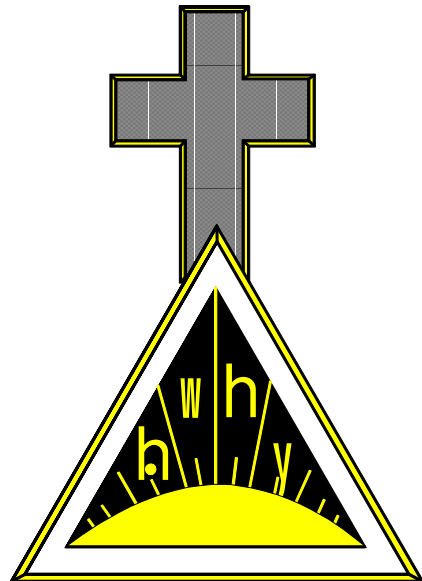


The Hermetic Order Of The  
GOLDEN DAWN<sup>Intl.</sup>

**THE AIR DAGGER**

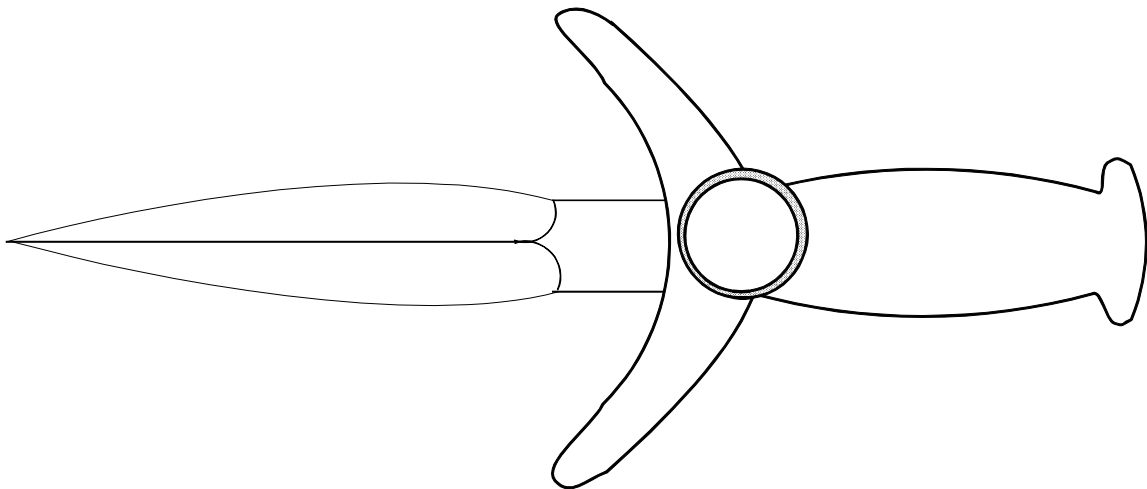


**THEORICUS 2=9**

The Air Dagger is the tool or symbol that represents the element of Air. This is the tool of the Theoricus and it is the representation of his power. There have been many contradictions about the tool that ought to be used to represent this element. The traditional Golden Dawn elemental tool for Air is the dagger. Perhaps a little background on its history might be helpful.

It was popular in the early years of paganism for the practitioners to ascribe the magical wand to the element of Air. Others, in their own magical experience, ascribed the sword to air. So the question to ask is, "Why is it significant that the dagger be used to symbolize the element of Air?" Well, the best way to answer this would be to recognize a well known author by the name of Gerald B. Gardner. He is one of several people responsible for reviving witchcraft, or at least a reconstruction of it. In his methods and theories, he was able to simplify some seemingly complex magical techniques and philosophies (some were even borrowed by Aleister Crowley). Teaming up with another knowledgeable person, Doreen Valiente, he was able to create the book entitled *Modern Witchcraft*. One of his works dealt with equating the dagger with the sword. This should be obvious, for the sword would appear to be nothing more than a large dagger. It was believed that the sword would be a suitable tool to represent Air because a sword is swung in the air. The dagger was used as a later version of this concept. This is so because a dagger was very similar to the tip of a spear which would hurl through the air when thrown. If you recall, in the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram, the Archangel Michael holds a sword and he among all the Archangels is ascribed to Fire. According to ancient Greek tradition, it is stated, "The sword is a gift from the gods." You can say that the gods are Spirit and Spirit broken down by definition means "breath" or "Air." These are only theories of how the dagger came about. Even though we can't say these are the most accurate answers concerning the tool of Air, they are a basis for your understanding.

The Air Dagger is perhaps one of the easiest tools to create. Merely purchase a dagger and paint it. The traditional Air Dagger is a simple double-edged blade with a "T" shaped handle as shown below.

