

Edre Martinste des Elus Cohen



Ritual of the Twenty-two Divine Names

Editor's explanatory Notes:

It may be helpful to some readers if we examine some of the primary elements involved in the Schema of this traditional Kabbalistic Ritual.

First of all, this ritual is based upon a particular schema. The word schema has a twofold meaning since it conveys materially the idea of a drawing or a diagram as well as having an esoteric and metaphysical concept. The Kabbalist understands it to mean a repetitious method using verses of Scripture or Psalms arranged in a particular formula analogous to Asiatic Mantrams. It is through the repetitious action of the ritual that our independent subtle mental energies become united and centralized.

This type of schema also follows a definite rhythm. Here we can recall how the rhythmical march of a detachment of soldiers can physically collapse a strongly constructed bridge under their march. Similarly the rhythmical vibration of the Kabbalistic schema, such as given in the ritual, will break down the resistances of the conscious part of our being and allow also for the impactation of higher thought from transcendental sources to enter into our consciousness. Impactation is a process similar to the use of a tuning fork in making another tuning fork vibrate.

The constant vibration of Sacred Verses, or the Intonation of "Divine Names", leaves a tangible imprint in our mind. A good example in the physical world is the influence of sound forming geometric figures in grains of sand sprinkled when the strings of a violin are vibrated. Our mind might then be likened to a light-weight bed of fine sand which imperceptibly takes on patterns of the "Divine Names" or "Images" from the sounds and the spiritual ideas invoked by the Kabbalistic schema. Thus we find that the mind frees itself little by little from the impurities of profane thought and in time is restored to its primitive purity.

The schema also establishes in us a new field of spiritual magnetization and awakens the Divine Cell latent within each living Being. This action allows us to draw spiritual nourishment from the Cosmic energy and we find that this force is given various names by different traditions. It is the Kundalini of the Oriental Initiates, the Ruach Elohim of the Kabbalist and the Holy Spirit of the Christian Initiates.

The Orisons

In the tradition of High Magic or Theurgy, the use of Psalms of King David is a foundation stone for ritualistic operations. They are the Sacred Mantrams.

Deep meditation on these Psalms will allow the Operator to catch hold of the spiritual power hidden there and to discover the profound thought that came from the heart of the Poet King.

The very fact that they are centuries old ensures greater power and efficacy since Initiates and Holy Ones of all ages have enlivened the spiritual-mental currents of these Psalms by their continuous and collective meditations.

The Operative Circle

Another aspect of this schema is the occult significance of the Operative Circle wherein the Operator places himself during the invocations.

Every magical or theurgical operation must be executed in the atmosphere of a circle which symbolises the will of the Operator and which isolates him from all exterior adverse influences.

Metaphysically the Operator in tracing his circle creates a symbolic metaphysical world. Here perhaps we can meditate for a moment on the symbolism of the Circle and the Dot, familiar to most mystical and occult students. Perhaps this is why the European esoteric authority Robert Ambelain says: "In the Centre of this schema the Mage (i.e. the Operator) represents the First Cause, and it is in His Name that the Operator commands the Spiritual intelligences."

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THE RITUAL OF THE TWENTY TWO DIVINE NAMES

This particular type of Operation, a kind of Kabbalistic Yoga, is based on the occult power of the Divine Names of the Kabbalah and of the schema upon which the Operator stands and which encircles him. It has as its aim the development of the transcendental faculties, dormant in man, by means of inducing a continuous state of high mysticism.

