

The Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram (LRP)

This ritual is of the most versatile and effective rituals used by the Golden Dawn and subsequently by much of the modern pagan and magical communities. When correctly performed, the LRP can also be used for a variety of purposes beside spiritual unfoldment, some of the most popular being to cleanse the etheric and astral atmosphere of a room and to remove any obsessing thought or idea from the mind. We can list functions of the LRP as:

- (1) Purifying the etheric and astral bodies.
- (2) Balancing the elemental make-up within the astral body and the psyche.
- (3) Creating a link between our regular and deeper states of consciousness.
- (4) Protecting the magician from negative energies, and placing within the astral and etheric bodies structures (the pentagrams) that will activate automatically when needed.
- (5) Placing within the astral body of the magician keys that will allow her easier access to the inner realms.
- (6) Grounding or earthing the magician.

In Tikkun we use it for essentially the same reasons. When performed correctly the banishing ritual will leave the magician and room feeling clean and pure, while the invocatory ritual will result in a feeling of consecration and sacredness. The ritual should be practiced in its banishing or purifying aspect for at least a month before the invocatory aspect is used. It is best to learn the ritual by heart mentally before attempting it physically.

Traditionally the LRP is to be performed at least twice each day, once banishing before sleep and once invoking upon awakening. In this it forms an excellent ritual for daily spiritual practice. This double practice is useful for two reasons. Firstly, it connects us with the Earth currents, which are alive more in the morning and less in the evening. Secondly, the banishing at night clears and balances ourselves so we may easily, as we sleep, move to the deeper realms of the inner world for guidance and re-vitalisation. The invoking in the morning strengthens what guidance we have received overnight, and balances and strengthens us for whatever the day may bring. In the evening once more, our personality self will likely be less balanced due to the events during the day, so we balance and purify ourselves with the banishing ritual. The banishing in the evening also removes any negative or unhelpful energy we have connected with during the day.

Elemental Symbolism Within the LRP

One of the fundamental ideas within modern Western magic is that working with the elemental principles will allow the controlled and gradual changing of the entire conscious psyche. The LRP is only one example of such workings (though perhaps the most simple yet effective). To perform it effectively you need to know that the elements and sub-elements being banished and invoked relate directly to your own being as well as the objective inner realms outside of us. This should become very clear to you as you work with the Elemental Mirror of Self exercise.

Apart from psychological characteristics, the four elements are assigned certain traditional attributes which may be found in any number of books and on the internet. The three most important correspondences to the elements for the effective performance of the LRP are colour, quarter and time of day:

AIR	Yellow, East, Dawn
FIRE	Red, North, Noon
WATER	Blue, West, Dusk
EARTH	Olive Green, South, Midnight

These correspondences need to be learnt before attempting the ritual.

The Vibration of Divine Names

Vibration or intonation of divine names is a traditional practice within many spiritual paths, particularly those that have their roots in the native Middle Eastern traditions, such as Judaism and Sufism. It rests on the belief and awareness that the name of a deity or being contains the blessings of that deity or being. So for example, the name of Raphael is not simply a name, but a key to the full powers and energies of the Archangel himself. Vibration is said to unlock those powers and energies from the name. In doing so they then are able to transform us. Vibration simply awakens the powers of the name we vibrate. Traditionally, a very important rule to remember is to **only ever vibrate divine names**. That is, we only ever use vibration with names whose energies we wish to awaken. Practicing vibration using common words or names is not a good idea, as there is no real way to ascertain what powers this may awaken within you. Please do not disregard this warning.

As a key part of the LRP, and most Tikkun rituals, certain divine names **must be** vibrated or intoned rather than simply spoken. If you are not already familiar with vibration, I suggest you purchase a CD of some of the sacred Middle Eastern names being intoned from the Abwoon website. Alternatively there are now a few magical Websites that have samples of vibration to download. In any case it is important to hear this rather than read about it. It is also important that when you intone, the vibrations are felt in the chest and palms. Make sure you are vibrating from your belly, not from your throat. If your throat hurts after a while of vibrating, you need to learn how to vibrate from lower down. Apart from the physical discomfort of a sore throat vibrating in this way places a strain upon the throat centre or chakra, which we wish to avoid.

