

Ordo Templi Orientis



KEY TO PYRAMID

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

Each horizontal series of subjects represents One Degree. Those Subjects marked with a cross (x) in the following resumé are compulsory, while the ones not so marked may be undertaken according to the choice of the Candidate - but he must take one subject in addition to those marked with crosses. (This applies to all Degrees below the Seventh.)

FIRST DEGREE

The student is expected to read thoroughly on all the subjects laid down and to choose his own books and authorities. No official books are given him in this Degree; he is expected to ground himself in his own way in the preliminary stages of his study. He may apply for an Examination in these subjects at any time, and, if successful, he is admitted to the next Degree.

Brief resumé of course to be adopted by Candidate:-

- Thelema: Study the works of Aleister Crowley.
- Magick: Study the works of Barrett, Lévi, Blavatsky, and such like authorities.
- Mysticism: Study the works and lives of the famous Mystics, Western and Eastern.
- Hinduism: Study the standard works on the subject.
- Buddhism: " " " " " " " "
- Mythology: " " " " " " " "
- Gnosticism: Study the works of G.R.S. Meade, R. Payne-Knight, T. Inman, General Forlong etc.
- Qabalah: Study works by MacGregor Mathers, W. Westcott, E. Waite
- Egyptian Tradition: Study in particular The Egyptian Ritual or 'Book of the Dead'.

SECOND DEGREE

The Second Degree constitutes a more specialized and intensive course in the previously examined Subjects.

THE 13 HOLY BOOKS(x)

These constitute the Class A Publications of the A.'.A.'. of which "not so much as the style of a letter" may be changed. The Student must thoroughly acquaint himself with the contents of these Books, meditating constantly upon their inner significance. This is the Intuitive Approach.

STUDY OF THE NATURE OF MAGICAL INSTRUMENTS

Text-books: The Equinox, Book Four Part II, and certain manuscripts. The nature of the symbolism attached to the various Magical Implements, Manner of Construction, Uses and Direction. The Theoretical Aspect of the Magician's Armoury. This is the Symbolic Approach.

STUDY OF MYSTICAL MODES(x)

Text-books: The Equinox, Book Four Part I, and others. The Study of the Details and Exercises involved in the Major Schools of Mysticism, East and West. This is the Mystical Approach.

SYSTEMS OF YOGA(x) (Theory)

Text-books: Hathayogapradipika, Shivasamhita, Works on Jnana Yoga, Bhakti Yoga, etc., etc., etc. The Student must acquaint himself with the various systems of Yoga, especially mastering the technical terms involved, and endeavouring to master the inner significance of the Teachings expounded. This is the Scientific Approach.

BUDDHIST METAPHYSICS (LAMAISM)(x)

Text-books: The translations of Lama Kazi Dawa Samdup, Arthur Avalon, Evans-Wentz, D.T. Suzuki, The Equinox, and others. A specialized Study of Buddhism with particular reference to Lamaist, Mahayana and Zen aspects thereof. This is the Mental Approach.

THE LITERATURE OF OBEAH AND WITCHCRAFT

Text-books: Too many to be enumerated. The Student must make an attempt to probe beneath the surface of the literature he is instructed to examine, and to formulate his own ideas as to the true nature of the Subject. He must acquaint himself with the theory of the Qliphoth, Goetic Magic, Obeah, and particularly with the Lunar aspect of ancient Rites and Ceremonies. This is the Emotional Approach.

THE SEPHIROTH(x)

Text-books: 777 and many others. The Student must acquaint himself perfectly with the nature of the Sephiroth and commit the main ideas associated therewith to memory. (Note: He will already have committed the Hebrew Alphabet and numerical valuation of the letters to memory in the previous Degree.)

This is the Intellectual Approach.

THE DRACONIAN TRADITION(x)

Text-books The works of Gerald Massey and others. Particular emphasis is laid on the Stellar Mythos in this Degree. The Student must master the subject thoroughly, being proficient in his ability to resolve symbols into their elements by taking them through the various Mythological layers.

This is the Mythical Approach.

