

Curriculum  
COMPANIONS OF THE STONE  
Grade of Air Curriculum

(draft for Council review)

The following requirements have been established by the Council of the Stone for advancement to the Grade of Air. They include readings, individual magical practices, participation in lodge work, the making of a working tool, and an examination.

Readings

Anonymous, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Derek Appleby, Horary Astrology

Robin Waterfield, The Theology of Arithmetic  
(additional book on knighthood or warriorship)

(additional books on astrology)

Plotinus, The Enneads, selections:

3.2 (On Providence I), 3.3 (On Providence II, and 2.3 (Are the Stars Causes?)

Golden Dawn material (from Israel Regardie's The Golden Dawn):

Ritual of the Hexagram (Vol. 3, pp. 20-36)

Material on telematic images (Vol. 4, pp. 61-73)

A written response to each of the readings should be prepared and submitted to the Lecturer of your lodge. This is not a book report, but simply a personal comment about what you learned from the book and how you responded to it; it may be as long as you wish, but a few paragraphs are normally sufficient to meet the requirements of the curriculum.

Please check with your lodge's librarian to see if the books on the reading list are available from the lodge library.

Magical Practice

Continued personal work with discursive meditation and the practice of the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram and Middle Pillar exercise are the foundations of the COTS curriculum, and should be continued throughout your work in the Grade of Air. Both meditation and ritual should be done daily, preferably at the same time each day, and recorded in your magical journal. A set of themes for meditation based on the Grade of Air ritual is included in the instructional letters for this Grade.

The following additional practices, which are also covered in the assigned readings or in instructional letters and papers, should be learned and practiced regularly at this point in your training:

- the Lesser and Greater Rituals of the Hexagram
- elementary First Degree rituals for spiritual development
- practical use of telematic imagery

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- Scrying in the Spirit Vision, using Sword court cards to explore the sub-elements of Air
- divination by horary astrology
- the Work of Air (the Grade somatic work)

Any of these practices will be demonstrated to you by senior members of your lodge on request, and personal instruction is readily available. Talk to the Lecturer of your lodge to arrange for this.

Companions of the Grade of Air should also plan on continuing to work with the practices of the preceding Grades to retain a basic level of competence therein, as they will be expected to assist Companions of lower Grades in learning their work.

### Lodge Work

Companions of the Grade of Air will be expected to show a thorough mastery of the procedures of a lodge open in the Outer and a basic grasp of the First Degree and Equinox rituals, and should expect to take an active part in the work of their lodge on both these levels. Regular attendance at lodge meetings is of the highest importance, and may be considered the single most important requirement for advancement in the Order.

### Working Tool

The working tool of a Companion of the Grade of Air is the Dagger. Each Companion will be expected to provide himself or herself with a dagger of a personally chosen size and pattern, and to consecrate it ritually, before advancing to the Grade of Water. The ritual to be used may be either that given in Regardie's The Golden Dawn, Vol. 3, or the variant from John Michael Greer's Circles of Power, ch. 9. Companions who wish to use different ritual forms for consecrating their elemental working tools may seek a waiver from the Council, presenting the proposed ritual and their reasons for choosing it; such waivers will be granted in most cases. In all cases, a full report on the ritual of consecration will be an important part of the examination for the next Grade, and the Dagger itself must be shown to the examining committee, although it is not to be touched by anyone but its owner.

### Examination

A Companion of the Grade of Air may apply for examination at any time after three months have passed since his or her Grade of Air initiation. The Examination of the Grade of Air will comprise:

- demonstration by the candidate of perfect knowledge of the Sign, word and symbols of the Grade of Air;
- demonstration by the candidate of one or more of the techniques of practical magic taught in the Grade of Air;
- demonstration of basic skill in the practice of divination by horary astrology;
- discussion of at least two First Degree magical rituals performed by the candidate;
- review of the candidate's reading and practice.

The Lecturer of your lodge should be contacted for examination. Once this is completed, the candidate

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may apply to the lodge for advancement to the Grade of Water.