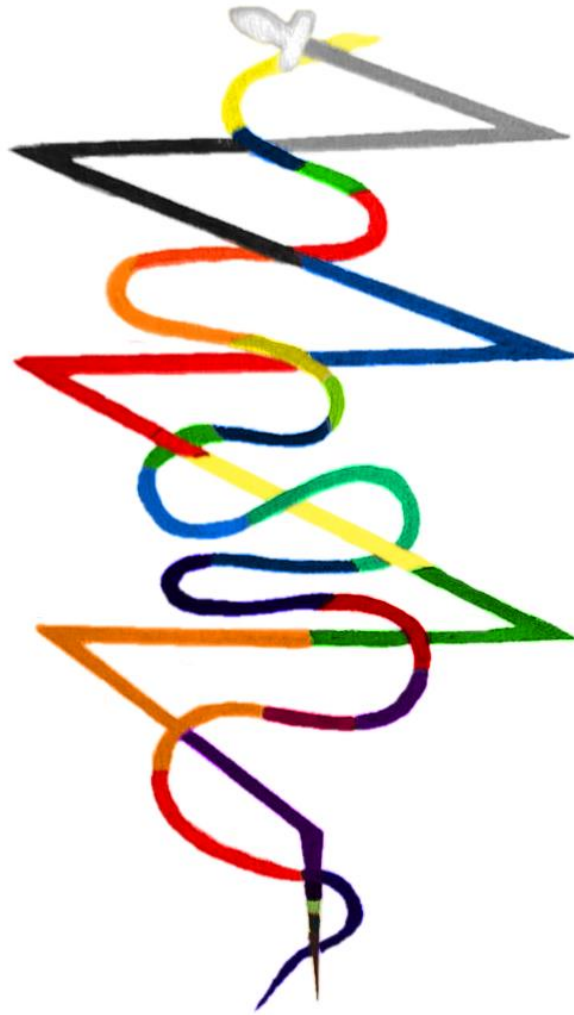
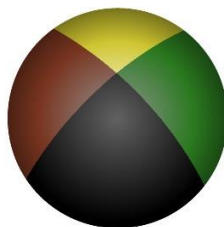




Walking the Crooked Path:

The Path of the Flaming Sword

Part One: Malkuth



Hebrew and the Occult: Hiding from the Inquisitor

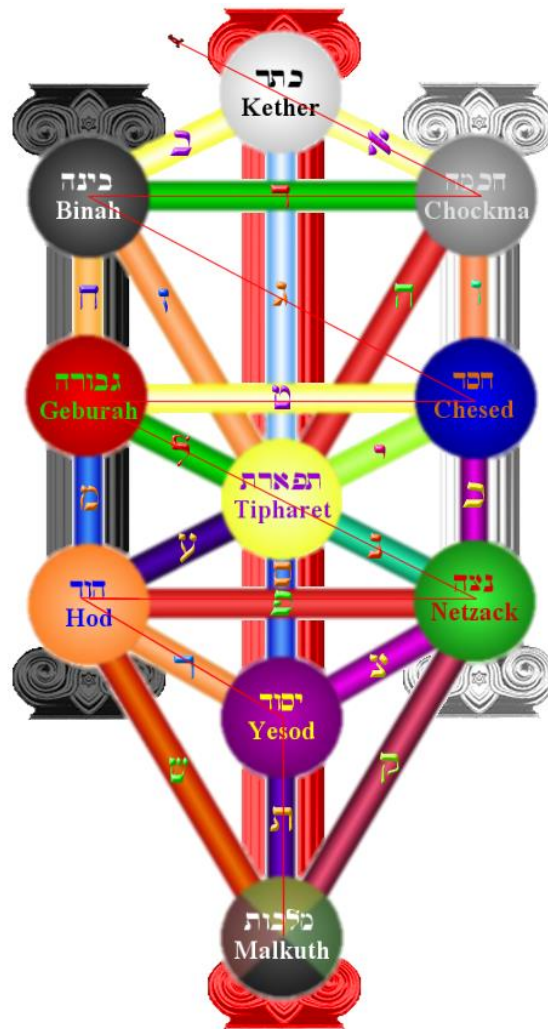
Much of the Magic(k)al tradition inherited by the West was developed in secret over the centuries. Both Witches and Jewish people often had to hide their practices and their beliefs, and the passing down of this knowledge from one generation to the next was always a dangerous affair. After the Church murdered the Cathars and the Templars, strict oaths of secrecy became a very common and necessary practice among Occultists. In fact, the very word “Occult” means secret or hidden. Thanks to all the Goddesses and Gods, this strict secrecy is no longer necessary and these subjects may now be discussed openly in broad daylight.

