

# TAROT READERS ACADEMY

## TAROT SUMMER SCHOOL 2016



## Learning the Opening of the Key

*your instructor* | benebell wen

The Opening of the Key is a five-operation inter-disciplinary divinatory procedure rooted in the adept traditions of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn. Today, given the publicly available records of the procedure, it can be used by tarot practitioners from all backgrounds. Learning the Opening of the Key (OOTK) isn't about learning the OOTK. It is about deepening your understanding of divination. To instruct on the OOTK, I must first unpack it and address invocations, significators, card counting, reading narratives, and elemental dignities. To address card counting and various facets of the First and Fifth Operations, we have to cover basic Kabbalistic and Qabalistic principles. To read narratives, we'll have to cover numerology. The Second, Third, and Fourth Operations rely heavily on foundational knowledge of house and sign astrology. All of these esoteric disciplines will be addressed in turn throughout the master class.

You will learn the OOTK. Follow the instructions and syllabus as provided, and you will master it. Yet these are not the primary objectives of this course. The primary objective of this course is to advance the metaphysical-psychic development of your personal connection to Divinity, or the consciousness to the super-consciousness.

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## OOTK WORKBOOK

A procedural summary of the Opening of the Key (OOTK) divinatory technique, reconciled from both traditional and modern sources. The workbook by itself is insufficient for learning the OOTK. It must be used as active assignments alongside the video lectures.

## STUDY GUIDES

Card Counting: Numerical Assignments in the Major Arcana  
Numerological Correspondences for Reading Tarot  
Learning the Twelve Astrological Houses  
Learning the Twelve Zodiac Signs  
Learning the Thirty-Six Decans  
Learning the Ten Sephiroth and Kabbalistic Tree of Life

## LOG OF NOTES

Notes taken from the *Learning the Opening of the Key* video lecture series. (The video lecture series by itself is insufficient for learning the OOTK. You must work through the videos with the OOTK workbook.)

## QUICK REFERENCES

Court Card Significator Selection  
Four Worlds Correspondence Table  
Card Counting Numerical Correspondences  
Card Pairing & Elemental Dignities  
Tarot Spread Reference for Second Operation  
Second Operation: Order of Houses to Divine Per First Operation Results  
Tarot Spread Reference for Third Operation  
The Twelve-Card Zodiac Spread  
Tarot Spread Reference for Fourth Operation (with House and Sign Keywords)  
Tarot Spread Reference for Fourth Operation (with Elemental Correspondences)  
Kabbalistic Tree of Life Diagram  
The Tree of Life Spread

Glyph Correspondences for the Major Arcana – First Septenary  
Glyph Correspondences for the Major Arcana – Second Septenary  
Glyph Correspondences for the Major Arcana – Third Septenary  
Glyph Correspondences for the Suit of Wands – Pips Only  
Glyph Correspondences for the Suit of Cups – Pips Only  
Glyph Correspondences for the Suit of Swords – Pips Only  
Glyph Correspondences for the Suit of Pentacles – Pips Only  
Glyph Correspondences for Courts from the Active Suits of the Minor Arcana  
Glyph Correspondences for Courts from the Passive Suits of the Minor Arcana

## LOG OF PRACTICE

### Log of OOTK Trials

First Operation: Divinatory Result from Opening the Four Worlds  
Card Counting: Log of Marked Cards as Numerically Selected  
First Operation: Analytical Approach to Reading a Narrative  
Log of Results from Card Pairing & Analysis of Elemental Dignities  
Analytical Method for Assessing Elemental Dignities  
Analytical Method for String Analysis (For Entire World, or Card Pile from First Operation)  
Second Operation Comparative Analysis with Results from First Operation  
Second Operation: Analytical Approach to Reading a Narrative  
Fourth Operation: Log of Resulting Thirty-Six Decans  
Fourth Operation: Log of House and Elemental Assessment for the Thirty-Six Decans  
Fifth Operation: Procedure for Determining Whether Key Has Been Revealed  
Fifth Operation: Procedure if Yes, Key Has Been Revealed  
Fifth Operation: Procedure if No, Key Has Not Been Revealed

## About Your Instructor



Benebell Wen is the author of *Holistic Tarot* (North Atlantic Books, 2016), the forthcoming title *The Tao of Craft: Fu Talismans and Casting Sigils in the Eastern Esoteric Traditions* (September 27, 2016), and the recipient of four major book awards. Wen has studied various esoteric arts in both Eastern and Western traditions for as long as she can remember, with the tarot being her primary mode of divination. By day, she is a California corporate lawyer who works in venture capital. By night (or the break of dawn) she is a reader offering divinatory services in tarot, astrology, feng shui, and the I Ching.

Learn more about her tarot and other metaphysical dabblings at [www.benebellwen.com](http://www.benebellwen.com). She is also active on Instagram as @bellwen and Twitter as @tarotanalysis.