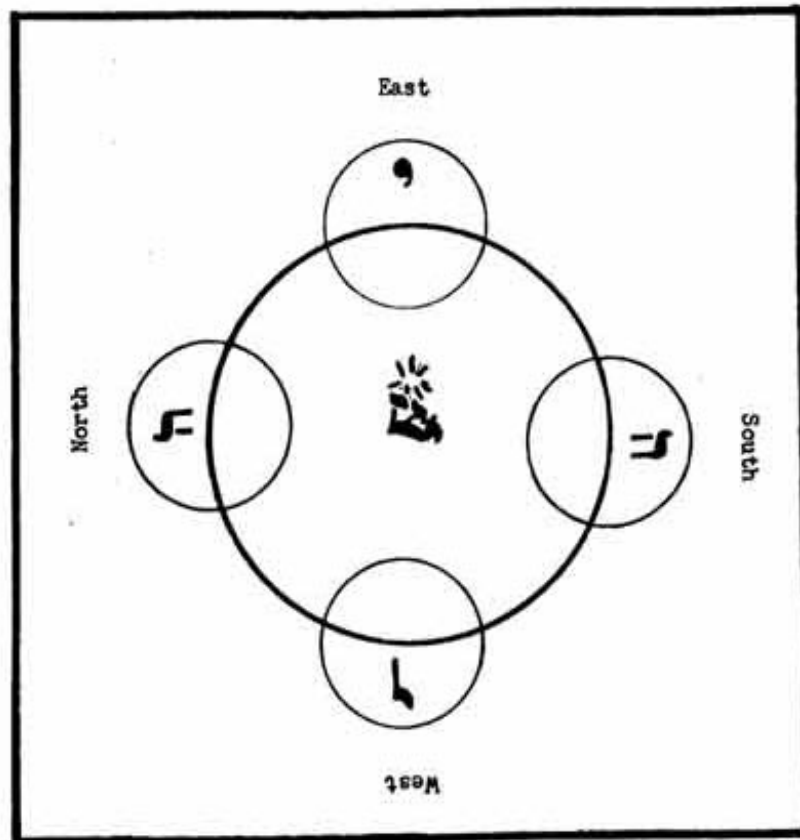
These Operations begin on the first Sunday in the evening of the lunations of Spring and Fall and continue for three weeks according to the following procedure; however, they may be continued throughout the entire year.

1. The "Circle" is to be drawn on a piece of linen cloth or on a wooden board, with the diameter of approx. 40 inches. A diagram showing such a Circle is illustrated on page 27.
2. This Circle and the Circles corresponding to the four corners will be consecrated by reciting the Psalms given further on.
3. Each evening between 9 pm. and midnight, alone in the Oratory, the Operator will light a candle in the centre of the Circle, place it on the letter "SHIN", and will stand in the centre with the candle between his legs.

After having censed the circumference of the Circle three times on the first evening of the Operation it will not be necessary to cense it again until the last night of the Operation; nevertheless, care should be taken to always burn a little incense in the censor.



SCHEMA OF THE RITUAL OF 22 DIVINE NAMES



Schema of Operational Cloth containing an, outer Circle with four smaller circles at the corners, each small circle contains the appropriate letter of Iod-He-Vau-He, with Shin drawn at the central point of the large Circle. A lighted luminary is also placed at the centre.

The Operator, standing thus in the centre of the Circle and holding another candle in his left hand, will read each evening, in the order corresponding to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, one of the 22 versets of Psalm 119 (each one of which constitutes an accrostic of each Hebrew letter).

(King James's version is given here, however Knox or Douay versions may be substituted if preferred.)

CONSECRATION OF THE CIRCLE

At the East, cense three times and
recite Psalm 119.

The heavens declare the glory of ICH;
and the firmament sheweth his handywork.
Day unto day uttereth speech,
and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
There is no speech nor language,
where their voice is not heard.
Their line is gone out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them hath he set a tabernacle for the Sun,
Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
His going forth is from the end of the heaven,
and his circuit unto the ends of it;
and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
The law of ADONAI is perfect, converting the soul:
the testimony of the Lord is sure
making wise the simple.
The statutes of ADONAI are right, rejoicing the heart:
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes.
The fear of ADONAI is clean, enduring for ever,
the judgments of the Lord are true and
righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is thy servant warned:
and in keeping of them there is great reward.
Who can understand his errors?
cleanse thou me from secret faults.
Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me:
then shall I be upright and I shall be
Innocent from the great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,
be acceptable in thy sight, O ADONAI,
my strength, and my redeemer.

