



## Metamorphosis - Contact

Zen is often damned with great praise. Such praise that makes it sure that no ordinary person could possibly succeed in such a profound transcendence of the normal human condition. This is pure nonsense. The process of Zen is the recovery to conscious perception of the virtual perceptions that we all begin with. See the Archidoxes of Magic, page 7 for this definition of virtuality. In the late 1800s L Frank Baum, the author of the Oz books, became a Theosophist and studied Zen Theosophy, which could also be called Zen Qabbalah. His Oz books clarify the path of Zen by way of analogy. Not allegory which uses symbols to stand in for the concepts that are to be expressed, but analogy which uses parallels to be the equivalent of the course of action. Analogy is not only much more applicable than allegory but it allows greater freedom in plotting and characterization. This is not merely more useful, but also makes for a better story. Most allegorical stories are boring and overloaded with symbology. Baum's analogical stories are exciting and engrossing as well as clear guides to the process of self development.

The Road to becoming a Zen Magician begins with the kind of self transformation that turns a caterpillar into a butterfly.

This involves the development of virtual - specific absence - analogues to all of one's senses as well as virtual knowledge and virtual understanding. In game terms, a third person view to go along with one's normal first person view. The third person view allows the adjustment of the body's responses - biofeedback - and the avoidance of difficult situations by going around them or by doing something that you might not otherwise have done. Transformation by the appropriate exercises and experiences changes you from the usual 18 sense person to a more advanced 36 sense person.

First you learn the magical alphabet and how it is derived - from the Tetractys to the Alephbet. The sounds, the colors, the meanings. You practice Sorcery to see how the meanings apply to yourself and the world around you. You observe the times and seasons of the real Astrology, you lay out the cards of the real Tarot and you consider the results. Doing this changes your perception of the world around you and changes who you can be. Once you have recursively stabilized yourself by feeding your spiritual world, it is time to begin the process of self transformation itself.

