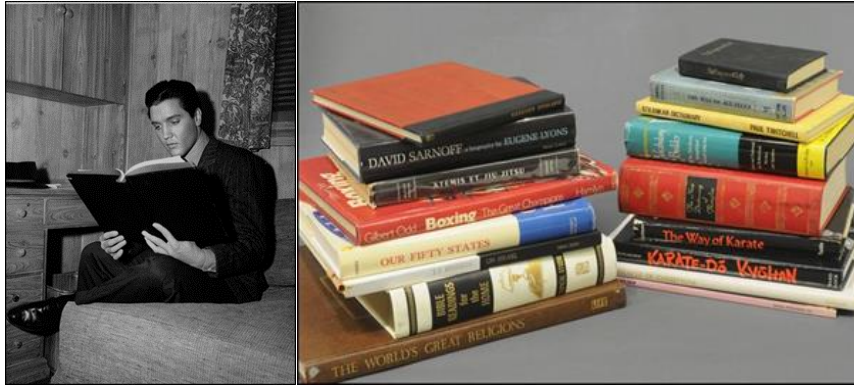


A LIBRARY FULL OF TEXTS

ELVIS LOVED TO READ



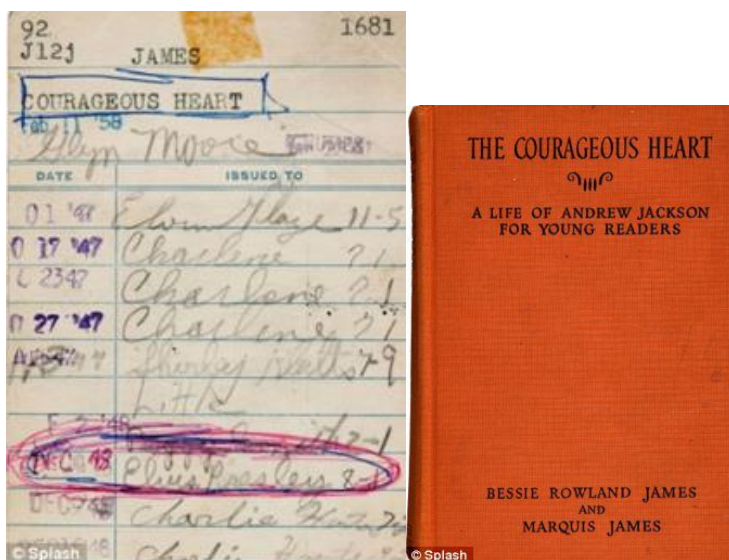
Part of Elvis' Graceland book collection

As fans we love to learn new things about Elvis; there are so many sides to this man that made and make him the fascinating persona that he is, still today. Something that some of you may not be aware of, is that Elvis loved to read. He was in fact a voracious reader and when on tour or on the set of his movies, two trunks full of books accompanied him, about 300 books in total!

Graceland tells us that he was interested in a wide variety of subjects including Sport, especially Football and Karate, the World Wars, the Kennedy era, Poetry, Religion, Spirituality and Numerology. Then there were the *Mad Max* comics, his favourite *Captain Marvel* super-hero and anything *Monty Python*!

"There are books on just about every topic, but he owned a lot of religious books."

<https://www.graceland.com/blog/posts/elvis-presleys-books-world-book-day>



High School Library Card (1948). Sold at auction for £2,500.

