

THE CEREMONY OF
ILLUSTRIOUS KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE ORDER OF
KADOSCH
&
DAME COMPANIONS
OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY GRAIL
-- Sixth Degree O.T.O. --

PRELIMINARIES

The Temple is that of Egypt, octagonal with two pylons, six mirrors. The Canopy is of blue embroidered with golden stars. Above the mirrors are 77 lights with reflectors, each mirror having 11, and the pylon of the West 11 of larger size. Here hangs the Volume of the Sacred Law.

Of the Altar it is not written.

The Knights and Dames are clad in the black or white velvet or silk tunics and knee-breeches and silk stockings of the IV^o with a mantle of black velvet. The garter is black with gold lettering; the shoes black with gold buckles. The collarette, eagle and sash of 30^o Scottish Rite are worn. The tassels of the mantle are of gold cord. The cap is that of a Templar, but black with the insignia in gold.¹

Sword and belt are black and gold.

The Anteroom contains the Tomb of Jacobus Burgundus Molensis and is hung with black. The Chamber of Reflections contains a small altar or table on which is a skull and the ever-burning lamp. In the mouth of the skull is a green leaf.²

When more than 3 companions are present³, they draw lots for the offices, the losers remaining without, on guard, under the direction of the Knight Sentinel.

1. COLLARETTE is black with a Teutonic cross embroidered in red on both sides; edged with silver. SASH is red, from left shoulder to right hip; on front is embroidered a double-headed eagle and the letters K.'X.'H.'. (Knights Kadosch) in silver. No apron.

2. Some extra explanation seems needed here. There are three adjacent rooms used, two of which each have an altar and the other a tomb. The inmost is an 8-sided room with all but the east and west walls being formed of mirrors etc. as described above. "Temple of Egypt" means that which Crowley had in Cairo in 1904 as described in the Old Commentary, III:10. In this degree, the west side is marked by a pylon, covered by a curtain, which separates it from the Anteroom. The east side opens onto a large altar comparable perhaps to one used in Liber IV, but totally in darkness, so that when the rest of this Chamber of Mirrors is alight, someone sitting on this altar is relatively invisible in the darkness.

The middle room opens directly onto the west end of the Chamber of Mirrors. It is hung in black, and holds the tomb of J.B.M. The Candidate enters it from a separate waiting area (the Chamber of Reflections). The head of the tomb is in the East. The Candidate enters from the West.

The Chamber of Reflections is a preparation area where the Candidate is left for a time to meditate, or reflect, in preparation for the initiation. It is described in detail in the Scottish Rite Knight Kadosh rituals. It contains a small altar or table on which is a skull and the ever-burning lamp. In the mouth of the skull is a green leaf.

3. Positions assumed by the officers in the 8-sided Temple at certain key points are indicated on p. 156 of THE SECRET RITUALS OF THE O.T.O. In that diagram, "V" is the Candidate; i.e., a V^o.

GRAND COMMANDER: a male officer, at times representing Baphomet.¹
CUP BEARER: a female officer, at times representing Babalon.²
SWORD BEARER: normally a female officer.³
KNIGHT SENTINEL: a male officer.⁴

SIGNS, ETC. OF THE VI^o

SIGN: Right hand on heart, the fingers apart; grasp right knee with left hand, raising the foot "as if ready to trample on tyranny"; then take dagger with right hand "and pierce the throats of traitors". This is identical with Sign of 30^o Scottish Rite. It is followed by the Word.

WORD: Nekem, Adonai! MEANING: "Vengeance, O my Lord!"

GREETING: Mouth to mouth, right hand to knee, left hand to anus.

EAGLE GRIP: (Initial speculation of J.A.E. and L.M.D. based on the grips used in the A&A Rite which correspond to our VI^o are that it is the grip of 22^o, grasping both hands of the other with yours, fingers interlaced, giving the appearance of eagle claws. Compare this to the grip of * IX^o.)

GC

CB

SB

KS

1st C

2nd C

3rd C

V

1. Bears the Lance.

2. Bears the Cup.

3. Bears the Sword.

4. Bears a poniard.

OPENING

GRAND COMMANDER: *** *** *** Sir Knights and Dames, assist me to open the Temple.

(All give Sign.)

Sir Knight Sentinel, guard the approaches of the Temple.

(Sentinel goes out on guard¹ after seeing that all give signs.)