For convention all names to be vibrated are given in **BOLD AND CAPITALS**.

Instructions for the Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram

If you have not already done so, honour the Land.

If you have not already done so, dedicate all insights and blessings you receive from this practice to all beings. See the Tikkun prefacing statements for examples.

The Opening Qabalistic Cross

Stand facing the East and relax for a few minutes by deep breathing.

Place your hand (most people use their right hand) down in front of your body pointing to the Earth. Slowly raise your hand up the central line of your body and above your head.

Bring the hand slowly down to your forehead and touching it vibrate: **ATEH** (pronounced Ah-Tayh)

Lower your hand to touch the stomach, belly or genitals. Vibrate **MALKUTH** (Mal-kooth).

Touch the right shoulder, vibrate **VE-GEBURAH** (Vay-Gebv-uh-rah).

Touch the left shoulder, vibrate **VE-GEDULAH** (Vay-Ged-oo-lah).

Fold both hands on the centre of your chest, vibrate **LE-OLAM** (Ley-Ohlahm).

Bow slightly, vibrate **AMEN**. Then slowly lower your hands to rest by your sides. Then raise your head.

The Inscription of the Pentagrams

With your forefinger (or first two fingers) inscribe a pentagram in the Air, about three feet in height, touch the centre of the pentagram and vibrate **YOD-HEH-VAU-HEH** (Yodh-Heyh-Vowh-Heyh).

Turn to face the North. Repeat the inscription of the pentagram using the divine name **ADONAI** (Ah-Don-Aye).

Turn to face the West. Repeat the inscription of the pentagram using the divine name **EHEIEH** (Ehh-Heh-Yah).

Turn to face the South. Repeat the inscription of the pentagram using the divine name **AGLA** (Ah-Glah).

Turn back to face the East.

The Invocation of the Four Archangels

Hold your arms out to the sides in the form of a cross and say/vibrate:

‘Before me **RAPHAEL** (Rah-Feyh-El).
Behind me **GABRIEL** (Gahb-Bree-El)
On my left hand, **MICHAEL** (Mee-Cai-El).
On my right hand, **AURIEL** (Ohr-Ree-El).

For about me flame the pentagrams
And above me shines the six-rayed star.’

The Final Qabalistic Cross

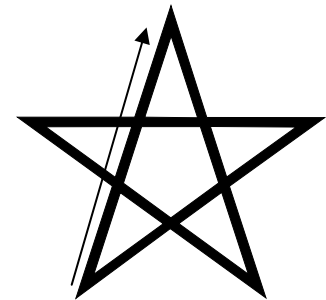
Repeat the Qabalistic Cross as described above.

Full Description and Inner Work of the LRP

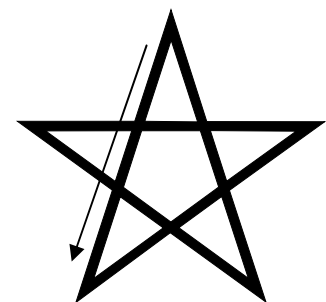
The Opening Qabalistic Cross

Stand facing the East in the centre of your temple or area where you work and worship.

Relax for a few minutes by deep breathing. The Golden Dawn traditionally suggested a four-fold breath where you breath in for four, hold for four, breath out for four and hold for a final count of four. The breath should be rhythmic.



BANISHING



INVOKING

Place your hand down in front of your body, so that your hand is resting over your genital area. Your palm should be to your body and your fingers pointing towards the Earth. Slowly raise your hand up the central line of your body. (Still in your rhythmic breath imagine a ray of light or your will moving from your hand into the Earth below you. Allow this to travel deep into the centre of the Earth where it connects with the Inner Light of the Earth. Draw this light up towards you as you breathe in and move your hand. See the white light from the Earth enter your body and move through your feet and fill you completely as you raise your hand above you).