Kabbalah is the study of Mystical Judaism, and the Hermetic Kabbalah is the traditionally secretive (*“Hermetically Sealed”*) branch of Kabbalah familiar to practitioners of Golden Dawn Ceremonial Magic(k), Thelema, Builders of the Adytum, and Gardnerian Wicca. It can be studied and practiced purely by reading books in English or any other language, but it is of great assistance to have at least some basic knowledge of the Hebrew language itself. It is useful to know the meanings of the words, but you can also gain deeper insight into the meaning of the words by examining the letters, as well as the numbers attributed to those letters. Note that Hebrew is written from right to left.

Letter	Name	Value	Final w/Value	Meaning	Sound
א	Aleph	1		Ox	A or E
ב	Bet	2		House	V or B
ג	Gimel	3		Camel	G
ד	Dalet	4		Door	D
ה	Heh	5		Window	H
ו	Vav	6		Nail, Pin, Hook	V, W, U
ז	Zayin	7		Sword, Armor	Z
ח	Khet	8		Fence, Enclosure	Kh
ט	Tet	9		Snake	T
י	Yod	10		Hand	Y, I
כ	Kaph	20	ך 500	Palm, Fist	K
ל	Lamed	30		Ox Goad	L
מ	Mem	40	ם 600	Water	M
נ	Nun	50	ן 700	Fish	N
ס	Samek	60		Prop	S
ע	Ayin	70		Eye	A, O
פ	Peh	80	ף 800	Mouth	P
צ	Tzaddi	90	ץ 900	Fish Hook	Tz
ק	Qoph	100		Ear, Back of Head	Q
ר	Resh	200		Head	R
ש	Shin	300		Tooth	S, Sh
ת	Tav	400		Cross	

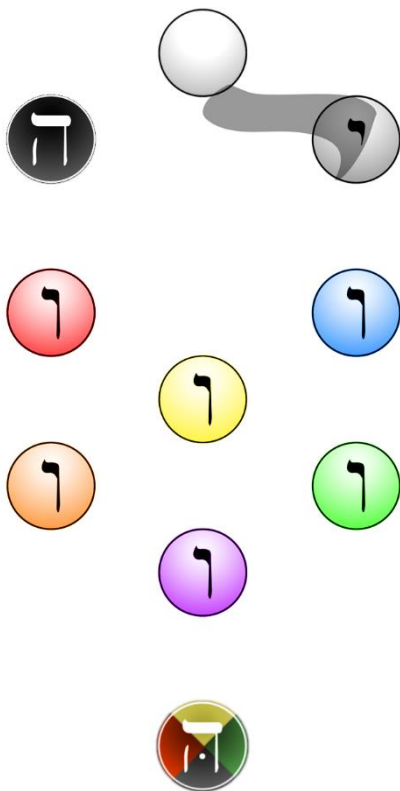
The Four Worlds and The Tree: Climbing Jacob's Ladder

One of the best places for an Occultist to hide in those days was inside the Church itself. Johannes Trithemius, the primary teacher of the well-known Occultist Heinrich Agrippa, was a Benedictine abbot, and The Tree of Life as we know it in the West was conceptualized based on a deep study of a Kabbalistic text called The Sephir Yetzirah by a Jesuit Priest named Athanasius Kircher in 1652:



These Ten Sephirot and Twenty-Two Paths are a way to map out the Thirty-Two Paths of The Sephir Yetzirah. They can be thought of as rungs of a ladder one can use to climb or rise up from the material world at the bottom to the world of pure Divine Light at the top, and as the path by which the Divine above unfolds into material form below.

“The Four Worlds of the Kabbalah” are Atzilut, Briah, Yetzirah, and Assiah. According to the Kabbalah, the four letters of the Divine Name or “Name of God” יהוה (← right to left) refer to these Four Worlds. This name is referred to as “Tetragrammaton” (meaning “four letters”) by many Occultists. You may have heard the expression “God is a Verb.” These Four Worlds show the process by which the Divine or Spirit unfolds as the very Action of the Material World.



א Atzilut: The World of Emanation. This is the world of pure Divine Spirit which is veiled behind all of the other worlds. It corresponds with the element Fire and the Kings in the Minor Arcana.