At the South, cense three times and recite Psalm 11.

In the ADONAI put I my trust; how say ye to my soul,
flee as a bird to your mountain?
For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow
upon the string,
that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.
If the foundations be destroyed O IAH what can the righteous do?
ADONAI is in his holy temple, ADONAI's throne is in heaven:
his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.
ADONAI trieth the righteous:
but the wicked and him that loveth violence
his soul hateth.
Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone,
and an horrible tempest,
this shall be the portion of their cup.
For the righteous ADONAI loveth righteousness;
his countenance doth behold the upright.

At the West, repeat the Operation and recite Psalm 15.

ADONAI who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness,
and speaketh the truth in his heart
He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to
his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach
against his neighbour.
In whose eyes a vile person is contemned;
but he honoureth them that fear IAOH.
He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.
He that putteth not out his money to usury,
nor taketh reward against the innocent.
He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

At the North, cense again and recite Psalm 8

O ADONAI our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!
who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength
because of thine enemies,
that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.
When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;
What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man,
that thou visitest him?
For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,
and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;
thou hast put all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever
passeth through the paths of the seas.
O ADONAI our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

THE TWENTY-TWO ORISONS

Aleph. ELOHIM EHEIEH! INFINITE GOD! (Divine Essence) 1st Lunar Day.

Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
 who walk in the law of the Lord,
Blessed are they that keep his testimonies,
 and that seek him with the whole heart.
They also do no iniquity:
 they walk in his ways.
Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.
O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!
Then shall I not be ashamed,
 when I have respect unto all thy commandments.
I will praise thee with uprightness of heart,
 when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.
I will keep thy statutes:
 O forsake me not utterly.

Beth. ELOHIM BACHOUR! CHOSEN GOD! 2nd Lunar Day.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?
 by taking heed thereto according to thy word.
With my whole heart have I sought thee:
 O let me not wander from thy commandments.
Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
 that I might not sign against thee.
Blessed art thou, O Lord;
 teach me thy statutes.
With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.
I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies,
 as much as in all riches.
I will meditate in thy precepts,
 and have respect unto thy ways.
I will delight myself in thy statutes:
 I will not forget thy word.

Gimel. ELOHIM GADOL! GREAT GOD! 3rd Lunar Day.

Deal bountifully with thy servant,
 that I may live, and keep thy word.
Open thou mine eyes,
 that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.
I am a stranger in the earth;
 hide not thy commandments from me.
My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy
 judgments at all times.
Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed,
 which do err from thy commandments.
Remove from me reproach and contempt;
 for I have kept thy testimonies.
Princes also did sit and speak against me;
 but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.
Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

Daleth. ELOHIM DAGOUL! EMINENT GOD! 4th Lunar Day.

My soul cleaveth unto the dust;
quicken thou me according to thy word.
I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me;
teach me thy statutes.
Make me to understand the way of thy precepts;
so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
My soul melteth for heaviness;
strengthen thou me according unto thy word.
Remove from me the way of lying;
and grant me thy law graciously.
I have chosen the way of truth;
thy judgments have I laid before me.
I have stuck unto thy testimonies;
O Lord, put me not to shame.

He. ELOHIM HADOUR! MAGNIFICENT GOD! 5th Lunar Day

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law;
yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Make me to go in the path of thy commandments;
for therein do I delight.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies,
and not to covetousness.
Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity;
and quicken thou me in thy way.
Stablish thy word unto thy servant,
who is devoted to thy fear.
Turn away my reproach which I fear;
for thy judgments are good.
Behold, I have longed after thy precepts;
quicken me in thy righteousness.

Vau. ELOHIM VESIQ! GOD OF SPLENDOR! 6th Lunar Day

Let thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation,
according to thy word.
So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me;
for I trust in thy word.
And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth;
for I have hoped in thy judgments.
So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.
And I will walk at liberty; for I seek thy precepts.
I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings,
and will not be ashamed.
And I will delight myself in thy commandments,
which I have loved.
My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments,
which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy
statutes.

