

# META: TRICKS OF THE TRADE

The last section with any writing starts:

If you've gotten this far through my journal, you know a lot about me and my magical history. There's one more thing I've left to reveal, however, which is a secret about you! Reading through my previous entries, you will have collected four magic words. Each of these will be used to create an alternate word. Find the resulting words and then follow my instructions to discover what you really are!

**"Alternate" and use every other letter of the four previous answers to get the four new words.**

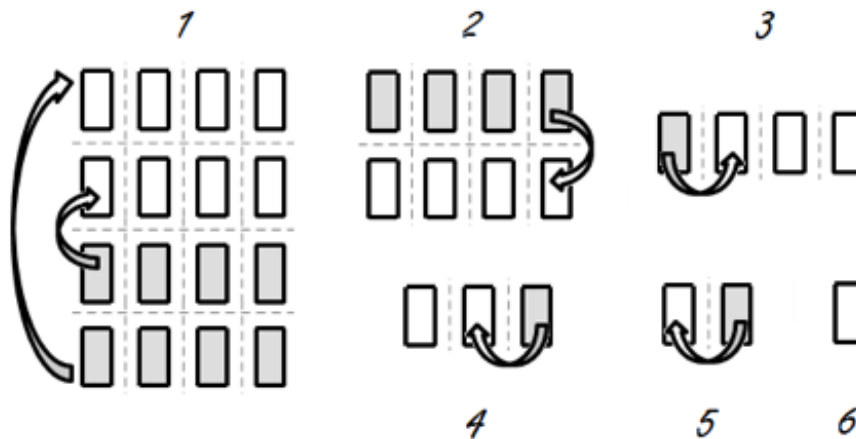
Here are the definitions of the derived words:

- |   |  |  |                                       |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Container covers<br><b>PLEIADES -&gt; LIDS</b> | 2. Sustained thunder<br><b>PREVAILS -&gt; PEAL</b> | 3. Bearded animal<br><b>IGNORANT-&gt; GOAT</b> | 4. Burden<br><b>LEONARDO-&gt;LOAD</b> |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|

- Write the letters of these words on the blank playing cards on the following page, one letter per card.
- Cut out the cards and arrange them in a grid, just as they were on the page.
- Each card has two digits on it. Flip all of the cards face down except for the ones whose two digits are the same.
- Record the word that you see, which describes what I do to other magicians:

**L E A D**

5. You're now going to create one stack of 16 cards out of the 16 stacks of one card. Imagine there are lines between each column and row in the grid. Pick one of these lines and "fold" all of the stacks on one side of the line onto their corresponding stack on the other side. When a stack gets folded across a line it flips over, reversing the order and orientation of the cards in it. Keep picking lines and flipping stacks until you have just one stack. The diagram shows one possible way to do this, but you're free to choose the lines and directions to flip as you wish.



No matter how the player makes the final stack, the four letters DGLO will face in the opposite direction as all of the others. Anagramming these gives GOLD.

6. Once you have one stack left, a minority of the cards will be facing the opposite direction as the other cards. Rearrange these cards to form a word, which describes the quality of my tricks:

**G O L D**

**Alchemists are stereotypically known for trying to turn LEAD into GOLD, which is what happened in this final card trick.**

7. As an illusionist, I've developed some pretty powerful abilities. But during this trick your latent powers allowed you to turn the first word into the second, which takes a very special kind of magician. You must be an

**A L C H E M I S T**

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1.1 L	1.2 I	1.3 D	1.4 S
2.1 P	2.2 E	2.3 A	2.4 L
3.1 G	3.2 O	3.3 A	3.4 T
4.1 L	4.2 O	4.3 A	4.4 D