

VII°

- 1 • Theoreticus and Sovereign Grand Inspector General
- 2 • Magus of Light and Bishop
- 3 • Grand Master of Light and
Inspector of Rites and Degrees

PREFACE

The VII° consists of three parts, which may be given together or separately. The three parts of the VII° are as follows:

- (1) Theoreticus, and Sovereign Grand Inspector General.*
- (2) Magus of Light, and Bishop of the Gnostic Catholic Church.*
- (3) Grand Master of Light, and Inspector of Rites and Degrees.*

All VII° members are sworn to secrecy.

Members of the First Part are sworn to honest government and chastity, and are provided with special instruction.

Members of the Second Part are consecrated Bishops of the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica, and are sworn to chastity in the innermost and in the outermost. They are entitled to conduct initiations from the Minerval through the Knight of East and West.

Members of the Third Part are made Inspectors of Rites and Degrees.

Initiations into any part of the VII° take place in the Council Chamber of the Supreme Grand Council, which Body should be formally opened before any part of the VII° is conferred. The initiation should ideally take place in a consecrated Temple appointed as in Liber XV, before the High Altar, as described below.

PART I

THEORETICUS AND SOVEREIGN GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Council Chamber is furnished as follows:

In the East is the Throne in the form of a Cubic Stone. Above the Throne is the Stele of Revealing, below which is the Lamen of O.T.O. and an image of the Sun.

On either side of the Throne is a column, the left with O, the right with N.¹

Before the Throne is an altar draped in violet, upon which are:

- *In the Center, a Holy Phallus (or Sivalingam)² and the Bell.*
- *In the East, a Censer (with sandalwood and myrrh), and a Dagger.*
- *In the South, the Baton of the SGIG,³ and Holy Oil.*
- *In the West, the Volume of the Sacred Law.*
- *In the North, the Constitution of the OTO.*

In the middle of the Temple is a cubical Altar with a Lamp (green glass basin with alcohol, with strontium red and magnesium, and a cover) and a World-Egg⁴ upon a pedestal.

In the West is a Font with water and salt.

Chairs of the Council are arranged in an oval.⁵

¹These are specified in the original VII° ritual as symbolizing Netzach and Hod. Also in the East was "Alpha — Aesch — Maim — Omega." Additional symbolism from the original VII° includes a "X of snakes framed."

²An image of Baphomet may be substituted for the Phallus.

⁵These may be omitted in an initiation with only one officer and one candidate. In full council, the temple may be arranged to suggest the Lamen of the Order.

⁴Preferably Orphic, entwined with a serpent.

³8", black, tipped with gold.

OFFICERS:-

All dressed in VII° S.G.C. clothing, except:

Most Wise Director and High Priest
Wise Chancellor
Most Wise High Priestess
Wise Master of Novices (Introducer)
Knight Marshall

Yellow Mantle
Red Mantle
Blue Mantle
Green Mantle
Black and White Mantle⁶

⁶A version of the ritual in translation exists with variant colors, and designating Air, Fire, Water and Earth for Director, Chancellor, High Priestess and Master of Novices.

OPENING OF A SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL

Director and Knights enter the Council Chamber. The Director is seated upon the Throne. The Knights then seat themselves.

Director: Very Illustrious Knight Marshal, see to it that our Work is not disturbed.

KM. does so by locking door and drawing sword.

Kt.Marshall: Most Wise Director, we are undisturbed.

D.: Assist me, brethren, to kindle the Light of the Holy Fire.

The alcohol fire is kindled with magnesium and strontium, at which the Brethren raise their hands high; and when the flame catches, the bell is rung, and they lay their hands crossed over their eyes.

D.: O Thou, our Lord and Father, we give thanks to Thee, that Thou hast kindled Thy Holy Fire within us. May it be inextinguishable within us, now and evermore, Aum!

All: Aum!

All drop arms.

D.: What was in the beginning?

Introducer: The Word.

D.: Where was the Word?

K.M.: With God.

D.: And what is the Word?

Chancellor: God the Lord.

D.: What was in the Word?

High Priestess: The Life.

D.: Very Excellent Sir and Dame Knights, I proclaim this Supreme Grand Council Open in the name the One God, whose name in the macrocosm is the Sun, and in the microcosm the Phallus.

All take their seats around the fire.

I. THEORETICUS

The Supreme Grand Council is opened in the Council Chamber. Incense is lit.