Still raising your hand, move it straight above your head. Bring the hand slowly down to your forehead and touching it vibrate: **ATEH** (pronounced Ah-Tayh). (As you raise your hand see yourself growing larger and larger until you stand on the Earth with your head among the stars. Look up and see at the end of the Universe, a limitless flashing and divine white light. This fills your vision and you know it to be the light of the One. As your physical hand rises high, the light is just able to be reached by your finger-tips. Yearn for connection to the One. Move your hand into the white light and then bring your hand down towards your head. As your hand moves down to your forehead bring down a shaft of brilliant white light. See the light coming to rest inside your head, filling your whole head. As you vibrate see the light grow brighter and stronger.

Lower your hand to touch the stomach, belly or genitals. Vibrate **MALKUTH** (Mal-kooth). (As you move your hand down, visualise a shaft of white light going down through your body to rest at the base of your feet. It is important to not stop the light where your hand stops but to continue the visualisation to just below the feet and thus filling the whole Earth. Again, when vibrating see the light grow bright and strong, like a brilliant ball of light upon which you stand).

Touch the right shoulder, vibrate **VE-GEBURAH** (Vay-Gebv-uh-rah). (With your hand bring the light to your shoulder. Again, when vibrating see the light grow bright and strong, forming a brilliant ball of light).

Touch the left shoulder, vibrate **VE-GEDULAH** (Vay-Ged-oo-lah). (As you move your hand from the right to the left shoulder see a glowing bar of white light being formed. Again, when vibrating see the light grow bright and strong, forming a brilliant ball of light).

Fold both hands on the centre of your chest, vibrate **LE-OLAM** (Ley-Ohlahm). (As you vibrate see the connecting point of light of the two shafts grow bright and strong and form a ball of light).

Bow slightly, vibrate **AMEN**. Then slowly lower your hands to rest by your sides. Then raise your head. (As you vibrate see the cross of light within you grow bright and strong. As you slowly lower your hands, see yourself returning to normal size, no longer standing upon the world with your head amongst the stars. As you return to normal size maintain the visualisation of the shaft of light connecting the crown of your head with the brilliant white light above the stars.

Inscription of the Pentagrams

With eyes open, will and imagine that the light from your crown moves down into your heart centre. There allow it to unite with the light from the Earth already drawn into your body. Send the united light from your heart to your hand and with your forefinger (or first two fingers) inscribe the pentagram in the air, starting at the described spots for invoking or banishing. (See the light in your hands directed out of your finger as electric blue light as you inscribe the pentagram. The pentagram should be inscribed with care and precision, though with a reasonable amount of speed. It should be fairly large, at least three feet high. See the pentagram shine before you, hanging in the Air, pulsating with electric blue light).

With your finger touch the centre of the pentagram and vibrate **YOD-HEH-VAU-HEH**. (Yodh-Heyh-Vowh-Heyh). (As you vibrate imagine that the force of your voice and vibration carries the sound of the divine name to the ends of the universe in that direction. The name takes with it any unbalanced or unresolved energies of the Air qualities of your elemental self, that is your talking self; intellect, communication, logic etc.)

Keeping your hand at the same level (shoulder height) and pointed out before you, turn to face the North. (As you turn the 90 degrees to the North, see a wall of white light being formed around you).

Repeat the inscription of the pentagram with the same intent and visualisations, but using the divine name **ADONAI** (Ah-Don-Aye). (As you vibrate imagine that the force of your voice and vibration carries the sound of the divine name to the ends of the universe in that direction. The name takes with it any unbalanced or unresolved energies of the Fire qualities of your elemental self; your passion, will, drive, sexuality etc.)

Keeping your hand at the same level (shoulder height) and pointed out before you, turn to face the West. (As you turn the 90 degrees to the West, see a wall of white light being formed around you).

Repeat the inscription of the pentagram with the same intent and visualisations, but using the divine name **EHEIEH** (Ehh-Heh-Yah). (As you vibrate imagine that the force of your voice and vibration carries the sound of the divine name to the ends of the universe in that direction. The name takes with it any unbalanced or unresolved energies of the Water qualities of your elemental self; your feeling self, emotions, intuitions, instincts etc.)

