

Mores et Dogma

V° O.T.O.

De Rosene Rubae et Aureae Crucis

Mores et Dogma

vo O.T.O.

From the Valley of Southern California, by
authorization of the Sanctuary of the Gnosis and
the Most Wise & Perfect Sovereign of the Heru-Ra-Ha
Chapter of the Holy Order of Rose Croix of Heredom,
unto the Very Excellent Sovereign Princes of
Rose-Croix, Greeting and Peace.

Under the seal of the obligation of the vo.



THE ROSE & THE CROSS

Out of the seething cauldron of my woes,
Where sweets and salt and bitterness I
flung;
Where charmed music gathered from my
tongue,
And where I chained strange archipelagoes
Of fallen stars; where fiery passion flows
A curious bitumen; where among
The glowing medley moved the tune
unsung
Of perfect love: thence grew the Mystic Rose.

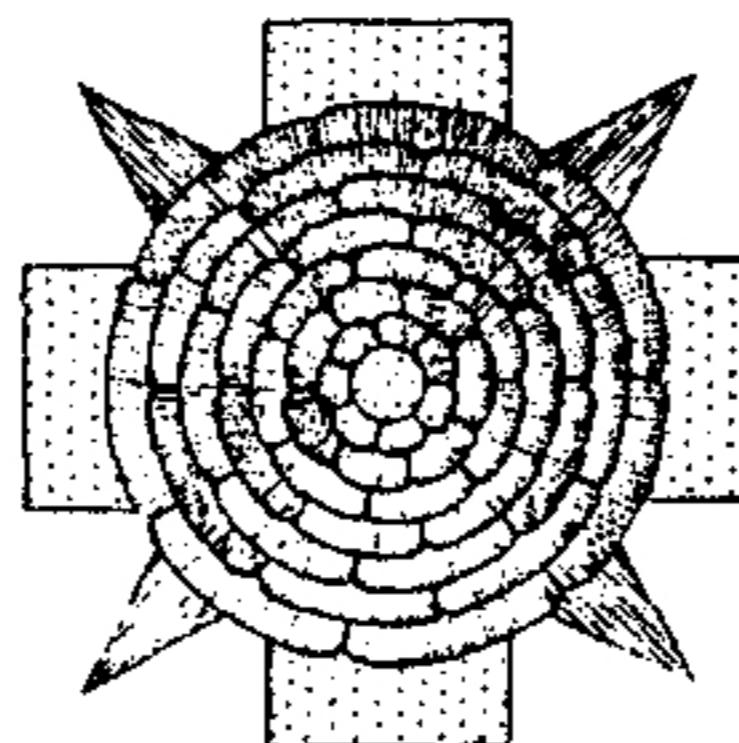
Its myriad petals of divided light;
Its leaves of the most radiant emerald;
Its heart of fire like rubies. At the sight
I lifted up my heart to God and called:
How shall I pluck this dream of my desire?
And lo! there shaped itself the Cross of Fire!

--Sir Aleister Crowley

Though neither the highest nor most exalted degree in our Order, the level of initiation and evolution designated by Rose Croix is deserving of special reverence and regard. Beyond the first three (Blue Lodge) degrees, it is perhaps the best known among Masons, and surely the most beloved of its Adepts.

This degree is ineffable. Its secrets can not be written. You, who awakened to the inner world in your IV^o, who have perhaps played the Tower amidst the nocturnal term of a Prince of Jerusalem, have now been again raised--this time into the full flowering of the Second Triad. Mysteries have been presented to you which are totally beyond the comprehension of a Man of Earth. The perception, comprehension, and understanding of these mysteries are a totally personal, individual matter, not to be completely expressed to any other. For the rising of the Sun is, in Truth, the coming forth and unveiling of a Star! So also is it this in Silence, and in Love.