THIRD DEGREE

ELEMENTARY ASTRAL THEORY

The Student must acquaint himself with the theory of the Astral Plane, its laws, conditions and constitution. (A theoretical Test is given.)

CONSTRUCTION OF MAGICAL INSTRUMENTS

The Student is taught how to construct his Armoury. (The proper making of these Weapons constitutes a Test of this Degree.)

TATTVA MEDITATION(x)

The Student makes a Set of Tattvas and meditates upon each, submitting his Record of Meditations to his Superior at stated intervals.

(Success in these Meditations constitutes a Test of this Degree; a certain Standard of Perfection has to be attained.)

BUDDHIST MEDITATION(x)

The Student may adopt any single Buddhist Meditation, such as those listed in 777, Mahasattipathana, Liber Thisharb, and others, and satisfy his Superior of his proficiency therein before proceeding to the next Degree.

THE 22 ATU OF TBOTH IN RELATION TO THE PATHS OF THE TREE OF LIFE(x)

Meditation on each of these Hieroglyphs with a careful record of same must be accomplished in this Degree.

CONSTRUCTION OF TREE OF LIFE & MEDITATION THEREON(x)

The 'Tree of Life' must be drawn according to correct proportions and

coloured according to the Attributions given in 777. A Series of Meditations on various aspects of the Tree if successfully accomplished and recorded, passes the Student to the next Degree.

ANALYSIS OF GOD FORMS AND SYMBOLS

The Student is Tested (intellectually) in the matter of Symbolism, and he is further required to analyse certain given God Forms with a view to unveiling the nature and direction of the Energies they symbolize, and the Magical or Mystical Formulae they conceal.

A GENERAL EXAMINATION (PART PRACTICAL, PART THEORETICAL) IS NOW UNDERGONE BEFORE THE STUDENT IS ADMITTED TO THE FOURTH DEGREE.

FOURTH DEGREE

BUILDING OF SHRINE(x)

A Shrine must be conceived and built for the worship of the Chosen Deity (see next section), and this construction must satisfy all requirements demanded by the nature of that chosen deity.

DEVOTION TO CHOSEN DEITY FOR 9 LUNAR MONTHS(x)

Following the technique described in Liber 175, the Student must select a Deity and worship same in some manner approved by his Superior for 9 (Nine) Lunar Months.

YANTRA CONSTRUCTION

The Student is trained in the construction of certain Yantras and taught the manner in which these represent certain aspects of the psycho-physical organism. He is tested in the construction of three such Yantras, giving full explanations thereof, before being admitted to the next Degree.

PANTACLE OF COSMOS(x)

The Student must construct a Pantacle which represents his conception of the Universal Interplay of Forces. Examples of such Pantacles may be seen in certain numbers of the Equinox, as in other text-books of the subject. The Pantacle must enshrine the View-Point in as complete a form as is possible to the Student at this stage of his development. This Pantacle may be built, drawn, painted, found, or it may be in some form such as is usually considered to be without the pale of a Pantacle as such. It may, for instance, be a certain blending of essences, a combination of fragrances, a series of sounds, or an elaborate system of geometry, but whatever it be it must express entirely the nature of the Interplay of Cosmic Forces as seen by the Student, and, he must be able to comment thereupon in a way entirely satisfactory to any person of high intelligence.

ROSE CROSS SYMBOLISM

The Student is instructed in and examined in the Formulae of the Rosy Cross, together with other symbols of a subsidiary or cognate nature.

PERFORMANCE FOR 9 LUNAR MONTHS OF ONE CHOSEN PRACTICE

The Student may select any one Practice from the many he has studied, and perform same for nine Lunar Months, submitting his Record every month for comment and advice. Proficiency in such performances enables him to pass on to the next Degree.

FIFTH DEGREE

ASTRAL PROJECTION

The Student begins to exteriorize his Body of Light and is instructed in the technique of elementary Astral Locomotion.

Note: This Practice is only suited to a particular type of Candidate -- this to be decided by the Superior in charge.)