ב Briah: The World of Creation. This is the world of Archangels, and the Higher Self, and is also called The Throne. It corresponds with the element Water and the Queens in the Minor Arcana.

ג Yetzirah: The World of Formation. This is the world of Angels, the Personality, and the Astral Plane. It corresponds with the element Air and the Princes or Knights in the Minor Arcana.

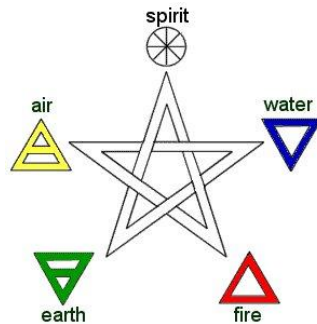
ד Assiah: The World of Action. This is the physical world of seen and unseen matter and energy. It corresponds with the element Earth and the Princesses or Pages in the Minor Arcana.

According to tradition, this particular Divine Name יהוה is never to be pronounced, except by the High Priest in the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur. Both “Jehovah” and “Yahweh” are attempts at pronouncing it. If you have seen Monty Python’s “The Life of Brian” you might recall the scene in which several people are stoned to death for “saying Jehovah.” If you have not seen “The Life of Brian” please do yourself a favor and see it as soon as you can. Anyhow, in most of the Western Mystery Tradition it is only ever spelled out as “Yod Heh Vav Heh” and not pronounced as a word. *(One notable exception to this is The Source Family in which it is pronounced “YaHoWah!”)*

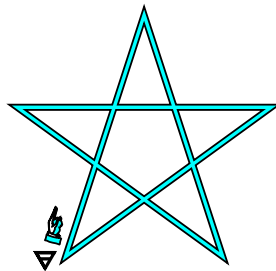
There are other Hebrew Divine Names which are pronounced, however, such as אדני (*pronounced “Adonai” meaning “Lord”*), אלהים (*“Elohim” meaning “The Gods”*), יה (*“Ya”*), אל (*“El”*), אלה (*“Eloah”*), ארי (*“Shaddai” meaning “Almighty”*), אהיה (*“Eheieh” meaning “I will be”, though commonly thought to mean “I Am”*), and others. These are generally considered to be different names for the same Great Oneness but as seen through different lenses. Some however have posited that they are actually different Gods, or that other religions that are considered Polytheistic are no different than this, in that the same Great Oneness expresses itself in different ways and with different names and personalities. But, as the Chaldean Oracles once said, “These are mysteries which are evolved in the profound abyss of the mind.”

The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram

If you have ever paid close attention to the activities of the Priestess and Priest in a Gardnerian circle or cone of power than you are already somewhat familiar with the structure and symbolism of the Lesser Invoking and Banishing Rituals of the Pentagram. The most basic of these rituals is called the L.B.R.P. or Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram.



Each point on the pentagram is attributed to one of the Five Elements. By drawing the pentagram in various ways, the Ceremonial Magician is either Invoking or Banishing certain forms of that elemental energy. Traditionally, one is taught to Banish before one is taught to Invoke, so that they will be able to get rid of anything they didn't mean to bring in to their sphere of sensation or microcosm. In the Elemental scheme of things, Earth is said to be the combination of Air, Water, and Fire. This is similar to the way in which color pigments interact: If you mix the yellow of air, the red of fire, and the blue of water, you get a certain shade of brown. Thus, the L.B.R.P. utilizes the Earth Banishing Pentagram specifically to clear a space of any unwanted energies of the natures of Earth, Air, Water, and/or Fire. The pentagram is drawn beginning with the lower left point, the Earth point, and moving toward the uppermost point, Spirit, and then tracing the form of the pentagram back to where you started. As you draw it, you are visualizing it in a bright electric light-blue color.



First, stand facing East at the center of your working space, or just to the West of your Central Altar. Calm your interior self and relax your whole body.

Then, perform the Kabbalistic Cross by extending your arms out to your sides in the shape of a cross. Connect with the Crown Chakra above your head. It is the same in the West as it is in the East. It is the Thousand Petaled Lotus and Self of all Beings. It is the Great Om which vibrates through the Universe. In the West it is **כתר** (*"Kether" meaning Crown*) on the body.

Reach up to your Crown and draw down a line of that light from above your head to your brow. Feel the line of light actually connecting the Crown with the Third Eye at the center of the brain, near the

Pituitary and Pineal Glands. While you draw this line of light, intone or vibrate the Hebrew word **אַתָּה** ("Atah") meaning "You."