No Mason has the right, therefore, to interpret the symbolism of the degree of Sovereign Prince of Rose-Croix for another, or to refuse anyone its mysteries because they will not heed an appended commentary. Nor do we, in this paper, seek to do other than put forth a synthesis of facts which, to the best of our own understanding, completely veil the Mysteries of the Rose Cross. Listen, Very Excellent & Perfect Princes, to our explanations; then give these symbols such further interpretation as you think fit.



Recall, esteemed fellows, how in the First Degree we admonished that the Secret of the Royal Art grows like a flower within the heart. All that we, seniors of the Order, can do is to aid this flower by supplying it with food, air, water, and sunlight. You indicated your assent to these terms, and with courage and virtue persevered through the grades which followed. Now, in fulfillment, that flower has blossomed! "The Sacred Tau has bloomed into the Mystic Rose."

The true Rosicrucian, like the true Mason, cannot be made. One must grow to be one by the expansion and unfoldment of the divine power within one's own heart.

However, think not that in your flowering you have reached the apex of your illumination! Though such it may seem to those of a lesser grade, your awakening is but to the glamour of the first rose-gold light of dawn. The blossom, in its beauty and sweetness, is yet the precurser of the fruit which follows. Know, then, that ye too may yet come to fruition, and achieve such ripeness and succulence that no other food shall ever be needed by those who would eat of thee.

But not this day, Excellent Princes! Only when all thy life is spilt, when the dew of thy Rose flows red and pure unto exhaustion into the Cup of Babalon the Beautiful, shall thou truly come to perfection. For She who rides upon the Beast, with maniac lust in her eyes, hath sworn by her Holy Kteis that She will not rest from her adulteries until the blood of everything that liveth is gathered, and the wine thereof laid up and matured and consecrated. This perfect wine shall be the Quintessence, and the Elixir, and it shall gladden the heart; and by the draught thereof shall youth be renewed throughout eternity, as age by age the worlds dissolve and change, and the Universe unfoldeth itself as a Rose, and shutteth itself up as the Cross that is bent into the cube.

And this is the comedy of Pan, that is played at night in the thick forest. And this is the secret of the brothers of the Rosy Cross. And this is the heart of the ritual that is accomplished in the Vault of the Adepts that is hidden in the Holy Mountain Abiegnus.

THE SYMBOLS

The Cross

"The Cross of Light is called The Word, The Gate, Joy, The Bread, The Sun, The Resurrection, Yeheshua, The Father, The Spirit, Life, Truth, and Grace."

A sacred emblem of the earliest antiquity, the Cross is present in virtually all ancient religions. It is certain that the Indians, Egyptians, and Arabs paid it veneration thousands of years before the man Jesus walked the Earth. The Hindus and Celtic Druids built many of their Temples in its form. The statue of Osiris at Rome featured the same symbol. Isis and Ceres bore it. The list is seemingly endless.

In this degree, a particular meaning of "The Immortal Cross of Light" is that most frequently given it by the Egyptians. Thoth, or Ptah, is represented on the oldest monuments carrying in his hand the CRUX ANSATA or ANKH. It is a hieroglyph for LIFE and, with a triangle prefixed (AQ) meant "life-giving." To us, therefore, it is the symbol of LIFE, and often is said to signify the phallus.

(Notice that this composite glyph consists of a Greek Delta, that is Daleth, and the mark of the corresponding planet, Venus. Venus is thus here displayed as the Empress, "She Who Brings Forth Life Anew.")

The Cross of our Fifth Degree is equal armed, i.e., one composed of FIVE squares. Five is the number of Mars. Unlike the Calvary, or 6-square, Cross, which is an unfolded cube, the 5-square Cross is not a symbol of Earth. True, when drawn simply as +, its four arms signify the four Qabalistic elements, and correspond to the letters I.H.V.H. Yet, "This is of the 4: there is a fifth who is invisible, & therein am I as a babe in an egg" (AL 11:49). We must not overlook the most important portion of this simple Cross, its CENTER-POINT. This, the fifth square, corresponds to the letter Shin that transforms I.H.V.H. into YEHESHA!

