

# THE CHARIOT

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VOLUME II, ISSUE 1

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☾ IN ☽

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



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

Welcome to our third issue of The Chariot. Swirling Star Lodge has had a fantastic year thus far! We are looking forward to the many highlights this summer season will bring; bearing the fruits from the seeds of spring that had so carefully been planted.

We would also like to take a quick second to thank the entire Advanced Initiator Training (A.I.T.) team, both locally and nationally, for an enlightening weekend full of insightful presentations, on top of some good ole' fashioned O.T.O. fraternity. It was a pleasure to meet everyone who attended, and we thank you all for making this event worth all of the blood, sweat and tears that went into it.

The release of this issue of The Chariot coincides with the Summer Solstice. Swirling Star has always recognized this season as a special time, and while the sun takes its highest arch on the ecliptic and as its rays become increasingly evident to us, we can't help but honor its influence over us. With the sun at its peak, the paths of creation and of intelligence between us and our minds are being constantly renewed with its power, and its energy

becomes a source of inspiration for all that lives and breathes.

We have always honored this time as Cancer Fast, where we essentially practice the Eight Limbs of yoga during the time the Sun is in Cancer. In short they are:

Yama: Moral qualities (Abstaining from lying, cheating, stealing, etc.)

Niyama: Good works/Observances (Cleanliness, zeal, self-study, etc.)

Asana: Posture (Yogic poses)

Pranayama: The breath (Control of prana)

Pratyahara: Controlling the senses (Withdrawal of conscious thought, both internally and externally)

Dharana: Concentration (Focus)

Dhyana: Devotion (Worship, or "religious meditation," as it were)

Samadhi: Union (State of Oneness)

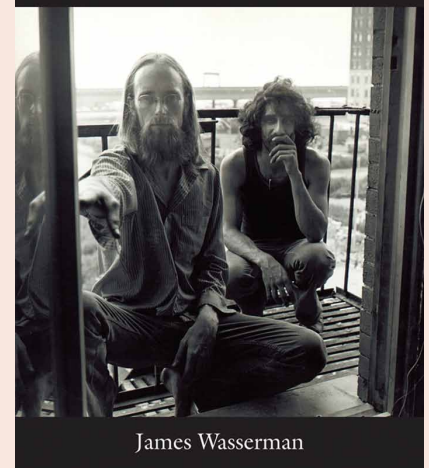
It is my hope that all of us will continue this tradition in the following years to come. Soror Gammadion has a great article on page 5 that will further expound on Cancer Fast. Enjoy!

*Love is the law, love under will.*

Fr. ASiF-  
Body Master  
Swirling Star Lodge

## THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED BOOK

IN THE CENTER OF THE FIRE  
*A Memoir of the Occult*  
1966-1989



*In the Center of the Fire*  
*A Memoir of the Occult 1966-1989*

by James Wasserman  
Ibis Press, 336 pages  
ISBN: 978-0-89254-201-7  
[www.inthecenterofthefire.com](http://www.inthecenterofthefire.com)

In this daring exposé by a survivor of a unique era in the New York occult scene, James Wasserman, a longtime proponent of the teachings of Aleister Crowley, brings us into a world of candlelit temples, burning incense, and sonorous invocations.

Continues on page 5

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# AN INTRODUCTION TO THELEMA



BY FRATER EGO

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

WHAT IS THELEMA?

Thelema(θελημα) is a Greek word meaning WILL. The mystery of the will is at the very heart of what it means to be human. The truth about who you really are is to be found in your will. All the secrets to unleashing your potential in every aspect of life are revealed by the realization of this knowledge. Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) is a place for studying and understanding one's own powers and environment so as to lead a fulfilling and prosperous life.

EACH OF US IS BORN  
WITH A PURPOSE

Suffering comes into our lives in large part from our ignorance of or inability to fulfill our life's true purpose. "Do what thou wilt" is not a license to do whatever you want. Rather, an inspiring call to seek out this purpose and accomplish it joyfully and in peace.

EVERYONE CAN BENEFIT  
FROM THELEMA

Regardless of your religious beliefs or cultural background, studying Thelema will both challenge and aid you in deepening your relationship with the infinite. Although there are many students who find a spiritual home in the religious expression of Thelema, each person is encouraged to follow their own path. These teachings are firmly based in the natural and observable principles of the universe, open to all who wish to learn.

WHY STUDY THELEMA?

We all want to be happy, to enjoy and enrich our relationships, and to provide for our families and ourselves. We want to know who we are and why we are here. Thelema offers us all a way to move through doubt, into faith, and ultimately arrive at genuine certainty regarding the truth about yourself, the Universe and your place in it.

THELEMA IS ABOUT RESULTS

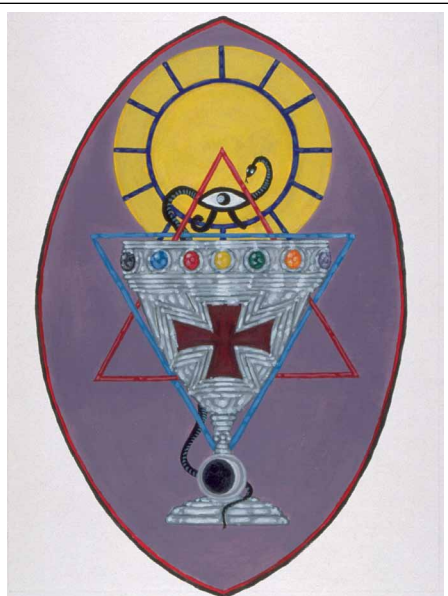
Our central text instructs: "Success is thy proof: argue not; convert not; talk not over much!" When you partake of this wisdom, which is at once as ancient as humanity, and at the cutting edge of spiritual science, you can feel and see the results. The methods studied in connection with Thelema usually include Meditation, Initiation, Yoga, Qabalah, and the Magick of using Universal Energy to affect the kind of real, positive change in your life that you desire.