Lady of the Sword, guard the portal of the Temple.

(She salutes, draws sword, and goes to door.)

Hail Babalon! Hail, Bearer of the Holy Grail! (Dips lance.)

(She² gives the cup to each companion in turn, then to GRAND COMMANDER, and finishes it.)

Let us form the Mystic Triangle.

(The three companions, facing outward with hands joined, surround GRAND COMMANDER and CUP BEARER, who exchange the Greeting Mouth to Mouth, Right Hand to Knee, Left Hand to Anus. Change to EAGLE-GRIP and exchange WORD. She changes to Babalon³, while he invokes in sign of 7-4⁴.)

GC: WE INVOKE THEE, Three-in-One, Sol-~~Om~~-On.

1st COMPANION: Sol.

2nd COMPANION: Om.

3rd COMPANION: On.

ALL: SOL! OM! ON!

CUP BEARER: The Temple is open!

GC: The God is in the shrine!

SWORD BEARER: *** *** ***

KNIGHT SENTINEL: *** *** ***

1. Just into anteroom at pylon.

2. Cup Bearer.

3. SIGN OF BABALON is another name for Mulier.

4. SIGN OF 7⁰-4⁰ is Vir in a seated position resembling the "Thunderbolt" asana. See John St. John and A.C.'s private A.'.A.'. notebook.

RECEPTION

FIRST POINT

GC: Sir Knights and Dame Companions of the Graal, our Brother Rose Croix, Sir _____, offers to share our burden. Lady of the Sword, instruct Sir Knight Sentinel to admit him.

(She does so. GRAND COMMANDER and Companions¹ proceed to anteroom where GRAND COMMANDER is entombed.² The Companions stand with drawn swords at head of tomb. SWORD BEARER takes empty cup from CUP BEARER and advances to foot of tomb. Candidate introduced³. The Roll of the Oath is on the tomb.)

SB: Whom have you there?

KS: A Sovereign Prince of Rose Croix, who offers to share the burden of the Illustrious Knights Templar of the Order of Kadosch and the Dame Companions of the Holy Graal.

SB: Who vouches that he is properly prepared?

(The Knight or Dame who can do so replies.)

SB: Admit him in due form.

(KNIGHT SENTINEL directs him to trample and spit on the cross.)

SB: Behold the tomb of your Grand Master, Jacobus Burgundus Molensis. Swear to break the bondage of vulgar error.

Cand: I swear to break the bondage of vulgar error.

SB: Swear unconditional and unswerving obedience to the Grand Master Hymenaeus Beta.

Cand: I swear unconditional and unswerving obedience to the Grand Master Hymenaeus Beta.

SB: Swear to serve the Order to the last moment of your time.

Cand: I swear to serve the Order to the last moment of my time.

SB: Swear to defend the Order with the last drop of your blood.

1. 3 companions.

2. Cup Bearer awaits their return, lighting the Temple only by the Sanctuary lamp.

3. That is, Candidate is brought to outer door of Anteroom.

Cand: I swear to defend the Order with the last drop of my blood.

(SWORD BEARER stabs Candidate.)

SB: Swear to aid the Order with the last penny of your purse.

Cand: I swear to aid the Order with the last penny of my purse.

(KNIGHT SENTINEL takes any money and removes his insignia, garters and shoes.)

SB: Swear to exhibit charity to the Order with Body and Soul in the person of any Dame or Knight who demands it!

Cand: I swear to exhibit charity to the Order with Body and Soul in the person of any Dame or Knight who demands it.

(A Knight or Dame, not his voucher, takes and gives kiss.)

SB: Swear to devote your whole energies to the Will of the Order and the Dominion of The Sacred Law.

Cand: I swear to devote my whole energies to the Will of the Order and the Dominion of The Sacred Law.

(Kisses Volume of the Sacred Law 7 times.)

SB: If you break this oath, you will ever be pursued by the unsleeping vengeance of the Order; nay, the avenger shall arise, even from the Tomb.

(SWORD BEARER goes to Candidate's left, as GRAND COMMANDER starts up from the Tomb. In his hand is the Roll of the Oath.)

GC: You will seal this oath with your heart's blood!