Furthermore, the equal-armed Cross (+ or X) is the original design of the Hebrew letter TAV, which is also an alchemical glyph for THE

COMPLETION OF THE GREAT WORK. And in the SEPHER YETZIRAH, wherein the 22 Hebrew letters are correlated with the several rectilinear directions, Tav is found placed in 'the Palace of Holiness in the center...sustaining all things.' This hint refers actually to the CENTER POINT of the original Tau-Cross.

Do not miss the fact that the CENTRAL initial of our Order's name is also a Tau-Cross; nor that this is but another form of the Masonic Square. Its golden color and substance are the measure of illumination.

In this degree, as X, it is the Sign of the Creative Wisdom, or Logos, the 'Son of God.' The Greek X (Chi) has the value 600, which is equal to Mem, 'The Hanged Man'. For thousands of years the Cross has been identified with the plan of salvation or redemption for humanity, i.e., the Great Work. Therefore, it is simultaneously a symbol of Life and of Death, as we are reminded in LIBER CCCXXXIII, Ch. 1, and in THE BOOK OF THE LAW, II: 6.

The Rose

The Rose, like the Cross, is a religious emblem of great antiquity. It was accepted by the Greeks as the symbol of the sunrise, or the coming dawn. It was sacred to Aurora and the Sun, and therefore a symbol of the Ascension of Light and the renewal of life. It signifies the Golden Dawn of Resurrection.

In our Fifth Degree, this 'Fadeless Rose of Creation' has 49 ruby petals. This number is the square of 7, the number of Venus, just as 5, the number of our golden Cross, is the number of Mars. Qabalistic analysis of the number 49 speaks eloquently, and should be undertaken by each Knight of the Pelican & Eagle. In passing, we mention that this number is written TETH-MEM in Hebrew.

A Rose is a yonic symbol, associated with generation, fecundity, and purity. The fact that flowers BLOSSOM BY UNFOLDING has caused them to be chosen as symbolic of spiritual unfoldment --the seven 'lotuses' spring immediately to mind in this regard. The red color of the Rose refers to 'the blood of Christ'. The golden heart concealed within the midst of the flower corresponds to the spiritual gold concealed within the core of every Star. The Rose symbolizes the heart; and the heart has often been accepted as emblematic of the virtues of love and compassion, or of an avatar who is the personification of these virtues. Like the Pelican, the Rose signifies THE HIGHEST EXPRESSION OF HUMAN AND DIVINE AFFECTION.

Some have suggested that the word 'rose' is a simple anagram for the Greek word EROS. True or false as an occult origin, this does perpetuate the Venus symbolism, for Eros was THE SON of Aphrodite. Masons may consider that, in Greek, Eros enumerates to 375, the value of the Hebrew name SHLMH, 'Solomon'.

The Rose is, for the initiate, the living, blooming symbol of the revelation of the harmonies of being. It is the emblem of beauty, life, love, and pleasure. Like the Tau, it has long been a hieroglyph for the accomplishment of the Great Work.

The Rose-Cross

"There are four gates to one palace; the floor of that palace is of silver and gold; lapis lazuli & jasper are there; and all rare scents; jasmine & rose; and the emblems of death. Let him enter in turn or at once the four gates; let him stand on the floor of the palace." --AL I:51

"I am the visible object of worship; the others are secret; for the Beast & his Bride are they; and for the winners of the Ordeal x. What is this? Thou shalt know." --AL III: 22

More than any other pages of this paper, this section is intended to be NOTHING BUT SUGGESTIVE. The interpretation and understanding of the Rose-Cross is identical with the performance of the Great Work.