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## ORGANIZATION OF COURSE MATERIALS

- Use a one-inch three-ring binder to organize the course materials
- Print out:
  - Cover Page for Binder (first page of this document) (*Optional*) (*Recommended*: Print one-sided)
  - List of Contents (second and third pages of this document) (*Optional*) (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 01 The OOTK Workbook (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 02 Study Guide – Numerical Assignments in the Major Arcana (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 03 Study Guide – Numerological Correspondences for Reading Tarot (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 04 Study Guide – Learning the Twelve Astrological Houses (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 05 Study Guide – Learning the Twelve Zodiac Signs (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 06 Study Guide – Learning the Thirty-Six Decans (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 07 Study Guide – Learning the Ten Sephiroth (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 08 Log of Notes – Notetaking Template for Video Lectures (Print one set per video, for a total of seven sets, so seven copies of this document.) (*Recommended*: Print double-sided)
  - 09 Quick Reference Sheets – All Pages (*Recommended*: Print one-sided)
  - 10 Log of Practice – All Templates (Start by printing out one set of this document. Print more copies of specific pages as needed later.) (*Recommended*: Print one-sided)
- Use a five-tab set of index dividers for the binder. Label the index tabs as follows:
  - OOTK WORKBOOK
  - STUDY GUIDES
  - LOG OF NOTES
  - REFERENCE SHEETS
  - LOG OF PRACTICE

## ORDER OF VIDEO LECTURES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01   Introduction                         | <input type="checkbox"/> 06   Third Operation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02   Three-Minute OOTK Run-Through        | <input type="checkbox"/> 07   Fourth Operation            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03   First Operation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 08   Fifth Operation             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04   First Operation: Optional Procedures | <input type="checkbox"/> 09   Fifth Operation: Commentary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05   Second Operation                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 10   Closing Remarks             |

## RECOMMENDED SYLLABUS

### INTRODUCTION

- Watch promotional video for “Learning the Opening of the Key”
- Read course description
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 01 Introduction**
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 02 Three-Minute OOTK Run-Through**
- Follow along in the OOTK Workbook per video

### FIRST OPERATION

- Review pages of OOTK Workbook up to this point, preceding First Operation
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 03 First Operation**
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 04 First Operation: Optional Procedures**
- Follow along in the OOTK Workbook per video
- Review Study Guide “Numerical Assignments in the Major Arcana”
- Review Study Guide “Numerological Correspondences for Reading Tarot”
- Use “First Operation: Single Trial” form from Log of Practice to perform three additional trials, using just the First Operation. Add to the Log of Practice section of your binder
- Extra Credit.* Perform three additional trials of the First Operation, incorporating optional procedures as taught in Video 04. Record your notes and results in the Log of Practice.

### SECOND OPERATION

- Review pages of OOTK Workbook up to this point, preceding Second Operation
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 05 Second Operation**
- Follow along in the OOTK Workbook per video
- Review Study Guide “Learning the Twelve Astrological Houses”
- Use the “Tarot Spread Reference for Second Operation” Quick Reference Sheet to guide your twelve houses tarot spread as noted in the video lecture
- Perform three additional reading trials consisting of the First Operation and Second Operation only. Use the “Second Operation Comparative Analysis with Results from First Operation” template in the Log of Practice to document your trials. Blank note sheets can also be used to record your First + Second reading trials.

### THIRD OPERATION

- Review pages of OOTK Workbook up to this point, preceding Third Operation
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 06 Third Operation**
- Follow along in the OOTK Workbook per video
- Review Study Guide “Learning the Twelve Zodiac Signs”
- Use the “Tarot Spread Reference for Third Operation” Quick Reference Sheet to guide your twelve houses tarot spread as noted in the video lecture

- Perform three additional reading trials consisting of the First through Third Operations only. Use the “ First Oper.  Second Oper.  Third Oper.  Fourth Oper.  Fifth Oper.” Log of Practice template to record your results. Draw three columns in the Notes section to organize the results of the three operations.

#### FOURTH OPERATION

- Review pages of OOTK Workbook up to this point, preceding Fourth Operation
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 07 Fourth Operation**
- Follow along in the OOTK Workbook per video
- Review Study Guide “Learning the Thirty-Six Decans”
- Perform three additional reading trials consisting of the First through Fourth Operations only. Use applicable templates and reference guides from course materials. Date and record your results in the Log of Practice section of your binder.

#### FIFTH OPERATION

- Review pages of OOTK Workbook up to this point, preceding Fifth Operation
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 08 Fifth Operation**
- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 09 Fifth Operation Commentary**
- Follow along in the OOTK Workbook per video
- Review Study Guide “Learning the Ten Sephiroth”
- Practice a Tree of Life tarot reading approach using the techniques of the Fifth Operation. Present a question for divination, distribute the cards into the ten piles, then find the significator among the sephiroth. Note divinatory implications of the resulting sephiroth and read the cards in that pile as a narrative to answer the question. Assess elemental dignities for supplemental information. Date and record your results in the Log of Practice section of your binder.
- Extra Credit.* As noted in the Fifth Operation Commentary video, reflect on your own faith and personal gnosis, then conceive of a structural formation for a spread that represents your belief system for connecting with Divinity. Apply the formation to your application of the Fifth Operation when performing the Opening of the Key. I give the example of my personal use of the Ba Gua (Eight Trigrams) for the Fifth Operation, in lieu of the Tree of Life. Record all notes and results in the Log of Practice section of your binder.