Zain. ELOHIM ZAKAI! PURE GOD! 7th Lunar Day

Remember the word unto thy servant,
upon which thou hast caused me to hope.
This is my comfort in my afflictions;
for thy word hath quickened me.
The proud have had me greatly in derision;
yet have I not declined from thy law.
I remembered thy judgments of old, O Lord;
and have comforted myself.
Error hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked
that forsake the law.
Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.
I have remembered thy name, O Lord, in the night,
and have kept thy law.
This I had, because I kept thy precepts.

Cheth. ELOHIM CHESED! MERCIFUL GOD! 8th Lunar Day.

Thou art my portion, O Lord;
I have said that I would keep thy words.
I intreated thy favour with my whole heart;
be merciful unto me according to thy word.
I thought on my ways,
and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
I made haste,
and delayed not to keep thy commandments.
The bands of the wicked have robbed me;
but I have not forgotten thy law.
At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee
because of thy righteous judgments.
I am a companion of all them that fear thee,
and of them that keep thy precepts.
The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy;
teach me thy statutes.

Teth. ELOHIM THEROR! SPOTLESS GOD!* 9th Lunar Day.

Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord,
according unto thy word.
Teach me good judgment and knowledge;
for I have believed thy commandments.
Before I was afflicted I went astray;
but now have I kept thy word.
Thou art good, and doest good;
teach me thy statutes.
The proud have forged a lie against me;
but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.
Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.
It is good for me that I have been afflicted;
that I might learn thy statutes.
The law of thy mouth is better unto me
than thousands of gold and silver.

* Spotless meaning without blemish or stain.

Iod. ELOHIM IAH! GOD! 10th Lunar Day

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me;
 Give me understanding, that I may learn
 thy commandments.
 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me;
 because, I have hoped in thy word.
 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right,
 and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.
 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort,
 according to thy word unto thy servant.
 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live;
 for thy law is my delight.
 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me
 without a cause; but I will meditate in thy precepts.
 Let those that fear thee turn unto me,
 and those that have known thy testimonies.
 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes;
 that I be not ashamed.

Capth. ELOHIM KABIR! POWERFUL GOD! 11th Lunar Day

My soul fainteth for thy salvation;
 but I hope in thy word.
 Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying,
 when wilt thou comfort me?
 For I am become like a bottle in the smoke;
 yet do I not forget thy statutes.
 How many are the days of thy servant?
 When wilt thou execute judgment on them that
 persecute me?
 The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.
 All thy commandments are faithful:
 they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.
 They had almost consumed me upon earth;
 but I forsook not thy precepts.
 Quicken me after thy loving kindness;
 so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

Lamed. ELOHIM LIMMOND! WISE GOD! 12th Lunar Day.

For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.
 Thy faithfulness is unto all generations,
 thou has established the earth, and it abideth.
 They continue this day according to thine ordinances,
 for all are thy servants.
 Unless thy law had been my delights,
 I should then have perished in mine affliction.
 I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast
 quickened me.
 I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts.
 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me;
 but I will consider thy testimonies.
 I have seen an end of all perfections:
 but thy commandment is exceeding broad.

Mem. ELOHIM MABORAK! BLESSED GOD! 13th Lunar Day

O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day.
Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser
than mine enemies; for they are ever with me.
I have more understanding than all my teachers:
for thy testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the ancients,
because I keep thy precepts.
I have refrained my feet from every evil way,
that I might keep thy word.
I have not departed from thy judgments:
for thou hast taught me.
How sweet are thy words unto my taste!
yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Through thy precepts I get understanding:
therefore I hate every false way.

Nun. ELOHIM NORA! FORMIDABLE GOD! 14th Day.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path
I have sworn, and I will perform it,
that I will keep thy righteous judgments.
I am afflicted very much:
quicken me, O Lord, according unto thy word.
Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my
mouth, O Lord. and teach me thy judgments.
My soul is continually in my hand:
yet do I not forget thy law.
The wicked have laid a snare for me:
yet I erred not from thy precepts.
Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage for ever:
for they are the rejoicing of my heart.
I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes always,
even unto the end.

