



*Ordo Templi Orientis*

ANNOTATED RITUALS • MINERVA • I° • II° • III°  
SECURITY — III° INITIATORS ONLY

INITIUM SAPIENTIÆ AMOR DOMINI

Ordo Templi Orientis



FRATERNITAS LUCIS HERMETICÆ

O. T. O.

Issued by Order:



Baphomet

XI° O. T. O.

HIBERNIAE IONAE ET  
OMNIUM BRITANNIARUM  
REX SUMMUS SANCTISSIMUS

# FOREWORD

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

This edition of the revised rituals of Ordo Templi Orientis is the culmination of almost five years of research. Our rituals have long been in need of standardization, with reliable guidelines for new initiators.

Regional practices have diverged in many particulars, and many groups have discovered the correct interpretations of many difficult passages –if not the reason, then the rhyme. Accordingly, these rituals have been prepared in consultation with some of the Order’s most experienced initiators.

No less than five distinct sets of rituals were drawn on, ranging from the early “masonic” versions, through the various revisions made ca. 1916 EV, including those used in North America, and Australasia. Besides those in the Agape Grand Lodge Archives, the collections of the Warburg Institute in London were consulted. By careful comparison, many bothersome issues of long standing were resolved, and passages that were inexplicably dropped in some versions were restored.

This annotated edition is issued to **III\*** initiators. It is being issued in loose-leaf format so that it may be updated from time to time. It is not intended to be used in Temple, but rather as a reference guide for Initiators only. Temple booklets are provided for use in the rituals proper.

Certain passages have been written to conform to particular Temple equipment. In all such cases, the proper equipment and supplies are available from the Quartermaster.

The words are omitted, although the descriptions of the signs are retained. Should any initiator have the slightest doubt as to the proper formulae, we recommend that they contact their own initiator.

*Love is the law, love under will.*

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

# **MINERVA**

## **RECEPTION**

This copy is issued under the authority of Frater Superior  
Baphomet, Sovereign Grand Master General XI\* of the O.T.O.

ANNOTATED EDITION:  
LIABILITY III° INITIATOR OR HIGHER  
TRANSFERABLE  
DO DUPLICATE

## **OFFICERS REQUIRED**

Saladin or Master  
Emir (Black Guard)  
(Sentinels)

## **CHECKLIST**

Two scripts  
Two small flashlights or “booklights”  
Conical tent with pole and tools to erect it  
Oriental costume for Saladin  
Scimitar for Saladin  
Robe for Emir  
Sword for Emir  
Sword for each sentinel (if there is one)  
Two chairs  
Altar  
Candle and holder, or a palm tree  
Well with coping-stone – not used, but may be present for I° if ritual is not performed in an anteroom  
Liber Legis, any reputable edition, for altar  
Copy of Liber Legis, preferably in scroll form, for presentation to each candidate  
Disk or platter  
Bread and salt  
Rope for binding  
Hoodwink  
Banquet given by Camp (from Initiation fees)

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# MINERVAL

## RECEPTION<sup>1</sup>

*A conical tent, within which is seated Saladin, in Oriental costume.<sup>2</sup> Before him is an altar,<sup>3</sup> as is present in other Oasis rituals,<sup>4</sup> on which are (1) The Book of the Law (CCXX),<sup>5</sup> (2) a sword, (3) a platter (disk) of bread and salt. On his tight hand is a seat. The tent is lighted by a single candle or, there is a palm-tree.*

- 1) Baphomet attributed this degree to the element Earth, and to the Muladhara and Ajna chakras. Its traditional attribution to the time of day varies. Some attribute it to midnight, others to the pre-dawn hours. Many initiators perform it at those times. — NEMO
- 2) If no tent, use a circular pillar. — Baphomet. Saladin should wear a turban and preferably a complete Arabic costume, i.e. a jalaba (Arabic robe) with vest and pantaloons, etc. According to a omet, the sword of Saladin is a curved scimitar. Baphomet also suggests that the ideal setting is a desert, with palm trees, although Agape Lodge used a beach to good effect. Baphomet went so far as to specify that camels be employed (pointing out that horses, and even automobiles, have been used effectively.) This refers to the method of transportation of the candidate to and from the remote Camp site. If the Minerval is performed indoors, oriental rugs and hangings contribute greatly to the atmosphere.— NEMO
- 3) Some versions of the ritual describe this as “a well covered with a coping-stone.” — NEMO
- 4) Most initiators find this impractical and use a smaller altar, a single or double cube. The original draft of the Minerval ritual permitted the use of a table. — NEMO
- 5) Use scroll of the Law. (Use facsimile in *Equinox* 1(7) facing page 386. It should be rolled up. Do not give it to Candidate, but take it back after the ceremony, referring him to printed copy in *Equinox* 1(10).) — Baphomet Current practice is to give each Candidate a copy of *The Book of the Law* to keep. It need not necessarily contain the facsimile of the MS. although that is preferable. — NEMO

