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Opening extract from

Wizardology

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CHAPTER XIII : FAMOUS *WIZARDS* OF HISTORY.

There have been very many *people* who have called themselves *wizards*, but most have been merely *charlatans*. For if there is one thing a true *wizard* is sworn to above all, it is complete *secrecy*.



SE-OSIRIS

One early wizard was the Egyptian Se-Osiris, who was a boy when he defeated the Ba, or spirit, of a wicked Ethiopian sorceror. He turned the serpent which the Ethiopian had conjured into a worm, banished the darkness he had brought down, and turned back a sheet of flame driving the evil wizard's spirit away.



VIRGIL

Some claim that the Roman author Virgil was a wizard. While he was indeed a great writer, he was only a meddler in the occult sciences, and his only notable deed was the creation of a magical leech talisman which protected his home town from a rather unpleasant plague of savage leeches.

TO THAT EVEN the most gullible apprentice may start to learn the art of discerning a true wizard from a common conjuror who performs tricks and illusions with cups and cards, it will be instructive to read a little about some of those who have famously been styled wizards in the past. I have also included a brief outline of my own life, so as to inspire the apprentice by giving him an example of a life lived in complete and utter dedication to the noble art of wizardology.



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My Own History :
Above you can see an image of the sorceress Vivienne—or Nimue—weaving the wicked enchantment that imprisoned me in the oak which has become this book.

Dr. Dee in his Magical Library at Mortlake



Dr. Dee, the Supposed Modern Wizard :
Dr. John Dee, the so-called English wizard, is often thought to be the model for Dr. Faustus, the wizard who made a pact with an evil spirit named Mephistopheles. Dr. Faustus sold his soul for a paltry twenty-four years of earthly power. Dr. Dee has not been so foolish. And while it is true that he performs many strange experiments using a crystal ball, or shew-stone, in which he claims his assistant Kelly talks to so-called Enochian spirits, he is usually more interested in mundane studies such as cartography, and he has spent time studying under the famous mapmaker Mercator. Although he has an impressive library of extraordinarily erudite magical books, including the fabled *Liber Mysteriorum*, he is not really a true wizard.



AGRIPPA

The German philosopher Cornelius Agrippa had many professions, and wrote a book on wizardology entitled, 'Occult Philosophy'. Although he began his apprenticeship well enough, he never liked the idea of the existence of invisible spirits, claiming that all magic was caused by 'planetary powers'. It is safe to assume, therefore, that stories of him raising nasty spirits are unfounded as he confined his studies to the theoretical.



PARACELSUS

Paracelsus, a Swiss alchemist, was said to be a wizard, and there is a story that he actually obtained a genuine piece of the Philosopher's Stone in Constantinople. In reality, though, he spent far more time investigating the properties of minerals, and devising better ways of mining them and, as a physician, of studying the human body in order to find out if there were a better way of curing the many ailments that it could fall victim to.

CHAPTER VIII: MAGICAL *FLIGHT* & FLYING *CARPETS.*

For many *years humans* have dreamt of being able to fly like *birds, winged insects* and *dragons.* For many more, *wizards* have been able to perform just that *feat,* using a *number* of different *methods.*



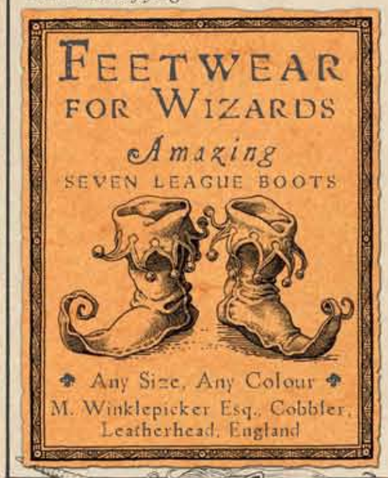
BROOMSTICKS

Broomsticks are not often used by wizards, as they can be uncomfortable to ride, either forwards or backwards. If you are able to afford it, I would recommend one of the more luxurious and civilised methods of flight such as a flying carpet.



FLYING OINTMENT

I have never seen a good recipe for flying ointment: most contain noxious substances and almost all are poisonous. In fact, many such ointments, sold by charlatans, cause the user to fall fast asleep and merely dream about flying.



ONE THING THAT is known to very few non-wizards is that all of the various methods of flying—by broomstick, flying carpet or seven-league boots—use the same spell. The chief ingredient in this spell is a phoenix feather. For six hours, hold the feather above the object to be charmed, think about flying and repeat the words, "*UP, UP AND AWAY!*" over and over again. Now, fix the feather to the charmed object. You will be able to bid the object to fly by uttering the command, "*ALTHIELO!*" When you are airborne, it is important to remember that you are actually being carried by invisible fairies, so do not say or do anything to upset them, as they might decide to drop you.

In general, silk carpets from Persia travel the fastest, as they offer the least resistance to the wind.





Flying Carpets:

The Arabian book *The Thousand and One Nights* includes the story of Prince Houssain, who discovered a flying carpet. As it was a silk carpet of very high quality, it was able to travel very quickly. A carpet is valued by the number of knots that have been used to make it. The greater the number of knots in a carpet's weave, the greater the number of *knots* of speed it can achieve as it flies.

Leonardo da Vinci & Scientific Flight:

The unmagical often tinker with attempts to devise mechanical means of flight. Even the great inventor Leonardo da Vinci included designs for one such machine in his notebooks. While fools may laugh, the apprentice ought to bear in mind that these experiments are sure to bear fruit sooner or later. However, as wizards, we will always find wizardological flight more efficient and satisfying.



Little can compare to the delights of riding high on a magical carpet. However, as with all magic, it should only be used in cases of actual need.

LEVITATION

Levitation is in fact a type of illusion, rather than real magic. Can you see how the conjuror shown in this picture is managing to levitate? No? Then he has obviously managed to fool you.

Rules of Flight

- Fly high enough so that you cannot be seen from the ground, thus avoiding frightening the uninitiated.
- Smaller flying objects must always give way to larger ones, by taking a lower course.
- Try to take off and land in an inconspicuous area, so that you remain secret and concealed.
- Never lend a magical carpet, or broomstick to someone else. Protect them magically, so that others will not be able to use them.
- Show courtesy in all matters involving flight. Never use your ability to fly as an excuse to show off your magical prowess.