THE PRACTICE OF LIBER HU/LIBER HAD, OR BOTH(x)

Proficiency must be attained in the practice of the above-mentioned Exercises. In this degree the Candidate is given special instruction in matters concerning Thelema.

VIPARITA(x)

The Student must select something to which he has a genuine aversion and marry himself thereto in a manner determined by the nature of the Object he selects and the wisdom of his Superior enjoins. The practice is explained in Liber Aleph, as well as in certain Tantrik Instructions of which the Student is apprised.

POINT-OF-VIEW (INTELLECTUAL PRESENTATION)(x)

One of the Tasks of this Degree is to prepare a Thesis setting forth the Magical Point-of-View acquired by the Student so far. This must be in the nature of a very full statement, and he must be passed by his Superior before he is admitted to the sixth degree.

ASSUMPTIONS OF GOD FORMS WITH MANTRA

The 'Chosen Deity' of the previous Degree may be the main God Form assumed, and His Mantra the main Mantra, but the Student must satisfy his Superior that he is equally proficient in other such Assumptions before he is allowed to progress.

SIXTH DEGREE

RISING ON THE PLANES

The Student learns how to deal with the Astral Plane and its Entities. He is tested in the Invocation of Elementals and the Qabalistic Analysis of their Names, Symbols or Numbers.

ALCHEMY: TANTRA(x)

The Student is given Instruction in the more esoteric teachings of the Tantras, with emphasis on the Shakta Tantra Shastra approach, the Alchemical significance of the Atu of Thoth, and the psycho-somatic theories of the Ancients concerning certain transmutations. He is tested intellectually in these matters before proceeding further.

SELF-DEvised RITES(x)

The Student is tested in his ability to devise certain rituals - the nature of which depends upon bhava and other things - and to perform such rituals with careful recordings of results achieved. The object of such rituals must be any one of the following:

- (a) Illumination as to the Higher Nature of the Aspirant.
- (b) Illumination with regard to a Chosen Deity.
- (c) Illumination with regard to a chosen Doctrine.

Yet this object must be subservient to the Greater Object of achieving Illumination upon the nature of Nuit, Hadit and Ra-Hoor-Khuit.

MEDITATION

This Meditation is of a Higher Type than that undergone in the Third Degree, and involves a full comprehension of the Doctrine of Shunyata.

A GENERAL EXAMINATION MUST NOW BE PASSED BEFORE THE STUDENT IS ADMITTED TO THE SEVENTH DEGREE WHICH GIRDLES THE SOVEREIGN SANCTUARY OF THE GNOSIS.

SEVENTH DEGREE

ASTRAL TEMPLE

The Construction of a Temple or Retreat upon the Astral Plane and ability to function therein with perfect ease, is the Task of this Degree.

SELF-SUSTAINED UNIVERSE

The Student is instructed in a certain secret symbolism as well as in the true meaning of the Formula $0 = 2$, which is the basic Doctrine of Liber AL vel Legis. He has to prepare a treatise wherein he sets forth that certain apprehension of Identity betwixt the Within and the Without, describing the Illumination in great detail, and showing how the Self-Sustained Universe embraces the twin concepts of Nuit and Hadit, resolving them into a Higher Unity that admits of no designation, yet which may be symbolically shadowed forth in a certain manner of which the Student will be cognizant.

TRANCE

The Student must show unmistakable indications of being able to enter into and out of certain types of Trance at will, and to derive certain benefits therefrom. The nature of this section is such as cannot be easily communicated in a paper such as this, which is a General Survey of the Order, ~~since the nature of this section is such as cannot be easily communicated in a paper such as this, which is a General Survey of the Order,~~ and indeed it is not necessary that it be explained, since the Candidate to this Degree will be well aware of what is implied in this matter.

EIGHTH DEGREE

CONSECRATION: RADIATION

The Secret Manner of Consecration is made known to the Candidate in the Eighth Degree, as well as the mode of radiating the Magical Light that the slightest impulse of his Will may burst into flame of power and achieve its natural end. The methods of Energized Enthusiasm are expounded, and the Student is tested in his power to Consecrate Talismans and himself also, his signal of Success being the perfect accomplishment of the Operation devised for him by his Superior. The Secrets of Subtle Magnetism, of Attraction and Repulsion, are unveiled to him, and he prepares himself in a certain subtle manner for his Great Initiation into the Ninth Degree.