Continue this same line down to the place between your feet. You do not need to bend all the way down, just trace the line as far as you can while remaining standing and visualize the line continuing to the ground. While you do this, vibrate **מַלְכוּת** ("Malkut" meaning Kingdom.)

Extend your arms to the sides once again, focusing on the right hand and vibrate **וְגִבּוּרָה** ("V'Gevurah") meaning "and Power."

Trace a new line (*knowing that it's ultimate source is the same as that of the first line, which is the Crown*) from the place of the right hand across to the place of the left hand and vibrate **וְגִדּוּלָה** ("V'Gedulah") meaning "and Glory."

Bring your hands together at your Solar Plexus vibrating **לְעוֹלָם** ("L'Olam"). This is usually translated as "Forever and ever and unto the ages of ages" but literally means "To/toward the World".

Olam, like the older usage of the English word "World" is more like our current understanding of "The Universe." For this reason, about 130 years ago, some Tarot decks began changing the name of the Major Arcana Card "The World" to "The Universe".

To end the Kabbalistic Cross, vibrate **אָמֵן** ("Amen").

Next comes the banishing pentagrams themselves. Approach the East, and draw an Earth Banishing Pentagram in front of you. Styles may vary, but generally the top of the pentagram is the same height as your own Crown Chakra, and the bottom is at waist height. The two sides are at shoulder height.

After drawing the pentagram, draw down Divine Light from your Crown and project it into the symbol while vibrating the Divine Name **יְהוָה** ("Yod Heh Vav Heh"). Point to the center of the pentagram, and draw a white line from there to the center of where the Southern Pentagram will be.

Draw the electric blue Pentagram, draw down Divine Light from your Crown and project it into the symbol while vibrating the Divine Name **אֲדֹנָי** ("Adonai"). Point to the center of the Pentagram, and draw a white line from there to the center of where the Western Pentagram will be.

Draw the electric blue Pentagram, draw down Divine Light from your Crown and project it into the symbol while vibrating the Divine Name **אֵהְיֶה** ("Eheieh"). Point to the center of the Pentagram, and draw a white line from there to the center of where the Northern Pentagram will be.

Draw the electric blue Pentagram, draw down Divine Light from your Crown and project it into the symbol while vibrating the Divine Name **אַגְלָא** ("Aglā" an abbreviation meaning "Thou Art Powerful Forever Adonai"). Point to the center of the Pentagram, and draw a white line from there back to where the circle began at the center of the Eastern Pentagram.

Return to your central position facing eastward, just to the west of your Central Altar if you're using one. Proclaim, "Before me" and vibrate **רַפָּאֵל** ("Raphael" meaning "Healing is God") visualize the archangel in the East, in the same place as the pentagram, in a yellow robe, which has purple highlights. He carries

The Staff of Asclepius, and you can feel a breeze coming from behind him. He is facing eastward, so you are looking at his back. In the Banishing Rituals the Archangels face away from you in all directions. In the Invoking Rituals they face inward.

Next, proclaim, "Behind me" and vibrate **גבריאל** ("Gavriel" meaning "God is my Power"). Visualize, or feel, behind you facing westward in the place of the Western Pentagram the Archangel Gabriel dressed in blue with some orange highlights. The figure holds a cup and is surrounded by waterfalls or the ocean, and you can feel the mist and moisture coming from the west.

Then, proclaim, "To my right" and vibrate **מיכאל** ("Meekael" meaning "Who is like God"). The Archangel Michael appears in the place of the Southern Pentagram dressed in a scarlet red robe with green highlights. He is holding a flaming sword. Feel the qualities of fire emanating from him.

Next, proclaim, "To my right" vibrate **אוריאל** ("Auriel" meaning "My Light is God"). The Archangel Auriel appears at the Northern Pentagram dressed in earth tones on a fertile landscape. He holds a bundle of wheat. Feel the power of earth and nature, the abundance of the physical universe in its denseness and matter emanate from the north.

Finally, proclaim: "Before Me Flames the Pentagram, and Behind Me Shines the Six Rayed Star!" and close with a Kabbalistic Cross.

