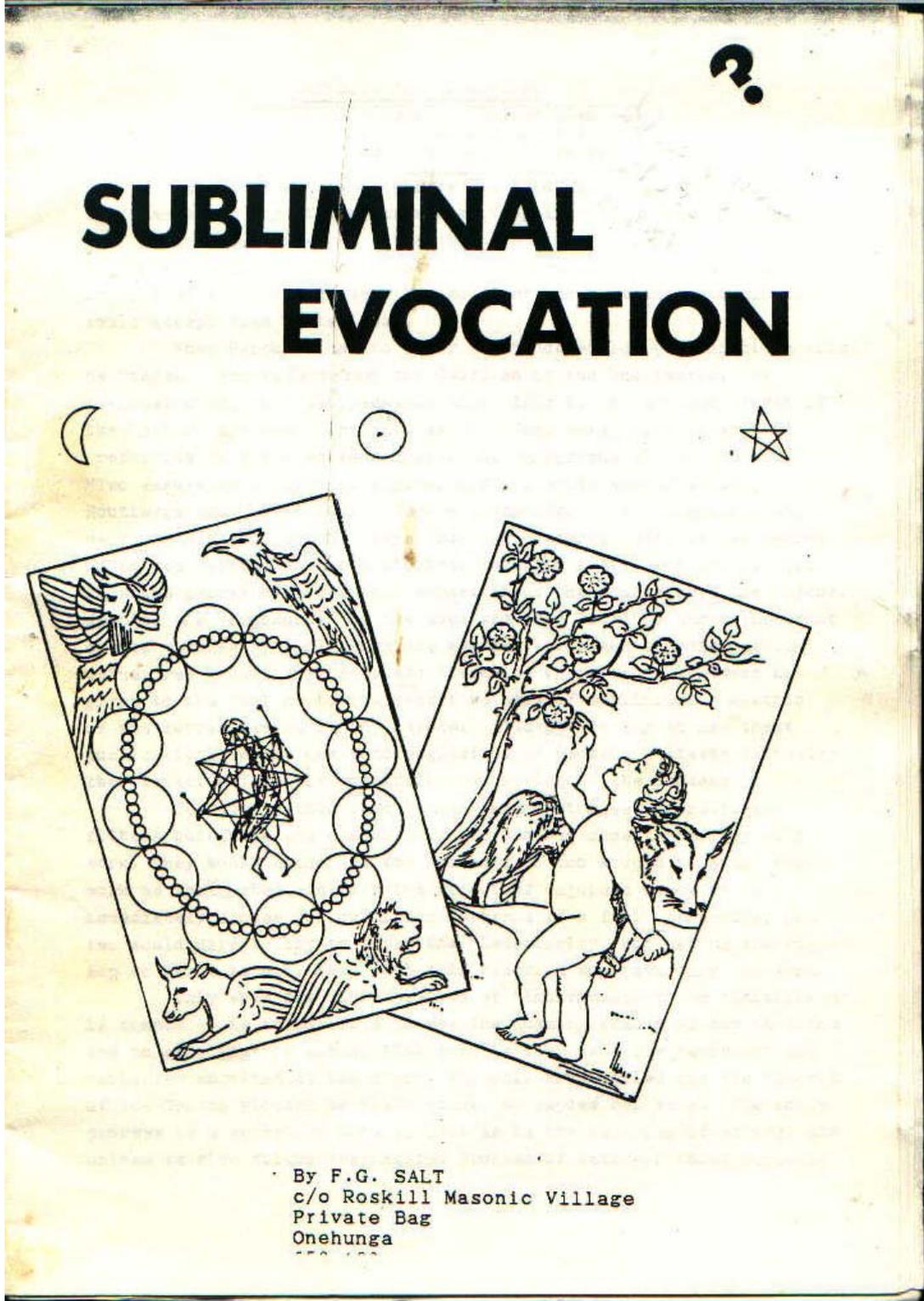


Whare Atua Temple Order

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Subliminal Evocation

By Frank Salt



SYMBOLS ARE SUBLIMINAL

For this reason the Golden Dawn
guarded its ceremonies and its
symbols under the guise of secrecy.

