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Almadel Of Solomon

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Introduction to the Almadel Of Solomon

Throughout the history of Western esotericism, few names carry as much weight as King Solomon. Renowned for his wisdom, wealth, and purported mastery over the spiritual realms, Solomon is a central figure in various grimoire traditions. Among the most fascinating texts attributed to him is the **Almadel Of Solomon**, a lesser-known but profoundly intricate magical system. This article explores the history, structure, and practical applications of the Almadel Of Solomon, offering a comprehensive guide for those interested in ceremonial magic and Solomonic traditions.

Unlike the more famous *Key of Solomon* or the *Lesser Key of Solomon*, the Almadel Of Solomon focuses on a specific method of contacting angelic intelligences. Its unique approach involves a wax tablet, specific prayers, and a disciplined ritual structure. For modern practitioners and scholars alike, understanding the Almadel Of Solomon opens a window into Renaissance angelic magic and the enduring human quest for divine connection.

What is the Almadel Of Solomon?

The Almadel Of Solomon is a medieval grimoire that provides instructions for constructing and using a wax tablet—called an "Almadel"—to contact four distinct angelic "Chiefs" or "Governors." Each chief governs a particular quarter of the heavens and is associated with specific days, hours, and celestial influences. The text is part of the Solomonic corpus and shares themes with other works such as the *Ars Goetia* and the *Ars Almadel*.

The word "Almadel" itself is believed to derive from the Arabic *al-madhal*, meaning "the entry" or "the entrance," suggesting that this device serves as a gateway to higher spiritual realms. The ritual is designed to be performed at specific astrological times, with the practitioner working within a consecrated space to invoke angelic presence. Unlike demonic evocation systems, the Almadel Of Solomon is purely theurgic—it seeks union with divine forces rather than dominion over infernal spirits.

Historical Origins and Manuscript Traditions

The earliest known manuscripts of the Almadel Of Solomon date from the 15th to 17th centuries, though the traditions it contains are certainly older. The text survives in several Latin and English versions, often bound together with other Solomonic works. One of the most famous compilations is the *Lemegeton*, or the *Lesser Key of Solomon*, which includes four books: *Ars Goetia*, *Ars Theurgia Goetia*, *Ars Paulina*, and *Ars Almadel*.

Scholars have traced elements of the Almadel Of Solomon to earlier Hebrew, Arabic, and Hellenistic sources. The practice of using wax or metal tablets for divination and angelic contact appears in late antique magic, and the four-angel structure parallels certain Jewish angelological traditions. The Renaissance fascination with Hermeticism and Kabbalah further shaped the Almadel into its current form, blending Christian piety with esoteric symbolism.

The text was popularized in modern times by occultists such as S.L. MacGregor Mathers, who translated and published it in the late 19th century. Today, the Almadel Of Solomon is studied by ceremonial magicians, historians of religion, and anyone drawn to the rich tapestry of Western esoteric practice.

The Structure of the Almadel Of Solomon System

The Almadel Of Solomon is not a sprawling compendium of spirits; rather, it is a focused and elegant system. Its core components include the Almadel tablet itself, the four angelic chiefs, and a precise ritual framework. Understanding each element is essential for effective practice.

The Almadel Tablet

At the heart of this system is the Almadel—a square or rectangular tablet made of pure white wax. The tablet is typically about four inches square and one inch thick. It is inscribed with specific signs, characters, and names of God during a consecration ritual. The wax must be virgin and pure, often mixed with certain oils or resins to enhance its spiritual resonance.

The Almadel is divided into four sections, each corresponding to one of the four angelic chiefs. In the center, a cross or other sacred symbol is drawn. Around the perimeter, the names of God and angelic seals are inscribed. The tablet is then placed on a small wooden or cloth support, and the practitioner uses it as a focal point for invocation.

Construction of the Almadel must be performed at an appropriate astrological time, usually during a waxing moon and on a day ruled by Jupiter or the Sun. The materials, tools, and procedures are outlined in detail in the grimoire, emphasizing the importance of purity, intent, and proper alignment with celestial forces.

The Four Angelic Chiefs

The Almadel Of Solomon describes four primary angelic entities, each ruling over a specific "quarter" or division of the heavens. These chiefs are:

- Almadel of the First Choir: Governed by the angel Helion, who rules over the East and is associated with the element of Air. This chief is invoked for wisdom, knowledge, and clarity of thought.
- Almadel of the Second Choir: Governed by the angel Geniel, who rules over the West and is associated with the element of Water. Geniel governs emotions, intuition, and matters of the heart.
- Almadel of the Third Choir: Governed by the angel Gradiel, who rules over the South and is associated with the element of Fire. Gradiel is invoked for strength, courage, and transformative energy.
- Almadel of the Fourth Choir: Governed by the angel Phanniel, who rules over the North and is associated with the element of Earth. Phanniel governs material stability, grounding, and physical well-being.

Each chief has specific seals, prayers, and times of operation. The practitioner selects the appropriate chief based on the desired outcome. The grimoire warns against attempting to contact a chief outside of its designated time, as this can lead to confusion or spiritual imbalance.

Ritual Preparation and Procedure

The ritual for using the Almadel Of Solomon is precise and requires careful preparation. The practitioner must be in a state of ritual purity, having fasted or abstained from certain activities for a period before the working. A dedicated space—such as a temple or private room—should be cleansed and consecrated.