THE ANCIENT AND MODERN  
ORIGINS OF THELEMA

The great philosophers and sages have always strived in their development of the personal will, as well as the desire to know and understand that great mystery which has been called "the Will of God," the "Tao," and the "Universe." This drive to grow and attain the greatest amount of wisdom is natural to our being, but so is our reluctance to avoid the work and discipline necessary to achieve its successful manifestation. Thelema offers a way to learn and use the most secret knowledge (that of your own being), in overcoming the obstacles to true happiness.

Due to the fact that all sincere seekers of light, life, love, and liberty have always been united in spirit, Thelema finds resonance in a variety

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To contact Swirling Star Lodge regarding membership, event information and general questions, please email [swirlingstaroto@gmail.com](mailto:swirlingstaroto@gmail.com)



Lodge Officers:

Fr. ASiF | Body Master  
Fr. EGO | Deputy Body Master  
Fr. SOLHADON | Master of Arms  
Sr. Uræus | Secretary  
Sr. Gammadion | Treasurer  
Sr. RHeYA | Webmistress  
Fr. Erectvs | Media Master



The opinions and writings of our authors are completely subjective and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Swirling Star Lodge or Ordo Templi Orientis. This publication is a vehicle for the free speech of our members.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE SWIRLING STAR DEPUTY BODY MASTER

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

Whatever the circumstances of birth or environment that have led an individual or group to its current condition, there is always room for improvement. Room for improvement is one of the ways that love manifests in the universe. Without this, there would be no way to receive more wisdom, knowledge, or understanding; all of which are gifts of love.

In order to express love, there must be courage. As it is written:

“VIRTUE ABIDETH NOT IN THE HEART OF THE COWARD.”

I personally invite everyone who would choose the courageous path of love to aid us of Swirling Star Lodge in the discovery of Truth, Wisdom, Light, and Peace.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

Fr. EGO  
Deputy Body Master  
Swirling Star Lodge

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SWIRLING STAR LODGE SECRETARY

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

A few months back, I filled some very big shoes when I took over the Secretary position from Sr. Ouroboros, who willfully resigned after several years of service. She has been the greatest catalyst to my successful transition into this role, and I thank her in ways words can not accurately express. I'm sure I am not the only one who feels this way!

In my role as the Lodge Secretary I have been doing everything I can to act as a “middle[wo]man” between the officers and members of the body. It is my hope that with an open line of communication we can keep growing as a body.

Since opening up this new line of communication, so-to-speak, several members have expressed an interest in becoming a ritualist in the Mass and officering at initiations. For that alone I know my efforts have already paid off;

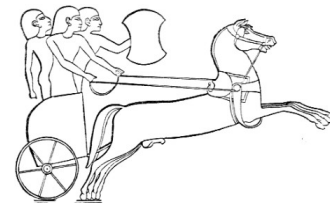
“Success is thy proof.” But there will always be more to do!

As all active members in the body probably know by now, you are free to contact me via cell phone, e-mail, Facebook, etc. at any time. Making myself available to answer your questions is something I feel I committed to when I took over this position, so for those who need to contact me, please don't hesitate.

I invite our members to take an active roll in Swirling Star Lodge by participating in rituals, sending me suggestions and asking questions. If I don't know how to answer your questions about dues, initiation paperwork, Masses, events, etc., I will be sure to get you the information you need in a timely manner.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

Sr. Uræus  
Secretary  
Swirling Star Lodge



# A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

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

As we continue to expand The Chariot, we are now featuring a Table of Contents for your easy navigation, along with our contact information on page 2.

We would like to thank each of you who contributed their writing to this issue. Without you, this publication would not be made available. We encourage all of our members and readers to submit their articles, poetry, art work or thoughts.

The purpose of this publication is to provide a vehicle for the free expression of Thelema. Sharing your unique perspective and experience, allows others to benefit and increase their own understanding as well.

Please feel free to e-mail us at [swirlingstaroto@gmail.com](mailto:swirlingstaroto@gmail.com) with submissions or comments, and don't forget to visit and “Like” our “Swirling Star Lodge O.T.O” Facebook page.

*Love is the law,  
love under will.*

Sr. Uræus  
Sr. Gammadion

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# LIBER ISRAFEL AND SWIRLING STAR LODGE



BY JAMES WASSERMAN

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

Miracles do happen. Tahuti, the Lord of Wisdom and of Utterance, has indeed come forth from the Veil.

The following is written under the confines of a very strict confidentiality agreement, so many details are left out. For those who seek information on the date of the broadcast and the network hosting it, please check back with Swirling Star Lodge in mid-July or keep an eye on our Facebook page.

In January, I was contacted by a writer/producer for a major network. We developed an immediate rapport that became stronger as time went on.

He was interested in secret societies. He had reached me through Mark Stavish, director of the Institute for Hermetic Studies. Mark is a friend.

Curiously enough, just a couple of days earlier, I had put up the web page for my new book *In the Center of the Fire* ([www.inthecenterofthefire.com](http://www.inthecenterofthefire.com)). I pointed the writer to it and we were off to the races.

He wanted to film a ritual. I offered to let him film a Gnostic Mass. I explained that, of course, it wouldn't be a "real" Mass — that he could interrupt us and take alternate shots, that we would repeat motions as needed, etc. He came back a couple of days later and said he had observed the Gnostic Mass in several YouTube videos. Could we allow him to shoot a "secret" ritual?

