

Errata in the 7th Edition of "The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic"

Last updated Saturday, March 9th, 2016

As is well known, The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic contains many typos, missing items from diagrams, etc. While John Michael Greer was working to correct some of those toward the 7th edition, I have sent him some corrections to the opening of the key and Hebrew words, in hope to improve the situation.

I was disappointed many of those didn't make it through, at least not into the Kindle edition I have in front of me at this time, so I'm making the list of errors I am aware of available on my web site.

This list is not likely to ever be complete. I think there's a lesson here which is more important than the corrections themselves: doubt the text, and double check it. Book reviews list more errors. For rituals, Pat Zalewski's Golden Dawn Rituals and Commentaries is superior to this book. For Hebrew, use Aryeh Kaplan's Sefer Yetzirah: The Book of Creation in Theory and Practice to double check attribution, and a Hebrew-English dictionary to check for spelling errors.

Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram

I think the transliteration is problematic. To make a long story short, [I've recorded the ritual.](#)

Second Knowledge Lecture

The Hebrew word for The Sphere of the Zodiac is מזלות.

The Hebrew word for Mars is מאדים.

Fourth Knowledge Lecture

The transliteration Abba is dubious. The Hebrew word is אבא, which has only one Beth. Maybe the second B was added to note the letter has the hard sound, rather than the soft one which sounds like V. Transliterating it back is אבבא is definitely wrong.

The transliteration Aima is, IMHO, strange. When using vowel points, the word is spelled אַימָא, and it is acceptable to spell it אימא when not using vowel points.

Fifth Knowledge Lecture

The Hebrew phrase for The Ancient of Days is עתיק יומין.

The word for father is אבא, and the son is spelled in Hebrew זעיר אנפין.

The Hebrew name for the element of earth is עפר, pronounced like afar.

The Hebrew word for river, נהר, should be transliterated "nahar". The four rivers are as following

Pison פישון

Gihon גיחון

Hiddekel חידקל

Euphrates פרת

Yod may be dropped for vowel points

The original for shemhamphoresch is השם המפורש. Those are two separate words, and are better transliterated hashem hameforash.

As for the intelligence of Luna, the name is gibberish, as are all the alternative spellings I've found, though some of them do give the sum 3321 using Gematria.

Opening of the Key

This one contains about half a dozen errors. I'm not sure whether all or some of those were there from the start. If anyone has an original order manuscript to check those with, I would much appreciate it.

1. In the 1st operation the text goes "answering from right to left to the name YHVH - יהוה". That should be "יהוה" – an error introduced in the 7th edition.

[The arrangement of the pips was properly displayed in the kindle version of the 6th edition, and is garbled in the kindle version of the 7th edition.]

There's a comment saying "shown by Knight of Wands turned contrary to the course of the reading" - it should be Knave of Wands.

2. In the 2nd operation the text says "counting thus: 4 from King of Cups - Knave of Pentacles; 7 from this - Sun; 9 from this; - Knave of Pentacles; 7 from this - Sun; where the reading ends." - counting should have stopped with the Knave of Pentacles, not the Sun.
3. In the 2nd operation the text says "counting thus: 4 from King of Cups - Knave of Pentacles; 7 from this - Sun; 9 from this; - Knave of Pentacles; 7 from this - Sun; where the reading ends." - counting should have stopped with the Knave of Pentacles, not the Sun.
4. In the 3rd operation, the example goes straight to pairing. It seems to me the part about counting the cards and interpreting them prior to pairing is missing.
5. In the 4th operation there's a discrepancy between the text and the 1st diagram.

The paragraph starting with "We here find 12 out of the 22 keys; 7 of Wands; 7 of Cups" - the counting matches the diagram, but not the text, as in the 9th position the diagram shows 9 of Wands, while the text has 9 of Swords.

Then the text, just before the pairing, refers to the King of Wands, in contradiction to the diagram and text.

In the pairing, toward the end, has 2 of Swords & 9 of Swords, in contrast to the diagram.

The last pair is 3 of cups & 9 of pentacles - IMHO the interpretation better matches 5 of Cups.

6. The 5th operation's 2nd diagram is missing a card - the Knave of cups should appear between Judgement and the King of cups.