Keeping your hand at the same level (shoulder height) and pointed out before you, turn to face the South. (As you turn the 90 degrees to the South, see a wall of white light being formed around you).

Repeat the inscription of the pentagram with the same intent and visualisations, but using the divine name **ALGA** (Ah-Glah). (As you vibrate imagine that the force of your voice and vibration carries the sound of the divine name to the ends of the universe in that direction. The name takes with it any unbalanced or unresolved energies of the Earth qualities of your elemental self; your body self, health, vitality, spatial knowledge etc.)

Turn back to face the East. (As you turn the 90 degrees to the East, see a wall of white light being formed around you. This will complete the circle or wall of white light around you).

Invocation of the Four Archangels

Hold your arms out in the form of a cross and say/vibrate:

‘Before me **RAPHAEL** (Rah-Feyh-El)’. (Visualise the archangel Raphael standing before you as a tall, elegant figure clothed in yellow with yellow and violet robes and wings outstretched, covering the whole Eastern quarter. He stands in the dawn light and you can see the sunrise behind him. From him feel the cleansing effects of a gentle breeze of Air).

‘Behind me **GABRIEL** (Gahb-Bree-El)’. (Visualise Gabriel standing behind you as a tall figure clothed in bright blue and sea coloured robes with orange and blue wings outstretched, covering the whole Western quarter. She stands at the edge of a vast sea, on the horizon of which the sun is setting. Beside her is a huge Waterfall. From the Waterfall feel a gentle spray of cleansing Water).

‘On my left hand, **MICHAEL** (Mee-Cai-El). (Visualise Michael standing on your right as tall figure clothed in bright red and orange with flashes of emerald green and red and green wings outstretched, covering the whole Northern quarter. He stands beneath a noon-day sun, bright and strong and he is surrounded by orange and gold flames, from which you feel the warm glow of Fire).

‘On my right hand, **AURIEL** (Ohr-Ree-El). (Visualise Auriel standing on your left as a tall figure clothed in clear olive green, rustic brown and russet robes with black and white wings outstretched, covering the whole Southern quarter. She stands in a glorious forest in the night with many stars over-head. About her feet are crops and harvests of many sort and the fruits of the land. From her you feel a sense of stability and the power of Earth).

‘For about me flame the pentagrams’ (Visualise all four pentagrams once more in bright electric blue around you).

‘And above me shines the six-rayed star’ (Visualise a golden Hexagram or six pointed star resting above your head like a crown).

The Final Qabalistic Cross

Repeat the steps for the Opening Qabalistic Cross.

The Visualisations Within the LRP

All the visualisations of the Archangels given above are intentionally brief. Apart from giving a basic outline it is unwise to influence the vision each magician has of the divine beings, which is necessarily personal. The images given for the LRP vary slightly from book to book, teacher to teacher and tradition to tradition. Experiment and create your own images that you find comfortable and work for you, changing the sex of the Archangels also if you desire. The above images are based on the traditional Golden Dawn colour and time period associations with the elements. The important thing to remember in building up your own images for the Archangels is to keep them in synch with one another. That is, if you start seeing Michael with a Wand, the symbolic tool of Fire, see the other three holding appropriate tools also.

Meaning of the Divine Names and Words Within the LRP

Every magician should be fully aware of the meaning of the words he or she uses in ritual. Below is the standard rough and ready English translation of the Hebrew used in the LRP.

Word	Hebrew	Meaning
Ateh	אתה	Thou art/thine/unto you
Malkuth	מלכות	the Kingdom
Ve-Geburah	וגבורה	and the power
Ve-Gedulah	וגדולה	and the glory
Le-Olam	לעולם	unto the ages.
Amen	אמן	A sealing word from the old Egyptian, Amenti the Underworld.