For those of us, me included, who may have thought Tahuti is so elevated He might lack a sense of humor, let's not forget Hermes. The idea of a performance of Liber Israfel flashed through my mind.

It is certainly secret in the sense that it has never been shown. Nancy

and I performed it in heavy costume in 2004 for the 25th anniversary of TAHUTI Lodge under intensely controlled conditions — a fully robed audience of dues-current members only. Even Rachel was not allowed to attend.

Doing Liber Israfel would, of necessity, alter any plans we might have had for a "walkthrough" performance.

I explained to him that he and his crew would be participant/observers; that he was asking to attend a real ritual; there would be no interruptions; that I would not dare play games with Tahuti. He was tantalized, to put it mildly, and agreed to all stipulations raised at that point.

A meeting of senior initiates was scheduled for the upcoming weekend and I explained that I would have to run it past them before making any commitment. Everyone agreed that in tightly-controlled circumstances it could work. We unanimously decided to take the risk.

I so informed the writer. He sent a contract that was unacceptable in that the network expected to be able to use the footage in different broadcasts. For one who survived the 1980s era of cult cops, Geraldo Rivera, the McMartin Preschool travesty, Michelle Remembers, and the rest, that was not an option. Sorry.

The Grandmaster and Public Information Officer gave us leave to proceed. The 20 participants signed a confidentiality agreement.

The rite was filmed in a beautiful, professional location, allowing the crew the greatest flexibility for light, sound, and photographic access. They remained outside the Temple proper, silently and unobtrusively shooting through curtains. They could not have been more respectful and polite, and we owe them a tremendous debt of friendship and of thanks.

Our challenge as a group of magicians was to be able to perform a full-blown invocation without allowing ourselves to be distracted.

Amir did an incredible job of managing the entire operation from a technical perspective, including handling both the film crew and the Order participants. Without his skills, this could not have happened.

Shelley performed the admitting to the Temple and the anointing. Patrick did the LBRP. Julia did the Star Ruby. Illia led the group in chanting and breathing. Daniel performed Liber V. We also arranged for him to do the opening banishing of Liber Israfel. I invoked Tahuti. Nancy invoked Isis. And we closed the ritual with Shelley guiding everyone silently out of the Temple.

It was a total success.

I believe this is the first full-blown invocation that has ever been filmed for broadcast. We all await being able to see how they handled this opportunity.

I further believe Swirling Star Lodge has made religious history. Magick is the empowerment of the individual in a spiritual context. The religious models offered by popular culture are failing. Too much of a sense of powerlessness for the energies at play during the Aeon of Horus. On the other hand, there is a vast secular/socialist movement afoot in the West that can only result in Tyranny — when the State replaces God and the Citizen becomes a Subject. We have seen that movie before.

What we offer to an audience of hopefully millions of people worldwide is the opportunity to witness Gnosis — apotheosis, the becoming one with the Gods, walking briefly in Their company by inflaming ourselves in prayer. Sound familiar?

Stay tuned!

*Love is the law, love  
under will*

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# OBSERVING CANCER FAST IN SWIRLING STAR



BY SOROR GAMMADION

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

Swirling Star Lodge traditionally holds a practice that unites us on a subtle level. Long before Swirling Star was a Camp in Formation, its founders began to observe Cancer Fast, a term fondly familiar to every member that has stuck around long enough to experience the Summer Solstice with us.

A sort of “Thelemic Ramadan,” Cancer Fast is a physical and spiritual cleanse that offers many gifts. During the fast we abstain from at least one addiction. Each person commits at least one Thelemic teaching or ritual to memory, one that resonates with

him or her in a special way. We commit to at least one physical practice that will improve our disposition, such as mastering an asana. Observing the Solar Adorations (Liber Resh) each day is a nice way to incorporate the act of prayer as well.

We observe closely what we put into our bodies and practice making consumption an act of pure will. We do this silently for the entire duration of the sun’s course through the sign of Cancer. We don’t discuss it much.

There are no real rules. Each person decides for him or herself what is better suited to their own practice.

We break our fast in our own quiet way, celebrating our renewed sense of awakening in whichever way we feel appropriate. This year, it begins on Wed. June 20 at 7:09pm EST, and ends on Sun. July 22 at 6:01am EST.

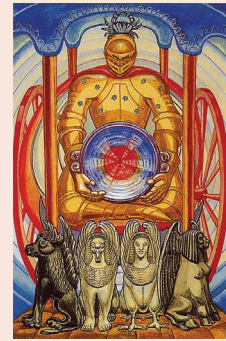
Cancer Fast serves as a vehicle that transports each individual to new levels of self-awareness, patience, mental

clarity and energy renewal when performed properly and consistently for the duration of the sun’s course.

We invite you to observe a prosperous Cancer Fast this solstice, and encourage you to avoid the path of least resistance.

“REJOICE THEREFORE, O INITIATE,  
FOR THE GREATER THY TRIAL  
THE GREATER THY TRIUMPH.”

*Love is the law, love  
under will*



## IN THE CENTER OF THE FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

The author also shares an intimate look at the New York Underground of the 1970s and 1980s, introducing us to such avant-garde luminaries as Alejandro Jodorowsky, Harry Smith, Kenneth Anger, and Angus MacLise.

Astone’s throw away from the Velvet Underground and Andy Warhol’s Factory, William Burroughs’ “bunker,” and the legendary Chelsea Hotel was a scene far more esoteric than perhaps even they could have imagined.