Samech. ELOHIM SAMEK! GOD WHO SUSTAINS! 15th Lunar Day.

I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love.
Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.
Depart from me, ye evildoers:
for I will keep the commandments of my God.
Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live:
and let me not be ashamed of my hope.
Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe:
and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.
Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes:
for their deceit is falsehood.
Thou puttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross:
therefore I love thy testimonies.
My flesh trembleth for fear of thee;
and I am afraid of thy judgments.

Ain. ELOHIM HAZAZ! STRONG GOD! 16th Lunar Day.

I have done judgment and justice;
 leave me not to mine oppressors.
Be surety for thy servant for good.
 let not the proud oppress me.
Mine eyes fail for thy salvation,
 and for the word of thy righteousness.
Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy,
 and teach me thy statutes.
I am thy servant; give me understanding,
 that I may know thy testimonies.
It is time for thee, Lord, to work:
 for they have made void thy law.
Therefore I love thy commandments above gold, yea,
 above fine gold.
Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things
 to be right; and I hate every false way.

Pe. ELOHIM PHODEY! GOD DELIVERER 17 Lunar Day

Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.
 The entrance of thy words giveth light;
 it giveth understanding unto the simple.
I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy
 commandments.
Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me,
 as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.
Order my steps in thy word;
 and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.
Deliver me from the oppression of man:
 so will I keep thy precepts.
Make thy face to shine upon thy servant;
 and teach me thy statutes.
Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they
 keep not thy law.

Tzaddi. ELOHIM TSEDEK! JUST GOD! 18th Lunar Day

Righteous art thou, O lord, and upright are thy judgments.
Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous
 and very faithful.
My zeal hath consumed me.
 because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.
Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.
 I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.
Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
 and thy law is the truth.
Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me:
 yet thy commandments are my delights.
The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting:
 give me understanding and I shall live.

Koph. ELOHIM KADOSH! HOLY GOD! 19th Lunar Day.

I cried with my whole heart,
hear me, O Lord: I will keep thy statutes.
I cried unto thee; save me,
and I shall keep thy testimonies.
I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried:
I hoped in thy word.
Mine eyes prevent the night watches,
that I might meditate in thy word.
Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O Lord,
quicken me according to thy judgment.
They draw nigh that follow after mischief:
they are far from thy law.
Thou art near, O Lord, and all thy commandments are truth.
Concerning thy testimonies,
I have known of old that thou hast founded them forever.

Resh. ELOHIM ROIEH! GOD WHO COMMANDS 20th Lunar Day.

Consider mine affliction, and deliver me:
for I do not forget thy law.
Plead my cause, and deliver me; quicken me according to thy word.
Salvation is far from the wicked:
for they seek not thy statutes.
Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord:
quicken me according to thy judgments.
Many are my persecutors and mine enemies;
yet do I not decline from thy testimonies.
I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved;
because they kept not thy word.
Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O Lord,
according to thy lovingkindness.
Thy word is true from the beginning:
and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

Shin. ELOHIM SHADDAI! ALL-MIGHTY GOD! 21st Lunar Day.

Princes have persecuted me without a cause:
but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.
I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.
I hate and abhor lying:
but thy law do I love.
Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous
judgments.
Great peace have they which love thy law:
and nothing shall offend them.
Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation,
and done thy commandments.
My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.
I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies:
for all my ways are before thee.

Tau. ELOHIM TEGUINAH! GOD WHO GRANTS FAVOURS! 22nd Lunar Day.

Let my cry come near before thee, O Lord;
 give me understanding according to thy word.
Let my supplication come before thee;
 deliver me according to thy word.
My lips shall utter praise,
 when thou hast taught me thy statutes.
My tongue shall speak of thy word:
 for all thy commandments are righteousness.
Let thine hand help me:
 for I have chosen thy precepts.
I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord;
 and thy law is my delight.
Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee;
 and let thy judgments help me.
I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant;
 for I do not forget thy commandments.

* Psalms according to King James Version.