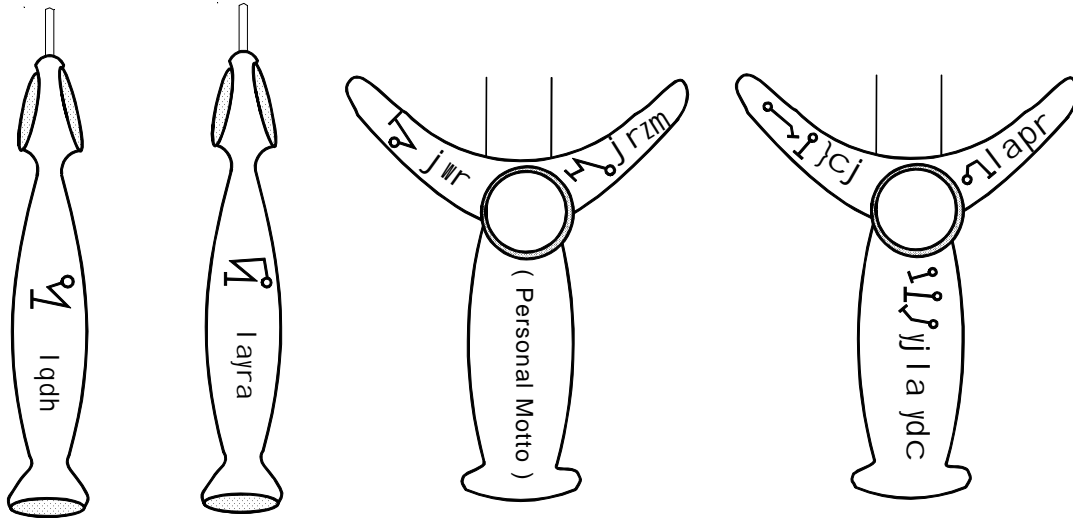


The Air Dagger should be fairly new and should have never been used previously to cut living things, not even meat. As an Adept, this tool is used in all magical workings of Air, such as Qabalistic workings to Enochian magical rituals. Let there be no confusion between the Air Dagger and the L.B.R.P. dagger or sword. The L.B.R.P. dagger or sword is under the auspices of hr̄wbg and it symbolizes strength and defense. The Air Dagger represents Air, ׀ of YHVH, and the Archangel Raphael. There are no specific requirements to the type of dagger you purchase. It may be made of wood, steel, pewter, or anything else. Just keep in mind that the Air Dagger is your tool. It should have the appearance you feel is best suited to your liking and it should be durable for years of use.

There are a variety of cutlery shops that supply double edged "T" handled daggers. Occult supply houses also have no problem furnishing a person with this kind of dagger at the right price. On the other hand, if you do have any problems finding a double edged "T" handled dagger, there is a solution, but it will take a little more effort. It isn't so much the double edged blade that is a problem as compared to finding one that has a "T" shape large enough to look traditional. One suggestion that would be useful is to use modeling clay. Simply purchase a fairly small amount of clay that doesn't chip or crack at a hardware store and get to work. On the traditional dagger, the part of the dagger that goes horizontal, crossing the blade, is slightly curving toward the point. It isn't exactly perpendicular to the blade. Using clay, you'll be able to mold and shape the desired figure. After the clay has dried, sand the handle until all lumps and rough edges are smooth.

