

KNIGHT of the EAST & of the WEST

(Notes toward an initiation ritual)

"I will give thee the Kingdoms of the earth, O thou Who hast mastered the Kingdoms of the East and of the West."

(Liber 66, v. 47)

The degree of Knight of the East & West is the bridge between the Man of Earth and Lover triads of the O.T.O. The previous degree marks the completion of the "chakra" series; and this degree synthesizes that series in preparation for the Vth Degree that follows. K.E.W. is merely preparatory to the Vth and, if administered formally, should fall as close to the Vth Degree initiation as possible; perhaps even on the same occasion.

To those who have passed through the serpentine rhythm of birth (east, sunrise) and death (west, sunset) -- the Man of Earth triad of O.T.O. -- the Life Principle of Kundalini makes available the entirety of the earth, i.e., an immortality born of realizing night and day to be twin phases of a single phenomenon. In many ways, Liber 66 is a commentary on this degree of K.E.W.

Furthermore, in Liber 194 we read, "The degree of Knight of the East & West... is important, for in that grade a new pledge-form must be signed, and the new Knight vowed to devote his life to the Establishment of the Law of Thelema."

With these thoughts in mind, a quick perusal of the 17th Degree of the Scottish Rite reveals a striking appropriateness to our needs! The essence of that degree is the fulfillment of the prophesies of the Apocalypse, which as Pryce and others have shown is a study in the initiatory process itself expressed in terms of the movement of Kundalini. It is also the arising of the Beast Himself, a prophesy of the Aeon of Horus written early in the Osiris Aeon. The Scottish Rite ritual emphasizes the opening of the book with seven seals in a way that corresponds to O.T.O. rituals very well. This, then, is the basis of the short ritual proposed below.

NOTES FROM 17th DEGREE LECTURE:

Candidate is received "by water and the effusion of blood," and told, "A mason should not hesitate to spill his blood for the support of masonry."

"What age are you?" "Very ancient." (That is, immortal; see P.I. and Liber 66.)

TRACING BOARD & JEWEL

Jewels, aprons, etc. are too expensive for so minor a degree to insist on providing the Candidate; but the officers may choose to have them as permanent fixtures of the R.C. Chapter. The design of both the tracing board and Jewel (and thus of other symbols one might choose to have around) is based on a heptagon (within a circle?) with the letters of BABALON at the 7 corners. Other details may be appropriate; I don't attempt to regulate

them here.

ATTIRE

White robe; may have a zone of gold around the waist. The Order is a broad white ribbon from right shoulder to left hip, bearing a heptagon of gold with the letters of BABALON at the corners. The Apron is white, edged with gold (lined with red), and may have the same design on the flap. A more recent KEW apron has an inverted tetractys on the flap. These are all optional details except perhaps for officers; the essential idea being white attire trimmed in some manner with gold.

BATTERY

Six knocks (P.I. = 5; Vth Degree = 7; Senate = 8; VIth Degree = 9, &c.) The most useful form seems to be ## ## ##.

OBLIGATION

Secrecy. Spread Law (devote one's life to the Establishment of the Law of Thelema). A variation of 17th Degree penal clause works well here.

DECORATIONS

The heptagon and heptagram may be introduced pretty much at will. (S.R. chamber is a 7-sided room, like 5=6 vault; a similar idea here may be preliminary to R.C.)

Hangings should be crimson, sprinkled with gold stars. In East, a throne elevated by 7 steps. On one side (north), a transparency or other representation of the Sun, below which is a great lion; on the other side, a transparency or other representation of the Moon, below which is a great eagle. Between them a large golden hexagram (behind throne?). (See the subtle parallel in Liber 66, vv. 8-10.)

An altar with a font of perfumed water and a human skull. ("There shall be a fair altar in the midst, extended on a black stone." -- 66) On a pedestal before the throne rests the V.S.L. and a scroll sealed with 7 seals, inside of which is drawn the Seal of Babalon. The entire chamber shall be beautifully perfumed throughout.