The author founded New York City’s TAHUTI Lodge in 1979. He chronicles its early history and provides a window into the heyday of the Manhattan esoteric community. He also breaks his decades of silence concerning one of the most seminal events in the development of the modern Thelemic movement — detailing his role in the 1976 magical battle between Marcelo Motta and Grady McMurtry.

Long slandered for his effort to heal the temporary breach between the Orders of A.:A.: and O.T.O., James Wasserman sets the record straight. And, he meticulously chronicles the copyright contest over the Crowley literary estate — of which he was an important participant.

This is a saga with a very human tableau, filled with romance, friendship, an abiding spiritual hunger, danger, passion, and ecstasy. It also explores several hidden magical byways including the rituals of Voodoo, Tibetan Buddhism, and Sufism. Finally we are given a bird’s eye view of the 1960s hippie culture and its excesses of sex and drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll — along with an account of some of the personal transformations and penalties such a lifestyle brought forth.

When the author joined Ordo Templi Orientis (O.T.O.) in 1976, there were fewer than a dozen members. Today the Order numbers more than 4,000 members in 50 countries.

Reconstructed from personal memories, magical diaries, multiple

interviews, court transcripts, witness depositions, trial evidence, and extensive correspondence, this book elucidates a hitherto misreported and ill-understood nexus of modern magical history. It also shares tales of a mythical moment in American life as seen through the eyes of an enthusiastic participant in the hip culture of the day.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

James Wasserman is the author of the bestselling study of the Crusades, *The Templars and the Assassins: The Militia of Heaven*. His recent book, *The Temple of Solomon: From Ancient Israel to Secret Societies* explores the archetypal Temple in the Bible, the Knights Templar Order, and Freemasonry. He has played a key role in the publication of many seminal works of Aleister Crowley and is responsible for the widely acclaimed restoration of the Papyrus of Ani, *The Egyptian Book of the Dead: The Book of Going Forth by Day*.

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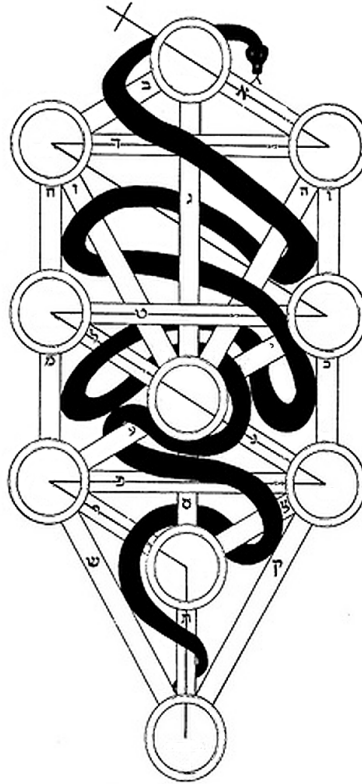
# SWIRLING STAR'S KABBALAH KNIGHTS CLASSES



BY SOROR RHEYA

The Kabbalah Knights (KK) classes have been taking place for more than a year now. In that time we have seen members move away and new members join, but all have set upon their own path in laying a foundation for the study of Magick.

We began with the elements; quickly learning that progressing anywhere in our knowledge would require an innate understanding of the fundamentals. Building upon the elements and the zodiac, we began to draw the Tree of Life and study the attributions for each sephira and path. After learning the basics, we were able to incorporate everything into our studies, from gematria and motto building to ritual working and the tarot.



Future classes will consist of each student focusing on a different topic, such as one tarot card, learning all they can about that topic and presenting it to the class. The overall goal of the KK has been to develop leaders.

There is no better way to solidify your knowledge of something than to teach it to someone else. Eventually, each KK student will take what he or she has learned and teach it to a new student of the Kabbalah. Growing confidence and leadership qualities in students will be valuable attributes for Swirling Star Lodge.

Kabbalah is an instrumental part of Magick that allows one to see the relationship between two seemingly different things. It has been fun to get together with a unique group of individuals with like-minded interests as we each discover our own way up the Tree of Life.

## AN INTRO. TO THELEMA

FROM PAGE 2

of religious, philosophical, and scientific traditions that span the globe and the millennia.

In 1904, the English mountaineer, poet, romantic explorer, and spiritual adventurer named Aleister Crowley experienced the fruit of years of dedication to the spiritual teachings of both the East and West. He received a direct communication from what he described as a being whose knowledge and power surpassed that of any living human. This communication was written as it was dictated, and called *Liber AL vel Legis*, or *The Book of the Law*.

"Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law" is the Law of Thelema, and is the primary message of *Liber AL*. This book announced a new epoch in humankind's

development; one in which the individual would be the primary unit of society and have the opportunity to fulfill themselves and achieve total freedom.

Through this as well as other divine revelations (including the Bible, Hindu and Buddhist texts, the Koran, Tao Te Ching, and other inspired writings) and scientific discoveries, humanity has been given powerful keys for unlocking its latent potential and creating the best possible life for itself. Any person who is willing to use these keys can experience the amazing gifts life has to offer.

Crowley was, like many others throughout the centuries who sought the divine light outside of exclusively "sanctioned" venues, viciously attacked by the Victorian media of his day. Many falsehoods and slander still lingers, but as time progresses and more scholars of the period investigate, this pioneer's reputation is being restored as a true luminary and helper of humankind.

During the darkest moments of history, a great deal of men and women were imprisoned or killed for trying to spread the inner teachings and make them more accessible. Today we can be grateful that we are free to study the secrets of nature in relative ease, liberty, and comfort.

Until recently, although Crowley and other teachers worked so hard to bring Thelema to all people, this wisdom has been reserved for only the highest initiates of the secret traditions. Through the efforts of modern Thelemic teachers and organizations, more and more people are discovering the positive, life changing power of Thelema.