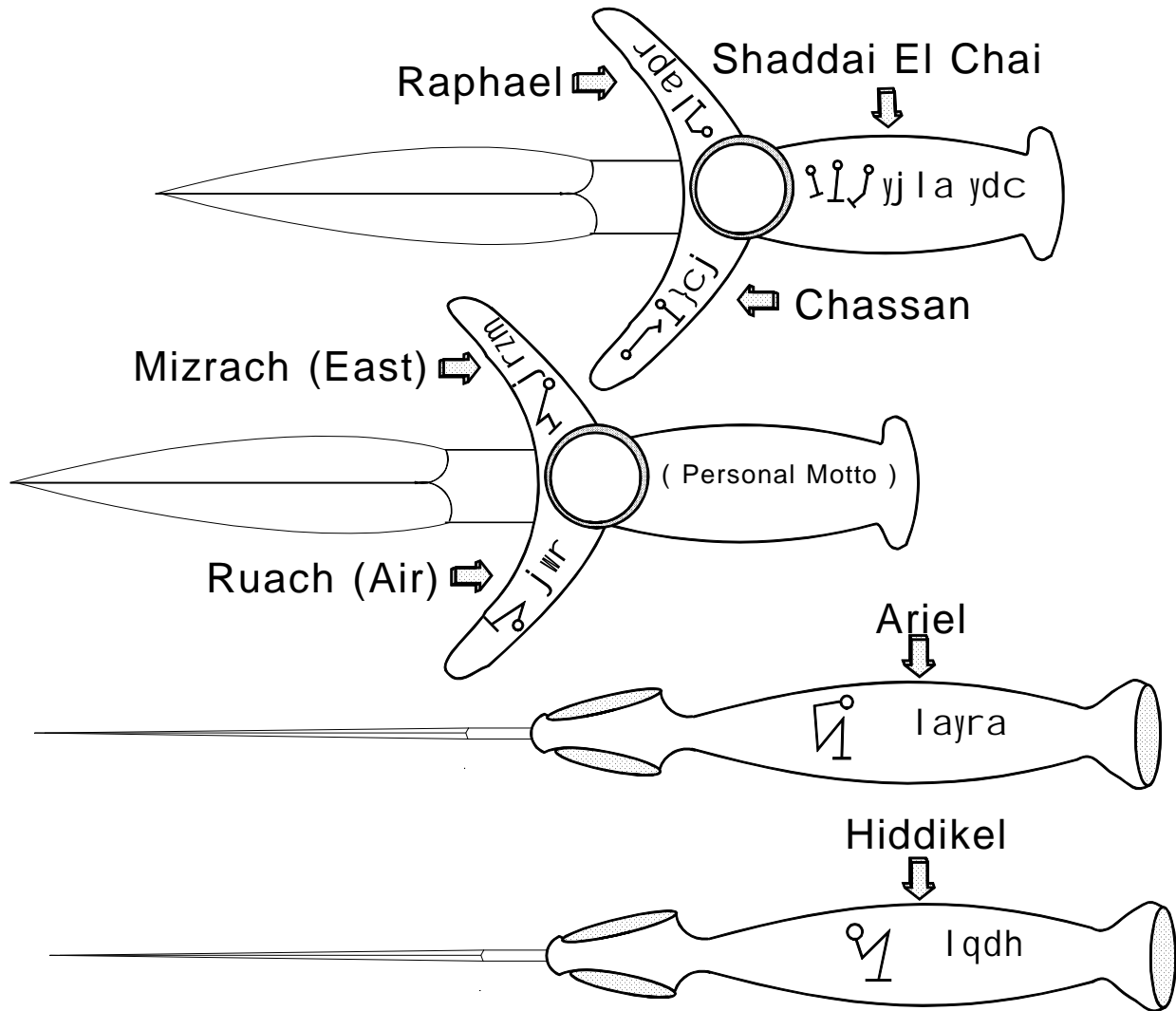
If the handle of the dagger is wooden, be sure that it has been sanded smooth prior to painting. Cover it with a couple of coats of wood sealer. Make sure that the wood sealer has completely dried before painting for a smoother, solid appearance in the color. If a metal dagger is used, be sure to heed the instructions of the paint regarding painting over metals.

In painting the dagger, the handle is painted yellow, whereas the sigils painted upon it are purple. Both of these colors should be brilliant and long lasting. If no other paint is available to you other than water colors, then they, too, may be used so long as several coats of varathane are sprayed on top of it as a finishing touch, to prevent peeling. The sigils that are placed on the handle of the dagger are the names of the energies in Hebrew that rule over and are associated with the element of Air.



<b>Divine Name:</b>	yj I a ydc	Shaddai El Chai or YHVH
<b>Archangel:</b>	I apr	Raphael
<b>Angel:</b>	ץcj	Chassan
<b>Ruler:</b>	I ayra	Ariel
<b>River of Paradise:</b>	I qdh	Hiddikel
<b>Cardinal Point</b>	j rzm	Mizrach (East)
<b>Element:</b>	j wr	Ruach (Air)
<b>Motto</b>		Your chosen phrase or word

Note: The Divine name attributed to the Air Dagger can be either YHVH or Shaddai El Chai for the sephira of disy, the Realm of Air.



All of the sigils should be painted in the best brilliance of purple. The motto is a short phrase or abbreviation that represents your goal or power. You should have the same motto on all your tools. You should have previously chosen a motto to place on your Earth Pantacle. This same motto can be painted on your Air Dagger. If the motto is still uncertain, an inspiration can probably be obtained from these examples: "May my light shine", "LVX", "770", or "To be one with Light." You can even use your own power name for a motto, for even your own power or magical name shows some significance in achieving a specific goal in your quest toward Divine Light. When all the paint has dried, place a couple of coats of varathane for a clean and long lasting finish.

Although the Order has the student constructing one tool per grade, it would be best not to place only two tools on your altar (referring to the Earth Pantacle as well). What is meant by this is that either all of the tools of the four elements are present or none of them. Having any of the elemental tools absent would cause an imbalance of a particular element within your magical working area. Wrap the tool in a white silk cloth or its own color and store it away where no one may touch or find it. A minimum

of use will be required for these elemental tools until the Portal grade to Adeptus Minor. The tools may also be used when communing with the Archangel of the grade, in this case Raphael.

Please do not take making these tools lightly, thinking that it will be a long while until you can use them properly. Make it a habit to use each tool as a representation of the grade you are at, as well as a symbol that represents your power to wield that particular element and control it. So, if you have built yourself an altar and have used alternate tools in place of the standard ones, you may now place the Air Dagger and the Earth Pantacle with those tools that represent the elements of Water and Fire. Just keep in mind that it is necessary to have an object representing each of the elements on the altar or none at all. A balance must be maintained at all times.

