

Sevens

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This document is approximately 518 words long.

Some time ago, I read *Dawn Behind the Dawn, A Search for the Earthly Paradise*, by Geoffrey Ashe. I was particularly interested in his comments about the special reverence that is often accorded to the number seven. Since I read the book, I've become somewhat sensitized to occurrences 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 inherent special properties but people do seem to act as if it does.

Since I read the book, I've been noting down occurrences of the number seven when there didn't seem to be any logical reason why that number should have been there. 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
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- There were seven key words in David's imprint procedure in the movie *Artificial Intelligence*. 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 had never been born and was over 2,000 years old, there were seven candles on his birthday cake.
- The Buddha is reputed to have sat in meditation for 49 days (7 x 7) under a pipal tree, at the age of 35 (7 x 5) 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 (3 x 7) 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 were 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 (2 x 7). Throughout my life, I had sexual relationships with 14 different women (2 x 7).
- Flagstaff, Arizona is also known as the City of Seven Wonders.
- Kwanzaa has seven core principles.

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References

1. *Dawn Behind the Dawn, A Search for the Earthly Paradise*, Geoffrey Ashe, A John MacRae Book/Henry Holt and Company/New York, Copyright © 1992
2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7>

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