D.: Our task for this evening is the induction of a Knight Kadosh and Prince(ss) of the Royal Secret into our circle. Brother Introducer, go to the Candidate and lead him in the prescribed form and manner to the Temple.

I. Bows with hands crossed on the forehead and goes out, then leads Candidate with hands in the same position into the Temple, to the West before the fire.

D.: Sir (Dame) Knight, by virtue of my Office, I possess the authority to receive you into the Holy Order which you know as Ordo Templi Orientis, or O.T.O., as an initiate of the First Part of its Seventh Degree, the Theoreticus. As a Theoreticus you will from this day forward *know and conduct yourself as befits a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of our Holy Order.*

D: Brother Candidate and Knight Kadosch! Since time immemorial, worthy Brother, there have been men who have joined forces as equals through secret, indissoluble bonds to employ their unified powers to learn and fathom the knowledge of the secret powers of nature. In the course of time, these societies took on various names in order to escape the dangers which threatened them. They shielded their particular teachings, their particular science, and their mysteries under hieroglyphs and symbols which could never be understood by the unconsecrated and unholy. And they did this with earnest and good intent and foresight, for the purpose of preserving the sanctity of their Holy Mysteries. Also, it would have been dangerous -- and it is still today, in a certain grade and in a certain manner -- to make Truth known in the common world, which Truth must always remain secret for the safety of the common folk. These societies, as I have already told you, had become known in public under various names, and these names superseded each other. The forms under which these brotherhoods walked in public appearance superseded each other as well; nevertheless, the kernel of the secret teachings of the Brothers of Light, which radiated from the East, has remained constantly the same since the oldest times. This secret teaching, this secret science, this secret knowledge has proven and tested itself, in the stormiest times of this world, as the Rock upon which the stormlashed life could seize a new footing; upon which the highest spiritual knowledge could be rescued unto new life before destruction; the Rock which thus became the Mont Salvat, the Rock of Life. Hatred, envy, slander, heresy, avarice, false testimony, persecution, obscurantism, intolerance, false piety, hypocrisy, and false civil and churchly morality lurk in all places and threaten of the followers of this secret teaching, this secret science, this secret knowledge, this the secret lore of our Order. If you are prepared to take this danger upon yourself, and to suffer civil death rather than to betray the secret knowledge which our Order has made accessible to you, then answer yes.

Candidate: Yes.

D sprinkles C. with water.

D.: Repeat after me, Asperges me, Therion,
Hyssopo, et mundabor/
lavabis me/
et super nivem/
dealbabor.

D. seats himself upon the throne. C. is escorted to the Fire Altar.

D.: Place your hand above the Sacred Fire.

Done.

Accendat in nobis Domine ignem sui amoris et flammam aeternae caritatis.

Repeat your name at length, and say after me:

I, _____/
having been assained as a Prince(ss) of the Royal Secret/
for that which is about to be revealed to me,
hereby most sincerely promise and swear/
that I will hold secret/
the sacred mysteries of the Seventh Degree./
I swear to apply/
the principle of equilibrium/
to all possible moral ideas./
I swear to obey my Supreme and Holy King/
and to act as his eyes and ears
faithfully reporting the true state of his Holy Kingdom.
I swear to act at all times
with the quiet dignity and dispassion
befitting Sovereign Grand Inspector General.
Furthermore, I most solemnly vow and pledge myself/
to Holy Chastity.

*H.P. and Ch. take C. to the West of the Violet Altar, where he places his hands on the
V.S.L. They fumigate him with incense, and cross rapiers upon his shoulders. All stand
with hands crossed on foreheads.*

D: Sir (Dame) Knight, repeat after me the following words:

I, Brother [Sister] _____, Prince(ss) of the Royal Secret, Knight Kadosch and Knight Rose
Croix, swear by the unrecognized and single valid Right of Nature to hold all the secrets and
practical teachings of the O.T.O. and the Hermetic Brothers of Light in strict secrecy; I swear
to remain faithful to the obligations of a Knight and Brother of Light throughout my whole
life. Should I ever break my oath, or act against my brethren, then may I be publicly branded
as infamous, and cast out of the Order. Then may all the terrors of the darkness gather unto
me, and all Light depart from my Spirit and from my Soul and from my Life. Amen.

All: Amen. (*Drop swords.*)

D: You will seal this solemn oath seven times upon the Volume of Sacred Law.

Done.