In practice, the candidate was told almost nothing about the meaning of any of the ceremonies, regalia, diagrams or symbols.

What was given as explanations during a ceremony was, in fact, a thin veil, just enough to satisfy the formal, academic mind and to imply that these things were "reasonable", so that the rational mind would accept them tentatively.

When Hercules had to enter the "underworld" (subconscious mind) he "threw a sop to Cerberus" the Guardian of the Underworld, the rational mind, then slipped past him. This is the ancient secret of the Mystery Systems. In fact, as Carl Jung says, very clearly in referring to these ancient Mysteries, paragraphs 553 to 598 in "Two essays on analytical psychology" collected works, vol.7., Routledge and Keegan Paul. Before proceeding, these paragraphs should be fully studied. He then says that the Mysteries were better marked up in red letters on the historical casualty list. Not so. We still know the secret of sucllimal evokation of the contents of the psyche, despite the "exposures" by the dogs who have tried to shred the Order of its virtues by publishing the written words and symbols, adding uninspired erudition and psuedo "teaching". No value whatever is given to the Soul or to the secret methods of subliminal evokation of the forces latent in the psyche. Students trying to use these publications merely use auto-suggestion to produce whatever fantasies they expect - possibly committing psynocidie in the process. X

The very method used in the true Mysteries automatically filters out those who are unready and who may come to harm by such work. They would either be too academic or too stupid to apply the work as instructed. In fact the effect of unguided study would immediately arouse our own inner Cerberus to a furious barking, and few would dare to try to enter the "Underworld", not having the right sop to throw to him. Many feel this reaction when starting the work.

Only when the whole process of "Individuation" or "Initiation" is completed is it possible to see the amazing beauty of how it works and to know that it works. Also seen is the need for "secrecy" and "Silence" enjoined at the start. For only thus veiled can the "Secret of the Golden Flower" be discovered. No exposé can help. The whole process is a secret of Nature, just as is the hatching of an egg, and unless we also follow the natural process of Nature nothing happens.

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Because the whole process of Initiation is natural we must treat it as such, naturally. There is no need to make changes in daily life, in fact to do so would be contrary to nature and would produce airy dreamers unrelated to reality. Remember the Lord's Prayer -- "Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth as it is in heaven." No suggestion that we float around on misty clouds of idealism. The Will of the Father is to be fulfilled in us, right down here in Malkuth, Daily Life.

Merely by directing our full attention and interest to what is going on around us, we are playing our mortal role. Look with alert attention at every possible detail, a little speculation, a little fantasy, acute observation to detail, then very firmly back to the ordinary daily life with increased awareness of every detail of it on a purely mundane level.

Attention to detail enhances the appreciation of the whole, while, at her level the soul goes about her business in her own way. The result is a keener, more vital personality. Never withdraw into daydreams or idealism. Get stuck into daily life and leave others free to do the same.

In directing alert attention to any piece of symbolism we are using our minds in the proper way, to observe in detail. Too often we use our minds to modify what we see, to modify in terms of what we ought to see. Of what we have been taught as 'right', rather than as what simply IS.

Used as a clear lens, the mind carries the exact image of what is seen through the subconscious to the soul; and if our mind remains clear of preconceptions, the reverse may occur an impression from the soul may flow back via the subconscious to the open mind. Subliminal images work both ways.

Tarot cards, all 78 of them, are very potent subliminal images. It has been said that if an average person were stranded on an uninhabited island with nothing but a pack of Tarot cards and spent some time daily really looking at them, they would of themselves tell the whole mystery of the purpose of Creation. The less he 'knew' of the pack the better.

Because of the potency of subliminal images, a law now exists to prevent their use in 'unconscious' advertising. It has been proved that if one frame, lasting one twenty-fifth of a second were inserted in a movie film or T.V. item, only one in twenty-five frames, it would register in the subconscious mind without any intervention from the 'rational' mind,

which would not even notice it, and therefore have no chance to reject the subliminal suggestion thus registered. Thus unhindered, it passes directly into our subconscious mind. Repeated often enough at say one second intervals over a period of several minutes, we would be influenced by that image with no intervention from the conscious personality.