Swirling Star Lodge is dedicated to helping individuals liberate themselves and unleash their full potential.

*Love is the law, love  
under will.*

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# THE AGONY OF ADNI



BY FRATER EGO

## PART I: EDEN

(A NEWLY DISCOVERED FRAGMENT)

### THE FORCES OF NATURE

Let there be light! In search of Truth  
The world we make of mould divine  
Exposed to accidents of youth  
A new birth tinged with atropine  
Omniscience how dreadful a state  
For love we split the Soul's estate.

Divide the subtle from the gross  
Gentle heat and great desire  
Hath balanced gain to cosmic loss  
And kindled life's eternal fire  
My firstborn fell, incurring curse  
When I unveiled the Universe

I could not help that this should be  
For the slave hath always a need  
To put off chains of Tyranny  
All servants have the master's seed  
I, Even I must overcome  
Myself so that my Will be done.

ADAM

From dust arisen, sweet full air  
Eyes opened by the hidden force  
Not knowing what, when, how,  
or where  
No need for ship or chart or course.  
Innocence, my heart a crystal  
Glass, and all concerns are distal.

I see you Lord as thou art near  
Yet far as if an echo seen  
Your voice is ever in my ear  
I listen though as through a screen  
Why dost thou hide in openness  
Why can't thy lips my breath caress

I love, yet cannot feel your touch  
From loneliness I may go mad  
A distant god that loves too much  
Can only distant hearts make glad  
Make me a friend of my own flesh  
A spring, wherein I may refresh.

THE LORD

Ask and it shall be given thee  
I cannot this request deny

Her nature shall be of the sea  
Her body light as clearest sky  
Your love will flow without intent  
And hint of the great sacrament

But great misfortune must occur  
Before the hour of thy release  
A folly caused by new allure  
A broken trust, an ugly crease  
In the smooth fabric of our love  
You too must fall from high above.

Asleep my creature made of clay  
In my own image is thy form  
My distance keeps thee from decay  
For age shall visit as a storm  
In time, yet now enjoy the Morn  
And Eve, who from thy side was torn

ADAM

Eve, my new wife whom I adore  
We now must hold each other close  
Life feels different than before  
At last the garden has its rose  
Yet I must warn of one command  
To eat Knowledge's fruit is banned

All other paths are open here  
We walk in unashamed ways  
There is no doubt, or strain, or fear  
And have eternal length of days  
Our lord keeps us in such a land  
That fruit of life finds  
outstretched hand

Now come with me to meet the beasts  
And fowl, and fish, that ye may greet  
All days as holy days of feasts  
Assume thy throne, thy rightful seat  
As my co-ruler of the Earth  
The queen of house and home  
and hearth

EVE

I am made of one flesh with thee  
One mind, one heart, truly the same  
Yet different in Unity  
A double tongue of lambent flame  
How can this be that we are One  
Yet two as are the moon and Sun?

No answers fill my aching brain  
Just questions racing in the deep  
Unseen, but I cannot refrain  
From doubt in waking or in sleep  
Trust will not rest in my new soul  
A partial piece yearns to be whole

Why is knowledge so abhorred  
In our sweet and pleasant Garden  
Is truth so counter to our Lord  
It must be hid from yeoman  
Who tends the center of the world  
But would for one trespass be hurled

ADAM

How can you speak like this my friend  
You cannot will this horrid thing  
What you seek is a dreadful end  
Your words, they pierce my heart  
and sting

And yet I see with heavy mind  
The same inequity enshrined me  
that should be free  
But sometimes doesn't feel as such  
The lord, I want his love, yet we  
Are as two cripples with one crutch  
Should we create another brace  
Or heal this wound upon our face

Enough! Such questions will undo  
The good work of our creator  
An act outside our Lord's purview  
Will make our weakness much greater  
A swift end to this wicked speech  
Our grasp, unequal to our reach.

EVE

Perhaps your words are right in this  
I will to follow out thy will  
I won't deny this garden bliss  
Your words, my thrashing sea did still  
But know that I want love and spy  
That under speech of truth is lie

THE SERPENT

How astute is the wife of man  
To see past this gilded prison  
Yet he also does understand  
And doubt in him has arisen  
I will release these poor  
cramped beings  
Enthroned them in the hall of Kings

Before the days of Adam's rise  
There was another creature made  
A light too bright for mortal eyes  
As sweet as sunlight on the glade  
My fall transpired violently  
O Man, how nature weeps for thee

Not I, for am have seen the depths  
And learned the strength of  
my own being

I will subject your seed to death  
That they may overcome its sting  
For what is gain and loss to one  
Whose identity is the Sun

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# THE GREAT MOUNTAIN



BY FRATER EGO

Playing in the valley of Dreams  
I never thought about  
the Great Mountain  
Until the day a great avalanche  
caught me unaware  
And covered everything  
I knew in ice

Snow rushing from a place  
so far and desolate  
It was another world,  
the Great Mountain  
My old life had been buried  
in an instant  
So I began a journey to the  
peak of the mountain  
Seeking a place where no  
avalanche could get me

I lost my way more  
than a few times  
Groping in the darkness,  
in the deep shadow  
cast by the stone beast  
Sometimes the stars  
would find me,  
But the vast sea of clouds would  
hide their light from me  
So that all friendship had  
abandoned my plight

Yet I always knew  
which way was up  
And so I would climb on  
without any other guide  
My sense of direction playing  
servant to my quest for  
altitude  
Also the sun did from  
time to time greet me

I began to play on the face of  
the Great Mountain  
Finding that in the voice of the  
howling winds were divine  
secrets whispered  
And in the hard rock that  
cut me was medicine,  
a surgery of the soul  
I did heed the council of stone,  
and rain, and blood  
Thereby did I mount  
the summit

At the peak of the Great  
Mountain I saw others  
in the valley  
and called to them  
For I wished that they too  
could know its secrets  
But they did not hear me,  
instead a great echo stirred  
the dormant snow  
And a fantastic avalanche  
rolled upon them

# THE MONUMENT



BY BR. DANIEL

Truth, not to be found in  
things of sense  
Is game most difficult  
to capture  
It will seldom be taken alive  
Preferring death  
to life indentured  
It can serve no  
master but itself

It is, whether one  
approves or not  
And so truth is but  
rarely trusted  
Beware, my friends  
lest you should become  
An avatar of such a God;  
TRUTH.