D.: Sir (Dame) Knight, kneel if you will.

Done. D. takes ash from the Censer and applies a triple vertical mark upon C's forehead. D. then places his hands upon C's head.

D. takes baton or staff of command, and strikes the left shoulder.

D: May Ra-Hoor-Khuit grant and accept your oath, and strengthen you to execute it faithfully.

D. strikes right shoulder.

D.: May Ra-Hoor-Khuit receive you graciously as a Knight and Brother of Light of the Order O.T.O.

D. strikes head.

D.: May Ra-Hoor-Khuit bless you as a new Brother of Light of the Order O.T.O., of the Seven Communities and Churches in Asia, and free you unto the third birth.

All: Aumgn.

Incense is added to the censer.

D.: By virtue of the power and authority in me vested, I receive you into the Holy Order of O.T.O. as a Theoreticus of the VIIth, and a Sovereign Grand Inspector General of the Order Aumgn.

D raises C and kisses him seven times on the mouth.

D.: I embrace and greet you as a new Brother of Light. Receive your insignia.⁷ The particular secret signs of recognition of the Brothers of Light and the VIIth degree of our Order consist of signs and words.

The Sign of the Question is as follows: The querent places his right hand upon the left hip of the other. The Answer is as follows: the other does likewise, then both place left hands flat upon the forehead over the eyes, and incline the head slightly to the right.

In Temple, the sign of order is: both hands fall crossed on the forehead above the eyes

The Words are: "Netzach and Hod," which are spoken alternately during the Sign of the Question.

⁷The insignia of the Theoreticus is a red Patriarchal Cross, worn suspended at the throat.

These words represent the two pillars on which the structure of the World rests, and here they signify Victory and Splendor, positive and negative.

The Password is "Komiel," which is the name of the Angel who directs the Hermetic Wisdom.

The Holy Word is "ON," which in the end as in the beginning, signifies the Sun. It also refers to the two paths leading from Netzach and Hod, the pillars of this Temple, to the Sun of Tiphareth.

You will now be examined by the Most Wise High Priestess, the Chancellor and the Knight Marshall.

Done.

K.M.: Most Wise Director, the new Brother has demonstrated himself a member of the Society of the Hermetic Brothers of Light.

D: Let him take his place between the pillars Netzach and Hod.

Candidate is seated on throne. O.T.O. applause.

D.: Brother Theoreticus, attend now to the Word of our Past Master Baphomet:

D. reads Liber CCXXVIII.

II. MAGUS OF LIGHT AND BISHOP

The Supreme Grand Council is open in the Council Chamber.

The Candidate, a Theoreticus, is admitted.

D.: Very Excellent Sir (Dame) Knight, you have proved yourself worthy to be initiated into the Second Part of the VII°, known as Magus of Light, and to be consecrated as a Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica. Is this in accordance with your will?

C.: It is.

D. seats himself upon the throne. C. is escorted to the Fire Altar.

D.: Place your hand above the Sacred Fire.

Done.

Repeat your name at length, and say after me:

I, _____/
having been assoiled as a Theoreticus/
for that which is about to be revealed to me/
hereby most sincerely promise and swear/
to maintain Secrecy with respect to the Sacred Mysteries/
of a Magus of Light./
I swear to apply the principle of equilibrium/
to all possible intellectual ideas./
In addition,/
I most solemnly vow and pledge myself/
to Chastity,/
in the Innermost/
as in the Outermost.

M.N. takes C. to the Altar.

D. You will seal this solemn oath seven times upon the Volume of Sacred Law.

Done.

D.: Sir (Dame) Knight, you may now kneel.

Done. D. lays hands upon Candidate's head.

"pure will, unassuaged of purpose, delivered from the lust of result, is every way perfect."
Therefore, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested, I hereby ordain you for all time
a

MAGUS OF LIGHT

D.: Arise, Very Illustrious Sir (Dame) Knight.

D. returns to the Throne, and C. is seated on a chair or stool before the Throne.

D. You are now to be consecrated as a Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica. Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

C. Love is the law, love under will.

D.: Do you accept TO MEGA THERION as the Prophet of the Aeon?

C.: I do.

D.: Do you accept the Law of Thelema?

C.: I do.

D.: Do you believe in one Gnostic and Catholic Church?

C.: I do.

D.: Do you accept Hymenaeus Beta as its Sovereign Patriarch?

C.: I do.

D.: Do you accept Sabazius as his sole direct representative within the Kingdom of the United States of America?