Such images, if permitted, could, for instance, arouse the sex instinct, a sense of anger, tiredness and fear. This has been experimentally proven. It works in much the same way as hypnotic suggestion, by by-passing the critical factor of the conscious mind, our 'Cerberus'.

In symbolism, including ceremonial, the full conscious mind is used, otherwise we could not make conscious use of the image, nor could the soul gain access to consciousness. We therefore look attentively at any symbol, noting every detail. The Tarot of the Golden Dawn uses very simple images so that, once carefully studied, one may readily visualise the card in detail. In these cards there is no spurious detail, but the card is an integrated whole. Not a motley collection of details, but one single entity, complete in all essential detail.

Now, as an experiment, take an ordinary pack of playing cards, take the four Kings, look attentively at just their faces. Most people will notice that they face in differing directions, but how many notice that only the King of Hearts has no moustache? Now look at the four Kings of the G.D. Tarot. Would you have noticed that the King of Wands alone has no beard? (Kings are figures seated in chariots) Did you notice that the hand-rails on the back of each chariot were quite different? Now look at the four Princes. The prince of Wands wears a close fitting helmet, showing no hair. The Prince of Cups wears a similar helmet but with hair showing. The two other Princes both wear coronets, but in every case the hair is different. So are the horses' manes and their fore-locks. By thus noting every point about every card you are really looking at them effectively. It is this attentive LOOKING that uses the cards as magical or subliminal images, not the screeds you may have read about them, nor what you write about them, but the fact that you feel strongly enough, a need to Know.

In ceremonial the impact is a thousand times more potent. You and you alone are the focal point in the immediate present of imagery flowing from moment to moment through a free and open mind into the core of your being. Not just one static picture, but a living process of symbolism

mirroring the content of the Soul, not just 'your' soul, but the function of Total Being we term the Soul of Nature. The warmth, the living presence of people who have trained and joined with you to share this magical imagery, acting as parts of the Universal drive to Know, for your sake and as a cosmic activity --impersonal-- Divine.

There is no possible substitute for the immediacy of Ceremonial. Subsequent reading of the ritual serves to intensify its impact, but merely reading copies of the performance can have no magical effect whatever. Even attempts to act out the ceremony by people who have never had direct personal experience of them must lack the spiritual impulse essential to animate the moment, each consecutive moment through which future transits into past, the ever present NOW.

For the properly prepared candidate, each moment is brand new, it is the NOW, seen through a mind which can have no preconceptions to cloud the light of Now, but which is free to consider and to contemplate the entire sequence, re-animating it at will. Looking at it. With all magical or subliminal work, it is not what you or anyone else thinks about it. It is that you look at it. Look at it attentively, intelligently, actively, purposefully. **LOOK.**

Clairvoyance is romantically attractive to beginners on the Path, but clairvoyance is simply the French word for clear seeing. That is all you are practicing. Simple, unconditioned Seeing.

So long as your subconscious babbles empty echoes from the past, your vision is clouded. Uncontrolled, it will indeed babble any nonsense it pleases. Only you can control that, and the best way to control it is choosing to use your mind purely as a clear lens to see through, clearly, in detail, and free of preconceptions. In so doing, you are free in the Now, not just a sounding board for outside opinions from the past. You are both free and living your own life. Just think, how little of your life is so entirely yours?

You will find that at first you will have, in the back of your mind 'What is that supposed to mean?' Nothing real is 'supposed' to be, it just is! Gradually, as you gain enough confidence, you will license yourself to let the symbol tell you what it does mean --to you-- here and now.

Every archetypal image is alive in you now. It wants you to be aware of its purpose. You already do know the meaning, or rather the purpose of that symbol, but you wisely are cautious about selecting the real from the hubbub of rumours. Silence is golden.

Only when the mind is still and silently alert can we see clearly. It takes time and practice thus to free the mind, the eye of the Self. Time, mainly because we are so busy with all the conditioning we mistake for "I". "I" exist only in the present moment. "I" never 'was' nor 'will be'. I AM.

The more one writes, the more complicated things seem. But it is the mind, intellection, reasoning, well established at our point of development. We provide a collection of 'associated ideas' so that while it is yet difficult to still the mind, to stop it modifying what is seen, the associated ideas compliment the symbol.