The Ritual of Initiation of the
VENERABLE KNIGHT OF THE EAST & OF THE WEST

OPENING

(Straightforward.)

INITIATION

(3rd officer prepares C in ante-room hung with red and lighted by 7 lights. C is clothed in white robe and barefoot. 3rd knocks as P.I.)

(1st O sends 2nd O to door)

2nd (opening): Who comes there?

3rd: A valiant brother and Prince of Jerusalem who seeks to pledge his honor to the duties of a Knight of the East & West.

(2nd closes and reports. 1st asks if C is properly prepared &c, to which 2nd applies in affirmative.)

1st: Admit him in due form.

(2nd escorts C to center altar/font. 1st orders C to wash hands and dry them on a white cloth provided. Done.)

1st: Brother, the KEW is received by water and the effusion of blood. He must not hesitate to spill his own blood for the Establishment of the Law and the benefit of the Order. Will you commit your blood to this Work?

(C replies Yes. 2nd and 3rd bare his arms, tie a string or bandage around each arm; then each with a lancet makes a trifling incision so as to draw a tiny amount of blood, which is gathered on a white cloth and exhibited.)

2nd: See, fellow knights, that this brother has shrunk not from the trial, but has spilled his blood to acquire a knowledge of our mysteries!

(1st O asks if C is willing to take oath. C answers Yes. 2nd O conducts C to E before 1st's throne (before pedestal).)

1st (descending dias): You will place your r.h. on the V.S.L. as I take your l.h. in my h-s. Repeat your name at length and say after me:

(1. Secrecy

2. Spread law -- devote life to Est. of Law of Th.)

All this I swear &c under the p. &c of having my life sucked dry so that no trace of me remains. Aum. (Seal with 6 Kisses on V.S.L.)

(1st O Knights C a KEW. The drugged chalice passes to toast the new Knight. Pause.)

1st (rethrone, lifting scroll): Who will dare to open the seven seals of the terrible scroll of The Beast.
(2nd O indicates new Kt as the one to do it.)

1st: "Come up hither, and I shall make known to you the perfections which must be attained."

(New Kt takes scroll from 1st O. For each of 7 seals, 1st O asks Kt for signs of appropriate degree, then authorizes him to open the next seal. Thunder.)

1st Seal (Minerval). Bow, arrow, crown. "And the Beast opened the first of the 7 seals, and the first of the Chaloth ha Qadesh cried in a voice of thunder, 'Come!' And there appeared one who loosed a shaft from his bow so that a Crown was given him."

(For 1st four seals, a Ch-h-Q cries, "Come!" and a rider appears.)

2nd Seal (Man). Sword. See AL III, 38.

3rd Seal (Magician). Balance. See Rev. VI:5 (grain = 10, wine = 6, oil = 1; IAO).

4th Seal (Master Magician). Death's Head. Nunc &c.

5th Seal (Perfect Magician). The cloth stained with C's blood. See Rev VI:5, "those who had been slain for the word..." &c.

6th Seal (Perfect Initiate). The power to darken the Sun and tinge the Moon with blood. Read Rev VI:12 ff.

(Pause. Give signs &c of KEW (see 17th Degree S.R.). Substitute HELIOS and SELENE for A....N and J....N. Use only 1st token, but with 6 squeezes.)

7th Seal (KEW). Seven trumpets & perfumes. (Triumphal trumpet music.) See Rev. VIII. (NOTE! This brings us to the stage of Revelations just before the Star Wormwood falls, i.e., prepares for 8th.) Scroll is unrolled to display the sigil of BABALON. As music continues, it is ordered that all may drink from Her cup wherein is spilled the blood of the Knights of the East & West. Drugged chalice passes.

(Read Liber 66, esp. from v. 46 to end.)

CLOSING

(Straightforward.)