As our Rose partakes of the nature of Venus, and our Cross expresses the qualities of Mars, so is their conjunction, their convergence, Qabalistically situated "in the Sun (Son)". Therefore, the contemplation of "The Ruby Rose & Cross of Gold" immediately directs our minds to the 'passion of Christ'. Make no mistake in your interpretation of this phrase in terms of its derivation from 'pathos' (suffering), a word which in Greek enumerates to 360 as does MITHRAS; and whose Indo-European root is PE-, scarcely more different from the seventeenth Hebrew letter in meaning than it is in sound.

For our purposes, we may say that the Rose is Christ, and is therefore CRUCIFIED in this conjunction. Yet, where the typical Old Aeon depictions of that 'passion' perpetuate profane interpretations of agony and defeat, the Rose is unmistakably BLOOMING on the Cross. It is opening, and unfolding. Without fear of overstepping our previously-imposed limits on definitive interpretation of these symbols, we boldly state that the Rose, in its crucifixion, delicately opens, its petals parting. The act of its being sacrificially mounted on the Cross fulfills it, resurrects it, breathes life into it, enhances its ruby hue, releases its exalted fragrance, and--most crucial of all--brings the Dew of Immortality to its petals and leaves. The Cross and Rose together are therefore to be read, THE DAWN OF ETERNAL LIFE, which all Nations have hoped for by the advent of a Redeemer.

The Rose-Cross appears throughout the Mysteries in a variety of forms. You will do well to train yourself to recognize these automatically. Besides the climax of the Christian epic, and our Chapter's own Rose-Cross (or a suitable direct variation of it), some examples follow:

--The Ankh is itself the Cross surmounted by the Rose, or Sun. Recall what was written earlier about the Ankh and its correspondence to the 14th Path of the Tree of Life. This symbol is a Key to the Mysteries of Antiquity, before which the powers of darkness fall back abashed.

--The Sign of Osiris Risen, and that of the Good Shepherd, are each the superposition of the Cross and the Rose.

--The uniting of Tav and Resh also indicates the Sun (Resh/Rho) on the Cross (Tav/Tau),  or . We constantly see Tav and Resh so united as an ecclesiastical symbol, as the Staff of Osiris, etc. These two Hebrew letters enumerate to $400 + 200 = 600$, the value of Mem-final in Hebrew (the Hanged Man) or, in Greek, of Chi (the Cross).

Agape & Rose-Cross

A Qabalistic analysis of the Formula of Agape may proceed as follows:

A - Dionysus (Capital A)
g - The Virgin Earth
a - The Babe in the Egg (small a, the image of the Father)
p - The Massacre of the Innocents (winepress)
e - The Draught of Ecstasy

This should be attentively studied; for the initiation of Rose-Cross is dramatized in the symbolism of the grape. The agony of Gethsemane is analogous to the crushing of grapes in the winepress. They who possess the Mystery of the Sacramental Cup possess the key to human generation.

The agony of the Savior, consequently, is NOT THE AGONY OF DEATH, but THE AGONY OF BIRTH. Only to one who has found his or her life by losing it is this mystery comprehensible.

Dew of the Rose

Very possibly, the name "Rosicrucian" comes not from the word "rose," but from the Latin ROS. This word means "dew" or "teardrop". It refers to the morning dew upon the unfolded Rose.