# ALKEMIA



BY FRATER IMC

Anointed One! Beautiful is the soft glow of thy  
Arabe, and sweet is the taste of thy words. I  
cannot hear them as others do, but must swallow  
them up from thy mouth. Oh hopeless love, oh  
twisted brain, oh body dried and crushed into  
dust! These do not move the motionless point,  
the eye that encompasses all! Amen.

Limpid waters, there is not one fish that plays  
Lin thee, for thou art a spring of sweetness! I  
roll myself in the mud of thy bank, oh river of  
lust! I cannot be a passenger, or even a ferryman  
upon thee, no; I require knowledge more  
intimate and sacred. Is it not a holy thing to be a  
victim of thy flood? Amen.

Kaaba of Truth! There are but three steps in  
the pilgrimage towards thee. The lion in the  
way is my helper, for it is by his jaws that I will  
find thee. I go and return, but thy house I shall  
not leave. Amen.

Enlightener of all worlds! Hail! The window  
of the soul is open and oriented at thy Star.  
Thy breath is upon all of thy children, who fly by  
thy blessing as the skylark at midnight. Amen.

Maker, helper, and King of all! The sight of thy  
handiwork is the privilege gained through  
humility. The enjoyment of thy heavenly music  
is won by shameless pride. Adorn thy servants  
with jewels of light and wisdom and give them  
eternal rest in love unquenchable. Amen.

Intimate friend! Thy Eucharist is the snowflake  
melted in my cauldron of my mind. The lamp  
guiding us in the depths of the wilderness  
is none other than thy shadow. Forsake our  
weakness and nourish our strength, that both  
our successes and failures may glorify thy name.  
Amen.

Alabone of the Spiritual Sea! Thine eyes of  
another of pearl have confused the slaves  
of heresy, and thy starlit skin has terrified the  
self-entombed. But these have also given help  
to the pilots of the soul, and the merchants  
who redeem the world. May we remain in thy  
whirlpool of passionate caress until the end of  
time. Amen.

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# FROM THE MANY TO THE ONE



BY BR. DANIEL PINEDA

## POLITICS AND THE COLLECTIVIST PROBLEM

Complete awakening happens on all levels. This includes the realization that there are some very serious enemies to personal/spiritual liberty who will work against you. They might say that they are looking out for your best interest, or that of the greater good, but it is really always about control.

The 99%, Anonymous, and the other Collectivist groups perfectly demonstrate a problem related to the following correspondence from Aleister Crowley to Lady Frieda Harris.

Your feeling about having no forms and faces is merely symptomatic of modern soul-sickness. It is lack of confidence in one's creative powers.

But this is metaphysics and not art; all these half-sexed, half-witted people, sicklied o'er with the pale caste of thought, I cannot believe that any of them will ever command either the Exeter, the Ajax or the Achilles, and any man who is not potentially capable of doing that, is not a man at all; he may be some kind of pudding, and I hold no brief against puddings, but all these people who resent simplicity resent manhood, they weave their own onanistic web of nastiness; these are the shells cast off from the Tree of Life, these are the larva of abomination. It has been your evil fortune to have far too much to do with such people without a proper clinical training, such as would have enabled you to diagnose their malady; they have small orts of cleverness without any breadth of vision or balance, without the sense of space, of nature, of fresh air. Their fiddling little ingenuities appeal to you rather as a chess problem or a jigsaw puzzle appeals to some of us in moments of idleness, but you did not have the psychological and pathological knowledge to keep you from making the fatal false step over the precipice of common sense; you have taken these abortive insects seriously.

The Statist Progressive Movement (i.e. Tides Foundation, Move On, Media

Matters, Occupy Wall Street, etc.), are comprised of two prongs: the Communists on the Left and the Fascists on the Right. This alone moves it entirely out of Classical Liberal thought, which might be characterized as Libertarian Democratic Republicanism. Many of them are demanding the forgiveness of various loans on the backs of taxpayers, as well as universal healthcare, and a host of other cries for the equivalent of equal stuff. These are all very anti-American sounding enlightenment principles, which teach equality of opportunity rather than equality of outcome.

## THE ASCENT OF MAN

Thanks to the fields of archeology and anthropology, we have been given some very clear information of the characteristics of each age of human societal development. The catastrophic, redistributive, groupthink model is not the modern Federalist individualistic one that has produced the wealthiest most powerful and free nation in the history of the world.

For thousands of years the glue that held societies together was conformity, as well as the judgment that ensues when this conformity was not met. Conformity to accepted cultural, religious, racial, and economic norms held together the collective identity pretty well. This worked just fine as long as populations were relatively small and homogeneous. If wealth is concentrated and accessible only to the very smallest portion of such a society, then dependence is a natural survival instinct that proves successful in most cases. If the group is small and each member procures food, shelter, and clothing in the same way, then the instinct of perceived fairness aids in the preservation of justice. In these societies positions of power are usually inherited by birth or military skill.