(KNIGHT SENTINEL draws C's blood with his stiletto cutting a St. Andrew's Cross¹ on right arm. SWORD BEARER receives it in cup. Candidate dips his thumb in the blood, and seals the Oath. KNIGHT SENTINEL binds up Candidate's wound.)

GC: It is sworn. Follow me, that I may offer up the blood to our lady Babylon.

(GRAND COMMANDER goes to temple and enters. SWORD BEARER and KNIGHT SENTINEL remaining in their stations within and without. Temple is lighted only by the Sanctuary lamp. The three companions form the triangle about the Candidate. GRAND COMMANDER goes to CUP BEARER and kneels, offering Cup. CUP BEARER drinks, lifts her kirtle from which he takes the phial of oil.)

1. An "X".

GC: (within triangle, annoints crown of Candidate's head): In the name of
Nuit and of Babalon and of Isis

(annoints center of forehead) In the name of Hadit and of Chaos and of
Apophis

(annoints ball of thumb) In the name of Ra-Hoor-Khuit and of The Beast
and of On and by the authority of the Grand Master Hymenaeus Beta and by vir-
tue of the Powers vested in my person, I create thee, now and for ever, a
Knight Templar of the Order of Kadosch and a Companion of the Holy Grail. I A
O S A B A O I

(Gives the accolade on b(ack) of c(andidate) s(houlders)
saltire¹.)

ALL: I A O S A B A O I

GC: You will now retire without the portal of the temple, there to be invest-
ed with the insignia of your rank.

(All leave the temple, and all assist in this. GRAND COMMANDER places
the shoes upon Candidate's feet, kissing them in token of humility.)

GC: I now proceed to entrust you with the secrets of this degree.

(All retire and prepare for Second Point.)

1. "Saltire" is a heraldic device in the form of X. Thus, this accolade is
made with two blows across the shoulders with the flat of the sword.

SECOND POINT

(KNIGHT SENTINEL wears crown, a companion of the papal tiara, while the other Companions wear the robes of familiars of the Inquisition. No Templar jewel or ensign must be shown. CUP BEARER is in Temple as Baphomet¹.)

GC: On the 13th day of October 1307, the Grand Master of the Temple, Jacobus Burgundus Molensis, or Jacques deBourg Molay, and many of his brethren were arrested through the treachery of two apostate brethren (they appear) who inspired the Pope Clement V and Philip le Bel, King of France, to crush the Order. These tyrants stripped him of all the signs of his high rank (done by Pope and King) and had him bound hand and foot (done by familiars) and cast into prison on a charge of heresy and immorality; and indeed our Master was sworn to bring Light and Freedom in to those ages of ignorance and slavery.

Here he was put to the torture (cord round Candidate's forehead until he screams) but not all the ingenuity of the tormentors could cause him to utter a cry of pain, much less to recant.

On the 14th day of March 1314, he was bound to a stake surrounded by combustible materials, and the torch of the executioner applied. (Done— see diagram, p. 160. SECRET RITUALS OF THE O.T.O.) With his last words he invoked vengeance on his murderers, who died within a year and a day, as you shall do if you ally yourself with tyranny and superstition.

(Candidate released.)

Sir Knight, roll on the ground these emblems and cry: 'Down with tyranny! Down with superstition!'

(Done.²)

The vengeance of the order was executed even sooner upon the traitors, who were stabbed in the throat within a fortnight of the murder of our master.

Lay your hand upon your heart, the fingers apart, in memory of the flames which curled about his noble heart; grasp your right knee, raising the foot as if ready to trample on tyranny; then take this dagger and pierce the throats of traitors, crying: 'Nekam, Adonai!', which means, 'Vengeance, O my Lord!' This vengeance has been accomplished. Light and Freedom have slowly penetrated, and today we are at liberty to love the Light of Life.

(All resume insignia in anteroom³.)

1. SIGN OF BAPHOMET is also Mulier. However, she bears the grail and is seated.

2. They are King Phillip's crown and a Papal tiara.

3. They then return to the Temple.

GC: Noble Sir Knight, I now re-invest you with the Insignia of Our Order. This Ring of Profession is always to be worn on the right thumb. Its inscription V.D.C.A. stands for VULT DEUS SANCTUM AMOREM, and for certain other words which will one day be communicated to you.

(Presents the 30^o jewel.)