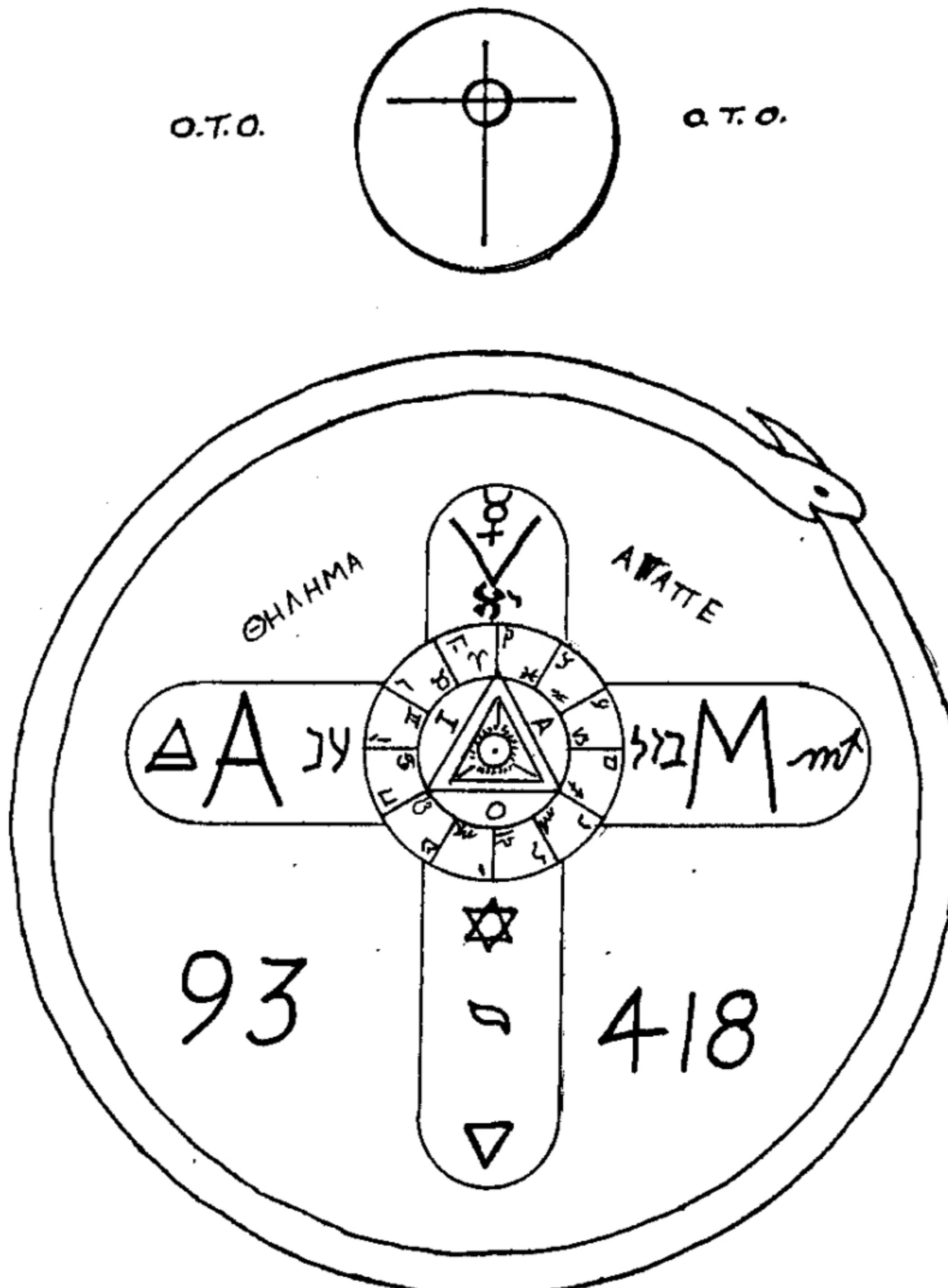
In this Dew is again contained the ultimate mysteries of which this paper can be only an extensive hint. We append here Chapter 18 of THE BOOK OF LIES.

Dewdrops

Verily, love is death, and death is life to come.
Man returneth not again; the stream floweth not uphill; the old life is no more; there is a new life that is not his.
Yet that life is of his very essence; it is more He than all that he calls He.
In the silence of a dewdrop is every tendency of his soul, and of his mind, and of his body; it is the Quintessence and the Elixir of his being. Therein are the forces that made him and his father and his father's father before him.
This is the Dew of Immortality.
Let this go free, even as it will; thou art not its master, but the Vehicle of it.

The Eagle

The Eagle was the living symbol of the Egyptian god Mendes or Menthra, whom Sesostris-Rameses made one with Amun-Ra, the representative of the Sun. The Eagle is also an attribute of the Phallus.



