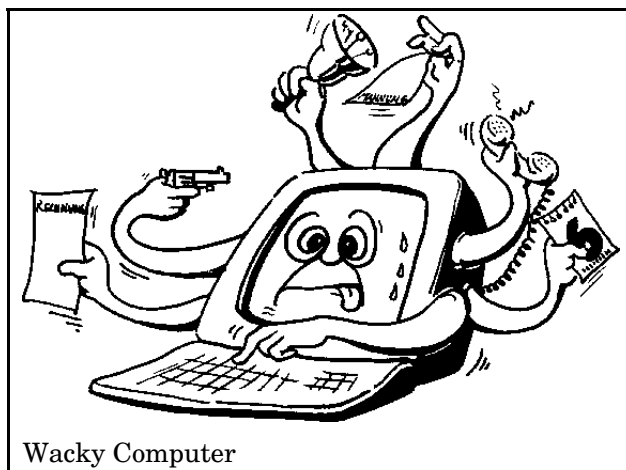
22. There are seven notes in the music scale.

23. 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.

24. So-called human survival bottlenecks allegedly occur every 70,000 years.

25. Yellowstone allegedly explodes every 700,000 years.

26. The mailing label sheets that I use for my newsletter have 14 labels per sheet.



27. The Mercury spacecraft Friendship 7 lifted off from Launch Complex 14, at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

28. 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."

29. Fox Mulder's apartment is #42.

30. The structure in which I presently live 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 additional 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, in effect, 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.

31. 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!"

32. Vulcans (from *Star Trek*) mate once every seven years.
33. There are 49 gods in the Centauri pantheon. See *Sleeping in the Night*, Season 5, Episode 22 of *Babylon 5*.
34. In *Memphis Bound*, Season 2, Episode 21 of the situation comedy *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 Evie was dating a man who was 35 years old.
35. Discoverer 14, launched on August 18, 1960, was the first space mission to put a spy satellite into orbit.
36. 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”.
37. 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.
38. In the British comedy *As Time Goes By*, Jean Pargetter's street address is number 21.
39. In Arthur C. Clarke's short story *The Wall of Darkness*, it took seven years to build the great stairway. That information appears on page 77 of my copy of the anthology, *The Other Side of the Sky*.
40. In the anthology *Analog 2*, edited by John W. Campbell, in the story *Ethical Quotient*, by John T. Phillifent, the size of the population of a particular alien interstellar society was described as “Earth-times-seven”.
41. The Seven Mile Miracle is a seven-mile length of beaches, on the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii. It is reportedly the most important surfing location in the world.
42. Ancient Rome was built on seven hills. The original Roman kingdom had a total of seven kings.
43. The total number of spots on a pair of dice is 42.
44. In *The Sound of Music*, there were seven children in the von Trapp family.
45. Apollo 7 was the first manned Apollo flight.
46. In the song written by Troy Seals and Edie Setser, and performed by Ray Charles and Willie Nelson, there were seven Spanish angels.
47. In the movie *The Snow Goose*, Philip Rhayader could carry seven soldiers at a time in his boat and, according to the dialogue in the movie, he made “seven or eight” trips. See the video clip in *The Sovereign's Library*.
48. According to old-timey folklore, if you can run around a church seven times without thinking of a fox, then you'll get rich.

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49. My sister made some cupcakes. We ate some and she put some on a plate to save for later. I noticed that they fit on the plate seven at a time.



50. There are seven member communities in the Great Sioux Nation.

51. There are seven books in *The Chronicles of Narnia*, by C. S. Lewis. In *Prince Caspian*, there were the Seven Brothers of Shuddering Wood. In *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the Dawn Treader sailed for the Seven Isles on its voyage to rescue the Seven Lords.

52. There are seven administrative parishes in the nation of Andorra.

53. According to the 16th century myth, there were seven cities of gold in the pueblos of the New Mexico Territory.

54. The Ken Burns documentary *The War* has seven episodes.

55. Kelly Johnson ran the Skunk Works by Kelly's 14 Rules. Wikipedia has an article. See the references section.

56. There are seven episodes in the miniseries *Amerika*.

57. President Roosevelt's funeral caisson was pulled along Pennsylvania avenue by seven horses.



58. Bastogne was a strategically important town during The Battle of the Bulge because it was at the intersection of seven all-weather roads.