The following steps outline a typical Almadel ritual:

1. Cleansing and Consecration: The practitioner cleanses themselves with water and recites prayers of purification. The space is purified with incense, typically frankincense or sandalwood.
2. Setting the Almadel: The Almadel tablet is placed on a clean cloth or wooden stand, oriented to the appropriate cardinal direction based on the chief being invoked.

3. Opening Prayers: The practitioner recites the names of God appropriate to the ritual, often including the Tetragrammaton (YHVH) and other divine names from the Solomonic tradition.

4. Invocation: The specific prayer for the angelic chief is recited, often with the practitioner kneeling or standing in a reverent posture. The prayer may be repeated multiple times until a sign of presence is perceived.

5. Communication: Once the angel is present, the practitioner may ask questions, request guidance, or receive visions. This communication may be clairvoyant, auditory, or purely intuitive.

6. Dismissal: After the working, the practitioner thanks the angel and recites a dismissal prayer. The Almadel is wrapped in white silk and stored away until the next use.

The entire ritual is performed with solemnity and focus. The Almadel Of Solomon is not a system for casual experimentation; it demands respect, discipline, and a genuine spiritual orientation.

Symbolism and Spiritual Significance

Beyond its practical instructions, the Almadel Of Solomon is rich in symbolism. The four angels correspond to the four cardinal directions, the four classical elements, and the four seasons. They represent the totality of the cosmos, and by contacting them, the practitioner seeks to harmonize with the entire created order.

The wax tablet itself symbolizes the material world being shaped by divine will. Wax is a substance that can be molded and impressed, much like the human soul. Inscribing the Almadel with sacred names and symbols is an act of consecration, transforming a mundane object into a vehicle for spiritual contact.

The Almadel Of Solomon also reflects the Neoplatonic and Hermetic idea of a hierarchical universe, with angels serving as intermediaries between God and humanity. The practitioner does not command these beings but rather petitions them with humility and reverence. This contrasts sharply with the Goetic system, where spirits are often coerced or bound.

The Role of Prayer and Divine Names

Prayer is central to the Almadel Of Solomon. The grimoire provides specific prayers for each chief, invoking the names of God and appealing to the angel's nature. The use of divine names—such as El, Elohim, Tzabaoth, and Adonai—is based on the belief that these names carry inherent spiritual power. Proper pronunciation and intention are crucial.

These prayers are not mere requests; they are acts of alignment. By uttering the sacred names, the practitioner attunes themselves to the divine frequency of the angelic realm. The Almadel serves as a physical anchor for this attunement, stabilizing the connection between the mundane and the spiritual.

Modern Reception and Practical Applications

In the 20th and 21st centuries, the Almadel Of Solomon has experienced a resurgence among esoteric practitioners. Modern ceremonial magicians, influenced by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, have revived and adapted the system. Some have created their own Almadel tablets using contemporary materials while adhering to the traditional design.

The Almadel Of Solomon is particularly valued for its safety and clarity. Unlike systems that involve dangerous or unpredictable spirits, angelic contact is generally considered benevolent and protective. Practitioners report feelings of peace, illumination, and a deepened sense of purpose after successful invocations.

Practical applications of the Almadel Of Solomon include:

- Personal Guidance: Seeking wisdom on life decisions, career, relationships, and spiritual development.
- Healing: Invoking the angels for physical or emotional healing, especially through the water and earth chiefs.

- Creative Inspiration: Working with Helion for artistic or intellectual breakthroughs.
- Protection: Using the seal of Phanniel for grounding and stability during difficult times.

Contemporary practitioners often emphasize the need for a solid foundation in meditation, visualization, and energy work before attempting the Almadel. The system is advanced and requires a developed spiritual sensitivity.

Common Misconceptions and Pitfalls

Despite its beauty, the Almadel Of Solomon is often misunderstood. Some assume it is a form of divination akin to a Ouija board, but it is far more structured and reverent. Others expect instant results or dramatic manifestations, but angelic contact is often subtle, appearing as a intuition, a dream, or a shift in awareness.

Another pitfall is neglecting the preparation. The grimoire emphasizes purity, timing, and proper materials. Skipping these steps is disrespectful to the tradition and reduces the likelihood of success. Practitioners should approach the Almadel with patience and humility, understanding that it is a sacred practice, not a quick-fix solution.

Finally, cultural appropriation is a concern. The Almadel Of Solomon emerges from a specific Judeo-Christian esoteric context. While people of any background may study it, they should do so with respect for its origins and with a genuine interest in its spiritual dimensions, rather than treating it as an exotic curiosity.

Conclusion

The Almadel Of Solomon is a remarkable and enduring system of angelic magic that has captivated seekers for centuries. Its elegant structure, profound symbolism, and practical methodology offer a path to divine contact that is both disciplined and deeply rewarding. By understanding its history, construction, and ritual use, modern practitioners can connect with a timeless tradition of spiritual wisdom.

Whether approached as a scholar, a magician, or a spiritual seeker, the Almadel Of Solomon invites us to explore the boundaries between the human and the divine. It reminds us that the heavens are not distant and silent, but filled with intelligences ready to guide and inspire those who approach with sincerity, purity, and reverence. As with all great esoteric works, the true value of the Almadel lies not in the rituals themselves, but in the transformation they inspire within the practitioner.

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