## OPENING 6

*Saladin gives one knock  
All rise*

- Saladin. Noble Emir, what is your duty in this encampment?  
Emir. Mighty Saladin, it is to protect our Mysteries against the indiscretions of the profane.  
S. Have you taken measures to that effect?  
E. The Sentinels are at their posts and we are in security.  
S. Since it is so, satisfy yourself that all present are Minerval.  
E. Brethren, it is the Mighty Saladin's command that you prove yourselves Minerval.

*Done.*

- E. Mighty Saladin, the Brethren have proved themselves Minerval.  
S. That being so, I will thank the Brethren to stand to order whilst I declare this encampment open.

*Done.*

Accordingly, in the name of the Secret Master, and under the auspices of the Sovereign Sanctuary, I proclaim this encampment open in the Degree of Minerval for the quest of Peace and Wisdom.

*The brethren resume their seats.*

Noble Emir,<sup>7</sup> enquire if there is aught to report.

*Emir retires and returns with Candidate.*

- 6) Opening for the Minerval was found in the rituals issued to the Australasian O.T.O. It is to be used in opening a Camp of Minerval outside of open Oasis or Lodge. It should also be performed in opening a regular Oasis or Lodge in degree sequence, in which instance it should be performed in the Oasis or Lodge proper, not in an anteroom, unless Minerval initiations are planned that would make use of the anteroom. — NEMO
- 7) This last section of this Minerval opening is only used if performing Minerval initiations. It is omitted if opening 0° as a prelude to a higher degree.— NEMO

## PART ONE

*Without is an armed Black Guard,<sup>7</sup> who seizes the Candidate<sup>8</sup> on his approach, sudderdy and silently, and binds him hand and foot, and blindfolds<sup>9</sup> him. He then leads him to the tent, and knocks once -*

Saladin. Whom have you there?  
Black Guard. A prisoner, mighty Saladin.  
S. Have you discovered his identity? <sup>10</sup>  
BG. I have, mighty Saladin. He is a native of Corinth; but he has attained the freedom of the city of Athens, the ally of Mitylene.”  
S. Why does he travel in the land of Egypt?  
BG. He says that he is travelling to Heliopolis, the City of the sun.  
S. Are his intentions friendly.  
BG. He desires peace, and seeks wisdom.  
S. Then let him confirm his aspirations with

## AN OATH

Sir!<sup>12</sup> if your intentions be honorable, you will be set at liberty, and received with true hospitality in the Camp of friends. Repeat your name at length, and say after me:

- 7) A man in a black robe armed with a sword will do. — Baphomet
- 8) Minervals should be made in batches, preferably 12 at a time according to the signs of the Zodiac. Each goes through the first part separately, all coming in together for the second part. —Baphomet. In the 1940s EV Baphomet developed further the “Camp of Minerval” working that degree only, preferably out of doors, initiating in large batches. At the same time, he had Lodges continue in their practice of initiating Minerval and First Degree on the same occasion, with a smaller number of candidates, although the Minerval was often worked out of doors, and the candidate then immediately taken to the Lodge for First Degree. Both practices are now allowable, with the former best employed for starting a new group, the latter for maintaining an existing group. — NEMO
- 9) Tie hands first, then feet, then blindfold. — NEMO
- 10) Or “her” if a woman; and so throughout. If Candidate be female, the obvious amendments must be made. — Baphomet. These changes include “her~” for “him”, “Madam” for “Sir~”, etc. — NEMO “For a woman, change the words Athens and Mitylene to Mitylene and Athens. — Baphomet ‘2Or Madame. — Baphomet