This Eagle is that of Frederick of Prussia, who first shook the power of the Papacy. The insignia are black, particularly the mantle, which though white within, a symbol of our light and purity, shows that we must still walk in a cloak of darkness and secrecy; for Light and Freedom are not fully ours. Yet in secret we may still worship AS WE WILL.

(All officers resume places in temple¹. GRAND COMMANDER passes in giving sign, grip and word. Candidate follows him. Temple is now in light.)

GC: 'Behold our God, Baphomet, the unutterable one, the bearer of the Holy Grail.' Kneel, Brother, as a lover kneels at the shrine of the Beloved!²

(Done. GRAND COMMANDER solemnly dips the lance-point in the cup. CUP BEARER gives Candidate the Cup and he drinks. She then raises him and greets him with the secret grip, as in the Opening, within the triangle of Companions, or in any case with the accolade.)

GC: 'Sir Knight, you are now at liberty to retire. On your return you will partake with us of the Mystic Feast of the Sabbath.'

(Companions conduct new Knight from the Temple.)

1. See opening diagram.

2. Cup Bearer's position is obscure. Seems that Cup Bearer is standing in her position (see diagram) with Cup held near her vulva.

THIRD POINT

(The Knights assemble to the West of the Tomb of J.E.M. The Temple is dark but for sanctuary lamp.)

GC: Brethren, to Order! Let us celebrate the Mystic Feast of the Sabbath.

(He leads procession: GRAND COMMANDER, CUP BEARER, 3 Companions, SWORD BEARER, KNIGHT SENTINEL, new Companion last. They go 7 times round the Tomb, widdershins; then all enter¹ but KNIGHT SENTINEL who bars new Knight. KNIGHT SENTINEL directs him to knock, short, long, short, short.)

SB: Very Illustrious GRAND COMMANDER, there is an alarm at the door.

GC: Inquire who demands admission.

SB: Sir Knight Sentinel, who demands admission to the Sanctuary of the Holy Grail?

KS: A Knight Templar of the Order of Kadosch.

(SWORD BEARER reads veil. All menace new Knight with the swords.)

GC: What is your name?

KS (for Knight): I have no name.

GC: By what right do you demand admission?

KS: I have no right.

GC: Who has the right?

KS: No one has the right.

(All drop swords. Knight enters as all retain station². KNIGHT SENTINEL at mirrors by West. SWORD BEARER to left of GRAND COMMANDER.)

GC: Sir Knight, you will lead the procession. Let us travel in the Path of the Serpent!

(Knight leads deosil. At each outward curve, new Knight -- and all -- sweep down and out with thumb. They go round 7 times.)

GC: Unveil the Grail!

1. Temple.

2. See diagram.

(All sheathe swords. CUP BEARER takes cup, drinks and offers to GRAND COMMANDER. Each, as he drinks, says:)

1. (CB) To the Glory of Nuit who is Babalon who is Isis.
2. (GC) To the Glory of Hadit who is Chaos who is Apophis.
3. (SB) To the Glory of Ra-Hoor-Khuit who is The Beast who is On.
4. (1st C) To the Glory of our first master, three in One, Sol- Om-On!
5. (2nd C) To the Glory of our Master Jacobus Burgundus Molensis.
6. (3rd C) To the Glory of the O.R.O.
7. (KS) To the Glory of the Grand Master Hymenaeus Beta.

(The 7 libations being accomplished.)

GC: Sir Knight, you will lead the procession. Let us travel in the path of the Sun!

(New Knight leads deasil¹, in the Sign of Good Shepherd. All draw swords, one at each of 8 points of Temple but nearer center than perimeter.)

GC: As these 8 pillars support the roof of this holy temple, so do the 8 letters of the name Baphomet support the heaven of heavens, the throne of Sol Om On. Brethren, let us utter this holy word.

(Every Knight utters his letter in silence. New Knight makes B with his lips, instructed by SWORD BEARER and KNIGHT SENTINEL who show him how to act².)

CB: A
1st COMP: P
2nd COMP: H
GC: O
KS: M
3rd COMP: E
SB: T

(All make letter in silence; swords meet, left arm bent supports brow; left hand grasps right arm.)

GC: Now there is naught but death in this holy temple.
Draw up the life-force from thy feet.
To where the Eight in Nothing meet!

(All attempt to do so. If it fails:...)

1st COMP: Very Illustrious GRAND COMMANDER, the Light abideth indeed in the darkness, but the darkness comprehendeth it not!