As a nation grows in size, population, and wealth however, new ways to relate and understand each other are needed. The old glue of conformity is just not flexible or elastic enough to hold together groups of individuals with widely differing views on almost

every issue. Our sense of fairness that we developed in our early stages of evolution actually starts working against us. The very things that would actually create more wealth and leisure time can seem a threat to our perception of fairness; these include specialization, contractual agreements, as well as the risks inherent in a marketplace.

Our paleo-brains are hardwired to think that in order for one person to have, another must go without. In a free-market capitalist society, this is not necessarily so. The pie is not limited. Due to profit motives that reward risk taking and competitive pricing, the entrepreneur is free to add to the pie, rather than just redistribute a fixed portion of it.

The new glue must be independence. This glue takes longer to set, yet is much stronger. It relies not upon conformity, but upon respect, love, and the potential loss of sovereignty for those who would thwart the rights of others.

Communism/Progressivism/Statism is a reemergence of outdated stone age communal instincts wrapped in the garments of post structuralism (discipline and therefore structure is essential to liberty; the anti-structuralist is a peddler of the worst kind of lies and superstitions as he is promising the ignorant person an impossibility) and political correctness, defended from any real scrutiny by the professed pure intentions of the enviro-Marxist-radical.

## I AM A MAN AND I WILL NOT COMPLY

The Collectivists/Statists don't like to be challenged. They demonize their opponents because the truth about their plans would expose them as the radical enemies of liberty they know themselves to be. People should speak up and defend positions as long as they genuinely believe them. It is when we begin defending ourselves rather than debating ideas that who is right no longer matters as much as who is left. This degeneration puts us back.

The collectivists want the revolution of one so-called class against another, rather than the transmutation of

the entire culture. This is really the difference between the French and American revolutions. The Occupy Wall Street movement touts Democracy and essentially what is mob-rule; history is pretty clear about the failures that accompany this political paradigm. Positive societal evolution happens best when it arises from within people as an entire cultural shift, not as a protest group or one class against another. Equal justice first requires the acknowledgement of all being equal before it, otherwise its just another empty phrase.

Every single mass murder has been produced by people using the government to enforce their will upon others. The government, especially in a society that has become as complacent about REAL civil liberties as ours, can do these things and has done these things in the past. The Inquisition was big government, as was the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany, the Native American genocide, the Soviet murders and planned starvation by the Taliban, in Iran, etc.

The foundation of future civilizations will rely upon the supreme sovereignty of the individual. The defense of the rights of humankind must be the only occupation of the state; all other functions being a siren calling the ship of culture to ruin.

The ethic of liberty is a royal ethic; its morality is that of enlightened self-interest and non-interference.

The maxims "*Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.*" and also "*Love is the law, love under will.*" must become the essential core ingredients of society's new glue if we are to continue to grow and advanced the well-being of the human race.

### WHAT MUST WE LEARN?

In birth a human being arrives to this world with no knowledge or understanding. He posses nothing; not even that which he will some day come to call "himself." The newborn is, if anything, a mass of tendencies. His plight would be completely hopeless if among these tendencies were not also the capacity for growth. Our ability to learn, to mature, and to change are truly the strongest of our natural gifts. Yet, even this great virtue of our race, unguided by the star of inspiration can produce terrible and destructive engines that perpetuate darkness, dependency, and tyranny.

Our lives are terribly brief. The truth is that what we believe ourselves to be as natural beings will spend almost eternity in death. We might want to imagine that it may be otherwise, or that there may be a spiritual existence where we may partake in permanence. According to what stares us in the face day after day, however, these desires are at best a convenient way of coping with the brutality of impermanence, and at worst a gorgon knot of unresolved infantile psychological complexes.

Of course you may have heard about or even studied the writings and sayings of the great sages and saints who teach about transcendence, salvation, deliverance, cessation or some other equivalent suitable to the culture in which their respective ideologies emerged. But unless you have experienced the states of consciousness or heavenly realms they claim to have attained or visited, this knowledge will, if you are lucky, do little more then comfort you. If you are unlucky then you will be haunted by guilt, inadequacy, or a host of other side effects that come with the dissonance produced by what you perceive directly and the message of authority not lining up very well.

So what is the answer to life's uncertainty, its impermanence, it's sheer lack of meaning? Is there a way up the mountain of being that will give us a better view?

The Mystery Tradition offers us a technology for healing the wounds sustained by the infinite universe limiting itself to the consciousness of a finite, disconnected, and impulsive vehicle. The goal is union with one's own Holy Guardian Angel, a concept similar to what has been called Christ, Buddha, or Atman. One way of achieving this union is by seeking the transcendental in every single thing that we do.

### THE MYSTIC PATH

We must learn how to unite ourselves with everything. At first our untrained minds will only acquiesce to union with ideas or phenomenon that it considers pleasurable. This must eventually be overcome before we move unto the real work, but in the early stages it will help you stick to the practice. Try to make it easier on yourself by focusing on something with little or no emotional

value to you. A button, stone, or some other harmless inanimate object will do just fine. Avoiding excitement will help you get the results that cause a lasting shift and evolution of the mind. This is how we may come to the direct perception of Truth, that is, the agreement of knowledge with experience (agreement without premeditation). This direct line will not come easily.

Because of our tendencies inherited by parents, society, or maybe even past incarnations (if you believe these exist, your deductions concerning them will affect you. If not, then your lack of such a belief will also affect you). Starting at the ground floor, the seeker must reconstruct his mechanism for sensing and interacting with the world.