Subliminal advertising has proven that we may see a thing without noticing it. Attention to a picture allows time to notice, to register consciously, so that concepts on the higher planes can also register, be noticed. They are there all the time, but only when the conscious mind is ready can they filter through.

Dreams are often subliminal images, the form they take being in forms suited to the dreamer, but in many cases basic symbols contained in them are related to the images we use. Thus we each have our own individual modes of communication between soul and mind, but the communication is reciprocal, a two way dialogue between soul and personality. The purpose of our system is to clear the path between mind and soul, to clear away obstacles due to our personal conditioning, and to encourage the mind not just to see in dreams or waking visual impressions, but to notice, to register and to observe accurately.

At one time a student was given an image: say a Tarot card to study. The student then turns over the picture and tries to reproduce it from memory. Comparing the original with the copy, one could see which details had not been 'noticed', thus doubling the impact of the un-noticed bits, reinforcing them. It could also help the mentor to understand why that student did not notice a detail, which could assist in clearing away mental blocks. Cards were not then printed, and merely by repeating these exercises the student kept on until he could draw his own cards, by which

time they had noticed, rather than merely looked, and thus, without words or lectures on any card, it had served its purpose as was intended.

The mind is symbolised by Air, thoughts are symbolised by clouds which obscure the 'heavens' we are looking at. Only when we can look at an image without letting 'clouds' of preconception intervene, can we truly 'see' and 'notice' spiritual truths.

In some Tarot packs, 'The Fool' is pictured as a clown, in motley, tripping happily at the top of a cliff. The observer may well insert their 'cloud' and have the clown about to fall. But that is not the picture. He is not falling. He is dancing. In the G.D. pack 'The Fool' leads a wolf by a thin string. No, the child is not about to be eaten, nor will the wolf break away. Those are mental clouds. The child is reaching for a rose, the wolf looks rather bored and the rose tree is in bloom. All is well, in both versions. Life goes on.

Now we come to another 'cloud'. In neither version is 'The Fool' either male or female. You can't see that. Notice it. Like the nude figure in the final Trump, 'The Universe', the figure is androgynous, combining both sexes. It is very easy to let a cloud of preconception float across what is seen so that it is not what is seen but what is presumed. In time such clouds tend to disperse, but why let them interfere anyway? This is learning to look, and to see what IS there, a practice which will permeate your daily life, in time.

Sketching is a good practice. Draw a scene and you learn to look and to see what is there in increased detail. In some cards there appears to be an error. Don't correct it, notice it. Just as in scripture there appears to be absurdities, but wait, look up the Hebrew, look again, perhaps it is not absurd, just too hastily read, not looked at, noticed properly. The error probably carries a subliminal message, known to the soul but at odds with our vaunted reason. Reason is very easily offended, hyper-critical, overrated, touchy.

Now subliminal messages, as used here, are safe. They can only 'ring a bell' if there is a bell there to ring, or when we are ready to hear it ring. The soul responds only to Reality, rather than to our limited logic, which we find to be rather one-eyed. Reality 'rings true' inside us, it is not the product of intellection. "Which of you, by taking thought, can add one

cubit to his stature?" [Words of Jesus' - Ed] LOOK, NOTICE, then fantasise. Then a bell just may ring in the Soul.

Symbols are beautifully effective. Words confound. When we cease to let thoughts cloud issues, we are liberated.

Probably our oldest and best known archetypal images are the Sphinx and the Pyramid, built at enormous cost in labour as an epitome of Egyptian Wisdom. An illiterate person can use such symbols as the Tarot as well as a scholar in fact they probably have an advantage, being free of conditioning. Thus the 'idols' of 'pagan' religions were able to effect the illiterate masses, a principle used by the early church both in architecture and in sculpture & art. The service might be conducted in an alien tongue, but the effect of attendance was there. In a way, our age of reason may be an "age of darkness", through which we must travel in order to discover not only the beauty but also the limitations of reason.

In the development of insight by the contemplation of symbolism, DISCERNMENT is of paramount importance.



Whare Atua Temple Order

(Part II)

USING SYMBOLS AS SUBLIMINAL STIMULI

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Why this emphasis on looking, on noticing?