C.: I do.

D.: (*Extending V.S.L.*) Place your hands upon the Volume of the Sacred Law, and repeat after me:

I swear to faithfully fulfill my charge /
as Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica, /
to abide by the policies of the Church, /
and to obey the directives of the Sovereign Patriarch /
and his duly appointed Primate.

All: So mote it be.

D.: Please rise.

D. :, touching Muladhara and Brahmarandhra.

In the names of HADIT

Touching Svadisthana.

BABALON

Touching Manipura.

ABRAHADABRA

Touching Anahata.

THERION

Touching Vishuddha.

BAPHOMET

Touching Ajna.

CHAOS

Touching Brahmarandra, touching both sides.

RA HOOR KHUIT

Touching top of head, and making circle above head without touching.

And NUIT

C. kneels.

D. : I consecrate you, now and forever, a Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica.

D. takes Salt and adds it to the Font, then places both hands in the water and applies them to the back of the head and neck of C.

All other Bishops present place their hands on the Candidate's head in silence for a few moments. D. then places Liber CCXX on C's head and imposes his hands thereon.

D.: Lord of Life and Joy, that art the might of man, that art the essence of every true god that is upon the surface of the Earth, continuing knowledge from generation unto generation, thou adored of us upon heaths and in woods, on mountains and in caves, openly in the marketplaces and secretly in the chambers of our houses, in temples of gold and ivory and marble as in these other temples of our bodies, pour out upon this chosen one that power which flows from thee, the perfect Gnosis which illuminated the Saints that did of old adore thee and manifest thy glory unto men. Give thy priest the plenitude of thy ministry, and by celestial anointing sanctify him whom thou hast chosen for thy service.

C stands. D. anoints C. with Oil of Abramelin on the forehead, lips, and backs of hands, with these words:

D: (forehead) "May Nuit sanctify thee"; (lips) "May Hadit amplify thee"; (hands) "May Ra Hoor Khuit glorify thee."

D. then breathes upon the crown of C's head.

D. presents him with the episcopal Ring, if there be one.

D.: I proclaim you Tau N., Bishop of Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica.

D. and all bishops present confer the Kiss of Peace.

C. is congratulated, and invited to sit on the Cubic Stone. He does so. All pay him homage by coming forward and kissing his ring.

D.: Let us make sacrifice unto the Lord.

C. is seized, thrown to the floor, and formally slain by having a great cross cut upon his breast with the Dagger so that its mark is indelible. The wound is staunches with a Cake of Light. The Cake of Light is then placed at the foot of the Holy Phallus.

C. is then raised and given the insignia of a Magus of Light.⁸

D.: Brother Magus of Light, attend now to the Word of our Past Master Merlin Peregrinus:

D.: My dear Brother of Light! In this grade you are no longer only a member of the Mystera Mystica Maxima. Now begins your career and your study as an Esoteric Rosicrucian. You are a Companion of the Grail, a Magus of Light, and you receive, as a Servant of Mithras, the first instructions regarding the true meaning of the Rosicrucian and Mystic Symbols and Hieroglyphs. In Freemasonry, the instructions and interpretations are termed "building stones," which, with your mind, you must hew and work upon in order to be able to assemble the edifice of a Temple, the Temple of Truth. You must employ your own power, skill and

⁸The insignia of the Magus of Light consists of a sword, and a broad, white sash bordered in gold, bearing on the front, over the left breast, a gold sunburst. The Sash is draped from the left shoulder to the right hip, and ends in a gold fringe. At the junction is a scarlet and white Tudor Rose.

science upon the building stones to make them useful, and you must bring it all about on your own. We provide you with only the rough, unhewn material which contains the suitable stone. You must extract from the explanation of the catechism what you need to fashion that material into a suitable stone. The success of your labor will determine whether you will later be able to be received into that grade of the Order which makes trial on the example, and you will thereby demonstrate the correctness of your labor. Therefore, as long as your labor is unfulfilled, and its success unproven, you cannot demand the Solution from the Order.

Be seated, brother, and attend to the catechism.

The Catechism.

III. GRAND MASTER OF LIGHT

The Supreme Grand Council is opened in the Council Chamber.

The Candidate, a Magus of Light, is admitted.

D.: Very Excellent Sir (Dame) Knight, I invite you at this time to be initiated into the Third and Final Part of the VII°, known as Grand Master of Light. Upon your initiation, you will be an Inspector of Rites and Degrees. Are you willing to take the Oath?