59. According to Helena P. Blavatsky, the founder of Theosophy, there are seven planes of existence, seven cycles through which everything evolves, seven Root Races of mankind, and seven bodies that each of us carries within himself.

Image from *The War*, by Ken Burns
Episode 7, *A World Without War*

60. There are seven games in the World Series.

61. The Seven Sisters is a series of chalk cliffs by the English Channel, just west of Beachy Head.

62. A common superstition is that breaking a mirror will give you seven years of bad luck.

63. The Seven Year Itch is a supposed tendency toward infidelity after seven years of marriage.

64. King Minos, of Greek mythology, made King Aegeus select seven young boys and seven young girls, every nine years, to be eaten by the Minotaur.

65. The soft drink is called 7 Up.

66. James Bond was agent 007.

67. The name of a television program in the early 1960s was *77 Sunset Strip*.

68. The name of the whiskey is Seagram's Seven.

69. In the movie *Jesse Stone: Thin Ice*, it had been 7 years since Elizabeth Blue's baby was kidnapped. According to her, the story disappeared from the news when a pop singer went into rehab for the 14th time.

70. In the movie *Jesse Stone: No Remorse*, the first murder happened on the 7th level of the parking garage.

71. Princess Diana's hearse was accompanied by seven motorcycles.

72. In the movie *Dragonslayer*, 1981, there were seven people in the group that traveled from Urland to Cragganmore, to ask the sorcerer Ulrich for help.

73. In *Under Covers*, Season 3, Episode 8, of *NCIS*, Zeva reported that Tony had been hit seven times.

74. While Dodge Morgan was sailing solo around the world in 1985, approaching Cape Horn, he was in contact with a steel schooner named *Dream Merchant*, via ham radio. There were seven crewmen on the *Dream Merchant*.



Princess Diana's Hearse

75. In the eleventh episode of the reality series *Escape to the Chateau*, there are seven weddings and 14 food lover's weekends planned. The chateau has seven out-buildings.

76. The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of Sorrows or the Via Crucis, commonly consists of a series of 14 images arranged in numbered order along a path representing the actual path that Jesus is believed to have walked on the day of his crucifixion.

77. In the novel *The Gods Themselves*, by Isaac Asimov, seven stars were visible in the night sky in Odeen's world, in the para-Universe.

78. In *Out of the Frying Pan*, Season 8, Episode 18 of *NCIS*, the victim was killed by being hit seven times with an ax.

79. In *Designated Target*, Season 5, Episode 8 of *NCIS*, Sayda Zuri travelled from Burundi, seeking her husband Thomas Zuri, seven years after he had fled from the country.

80. A space probe launched by the United Arab Emirates took seven years to reach Mars.

81. In chapter 3 of *The Other Human Race*, by H. Beam Piper, Ingermann had been in court at least seven times in the past six years.

82. In *Sharif Returns*, Season 4, Episode 13 of *NCIS*, Sharif infected seven people with B2 gas.

83. Neil Armstrong flew seven of the X-15's 199 flights.

84. The Seven Mile Bridge, in the Florida Keys, connects Knight's Key to Little Duck Key.

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85. In *Alas Babylon*, by Pat Frank:

- There were seven radios in Randy Bragg's house.
- The initial membership of the Fort Repose Provisional Company, AKA Bragg's Troop, consisted of seven volunteers.

86. I spent seven years in college to get a four-year degree.

87. The X-57 Maxwell, a NASA experimental electric airplane, has 14 electric motors, driving 14 propellers.

88. In *The Adjutant Bird*, a story in *Fairy Tales From Here and There*, by Amabel Williams-Ellis, Bobog the tortoise and the Adjutant Bird planned to meet in seven days.

89. In *Fairy Tales from Near and Far*, by Amabel Williams-Ellis

- In *Guleesh and the Princess of France*, the magical herb had seven little branches coming out of the stalk and seven leaves growing on each branch.

- In *The Golden Prince of the Conch Shell*, the King of Samol had seven daughters.

- In *The Lambton Worm*, Young Lambton was away on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land for seven years.

- In *Glooskap, the Whale and the Sorcerer*, it took seven months for Glooskap's magical powers to return.