The Middle Pillar Ritual: Getting Centered

According to the Hermetic Kabbalah, the Sphere of Sensation is called, "The Magical Mirror of the Universe." Above the crown of the head is **כתר** (*Kether*), as mentioned when we performed the Kabbalistic Cross. **חכמה** ("Chockma" meaning Wisdom) and **בינה** ("Binah" meaning Understanding) are reflected in the two sides of the brain. **חסד** ("Chesed" meaning Mercy or Agape) is also called **גדולה** ("Gedulah" meaning Glory) and is reflected in the left arm and shoulder, **גבורה** ("Gevurah" meaning Power or Strength) in the right. The chest and solar plexus reflects the center of the Tree in **תפארת** ("Tipharet" meaning Beauty). The left leg is connected to **נצח** ("Netzack" meaning Victory) and the right to **הוד** ("Hod" meaning Splendor). The waist and hips reflect **יסוד** ("Yesod" meaning Foundation) and the feet **מלכות** ("Malkuth" meaning Kingdom).

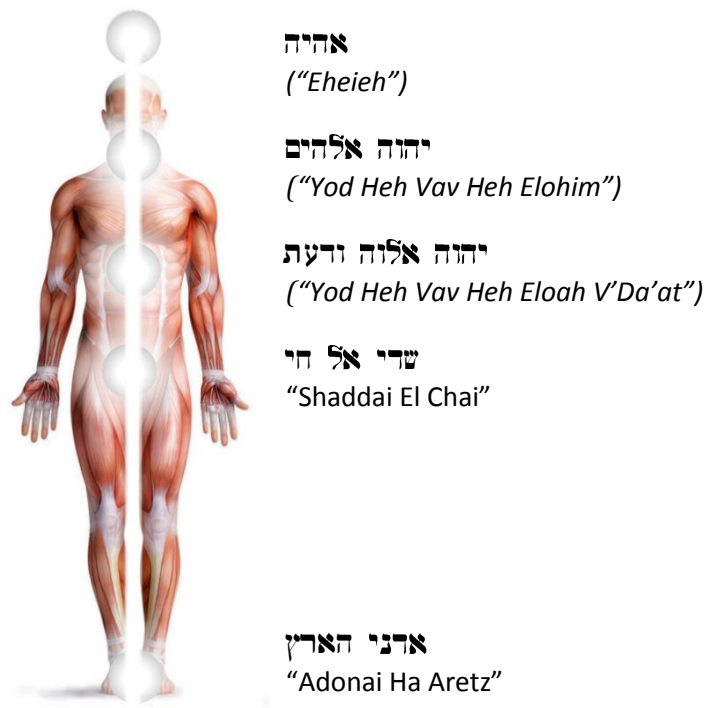
Certain Divine Names are attributed to each of the Ten Sephirot. The Divine Name given to **כתר** (*Kether*) is **אדיה** ("Eheieh"), to **חכמה** (*Chockma*) **יה** ("Ya"), to **בינה** (*Binah*) **יהוה אלהים** ("Yod Heh Vav Heh Elohim"), to **חסד** (*Chesed*) **אל** ("El"), to **גבורה** (*Gevurah*) **אלהים גבר** ("Elohim Gevur" meaning The Powerful Gods), to **תפארת** (*Tipharet*) **יהוה אלה ודעת** ("Yod Heh Vav Heh, Eloah, V'Da'at" and Knowledge), To **נצח** (*Netzack*) **יהוה צבאות** ("Yod Heh Vav Heh Tzabaot" Lord of Hosts/Armies), To **הוד** (*Hod*) **אלהים צבאות** ("Elohim Tzabaot" The Gods of Hosts/Armies), to **יסוד** (*Yesod*) **אלי חי** ("Shaddai El Chai" Almighty God of Life/Living God), and to **מלכות** (*Malkuth*) **אדני הארץ** ("Adonai Ha Aretz" Lord of The Earth").

When you are looking at the Tree of Life diagram, it is as if you are looking at a person facing you. So, what you see on the right side of the diagram is on the left side of your body: **חכמה** (*Chockma*), **חסד** (*Chesed*), and **נצח** (*Netzack*). This is called the Pillar of Mercy. What you see on the left side is on the

right side of your body: **בינה** (*Binah*), **גבורה** (*Geburah*), and **הוד** (*Hod*), the Pillar of Severity. **כתר** (*Kether*), **דעת** (*Da'at*), **תפארת** (*Tipharet*), **יסוד** (*Yesod*), and **מלכות** (*Malkuth*) make up “The Middle Pillar” which is also called the Pillar of Mildness.