C.: I am.

D. seats himself upon the throne. C. is escorted to the central altar.

D.: Place your hand above the Sacred Fire.

Done.

Repeat your name at length, and say after me,

I, _____/
having been purified, consecrated and instructed/
as a Theoreticus and Magus of Light./
most solemnly promise and swear/
to maintain Secrecy/
with respect to the Sacred Mysteries of a Grand Master of Light. /
I swear to base all my actions on the impregnable Rock of Justice, /
namely, /
equilibrium as extended to all possible moral and intellectual ideas. /
I swear to so direct my life /
so as to undertake the Great Work, /
with the fullest responsibility /
and in absolute freedom /
from all possibility of interference. /
Finally, I most sincerely pledge myself/
to govern the Order with resolute honesty/
in accordance with its great principles/
at the behest of the OHO, Hymenaeus Beta/
and the Grand Master Sabazius.

M.N. takes C. to the Violet Altar.

D.: You will seal this solemn oath seven times upon the Volume of Sacred Law.

Done.

D.: Very Illustrious Sir (Dame) Knight, kneel if you will.

Done. D. lays hands upon Candidate's head.

D.: By virtue of the power and authority in me vested, I hereby ordain you for all time a
GRAND MASTER OF LIGHT

Arise, Very Illustrious Sir (Dame) Knight. I now present you with the insignia of a Grand Master of Light.⁹

The Baton from the Altar is presented to the Candidate.

This rod symbolizes the power and authority with which you have been entrusted. Se well to it that your use thereof brings nothing but honor to the Order, your brothers and sisters, and yourself.

Also, as you have been long told, the initials O.T.O. have a secret meaning for initiates. This meaning is only truly comprehensible to one brought to this Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General, where meet the mysteries of the East and the West under the Omphalos, as has ever been known by the Asiatic Brethren and the Hermetic Brotherhood of Light. O stands for Oasis, which is indeed the Temple of Saladin in the Outer, whereas T stands for the Temple, which you are sworn to guard and keep silence. The final O stands for Omphalos, the navel of the World, the harmony of the East and the West where meet the mysteries of Saladin and De Molay. This is the mystical Jerusalem, the place of true Equilibrium on all planes.

Be seated, brother.

Done. C. is seated among the Knights.

⁹Retained by the Candidate.

CLOSING OF A SUPREME GRAND COUNCIL

The Director is seated upon the Throne. The Knights are seated around the Holy Fire.

D.: Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

All: Love is the law, love under will.

D.: Very Illustrious Knight Marshal, see to it that our Work is not disturbed.

KM. does so by locking door and drawing sword.

K.M. Most Wise Director, we are undisturbed.

D.: Assist me, brethren, to feed the Flame of the Holy Fire.

He rises, goes to Violet Altar, takes a pinch of sandalwood and myrrh in one hand, a pinch of salt in the other, and proceeds to the Fire Altar and puts it into the fire. He returns to his place.

This action is repeated by all, as follows: HP, Ch, I, KM, Knights in order of seniority.

After the last has returned to his or her place, the Director continues.

D.: "I am the flame that burns in every heart of man, and in the core of every star. I am Life, and the giver of Life, yet therefore is the knowledge of me the knowledge of death."

Ch.: "Think not, o king, upon that lie: That Thou Must Die: verily thou shalt not die, but live. Now let it be understood: If the body of the King dissolve, he shall remain in pure ecstasy for ever. Nuit! Hadit! Ra-Hoor-Khuit! The Sun, Strength & Sight, Light; these are for the servants of the Star & the Snake."

H.P.: "The Khabs is in the Khu, not the Khu in the Khabs." "Worship then the Khabs, and behold my light shed over you!"

I.: "So that thy light is in me; & its red flame is as a sword in my hand to push thy order."

K.M.: "Now let there be a veiling of this shrine: now let the light devour men and eat them up with blindness!"

The Temple lights are raised. All raise their hands high; then lay their hands crossed over their eyes. D. covers the fire on the Fire Altar, and goes to the Violet Altar. He rings the Bell. He returns to his Throne.

D.: Very Excellent Sir and Dame Knights, I proclaim this Supreme Grand Council Closed in the name the One God, whose name in the macrocosm is the Sun, and in the microcosm the Phallus. Aumn!

All: Aumh!

All drop arms.