90. In *All My Sins Remembered*, by Joe Haldeman, Colonel Otto Jules McGavin, prime operator for the Terran Bureau of Investigation and Interference, posing as Ramos Guajana, was provided with a room at the Vista Hermosa Hotel. The room had a rack holding seven swords. The star named Ember had seven planets. In the end, the technicians tried for seven days to save Otto Jules McGavin, before they gave up

91. In *Rocannon's World*, by Ursula K. LeGuin, there were seven High Lords of the Gdemiar. Durhal Hallanlord was killed in battle seven years before Semley returned from her quest. There were seven members in Rocannon's party that travelled south, seeking the enemy. Rocannon and Ganye walked the seven steps to the parapet, where Ganye asked him to stay.

92 Charles Manson was convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder for the deaths of seven people.

93. NASA began with seven astronauts, known as the Mercury 7.



Images from NOVA, The Great Electric Airplane Race

94. In *Forbidden Area*, by Pat Frank,
- There were seven people in the Intentions of the Enemy Group, a part of the Pentagon's Planning Division.
 - Every B-99 aircraft had a crew of seven men.
95. In Shelley Duvall's *Faerie Tale Theatre*,
- Pinocchio searched for Geppetto for 14 days and 14 nights.
 - Rapunzal's sad song carried through the Enchanted Forest for seven leagues.
96. The Aluminaut, the world's first aluminum submarine, was capable of carrying seven people.
97. There are seven soldiers visible in the famous Napalm Girl photograph.
98. In *The Search for Bridey Murphy*, by Morey Bernstein, he asked Ruth Simmons to take seven deep breaths and then hypnotically regressed her to the age of seven. Chapter 7 of my copy of the book begins on page 77. The book was copyrighted in 1956, the digits of which add up to 21.
99. In *Rendezvous With Rama*, by Arthur C. Clarke, *The United Planets* have seven members: Mercury, Earth, Luna, Mars, Ganymede, Titan, and Triton.
100. Bumblebees can fly up to seven miles per day.
101. I recently replaced a broken fan on a Hoover vacuum cleaner. The fan had seven blades.
102. In *Home Alone 3*, there were 14 houses on Washington Street.
103. My sister bought some coconut cookies. There were 14 cookies in the pack.
104. According to Lucy Worsley's *Royal Myths & Secrets*, *The Doomed Queen*, there were seven prisoners in the Bastille when it was stormed on July 14, 1789.
105. In the opening sequence of the movie *Men in Black*, Mikey was accused of violating seven treaties. At Zed's selection exam, there were seven candidates. In Kay's synopsis of first contact, March 2, 1961, he said that there had been seven agents present.
106. In the story *Tumithak of the Corridors*, by Charles R. Tanner in *Before the Golden Age*, edited by Isaac Asimov, only seven men survived the battle for the space car, fought against the Shelks.
107. In the story *The Moon Era*, by Jack Williamson in *Before the Golden Age*, edited by Isaac Asimov, the Eternal Ones sent seven columns of ghostly light to surround Stephen Conway and The Mother
108. Yugoslavia broke up into seven politically independent states: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Slovenia. Maybe that's a permanent arrangement. Maybe not.
109. Seven men were killed in the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre.
110. In the story *The Dragon Masters*, by Jack Vance, in *The Hugo Winners*, edited by Isaac Asimov, the sacerdotess visited Joaz Banbeck's study seven times.
111. In the movie *Little Manhattan*, Rosemary Telesco's aunt was seven months pregnant by the time that the wedding was to occur. It had taken her boyfriend seven years to get around to asking her to marry him.