I, \_\_\_\_\_ being an helpless prisoner in your power, here by declare that I am a native of Corinth, a free man of the City of Athens, the ally of Mitylene, and that I am travelling peaceably to Heliopolis, the City of the Sun, in search of Light and Truth, of Wisdom and of Peace. Humbly, yet frankly, I demand your hospitality, and participation in your MYSTERIES, which I swear to study and to hold sacred and secret, and if I break this oath

*Saladin puts bread and salt into C. 's mouth and suggests he chew and swallow.*

and betray the bread and salt, may the dogs devour my carcass; may I be mutilated and no more a man!<sup>13</sup>

*Black Guard applies sword in penal sign.*

S. Noble Emir, release your prisoner!

*Done; first feet, then hands, then eyes. Saladin, shaking hands with Candidate, says:*

S. Noble guest, welcome to our Camp! Be seated on my right hand!

*Candidate seated.*

I greet you as a Brother<sup>14</sup> with the title of MINERVAL, a seeker after the Hidden Wisdom. Also, I present you with this Sacred Scroll.

*Done.*

13) or woman. — NEMO

14) Or sister. — Baphomet

Study it well; it is the Charter of Universal Freedom.

Noble Emir, I charge you with the pleasant duty of proclaiming the arrival of our guest to our fellow soldiers!

BG. OYEZ !<sup>15</sup> OYEZ ! OYEZ! Hear ye all that\_\_\_\_\_ is a welcome guest in our camp!

*All applaud.* <sup>16</sup>

S. In order to enable you for the future to penetrate our camp without annoyance from the Sentries, I will confer upon you a sign of recognition and a Pass Word.

*S. stands.*

The sign is given by extending the thumb of the right hand, fingers extended, and placing it against the forehead<sup>17</sup>, as if you beheld far in the desert, a pilgrim approaching the camp.

The Penal Sign is given by clenching the fingers of the right hand, the thumb extended, and drawing the thumb smartly across the lower torso<sup>18</sup> from your right to your left.

The Grip is given by seizing the right thumb of the brother or sister with your right hand and squeezing it twelve times, in four batteries of three.

The Word is ON<sup>19</sup> It signifies the Sun in the old Egyptian language.

15) Pronounced "oh—yay-. –NEMO

16) These people do not appear; they are hidden in another room until after the ceremony. As a rule, one goes straight on from this to the 1°, and this Minerval ceremony should not be in the Lodge but in an antechamber. –Baphomet. This note appears in Baphomet's first version of the Minerval ritual, and is current recommended practice. One advantage is that the use of two separate adjoining rooms makes moot the question of whether the well is present in the Minerval. It also greatly simplifies Minerval initiations in the field. It is especially recommended when performing same-occasion Minerval and 1° initiations. Also, in a recently discovered memorandum Baphomet recommends separate initiation teams for Minerval and the higher Oasis degrees, although this is not the usual practice now. –NEMO

17) Ajna chakra. –NEMO

18) Muladhara chakra. –NEMO

19) State the word, and after a pause, spell it. –NEMO

For the present, worthy and welcome guest, I see that you are in need of repose. This noble Emir will conduct you to a suitable lodging. Th erefore I bid you, for the present, Hail and Farewell!

*Black Guard conducts New Member to join his fellow soldiers.*<sup>20</sup>

- 20) Black Guard should assure that the guests are comfortable. He may provide them with water, coffee, dates and figs in accordance with Oriental custom. He should then encourage them to read their “scrolls” (*The Book of the Law*), so that when asked in part Two “what was your sustenance and comfort” they will then be able to meaningfully reply “The Book of the Law” - NEMO

## PART TWO

*All enter and draw themselves up in military formation, before Saladin, the Black Guard in front.*

S. Noble Emir, have you attended to the necessities of our guests?

BG. I have, mighty Saladin.

S. Let me assure myself of the same.

*The Black Guard brings the Candidates forward.*

S. Worthy and valiant guests, I trust that so far you have had no reason to complain of our hospitality. Are you well rested and refreshed?

C. I am.<sup>21</sup>

S. Are you ready to fight by the side of your comrades at the behest of BAPHOMET

C. I am.

S. Our Grand Master will have none but free men and women in the ranks of his army. His soldiers must be neither mercenaries nor pressed men. I therefore ask you your object in enrolling yourself amongst us.