#### CONCLUDING REMARKS

- Watch **Learning the Opening of the Key | 10 Closing Remarks**
- Beyond the master class and after finishing the course, practice a minimum of eleven trials of the complete Opening of the Key (using any personal or customized modifications you’ve opted for) and note your trials in the “Log of OOTK Trials” table from the Log of Practice. Record all notes and results in the Log of Practice section of your binder.
- Extra Credit.* Write me a letter reflecting on your thoughts, feelings, and experiences with the “Learning the Opening of the Key” master class from Tarot Summer School 2016. Email me your letter to [benellwen@gmail.com](mailto:benellwen@gmail.com).

## MEDIA SOURCES & CREDITS

### TAROT DECKS:

Le Tarot de Marseille (Naipes Heraclio Fournier); CBD Tarot de Marseille (Yoav Ben-Dov); Oswald Wirth Tarot (U.S. Games); The Rider Tarot Deck (U.S. Games); Robin Wood Tarot (Llewellyn); Thoth Tarot (U.S. Games); The Golden Dawn Tarot (U.S. Games); The Wild Unknown Tarot (Kim Krans); The Golden Universal Tarot (Lo Scarabeo); Dark Tarot (darktarot.com); Tarot de St. Croix (Devera Publishing); Tarot of Ceremonial Magick (Lon Milo DuQuette, Thelesis Aura); Tarot Pink (Wizard Too); Borderless replica of the “Pam A 1911” Rider-Waite-Smith Tarot.

### BOOKS & REFERENCE MATERIALS:

*An Introduction to the Study of the Kabbalah* (1925) by William Wynn Westcott; *Book of Thoth: (Egyptian Tarot)*, Issue 5, (1944) by Aleister Crowley; *Experiencing the Kabbalah: A Simple Guide to Spiritual Wholeness* (1997) by Chic and Tabatha Cicero; *Golden Dawn Magical Tarot, Book and Deck* (2010) by Chic and Tabatha Cicero; *Liber Theta: Tarot Symbolism and Divination: A Traditional Instruction of the R.R. et A.C.* (Expanded and Revised by G|H| Fra. P.) (The College of Thelema, First Edition, based on an 1888 text attributed to MacGregor Mathers and Harriet Felkin); *Oracle of the Tarot: A Course on Tarot Divination* (1933) by Paul Foster Case; *Tarot and the Magus: Opening the Key to Divination, Magick and the Holy Guardian Angel* (2004) by Paul Hughes-Barlow; “Tarot Trifecta: Three Winning Uses of *The Golden Dawn Magical Tarot*” (2010) by Chic and Tabatha Cicero in the *Llewellyn Journal*; *The Sepher Yetzirah*, as translated from Hebrew to English (1887) by William Wynn Westcott; The Tarot in *The Complete Golden Dawn System of Magic*, Volume II (1984) by Israel Regardie; *Tree of Life / Kabbalah Learning Cards* (Living Magick Publishing, 2012) by Jadzia and Jay DeForest

### IMAGES:

Anatomical Man by the Limbourg Brothers (1411-1416); Chart showing signs of the zodiac and the solar system with world at centre by Andreas Cellarius *Harmonia Macrocosmica* (1661); Hermes Hieroglyphic Plan of the Ancient Zodiac from Athanasius Kircher *Oedipus Aegyptiacus* (1652); Illustration for God’s Providence from the *Orbis Sensualium Pictus* (1705); Carl Webber’s *Astrology in a Nutshell* (1902); The Alchemist Discovering Phosphorous by Joseph Wright of Derby (1771); The Flammarion Engraving by Anonymous from Camille Flammarion’s *L’atmosphère météorologie populaire* (1888); Raphael’s *A Manual of Astrology or the Book of Stars* (1828); Adam and Eve by Lucas Cranach the Elder (1530); The Wycliffite New Testament as copied by Richard Robinson, paper manuscript from England (1600); Simplified Zoom Lens in Operation (GIF) by Rainer Knäpper (2006, Free Art License, artlibre.org); NASA.org space images (public domain); A Boyar Wedding Feast by Konstantin Makovsky (1883)

### OTHER MEDIA:

“The Nymphaeum (Part III)” by Angelwing (freemusicpublicdomain.com); “Night Traffic” by Beachfront B-Roll (www.beachfrontbroll.com); “Vibrant Landscape Time Lapse” (stockfootageforfree.com)