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112. In the story *Weyr Search*, by Anne McCaffrey, in *The Hugo Winners*, edited by Isaac Asimov, Lord Fax, Lord of the High Reaches, controlled seven High Holds.
113. In the story *Riders of the Purple Wage*, by Philip José Farmer, in *The Hugo Winners*, edited by Isaac Asimov, seven slim pillars around the family room marked the borders of room and corridor.
114. In the story *The Wind from the Sun*, by Arthur C. Clarke, there were seven sun yachts in the race.
115. In *Nine Princes in Amber*, in *The Chronicles of Amber*, by Roger Zelazny, in Chapter V, the seventh door was the door to the Pattern in Rebma. In Chapter VIII, the crown of Amber had seven high points, each tipped by a gemstone. Seven sleeps after Corwin was blinded, the pain was gone from his eye sockets. It took Corwin seven minutes to smoke a cigarette. In *The Guns of Avalon*, in *The Chronicles of Amber*, in Chapter I, during his search for a certain place in Shadow, Corwin came upon seven men beside the road.
116. In *Call Him Lord*, by Gordon R. Dickson, in *Nebula Award Stories Two*, edited by Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison, the Prince noticed that there were seven drifter platforms parked at the restaurant.
117. In *Mother Earth*, by Isaac Asimov, in *The Early Asimov*, Moreanu was cross-examined by seven inquisitors of the Committee.
118. In *Among the Hairy Earthmen*, by R. A. Lafferty, in *Nebula Award Stories Two*, edited by Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison, seven children went to Eretz.
119. In *Day Million*, by Frederik Pohl, in *Nebula Award Stories Two*, edited by Brian W. Aldiss and Harry Harrison, to make a spaceship go really fast, about thirty-one male and seven genetically female human beings had to do certain things.
120. In *Ring Around the Sun*, by Isaac Asimov, in *The Early Asimov*, the temperature in the Helios dropped below freezing toward the end of the seventh day in the Deflection Belt.
121. In *NCIS*, Season 2, Episode 20, *Red Cell*, seven Hell Week college students suffered the Seven Trials.
122. In *Time Pussy*, by Isaac Asimov, in *The Early Asimov*, old Mac had seven cats.
123. In *Born of the Sun*, by Jack Williamson, in *Before the Golden Age*, edited by Isaac Asimov, it took Barron Kane seven years to be initiated into the Cult of the Great Egg.
124. In *Proxima Centauri*, by Murray Leinster, in *Before the Golden Age*, edited by Isaac Asimov, it took the Adastra seven years to travel from earth to Proxima Centauri.
125. I have a two-DVD set of episodes of *Mr. Peabody & Sherman*. There are seven panels in the top menu on each disk. There are seven episodes per panel except for the last panel on each disk. On disk 1, the last panel has four episodes. On disk 2, the last panel has three episodes. So, the total number of episodes on the two last panels is seven. There are a total of 91 episodes, an exact multiple of seven. Each name, Sherman and Peabody, has seven letters.
126. A standard USB hub will connect seven devices.

127. In *The Men and the Mirror*, by Ross Rocklynne, in *Before the Golden Age*, edited by Isaac Asimov, it took Colbie seven days to reach the new planet.

128. In *The Callistan Menace*, by Isaac Asimov, in *The Early Asimov*, seven ships had disappeared on missions to Callisto. The men on the Ceres, in route to Callisto, had a talk fest on the seventh day of the trip.

129. This GE microwave oven has ventilation slots in the side that occur in sets of seven, and in one set of an exact multiple of seven. There are a total of 49 slots, which is seven sevens.



130. In *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, by Ed Walters and Frances Walters, seven MUFON investigators interviewed them on Sunday, January 17, 1988.

131. In *The Stainless Steel Rat's Revenge*, by Harry Harrison, on the planet Cliaand, Slippery Jim diGriz worked at the landmark named Lunac for seven days, preparing for phase 3 of his project. It took seven days for the invasion fleet to reach its target. Slippery Jim ate a seven course meal after Kraj's death. He planted bombs in seven transport ships.

132. In *NCIS: A Man Walks into a Bar...*, season 8, episode 14, the captain said that there were seven visitors aboard the ship.

133. In *NCIS: Lost and Found*, Season 5, episode 9, Brian Taylor's base camp was seven miles from Highway 9.

134. The movie *Spaced Invaders* begins with an invasion of the Arcturus System by Imperial Atomic Space Navy Battle Group Seven, at the Martian Territorial Frontier.

135. In *Gods from Outer Space*, by Erich von Däniken, the author notes that *The Cabbala* mentions seven other worlds: Geh, Nesziah, Tziah, Thebel, Erez, Adamah, and Arqa. He further notes that in the *Book of Dzyan*, there are seven stanzas of the creation, that mention seven sublime lords, seven truths, the vibration of the seventh eternity, the primordial seven, and the first seven breaths of the dragon of wisdom.

136. In *The Expanse*, Season 2, Episode 26 of *Star Trek Enterprise*, a Xindi attack kills 7 million people on Earth.

137. In *The Gold of the Gods*, by Erich von Däniken, the author wrote of the caves under the Province of Morona-Santiago, in which the seventh passage led to a large chamber that contained a table at which there were seven chairs.

138. In the movie *Starman* (1984, Jeff Bridges, Karen Allen), there were seven power spheres.

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