Elvis Presley's signed Humes

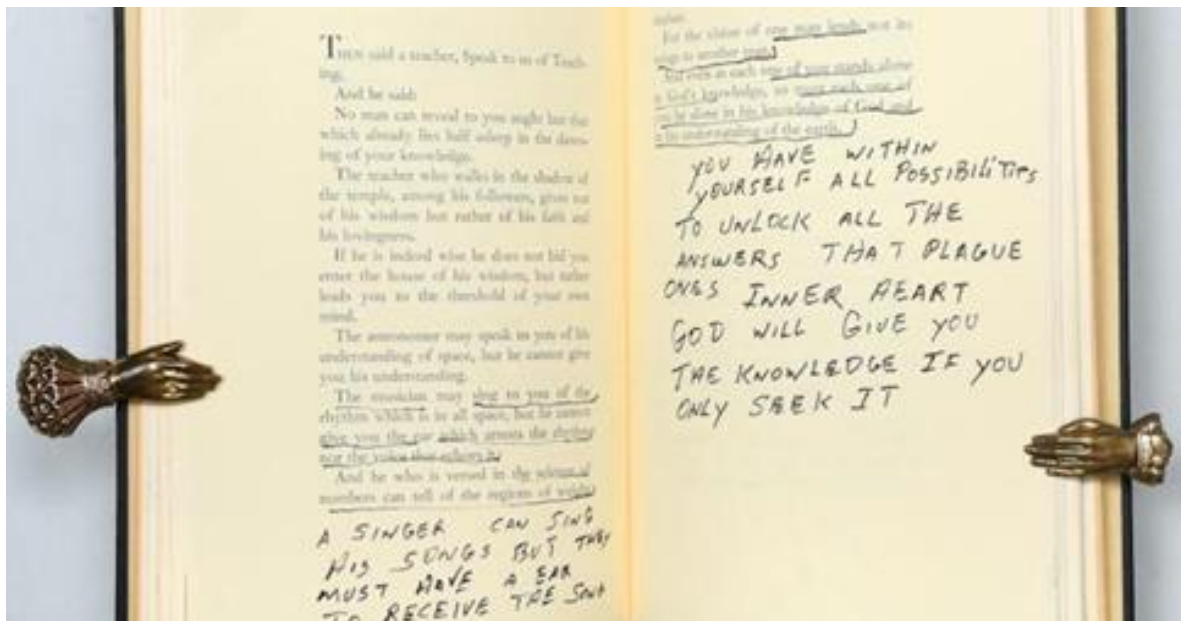
Elvis signed up for his first library card at *Tupelo's Public Library* when he was 13, despite the fact that the *First Assembly of God Church* that he and his mother attended taught that *The Bible* was the only book that anyone should ever read!

Since most of his library consisted of religious or spiritual texts, let us explore a few of these books in more depth.

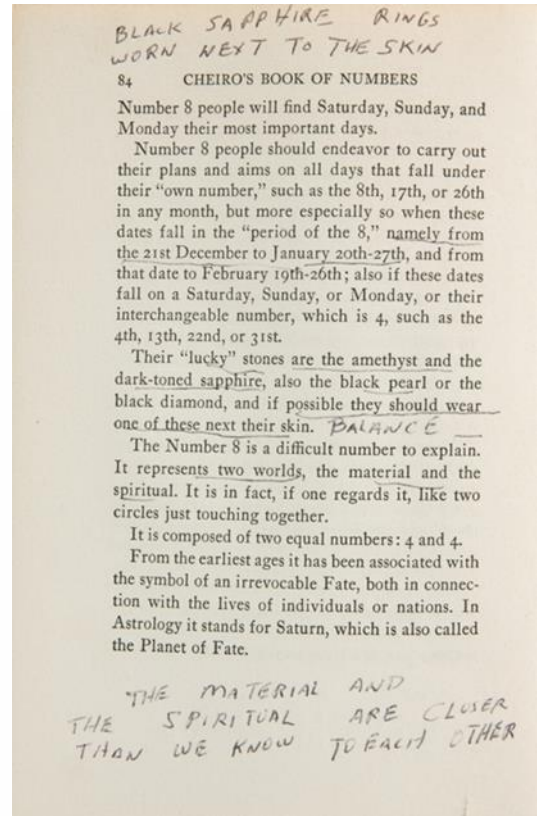
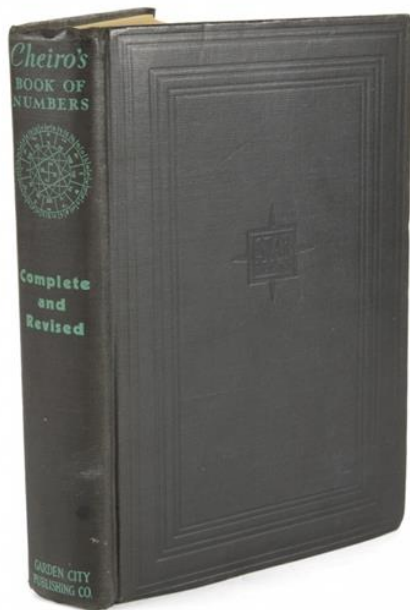
THE SPIRITUAL ELVIS (AS REVEALED THROUGH BOOKS HE LOVED)

In 1964, Elvis met *Larry Geller*, a hairdresser to the Hollywood stars and a spiritual seeker. Larry would supply him with all the spiritual books that Elvis was interested in and grew to love. He read and re-read *The Impersonal Life* that expressed the view that God lived within all of us. Another favourite was *Autobiography of a Yogi* (he bought hundreds of copies to give away to his entourage, friends and family.) He read *Kahlil Gibran* throughout his life and knew several passages from *The Prophet* by heart. Elvis was fascinated by *Numerology* and one of his all-time favourites was *Cheiro's Book of Numbers*, a work he consulted in times of needing spiritual guidance.

