

Note: none of this is my opinion as to what the grades actually stand for, just an attempt to interpret them - and not definitively even then. I have not been through the Golden Dawn initiations.

I post this because I consider identifying these stages of progress useful to initiates even if it is “wrong”, & not what was originally intended by the Golden Dawn system. Based on what I have learned from my own system, experiences, and readings, a method of progression through the states of mind mentioned below would be the fastest, most effective system for obtaining enlightenment I have yet encountered, in and of itself,

even if I’m projecting into ink blots.

Neophyte - A beginning grounded in the learning of the importance of silence in speech and deed, and an (ethic?) of selflessness.

Zelator / Malkuth - A foundation is built to root future initiations in the self-hypnosis augmented “zeal” typical of beginning a new work. The early excitement in beginning something strange, “elite”, and mysterious is magnified to the extent possible, by encouraging the practitioner to dwell in that newbie energy. So that, I presume, the flame ignited survives the long haul.

Theoricus Grade / Yesod - The initiations are permitted to permeate one’s subconscious psyche so that one may be satisfied to dwell in the mystery. The teachings just barely begin to sink in. It is all just theories and guesswork, shots in the dark.

Practicus / Hod - I infer the words “practical” and “us practice” from the title of the grade. I visualize a time of rote memorization, & attempts to practically apply what little one does understand. Much practice so that the verse of the teachings is memorized.

Philosophus / Netzach - Netzach is the sphere of love, and love imparts the ability to move on from familiar territory, to explore and create. The philosopher explores with logic and deep thinking. The teaching is “pecked at” and interpreted, with an inflamed mind.

Adeptus Minor / Tiphareth - There is a Portal ceremony, which I consider symbolic of entering the “sun” or heart in its simplest form. I associate the grade with mastering love control up to a level wherein one can internally “create” (by means of setting a scene, doing the ritual, self hypnosis) target emotional states, identifications, and sensory data.

Adeptus Major / Geburah - The transcendence of the necessity (not the use) of pageantry. One learns by means of love control to generate any emotion, identification, or sensory data without use of props, merely by focusing and believing it will work.

Exempt Adept / Chesed - the transcendence of fear and trauma. One learns to release fear and sorrow at will, so that there is none in one’s psyche. You are exempt the distraction posed by negative emotion.

I see this as a natural progression from learning the basics of love control, the most practical application in attempting to ascend a ladder of that which was already learned.

Magister Templi / Binah - the transcendence of impulsive thinking, so that the present is properly Understood. Undistracted by fear and trauma, it is least difficult to generate perfected focus. It may yet take some amount of effort, but it will come more easily than it would have beginning from an earlier sphere on the Tree. At this stage, an inner monologue is replaced by a silent perception of the circumstances of the now.

Magus / Chokmah - Mastery of causal processing & interaction, including the ability to “travel” (mentally) through time or to any inferable data within the stream of causality. Wisdom necessary to utilize that data to perfect the present.

These abilities result from attempting to “move” the mind in any direction once one has permanently obtained presentness in the preceding grade. One has learned to think without instinctively abstracting, so that the causes are perceived directly and as they are.

Ipsissimus / Kether - the death of the emotional complex, that the heart expand into infinity unrestricted by instinct. That the individual become of similar then greater size to an actual star, burning brightly.

\* the wiki article on the Tree of Life: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree\\_of\\_life\\_\(Kabbalah\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tree_of_life_(Kabbalah))