

# The Fathomless Grimoire

**Physical Description:** a book, two feet by one foot, bound in red leather. Tentatively assessed as being first published in the seventeenth century by the Flemish printer Joannes Cnobbaert, but this cannot be verified by the text (there are at least three title pages, and Cnobbaert's name appears on only two of them). Page count cannot be verified. Author unknown. The text is typically in contemporary French and Spanish, although individual pages can be found in languages ranging from Latin to Mongolian -- and, in one case, what appears to be a close variant of Quenya.

The Fathomless Grimoire will register on scans as magical, non-magical, unmagical, antimagical, psionic, anti-psionic, occult, mundane, and interdimensional. All at the same time. Fortunately, it does *not* register as celestial, infernal, theurgic, demonic, chaotic, or unnatural.

**Contents:** Theoretically, the Fathomless Grimoire is a collection of seventeen to twenty three magic spells, of the sort that you would expect to see in a late Renaissance arcane tome. The spells are typically morally neutral to benign in nature; researchers have found recipes for scrying mirrors and general analgesic charms in it, but nothing like cursing one's enemies or summoning demons.

The default tone of the work suggests that this was the most common deliberate choice of the (unknown) author's, although the actual *motivation* for that is on a spectrum.

Note the qualifiers and caveats in the above paragraph. This is because the Fathomless Grimoire is a unique interdimensional artifact. Apparently there are a whole slew of universes where the same extremely powerful wizard lived in Antwerp in the seventeenth century, and had published a grimoire of his/her favorite spells. The wrinkle here is that the Fathomless Grimoire is somehow simultaneously *all of these variant grimoires at once*.

Even more interestingly, the exact page count and contents of the Grimoire changes steadily over time; this usually just changes the formulae of a particular spell, but new ones will appear if you study the book for long enough. As long as you have the book open and are consciously perusing it, the Grimoire stays in its current configuration; but if you put it away, or even stop focusing on it, the pages start to shift again. Individual pages on the Grimoire can be photographed successfully, and doing so for a research project has been standard practice since the eighties.

The primary interest professional occultists have in this tome -- aside from it being weird, yet almost completely harmless -- is in fact for research. Magic is a scholarly discipline, and one that does not always yield itself well to scholarly inquiry. Luckily, the spells in the Grimoire generally *work* very well, no matter what the current variant is. This can let someone compare two or more versions, and see how changing the spell infrastructure changes the results. It's not always groundbreaking research, but it's still useful enough to assign to journeyman wizards and other arcane graduate students.

Also, to be fair, many people like to research weird and harmless things. That even includes wizards. Particularly wizards, in fact.

One last note: whoever it was that wrote the Fathomless Grimoire doesn't seem to have a variant existing in our universe. This leads to the fascinating question: why do we have a copy of his or her book, then? *That* question also gets researched, although the people doing the researching don't think that it's particularly harmless. Interdimensional travel rarely is.

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