Elvis believed that numbers were more than just mathematical symbols; he believed each number had an *energy*, a *vibration* that carried spiritual significance, a link with the *divine*. Once started on his journey of *spiritual awakening* he asked all those big life questions over and over; what is my purpose on this earth, what is my destiny, why was I chosen to be the person I am and what is the *true meaning* of life?

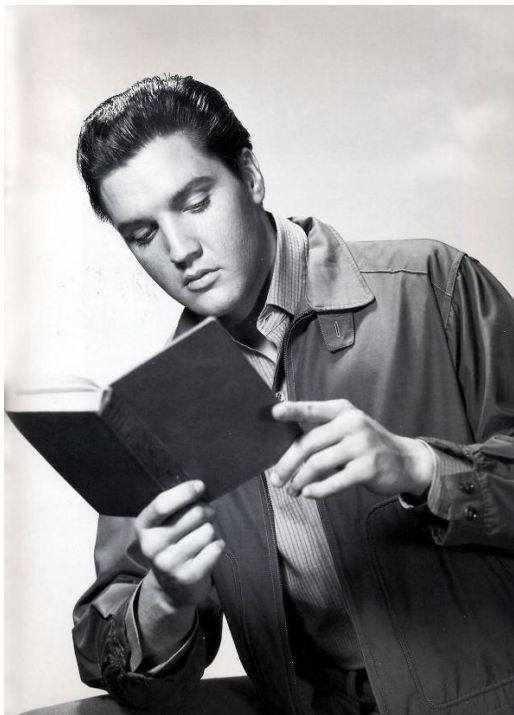


Pages showing Elvis' personally written notes from his copy of *The Prophet*



A page from Elvis' personal copy of *Cheiro's Book of Numbers*

Elvis loved to scribble his own notes in the margins, his personal thoughts and annotations. He used to underline his favourite passages. Unfortunately, both *Colonel Tom Parker* and *Priscilla* saw these books as a bad influence on 'their boy', using up too much of his time and interest, and the majority ended up being set ablaze by Parker and burned to ashes!



Can you just imagine how much those books (with Elvis' personal writing on the pages) would fetch today on eBay from Elvis Memorabilia collectors?

CHEIRO'S BOOK OF NUMBERS

LET THE NUMBERS DO THE TALKING

Personality number 8

"I feel terribly alone, like that Number 8," Elvis told Red West.

As an ardent follower of all *Cheiro's* books on Numerology, Elvis recognised the significance of his own birthdate and identified with *Cheiro's* Number 8 person. (*PERSONALITY* number)

"These people feel intensely lonely at heart," wrote *Cheiro*. *"They are either great successes or great failures, and often face the very greatest sorrows and losses."*

*'You know Lord I've been in a prison
For something that I never done
It's been one hill after another
I've climbed them all one by one*

*But this time, Lord, you gave me a mountain
A mountain you know I may never climb
It isn't just a hill any longer*

You gave me a mountain this time

(You gave me a mountain: Written by country singer-songwriter Marty Robbins during the 1960s and recorded and released by Elvis on February 4, 1973)

According to *Cheiro Numerology*, the Number 8 is represented by the planet Saturn. Number 8 people tend to have a deep appreciation of fairness for the underdog and the power of karma. They believe that if they do good for other people, good karma will come to them. They believe passionately in their beliefs. The Number 8 is able to go beyond names and titles and delve into the 'secret' wisdom behind them, seeking real meanings and reasons for their being in this life, on this earth. They are people who may have world-changing ideas which can rock the system and stability of an era, in fact, make history! As with most things in life, there can be drawbacks, there is a price to pay! Very often the Number 8 feels isolated because the people around him cannot relate to him. Some may even despise him for his beliefs and behaviour. The Number 8 always wants to win, victory is important to him. He enjoys being in charge, he does not like to be crossed. He wants to be the best at what he does and will put his heart and soul into working hard to achieve that ambition.

Life path number 9

Your *LIFE PATH* number is even more important and easy to calculate from your full date of birth. Elvis' *Life Path* number is 9. How do we get there? Just remember that Numerology is based on the 'root' of the numbers 1-9, sometimes 1-8 depending on which ancient system

you follow. All numbers must be reduced to their single digit, except if they are 11, 22, 33 which are considered *Master Numbers* and are never reduced. Also, they should be added in three groups as each group represents a cycle in life. (Birth, Childhood & Puberty) (Bachelorhood, Career & Romance) (Achievements, Settling Down & Retirement)

Day=08 / Month=01 / Year=1935

$(0+8 = 8) + (0+1 = 1) + (1+9+3+5 = 18)$

$8 + 1 + 18 = 27$

$2 + 7 = 9$

This number sets the direction of your life. It is dynamic and is influenced by life's experiences. It is a cycle; its beginning, the day you step into this world, and its ending, the day you leave.