A diagram consisting of a Greek cross (a square with four right-angled notches) and four circles. Each corner of the cross contains a circle that is tangent to the two sides of the cross meeting at that corner. The four circles are also tangent to each other at their midpoints. The entire figure is enclosed within a larger square.

The Pelican or Phoenix

The familiar Pelican of the Rose-Croix degree, feeding its young from its own breast, is in reality a Phoenix, as can be confirmed by an examination of the head of the bird. In the ancient Mystery Schools it was customary to refer to initiates as 'phoenixes,' or 'those who had been born again'; for just as physical birth gives one consciousness of the physical world, so the Neophyte, after Nine Degrees in the womb of the Mysteries, was born into a consciousness of the spiritual world. The Phoenix is a fitting symbol of this spiritual birth.

The Pelican feeding her young from a self-inflicted wound in her own breast is accepted as an appropriate symbol of both sacrifice and resurrection. To the Christian mystic, the Pelican signifies Christ, who saved humanity (the baby birds) through the sacrifice of His own blood. The Pelican may also be considered as representative of the Sun, whose rays (blood) are the life of the seven philosophical planets, depicted as the Pelican's brood. In the Ancient Mysteries, the Pelican represents the resurrection of the candidate from the dead. It was an early belief that three days (Degrees) after the father Pelican had killed his own young, the mother resurrected them by wounding herself and permitting her blood to pour over their bodies. In Masonic symbolism the blood of the Pelican stands for the Secret Work by which one is "raised" from the slavery of ignorance to the condition of freedom conferred by Wisdom. The Pelican represents one of the vessels in which the experiments of alchemy are performed, and its blood that mysterious Tincture by which the base metals (the seven baby birds) are transmuted into spiritual gold. Both the Rose and the Pelican signify the highest expression of human and divine affection.

Pax Vobiscum

Hear the words of Philo, the Greek Jew:

"...Let the narrow-minded withdraw, having their ears sealed up! We communicate the divine mysteries to those only who have received the sacred initiation, to those who practice true piety, and who are not enslaved by the empty pomp of words, or the doctrines of the pagans...."

"The contemplative soul, unequally guided, sometimes toward abundance and sometimes toward barrenness, though ever advancing, is illuminated by the primitive ideas, the rays that emanate from the Divine Intelligence, whenever it ascends toward the Sublime Treasures. When, on the contrary, it descends, and is barren, it falls within the domain of those Intelligences that are termed Angels...for, when the soul is deprived of the Light of God, which leads it to the knowledge of things, it no longer enjoys more than a feeble and secondary light, which gives it not the understanding of things, but that of words only, as in this baser world...."

"...O, ye Initiates, ye whose ears are purified, receive this in your souls, as a Mystery never to be lost! Reveal it to no Profane! Keep and contain it within yourselves, as an incorruptible treasure, not like gold or silver, but more precious than everything besides; for it is the knowledge of the Great Cause, of Nature, and of that which is

born of both. And if you meet an initiate, besiege him with your prayers, that he conceal from you no new Mysteries that he may know, and rest not until you have obtained them! For me, although I was initiated in the Great Mysteries by Moses, the Friend of God, yet, having seen Jeremiah, I recognize him not only as an initiate, but as a Hierophant; and I follow his school."

We, like Philo, recognize all initiates as our Fellows. Masonry belongs to no one creed or school. In all religions there is a basis of Truth. All that teach the cardinal tenets of Masonry we respect; all teachers and reformers of mankind we admire and revere.

Masonry also has its mission to perform. With its traditions reaching back to the earliest times, and its symbols dating further back than even the monumental history of Egypt extends, Masonry invites all men and women of all religions to enlist under its banners, and to war against evil, ignorance, and wrong. You are now Masonry's Knight; and to its service your Sword is consecrated. May you prove a worthy soldier in a worthy cause!