Yod-Heh- Vau-Heh Adonai	יהוה אדני	Literally, 'to be', often translated as God. Lord, ruler, or ruling power..
Eheieh	אהיה	'I will be'
Agla	אגלא	An acronym for the Hebrew sentence Ateh Gibor Le-Olam Adonai: translated roughly as 'Thou art mighty unto the ages, Lord'.
Raphael	רפאל	Healer of the One Being of All
Gabriel	גבריאל	Strength of the One Being of All
Michael	מיכאל	Like Unto the One Being of All
Auriel	אוריאל	Light of the One Being of All

(Please note that while the archangelic suffix 'el' is generally translated as 'God', it is actually gender neuter. Its original root meaning is 'unity' or 'the One').

Though the LRP may seem complex and difficult to learn, it is very easy once attempted. It is best at first to confine your practice to the Qabalistic Cross, perfect that and then move onto the whole ritual. Practice the words and vibrations before the ritual movements and it will all come together very quickly.

Analysis of the LRP

The ritual has four distinct sections:

1. The Qabalistic Cross
2. The Inscription of the Pentagrams
3. The Invocation of the Four Archangels
4. The Qabalistic Cross

Looking quickly at each section in turn will show the purpose behind the ritual and how it works.

The Qabalistic Cross

We will spend a bit of time on this section as in many ways it is the most crucial action within the ritual. Despite its simplicity it is also the most important ritual action within the entire magical tradition. This is because it is the means whereby the magician connects with the guidance of the Light or the deepest connection we have with the One. This is brought into her body and then balanced throughout the whole of her by the use of the cross formula. This produces a state of balance within the energy system of the subtle bodies, clears the central channel from crown to feet and links the light of the One to the body. The entire ritual is now under the guidance of the 'higher'. This is why most Tikkun rituals commence with the Qabalistic Cross; it ensures our magic is in partnership with the divine, not solely from our own motivations and for our own ends.

This act of 'starting right' is an ancient practice from the Middle Eastern spiritual traditions. In Islam all chapters of the Koran begin with the word 'Bismi'allah', translated as 'we begin in the name of God (unity)'. The Hebrew equivalent is 'B'shmy', 'begin in the name and vibration of God'. This initial act dedicates the whole ritual and affirms the magician's intention to be directed and led by her connection with God. This is carried forward into the ritual by directing and using the light drawn from this connection, in union with the light of the Earth, to inscribe the Pentagrams.

Traditionally drawing up the light from within the Earth was omitted from the Qabalistic Cross. However, this I feel is simply the result of the Earth negative ideology within the historical Western religious traditions. From a viewpoint of balance and remembering the Qabalistic saying 'Kether is in Malkuth and Malkuth is in Kether', this action is entirely appropriate. There is also a very old belief that the lights of the stars are reflected in the Earth, that there is an inner source of light within the Earth itself. This has a certain resonance with both the traditional Rosicrucian vault and the Underworld, themes explored within the work of R.J. Stewart. See his [The Underworld Initiation](#), [EarthLight](#) and [The Power Within the Land](#). Given all this, I feel this extra step to be a welcome innovation on the original format. However, you may wish to use the traditional version and omit this step.

Another way of understanding the concept of 'starting right' is to look at the English translations of the Hebrew. As simple and as basic as the standard translation is we still get a sense of the humbling cosmic scope of this action: 'Unto thee be the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory, until all ages, Amen'. Here we are addressing the unnamable One Being and placing our life their hands. We give over our sense of self; our power and our Inner Light to God for all times, allowing ourselves to be guided and moved by Him, to serve His ends. This is the meaning of the Qabalistic Cross and we need to approach it each and every time with these spiritual ends in mind for it to be fully effective. Also we need to desire this connection, this linking with the Light. This is why we stretch our hands up and we can only just reach the light. It produces a state of active yearning and desiring towards the light. When doing this part of the ritual I encourage you to strongly feel your desire to link to the deeper, higher self and to serve Goddess. Channel all of this desire into your connection with the light.

We see then, unlike some author's contentions, that the Qabalistic Cross is not simply a method of balancing energy, but properly performed it is a whole regenerative process in and by itself, one that will align all our actions to the divine. One of the most important actions within the ritual is the movement of the light from above our heads to below our feet. In terms of the Tree of Life this is a linking of Kether to Malkuth, transcendent deity to immanent deity. Thus our bodies stand as a bridge between heaven and Earth, God and creation, unity and diversity, the All and the singular. By this we dedicate ourselves to the regeneration and restoration of the world, as shown by the light of God entering the world below our feet.