The **9** *Life Path* is a humanitarian and philanthropist, socially conscious and worried about the state of the world. Compassion and giving are what satisfies, what makes that person happy. To sacrifice money, time or energy is a done deal and will go a long way towards making the world a better place. This person is rarely prejudiced and regards people on the basis of their value to a larger cause. This person is creative in whatever chosen field.

Remind you of anyone?

There are of course *negatives*, necessary to maintain balance and to prompt lifestyle changes for the better. These *negatives* represent the lessons to be learnt.

The **9** *Life Path* can be extremely stubborn and impatient. He can be very hard on himself if there is any sign of weakness, for example health issues and the quality of his endeavours and performance. He would rather hide away, not wanting others to see him in a less than glowing state. The **9** *Life Path* may see himself as a *Protector*; think of him as the umbrella that shelters everyone from the storm!

Remind you of anyone?

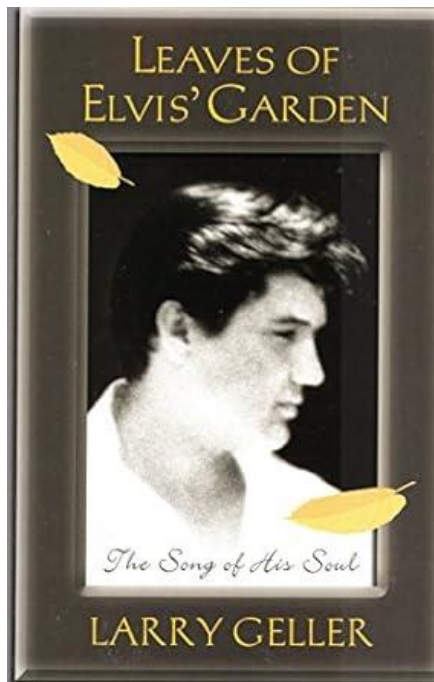
If you would like to explore this topic further the following websites are good starting points.

<https://www.worldnumerology.com/>

<https://www.numerology.com/>

LEAVES OF ELVIS' GARDEN

Dozens of books have been written about the phenomenon that was Elvis Presley. The challenge is to know which ones truly honour his *real* legacy. *Leaves of Elvis' Garden* is one of the best. It reflects the story that Elvis himself asked Larry Geller to write. Larry was far more than just Elvis' hairdresser, becoming his confidant and spiritual mentor as they spent hours together in meditation and conversation. Elvis could share his deepest thoughts and beliefs with Larry. Elvis felt comfortable with Larry and Larry understood what Elvis was searching for. He knew a side of Elvis that few others knew, and fewer understood.



Published in 2008, this *Story of His Soul* reveals the real Elvis, not the supreme jump-suited entertainer that he indeed was, but the troubled soul with hopes and fears, searching for the truth and an understanding of who he was, for being the chosen one, Elvis the Seeker.

As Larry explains:

"Elvis charged me with this, empowering me and inspiring me to write this book when he said: 'The world knows Elvis Presley all right, but they don't know me. I want them to know me, the real person. Larry, I'm counting on you.'"

If you feel drawn to what Larry writes about Elvis, you can grab a copy at any of the following links:

**<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Leaves-Elvis-Garden-Larry-Geller->

**[ebook/dp/B004477VSOhttps://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13344961-leaves-of-elvis-garden](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13344961-leaves-of-elvis-garden)

**https://www.amazon.com/s?k=Leaves+of+Elvis%27+Garden&i=stripbooks-intl-ship&crd=1K94AA8IAA6WS&srefix=leaves+of+elvis%27+garden%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C341&ref=nb_sb_noss_1

This book may shock and surprise some of you! You'll be introduced to a side of Elvis so personal and intimate and maybe end up feeling that you know and respect him more now than you ever did before.

ELVIS THE SEARCHER

The wonder of Elvis is his belief that the Christian values of his traditional upbringing could sit comfortably side by side in his mind with his interest in new belief systems. Everything has its meaning and value. He never lost his Christian roots and for many fans, it is Elvis' Gospel music that shines the brightest!

Let us not forget that the last book Elvis was reading in the early hours of August 16th 1977 was *A SCIENTIFIC SEARCH for the FACE OF JESUS*, written by Frank Adams.



Published in 1972, this book presents scientific evidence to prove the authenticity of the *Shroud of Turin*.

DID YOU KNOW?



Elvis bought most of his spiritual books from The Bodhi Tree. Visit this site to see all the books he bought there. <https://bodhitree.com/elvis-bodhi-tree-book-list/>