3rd COMP: Let us sacrifice to the Lord of Light!

1. 7 circles

2. It is not clear how they are positioned around the Temple.

GC: (reads last chapter of LIBER ARARITA.)

0. Then in the might of the Lion did I formulate unto myself that holy and formless fire, QDSh, which darteth and flasheth through the depths of the Universe.
1. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the earth melted into a liquor clear as Water.
2. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the water smoked into a lucid air.
3. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the air ignited, and became Fire.
4. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh, O Lord, the Fire dissipated into Space.
5. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh, O Lord, the Space resolved itself into a Profundity of Mind.
6. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the Mind of the Father was broken up into the brilliance of our Lord the Sun.
7. At the touch of the Fire Qadosh the Brilliance of our Lord was absorbed in the Naught of our Lady of the Body of the Milk of the Stars.
8. Then only was the Fire Qadosh extinguished, when the Enterer was driven back from the threshold.
9. And the Lord of Silence was established upon the Lotus flower.
10. Then was accomplished all that which was to be accomplished.
11. And All and One and Naught were slain in the slaying of the Warrior 418.
12. In the slaying of the subtlety that expanded all these things into the Twelve Rays of the Crown.
13. That returned unto One, and beyond One, even unto the vision of the Fool in his folly that chanted the word Ararita, and beyond the Word and the Fool; yea, beyond the Word and the Fool.

GC: Brethren, to order!

(All to order. KNIGHT SENTINEL goes out and brings in the cup or bowl whose top he covers. CUP BEARER gathers broth of which all drink in turn, GRAND COMMANDER last; for the cup passes widdershins¹.

All now recite the Chapter of Unity; Qol: Hua Allahu achad; Qol Hua Allahu assamad; lam yalid walam yulad; walam yakun lahu kufwan achad.²

Each, as he feels the necessity, makes the sign of the V^{o3}. When all have done so, the mantra stops.)

GC: Sir Knights, let us utter the holy word!

(Light. New Knight says B as before, but remains standing and throws off mantle.)

1. Cup contains a strong fast-acting drug.

2. PHONETICALLY: kool; HOO-ah al-LA-hoo ah-HAHD: kool HOO-ah al-LA-hoo AH-sa-mahd; lam YAM-leed WAH-lahm YOO-lahd; WAH-lahm YAH-koon LAH-hoo KOO-fwahm ah-HAHD.

3. Sign of Adoration.



SB: A (and imitates action)
3rd COMP: P (and imitates action)
KS: H (and imitates action)
GC: O (and imitates action)
2nd COMP: M (and imitates action)
1st COMP: E (and imitates action)
CB: T (and imitates action)¹

(All advance and form Circle of Light.)

(All resume mantles and stations; but KNIGHT SENTINEL changes place with new Knight.)

GC: Lord of Light, I blaze above.
SB: The Lady of Life!
CB: The Lady of Love!
KS: I am he that guards the Three
 I am Lord of Liberty.
COMPANIONS: We support and serve the State.
 We complete the circle of eight.
GC: The sacred lance shall never fail.
CB: Veil and unveil the Holy Grail.
 Its wine and blood be freely poured
 Eternally before the Lord!
SB: I bear the sword to be your ward.
KS: And ever faithful I will guard.
 The Portal with the Poniard!
ALL: AUM! AUM! AUM!

1. End of insertion, Pick up ritual at this point.

CLOSING

GC: *** **

GC: Sir Knights and Dames, assist me to close the Temple.

(All give sign.)

Sir KNIGHT SENTINEL, guard the approaches of the Temple!

(Done.)

Lady of the Sword, guard the portal of the Temple.

(Done.)

Hail Babalon! Hail, bearer of the Holy Grail!

(She bears cup as before in Opening.)

Let us form the mystic square!

(The four companions face outward with hands joined, while GRAND COMMANDER and CUP BEARER exchange greeting, Eagle Grip, and words, She changes to Babalon whom he invokes in silence.)

GC: Peace from the Sun! and from the O.H.O. and from the Grand Master Hymenaeus Beta.

CB: The Graal is veiled.

(GRAND COMMANDER and CUP BEARER leave the Temple followed by others all arm in arm; SWORD BEARER and KNIGHT SENTINEL bring up the rear, disrobe in the anteroom.)

I. Muller.