

## SEXUALITY AS HIGH MAGIC



### The Great Rite of High Magic in the Tree of Life

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#### The Great Rite of High Magic

Within both Magic and Wicca, sexual magic is known as the Great Rite. Sexual activity is a natural way of both inducing and balancing energy. Ideally, every sexual act between loving partners is a magical rite of the highest order. In practice, the qualities of mutual love, compassion, understanding and wisdom which are needed by both lovers is such that few human beings at their present level of spiritual growth find it possible to reach the full heights of sexual magic.

The Great Rite is typical of all ritual magic and therefore fits on those Paths and Sefiroth of the Tree of Life known as the Lower Circuit of Ascent, which describes all magical ritual work. The diagram on page 14 shows a Tree of Life, with the Lower Circuit emphasised so that it can be followed more easily. Successful celebration of the Great Rite requires the following elements, here described in terms of the Lower Circuit of Ascent:

- |                                      |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. The Body                          |   | [10 Malkuth, Kingdom, Earth]                   |
| 2. The House of Time                 | ⴒ | [11 Beyth, House, Mercury, Wisdom, Magician]   |
| 3. Attraction [Emotions]             |   | [ 7 Netsach, Triumph, Eternity, Venus,]        |
| 4. Balance                           | ⴓ | [21 Lamedh, Coition, Libra, Lady and the Lion] |
| 5. Silence at the Centre             |   | [ 6 Rachamim, Compassion, Sun, Essential Self] |
| 6. The Intention of the Work         | ⴔ | [19 Yodh, Hand, Virgo, Work, Dedication]       |
| 7. Awareness of the Rite [Intellect] |   | [ 8 Hodh, Glory, Mercury]                      |
| 8. Thanksgiving                      | ⴖ | [10 'Alef, Ox, Air, Source of being, The Fool] |
| 9. Return to the ordinary world      |   | [10 Malkuth, Kingdom, Earth]                   |

The notes in brackets refer to the magical correspondences of each section of the Rite. The Letters are here referred to the Paths of the Tree of Life in ascending order, that is, beginning at the lowest Sefirah, Malkuth. The number with each letter is its degree within the Great Cycle, not its better known Path number. The degrees reveal the numerological resonance or magical vibration of the Letter.



### **The Number of the Rite**

There are nine sections to the Great Rite, for 9 is its number. When the Great Rite is placed upon the Lower Circuit of the Tree of Life, it is seen that it surrounds and embraces the 9th Sphere, which is called Yesodh, the sphere of Generation and Sexuality, the Sphere of the Moon. It is no coincidence that the secrets of the final mastery of sexual magic, as taught within the Ordo Templi Orientis, are reserved for those who have achieved the Ninth Grade of their order. The sum of the degrees of the 9 sections is 102, which is of the 30th degree, the degree of Fire !

#### **1. The Body**

[Malkuth, Kingdom, Earth]

Every Magical Rite begins and ends with the Body. As it written, "Every magical operation must be earthed." Neither Wiccan nor Magician can play the self-denial game without denying their magical powers. In the Great Rite, the most physically, mentally and spiritually creative of all human activities glorifies and elevates its celebrants to divinity. As it is written, "The Logos became flesh."

#### **2. The House of Time**

[Beyth, House, Mercury, Wisdom, Magician]

Sexual Magic is at its best within a long-term or permanent relationship. Every magical act needs a temple in which the Work is done. In sexual magic, the Temple is built on the mutual trust between the partners. In practical terms, every magical partnership, whether or not it involves sexual activity, needs Time during which each partner gains enough knowledge of each other's feelings, needs and wishes to be able to lift their Work together to the spiritual heights possible. One-night-stands between comparative strangers offer little potential for more than the excitement involved in any novel experience.

#### **3. Attraction, the Emotions**

[Netsach, Triumph, Venus]

Every magical rite, but above all, the Great Rite, is driven and powered by our attraction towards the goal. Desire is the motive power of the universe. Why else did the One become the Many, unless it wanted to. It is attraction, the very lust for more, than draws each one of us towards the higher, greater worlds of Light and Life and Love.

There are some would-be magicians, corrupted by eastern monkish notions of restraint, who have claimed that when they practise sexual magic, they suppress all desire and passion, concentrating only on the act itself. They claim that sexual magic is something to be done without thinking of the partner, something to be neither enjoyed nor hated, merely a means to build up energy for some purpose. Rubbish ! They would do better to use a rubber doll or build a machine to do it. It is only emotionally inadequate men who talk like that. I have never heard such nonsense from any female magician or witch.

#### **4. Balance**

[Lamedh, Coition, Libra, The Lady and the Lion]

A successful magical partnership needs to be a balanced one in which neither partner dominates the other. This is difficult for most folk without a lot of practice in being alert to each other's feelings, needs and wishes. The magical power needed is Compassion, which literally means "feeling with", that is, the ability to sense and understand the emotional feelings of another person. There is reason to believe that this ability, sometimes called empathy, is also the basis for successful ESP.



## The Great Rite of High Magic

### 5. Silence at the Centre [Rachamim, Compassion, Sun, Essential Self]

Those who practise High Magic know that an essential part of every magical rite is the time of Silence during which the Centre of our being is embraced, as the Hermetic Axiom has it: To know, to will, to dare, to be silent. In sexual magic, the Centre is found in the quietness that follows Coition (literally, 'coming together'), when both partners have passed the moment of climax.

This is your contact with Eternity, here and now in the present moment.

This is the Victory of Venus over Mars.

### 6. The Intention of the Work [Yodh, Work, Virgo, Friar, Dedication]

The true nature and intention of the Work to be done in all sexual magic is creation. In the context of the ordinary physical world, this means the bringing into life of a human child. In other contexts, sexual magic can result in raising the creativity of both partners in such areas as the arts. A loving couple can also use sexual magic as a catalyst so that their own mutual Steadfast Love overflows to create light and life and love in all those people with whom they meet. Whatever it is you wish to build or create: a child, a work of art or an entire universe, sexual magic is a supreme way of raising the creative energy to do it.

### 7. Awareness of the Rite [Intellect] [8, Hodh, Glory, Mercury]

At this stage in the description of the Great Rite, one comes to the returning awareness of what is going on which begins to occupy us, after we have passed the climax of the Rite and its central Silence. There are certain things to be remembered and thought of - the Direction of the Intention of the Rite, the Thanksgiving for its achievement, that sort of thing. They are important parts of the Rite which are sometimes overlooked by the inexperienced. It is all a bit intellectual, some think, here in the Sphere of Mercury on the way down to earth again.

### 8. Thanksgiving [Alef, One, The Source of Being, Air, The Fool]

In what has been said so far, there is little to distinguish sexual magic from the sexual activity of any mature, loving couple, and that is indeed so. Every mature, loving act of sex is an act of sexual magic. Those partnerships which are consciously and deliberately using sex as Magic will always conclude each act of coition with an acknowledgement of the Source of all energy, She Who is the Goddess, the Great Mother Earth-Spirit from whom all life and creative energies flow. She is named by many names, Aphrodite, Cybele, Dana, Demeter, Erce, Gaia. Her oldest Name, some believe, is Anahita, the Naked Goddess of the Waters and of both the male and female flows. Blessed be the Goddess from whom all bounty flows! Blessed be!

### 9. The Return to the ordinary world. [Malkuth, the Kingdom, Earth]

Let us go forth with joy, in the name of the Gods.

Let us go now, The Great Rite is ended.

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