

## Apprentice to Magic

by za'el via jill - Jungle Drum Newswire *Tuesday, May 19 2015, 9:27am*

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in times before the mist lifted from memory  
the feats and skills of a great Magus  
spread throughout this and many other lands

our village healer and shaman pays homage  
only to this great Magus, who is said  
to have raised the dead and caused the blind  
to see. he is reputed to have power  
over the elements and has sent many  
a raging storm and tempest  
to subdue an enemy.

he is able to quiet the howling  
wind and tumultuous seas  
at a command,  
awesome indeed is his power.

i was a boy at the time and  
under the tutelage of the village shaman  
but i sought the knowledge and skill  
of the greatest shaman and Magus of all  
so i thanked my revered teacher for all  
he had taught me and set off  
to find the greatest of them all.

... ..

“now, boy what brings u here  
to pester and entreat me?”

“i seek power over the elements and the ability  
to raise the dead and cause the blind to see.”

“i have no power to teach u or tricks to impart that  
deceive only fools.”

“but ...!”

“be silent child;  
i see there is no dissuading u  
or dampening ur persistence  
so if u are able to learn, i shall teach the most valued  
secrets, which if mastered enable every influence over  
man and the world, however, there is one condition;  
if u accept this offer, u will leave  
after receiving this most high knowledge  
and follow ur way.”

“i accept sir, as indeed if this secret enables every power  
i gladly accept ur condition.”

and so the Magus produced a small silk bag and emptied  
its contents on the shiny earth floor of his hut.

“now boy, what do u see laid before u?”

“small ivory keys sir, with strange engraved sigils.”

“how many do u see?”

“what is, ‘how many,’ sir?”

“i see that i must teach u the power of number and  
form and the meaning of signs and symbols”

... ..

in time the boy learned the power inherent in numbers  
and signs but was shown no specific application or how to apply  
this knowledge to great effect.

“how many keys do u see now, boy,  
and what are the symbols on those keys?”

“26, sir, and the symbols are:  
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.”

“begone and marvel, i have imparted the greatest magic of all.”

“but ...!”

<http://jungledrum.hopto.org/news/story-1605.html>

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Underground Oz Poetry. <http://ozpoetry.lingama.net/news/poem-579.html>