This action also sets up a polarity of force between the Kether (crown) and Malkuth (feet) centres in our subtle bodies. This polarity is one of the most important channels of force within our subtle bodies. The Qabalistic Cross clears this channel and strengthens this polarity. Through the cross bar of Geburah and Gedulah (Chesed), this polarity is then taken into a new mode or dimension, bringing forth a new polarity of the universe; constriction (severity) and expansion (mercy). This is to complement and evolve the polarity of the Unmanifest to the manifest in Kether and Malkuth respectively. This is energetically and symbolically placing the template of the creation of the Universe within us.

These two polarities are now resolved and balanced by the words **Le Olam**, 'unto all ages', or 'for all worlds' showing that the union of the polarities produces infinite life. This occurs within the sphere of balance, Tiphareth within our heart centres. The whole is sealed by the ancient words Amen, which stems from the Semitic root AMN which means 'hidden' and refers to the deep hidden underworld within the Earth. Thus all the actions are sealed by linking to the dark within the underworld. In effect this movement of light into the underworld produces the seeds from which new life and actions in alignment with God may spring.

The Inscription of the Pentagrams

This draws upon several ancient and established connections with the symbol of the pentagram, those being: protection, a means of access to the inner realms and the balance of the four elements in the human being overruled by spirit. The pentagram carries with it these currents of spiritual blessing which are used in the LRP. The particular way of inscribing the pentagram in the LRP refers to the element of Earth and our physical, everyday life and minds. The same Earth pentagram is inscribed at each of the four quarters with different names, pertaining to the sub-elements of Earth: Air of Earth, Fire of Earth, Water of Earth and Earth of Earth.

These sub-elements are cleansed and balanced by the pentagram and the divine names, which means that our whole everyday consciousness is affected and balanced. The inscription of the pentagrams also places within the etheric and astral bodies the four pentagrams in balance around us. This will not only continue the effects of the ritual within us, but the pentagrams once placed there by many repetitions will act as a protection against negative forces on these levels. The placement in the etheric body is by the actual direction of energy from the fingers and the placement in the astral body is by the visualisations.

The Invocation of the Archangels

These invocations use traditional images and colours to invoke the Archangels who represent and channel the four elements in their pure state. These pure elemental forces will charge and re-vitalise the elemental forces within ourselves. The pentagrams first purify and balance the sub-elements of Earth within our consciousness and then the archangels bring us the pure elements from Spirit to enliven and enlarge our elemental make-up. The pure energy of the elements, even when directed and under the presidency of the Spirit, can sometimes be overwhelming, and here the Pentagrams serve another function. They act as filters that allows the influx of the pure elements to enter our being slowly over a period of time. They do this firstly on the astral level and then on the etheric.

At first the Archangels may appear as mere visualisations, but over time they will begin to actually be there. Tradition teaches us that the Archangels are real spiritual Beings. However, originating from the Creative World (Briah), they have no actual form or astral body. This is why we can vary our visualisations of them to suit our personal needs. By our visualisations we create an astral body for their presence to inhabit, so that they will come and live within our spheres when we call them. For this to be a long term and continuous presence we need to prepare the right space and atmosphere for them. This is akin to trying to grow plants from a rainforest in Iceland - for them to survive we need to create an appropriate atmosphere, that is a greenhouse. By continued use of the LRP, our auric fields actually change into the purified and consecrated elemental atmospheres that the Archangels can live in. They will then, over time, 'move in'. When this happens, it is most noticeable and wonderful.

The Second Qabalistic Cross

This closes and seals the ritual and indicates that all the proceedings from start to finish have been under the guidance of the light of Goddess. The final part of the final cross is the visualisation of the shaft of light from the magician's crown to the Light. This is an energetic connection, and affirmation, that help the magician to be guided by her connection with God from then on.