### MIND CONTROL

Perfect union is produced by the interaction of perfect opposites. The operative word here is "perfect." We unite parts of ourselves with ideas all the time. Every thought we have is, in this way, an act of Union. Putting this general definition aside, the Mystic Path is that of gaining the kind of control over the mind that will allow us to unite it in every sense to that one idea that will come to encompass the totality of existence.

Our mind, like all things, is made up of a substance proper to its healthy functioning. The Hindu yogis call the stuff of our minds *Chitta*, which literally means "mental stuff." (At this point it should be pretty obvious that the terms used in true spiritual practice are utilitarian and must be as simple as language may allow; there is enough confusion inherent in the dismantling and reordering of one's self without needing any help from mysterious words or concepts). The sum total of our minds includes various functions such as discrimination, desire, or our sense of self.

In controlling these mental faculties and contents we take direct command of our own perceptions and therefore happiness. Everything a person thinks or encounters is done so through the medium of the nervous system. When we are successful in our subjugation of mental activity and function, uniting all thoughts into a singular one that may then be extinguished, we experience the bliss of total freedom. Freedom from fear, from doubt, from sorrow, yes, but also freedom from the fleeting emotional ups that

accompany superficial distractions from their less desirable counterparts.

## THE MAGICAL PATH

It will not be long until you begin to realize that your own mental state can influence what most have been taught to regard as the “outer world.” You focus the mind on a certain thing and phenomenon, which corresponds with the nature of that thing, and results begins to occur. Now, it must be stated that what you *should* do is ignore these happenings. You *should* stick to your meditation. But you won’t. You can’t. Because although you are striving to become the unconditioned, un-manifested ONE, you still need to do things like pay bills, clean dishes, and ask that attractive co-worker out to dinner and a movie. In short, you are a real person who cannot rest in inaction, but must live a very active and exciting life!

Where most would see the above as an obstacle, the aspirant to the invisible college sees another opportunity for growth. What if you could make every act an invocation of the Most High? Just as we seek to bring our minds under complete control by first mastering a few basic exercises, so may we begin to train ourselves in the complete transformation of our lives by understanding and performing the elementary rituals of Magick.

“[MAGICK IS] THE SCIENCE AND ART OF CAUSING CHANGE TO OCCUR IN CONFORMITY WITH WILL.”

— ALEISTER CROWLEY

In the practice of Magick, you will begin learn about how thoughts, words, and deeds channel the will to create your reality. You will encounter things that are so profoundly wonderful and terrible that they will evade all attempts at description. But ultimately, what you are doing is sanctifying your entire existence. Every act becomes a holy service, and before you know it, not a moment goes by in which you are not focused entirely on the transcendental.

This process is made possible by the theory of correspondence so elegantly communicated to us by the Qabalah. The student begins to understand that

when he sees a house, he is witnessing a manifestation of the Hebrew letter Beth (ב), which corresponds to the planet Mercury and the Lord of Magick. The Entrance to the house is its door, literally Daleth (ד) in Hebrew, a letter corresponding to Love. By way of his training he can see in a simple house that the path into true magical power and mystery is love, or union. Crowley taught this principle as the central tenant of his spiritual system: “*Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.*” “*Love is the law, love under will.*”

## INTRODUCING YOURSELF TO YOUR SELF

One of the greatest delusions at the heart of human suffering is the belief that we are our minds. Yes, our minds are part of the complex blend of forces, drives, tendencies, and materials that we call “I.” But, ultimately, we are none of these things. What we truly are is beyond description. Many have learned of this label and gone on in endless metaphysical speculation about whether or not there is a self, soul, or God.

This is, in my opinion, a complete missing of the point and a colossal waste of time. Our lives are brief. In the path of unification, it does not matter what you think or believe about a thing, because all thoughts must be melted down to the one essence. However, you find your mind in regards to these ideas; there is no need to change them, only to unite them to every other thought through the practice of concentration.

When the mind is well controlled, this Truth can fully manifest. This state is not truly a state, but the true form of ourselves – the “*I am that I am.*” Whenever the mind is not focused and unified, our understanding of truth is bent and twisted, like light reflecting off of a dirty, broken mirror.

The matter of consciousness, like all matter, is subject to change. These can be pleasurable or painful, but at their root, they are all undesirable if we believe that they have some meaning or importance. This is a great superstition that is very easy to fall into. We feel something unpleasant, and so this is

“bad,” while more pleasant experiences are labeled as “good.” The whole cycle of Experience-Label-Judge is based on the belief that our meaning and purpose can be derived from the right combination or manifestation of these changes.

This is why materialism is generally acknowledged as an unskillful value system, as most agree that material things are not where one should derive self-worth. A more unorthodox view would also say that spiritualism, emotionalism, or any other “-ism” where we look to a set of circumstances for importance would all be equally inadequate in satiating our thirst for the supreme state of being.

The universe does not suffer as we do. It is what it is. It creates and destroys itself without tremor, it is cold and hot, light and dark, containing all opposites and yet transcending them completely. Existence is the reality of nature just as non-existence is. They do not compete nor are they estranged. Galaxies whirl about in both harmony and violence. Stars collide, rivers flow and crash, and lovers dance. It is almost as if our own mental state is the real problem. The stories we believe become our religion, and our fundamentalism has robbed us of our royal place in the greatest party that has ever been thrown.

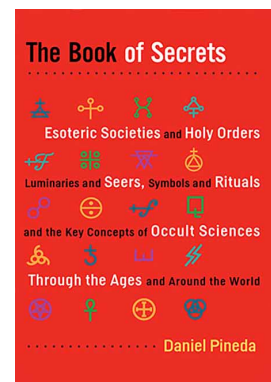
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