*Candidate replies as he thinks fit and Saladin holds an impromptu dialogue with him which ends as follows.*

S. Noble and valiant guests and comrades! You have arrived among us at a time when freedom is about to deliver the decisive combat against the forces of superstition, tyranny and oppression. In the time which you have spent in reposing from the fatigue of your journey, what was your sustenance and comfort?

C. The Book of the Law.

S. Can you explain the nature of that law in a few words?

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

*All repeat, giving the sign.*

21) A foreman can be chosen, as in a jury. – Baphomet.

- S. Can you explain further the nature of the law?  
C. Love is the law, love under will.

*All repeat, giving the penal sign.*

- S. Are you prepared to defend these principles with your life?  
C. I am.

*All repeat.*

- S. In order to fortify ourselves for combat, it is our custom to read a chapter of the Book of the Law. I will therefore request you to encourage your comrades in this manner.

*The Black Guard gives the Candidate a chapter to read, and he reads it.*<sup>22</sup>

- S. Let all present raise the right hand and say with me:  
“We swear to defend the principles of the Book of the Law in the name of the freedom of man, in whom is God.”

*All repeat.*

Noble and valiant guests, I will venture to acquaint you with the first paradox of philosophy. In order to obtain freedom to do your will, it is necessary to submit voluntarily to discipline and organization. Evolution implies structuralization. The power of man is greater than the power of the amoeba, because he has specialized the functions of the protoplasm of which he is composed.

The regulations of our Order are strict, even as the sinews of your arm are firm. Were your sinews loosened, you could no longer move your arm. Chafe not, therefore, at the apparent restrictions which your obligations place upon you. They are designed solely to enable you to do your will.

In order that you may do the one thing which you will truly, you must therefore renounce all those other things which may tempt you to swerve from the one purpose of your sojourn amongst us. This tent, under whose canopy I sit, is restrained by the rigidity of its support. It fulfills its design by virtue of this discipline.

- 22) “The Blackguard gives the Candidate either the first or second chapter to read, and he reads them”—Baphomet. Modern practices concerning these readings vary. Some initiators choose the Chapter; others leave it to the discretion of the Candidate. Some give Ch. 1 to male and Ch. 2 to female candidates—NEMO

I charge you, therefore, to meditate over this paradox, in order that you may understand the necessity to undergo that course of training which will make you efficient as a soldier of freedom.

Let me further assure you that the word freedom is with us no idle term. We neither know nor care what your will is. “thou hast no right but to do thy will. Do that, and no other shall say nay.” We unreservedly place power in your hands. If it be your will to enter

this army as a spy to destroy your comrades, so be it!

Yet remember that you have made solemn affirmation to us in these words, which you will again repeat after me: “If I break this oath, and betray the bread and salt, may the dogs devour my carcass;<sup>23</sup> may I be mutilated and no more a man.

*All give penal sign.*

- S. It is our custom before going into battle, to fortify ourselves with meat and drink. A banquet as been prepared for our entertainment.
- E. The banquet is ready, mighty Saladin.
- S. Let us partake of it.

*O. T. O. applause.<sup>24</sup> All go to banqueting tent.<sup>25</sup>*

- 23) The restated oath as here given is correct. Some versions exclude the words, “may the dogs devour my carcass” at this point. —NEMO
- 24) According to oral tradition dating from the early Agape Lodge, O.T.O.. applause consists of clapping the hands three times, then five, then three. —NEMO
- 25) When the 1° is given on the same occasion as Minerval, the Banquet, however simple, should not be omitted between them. — NEMO

## BANQUET

*Saladin at head of table. Black Guard at foot.*

*Saladin rises — gives sign* <sup>26</sup>

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

Emir. What is thy will, mighty Saladin?

S. It is my will to eat and drink.

E. To what end?

S. That I may fortify my body.

E. To what end?

S. That I may do battle in the cause of freedom according to the Book of the Law.

E: Love is the law, love under will,

*O. T. O. applause.*

26) An early version has this as the penal sign, but current practice is to use the Sign of Recognition. Quite often, the attention of the group is obtained by knocking 3-5-3, as when saying ~‘Will.’ Also, often the Emir will give the penal sign at the end of the dialogue when saying “Love is the law, love under will.”