INWARD PROJECTION OF THE LIGHT

A Method of becoming One with the Chosen Deity, Higher Angel, or any Idea whatsoever is taught the Candidate of the Eighth Degree, and he learns the subtle nature of contacting and linking himself with the inhabitants of the Inner Planes as well as being initiated into the special interpretation of the Mystery of Love as expounded in the Holy Books of Thelema. He mystically prepares himself for his final Initiation in this Order.

NINTH DEGREE

This Degree is the Summit of the Pyramid - the Inner Shrine of the Sovereign Sanctuary of the Gnosis, whose Outer Court girdles the Seventh Degree.

We say nothing of the nature of this great Mystery nor of the nature of that Mighty Magick which is taught therein. Attaining this Degree the Student is greeted and made welcome as a Perfect Master of the Gnostic Rite, Master Magician, Holder of the Sceptre of Power, and many other things designating the attainment of that Secret so jealously guarded down the age-long corridors of Time. A certain subtle symbol is the Sign of this Grade, the which Symbol is at last dissolved in the Clear Light of Pure Bliss.

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NOTE

The foregoing System of Degrees will be seen to differ from the System of Degrees detailed in the 'Blue Equinox', the which latter System does not obtain where the British Branch of the Order is concerned. This amends the first Paragraph of the Manifesto of the British Branch of the Order.

As will be seen from the present Scheme of Degrees, in actual fact the Student is admitted to the Second Degree when he has satisfied the Officer or Officers of the Order whom he first contacts that he is sufficiently well grounded in the theory of magical matters, Comparative Religion, and so on, to deserve of admittance. The First Degree, therefore, is never actually bestowed upon a Candidate, his period of worldly probation corresponding thereto.

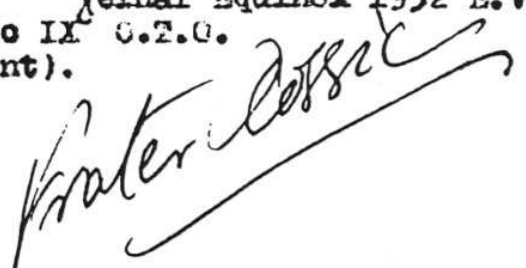
Before being admitted formally to the Second Degree he is required to sign an Oath of Fealty to the Order, and at some later stage in his progress he has to sign a further Pledge which is in the nature of a Vow of Holy Obedience to the Superior set over him. Other Pledge-Forms are submitted for his signature at certain periods and at certain stages of his progress. Failure to comply with Oaths thus solemnly taken and duly witnessed by the Officers of the Order is ensued by immediate degradation, in the case of trivial offences, and immediate ~~expulsion~~ expulsion in those of grave offences, with no possibility of reinstatement under any conditions whatsoever. A Candidate can be suspended, pending enquiry, by any Member of the Sovereign Sanctuary who has reason to suspect any of dubious behaviour, but the final judgement of the Grand Master settles all questions arising from such action.

Note also that although Voluntary Contributions are welcome, Membership of the O.T.O. involves no financial obligations. The Order is designed solely with the purpose of training individuals in an individual manner to master the theory and practice of Magick and Mysticism, with no other purpose than that they should be able to help others in their turn along the Pathway of Spiritual Unfoldment. It is not the impecunious that are turned aside but the ignorant who are steadfast in their ignorance, either through laziness or any other factor, for it is Ignorance we seek to dissolve that the Light of the Highest Bliss may come to those who seek either by Knowledge or Love to win to its Beauty and Rapture.

All Applicants for Membership must be over 21 years of age, and in good mental and bodily health. As many particulars as possible should be given in order to assist in the selection of a Superior best suited to the task of training the Candidate.

Love is the law, love under will.

Vernal Equinox 1952 E.V
Frater Aegis IX O.T.O.
(Kenneth Grant).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frater Aegis IX", written over a horizontal line.