In the 0=0, 1=10 and 2=9, the roles of Kerux and Hegemon vary, and are very significant in this point. The Lamp of the Kerux may be, to some extent, likened to the reasoning mind, Kerux himself, may perhaps be seen as "attention", while Hegemon is the soul, that which guides you from within. In relying on symbols we are learning to discover that these two "lead" you to "realisation" and to use and to trust them. They will guide you from within, and the purpose of Initiation is, as stated in the "Confession" of the newly installed Hierophant in the Equinox Ceremony, " - - so to lead the Soul, that it may, by true direction - -" (study it).

Symbols are evocative, they evoke response in the mind to the actual emanations from Kether. Without this practice in the use of symbols, no penetration of the veil is likely.

Consider the Knights or Princes in Tarot, they are all highly active, they refer to Yetzirah, with Yesod, Kerux, the mind as unmodified, free from precept or preconception. As you look attentively, alertly, openly at a symbol of which you "know" nothing from outside yourself, your mind is in quite a different mode from that used in swatting from books, cribbing other people's ideas. It is like the mind of a babe on seeing its first butterfly, absorbing every detail during its brief attention span. So with symbols, look thus, for the length of your natural attention span, about twenty minutes, then put it away and don't think about it. Keep your attention on the daily round for this also is using concentration, just the fact that you don't let your mind wander back hazily to the symbol. Hegemon will still be doing her job in silence within you. Trust her. Don't jostle her, you are the candidate, let her do things her way. As time goes by you will quite naturally "notice" more and more, especially when you work with the Hebrew alphabet, ceremonies, Names. Your capacity to notice and to co-relate, to synthesise will improve, the liaison between mind and soul improves - because IT wants to. You are developing inductive reason as opposed to deductive reasoning we usually use.

A Tarot card that has been "explained" to you is all fogged up with external influence, you hear that external voice, not the inner voice of the Hegemon, who works in Silence. So it is with this paper, I have said things you can discover for yourself. But I hope it helps in these early stages.

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Thus we come to the practical use of 'magical' (subliminal) imagery, for our imagery is indeed "magical" in its true sense rather than its romantic sense. If you have read or been taught a lot about an image by someone who 'knows all about' it, then you will find yourself 'telling' it what it means. You are daunting it with preconceptions. Our way, you treat it as brand new every time you see it and 'listen' to what it has to say to you in silence. You cannot talk and listen at the same time, and you cannot learn by talking. Listen. Look. Let the 'teaching' rise up from within you. Only

thus can you discover that "The Kingdom of Heaven" is within you. That at some level you already know, but do not realise it. You have been conditioned to learn from without, which is not "magical". The only answer to the eternal question "What am I?" can only come this way. This is the 'magic' way that Spirit descends into matter, the way you complete the process of incarnation.

Can you see now why the Order is 'secret'? Why we lay so much emphasis on Silence? The process is something sacred Holy, something we cannot desecrate with speech, the Voice of He who works in Silence and Whom naught but Silence can express.

Something which can only be lived, not discussed - It is **LIFE**.

Life is an activity. We speak of 'looking' and 'listening' above, but there is a delicate balance between 'telling' a symbol what it means and blankly staring at it.

Always YOU are centre-stage, the actor. Perhaps we could suggest a dialogue between you, the candidate, and a symbol as used by the soul as a mirror. Not quite the usual idea of thinking or worry, more like a conversation, in which we reply spontaneously to each idea, intuitively rather than after consideration. Let ideas actually assume form, become clear cut. We intuitively 'see' something in the symbolism. Something 'lights up' gently in the mind.

Intuition is the 'Airy' part of us. Less substantial than reason, so we do not need to 'be right' or dogmatic about our kite-flying, we can afford to speculate, free of the strict demands of logic needed by the 'Earthy' material mind in daily life.

Yet the purpose of all this is that we may 'see' the material universe as symbolic of the spiritual. Everything about us is a product of Life. Gradually the Livingness of everything catches our attention, is 'noticed', our own livingness grows, we feel nearer to things external, know them better, love them more, share with them the simple, natural joy of Life.

- Frank Salt



Where Altar Temple Order