The Middle Pillar Ritual is performed by vibrating the Divine names which correspond to the five sephirot of The Middle Pillar, starting with **כתר** (*Kether*) and finishing with **מלכות** (*Malkuth*). For **דעת** (*Da'at*) at the throat region, we use the Divine Name of **בינה** (*Binah*). Each Divine Name can be vibrated once, 3 times, 7 times, 21 times, or any other number appropriate to your magic(k)al working for that day.

So, after you have finished your L.B.R.P., turn to face West. If you have two pillars in your working space, you can stand between them. Visualize a brilliant white light above your head vibrating the Divine name “Eheieh” however many times you have chosen to vibrate each Divine Name for the particular working. Then, keeping that ball of light bright and brilliant, visualize a line or beam of light being drawn down from the sphere above your head. Move it down through your head to the region of the throat. At this point, visualize another sphere forming there, just as bright as the first. Feeling the sphere encompassing the whole region, vibrate the Divine name “Yod Heh Vav Heh Elohim” the same number of times as you vibrated the Divine Name of **כתר** (“*Kether*”). Then, visualize another beam of light emanating from the sphere in the throat region, moving down into the region of the solar plexus. Keep in mind that the ultimate source is the sphere above your head. Allow another ball of light to form there at the solar plexus just like the first two, and vibrate the Divine name “Yod Heh Vav Heh Eloah V’Da’at.” Visualize and feel the light pouring down from the crown and extend the beam to the region of the groin. Form another sphere of light, then vibrate the Divine name “Shaddai El Chai.” Finally, visualize beam of light emanating from the sphere in the groin area to the region of the feet, vibrating the Divine name “Adonai ha-Aretz.”



Establishing a Personal Temple in Malkuth: Feet on the Ground

The Temple in Malkuth is your personal magic(k)al working space on the Astral Plane. It is completely yours to design, create, and to decide how and when to use it. In today's workshop we will be using the Divine Names of Malkuth and everything we've gone over today to establish it. It all starts with Imagination...

First, some of us may have tapes running in the backs of our minds which we've inherited from our parents and grandparents, churches, schools, and many other places which tell us: "That's just your imagination," as if that were a dismissive statement implying a dichotomy between what's "real" and what's "imaginary". We might have been told, "Santa Claus is imaginary, Jesus is real" or "Astrology is imaginary, but Astronomy is real." In the context of the Hermetic Kabbalah, all of these tapes that run in the backs of our minds were created through Imagination.

Specifically, someone else's not-very-creative imagination a long time ago. Our daily grind, the logo on our coffee cups, the music we listen to, all of these "real" things, and everything written in this handout are some else's imagination made manifest. In other words: Magic(k). The money in our wallets or floating somewhere in The Cloud, anything and everything in every store or website is someone else's imagination clamoring for our attention. All of it exists in and through us. As Zen Master Dogen put it, "The whole universe in ten directions exists within the brightness of the self."

The Temple in Malkuth can be a tool to help create more space within in which to explore, refine, create, and manifest YOUR True Will from YOUR imagination. Imagination is another name for Tiphareth, which is the Heart of the Tree of Life, the Heart of the Divine, and the Heart of each one of us.

With these things in mind, we will close our eyes and find the perfect landscape for ourselves today. For some it might be a desert, for others a forest, perhaps inside of a hollowed-out tree, or a crystal cavern deep underground. Spend some time with it, asking questions and discovering or creating the answers: What does it smell like? What is the temperature? The more you practice, the clearer it will become.

You might establish Altars there in the four directions and in the center, or however makes the most sense to you. This is your opportunity to really get creative. No one can enter this place without your permission, and you can do any short or long -term magic(k)al working in this space.

All the Pathworking we will do in the following weeks will begin and end in our Temple in Malkuth. This is keeping our feet on the ground. By intentionally choosing to be in this physical earthy universe we are much better aligned with it, and we are able to manifest our Magic(k), our Will, and our Imagination here in this world. Malkuth is where we bring our attention to Mother Earth, Nature, to our physical and financial health, and to our actions.

I'll be leading a guided meditation in which we establish this Temple at Part One of **Walking the Crooked Path: The Path of the Flaming Sword**, but for anyone who came into possession of this handout who was unable to attend, I invite you to listen to Episode 35 of "VH Frater BT's Esoterinerd Podcast" in which I lead a similar guided meditation. I look forward to seeing all of you again at Path of the Flaming Sword, Part Two: Yesod!

