

THE VINEYARD OF THE RESURRECTION

1. In the Holy Books it is written that, before he died upon the Cross, Our Lord partook of a Bitter Wine, mixed with gall, set upon a reed and proffered by his tormentors as a Toast of Mockery.
2. And when he received the Cup of Execration, Christ the Lord didst bless it, and the bitter became sweet. Thus that wine which had been pressed to accomplish the work of guile was vinted anew as a Wine of Power. For the Lord stood upright in the House of the Wise, and was filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit.
3. When Jesus drank of the Wine, he spake and said: 'It is finished', and then he gave up the ghost. And in death his flesh was sodden with the Wine of Power, even as the Sop of Betrayal.
4. And as the body of Jesus lie within the tomb, the sacred Wine filled the empty places in his body, and closed tight his wounds, and verily his spirit didst receive a bringing back.
5. For Satan had decreed that it should be so, for so bright was the Light of Our Lord that the Realms Infernal would not abide him. Thus he was cast out by the Lord of Darkness, even as Satan was cast out from Paradise. And it came to pass that the Wandering Spirit of the Lord was drawn back unto his flesh, wherein the Wine of Power endured. And Jesus arose and savoured the Wine, saying:

Praise be the Cup of Three Spirits Pure:

Pour'd out is the Bitter Portion as the Blood of Murder,

By Power of Blessing redeem'd as a Balsam-Cup of the Father.

Enter now the Adversary to curse it anew, bound and Exalted in the New Flesh arisen.

6. Thus it came to pass that by the three ways of the Gall'd Vintage of Adam's Blood, the Lord's radiance, and the Devil's guile, the One Miracle of the resurrection was accomplish'd.
7. And because of this, Jesus was deprived of death, and his bones didst assume flesh anew. For the One Spirit of the Wine decreed that, for good or evil, his flesh should bear the Burden of Eternity.
8. And the Devil, beholding the restorative power of the New Wine, and how it bound fast the mortal flesh, waxed covetous, and by his cunning was awakened unto the hidden secret of its brewing. And the servants of the vineyard crushed his fruit in accord with this secret, and the Vats of Hell flowed with the New Vintage.
9. Then did the Devil laugh with a great roar, and lifted the Cup of Wine unto his lips, proclaiming:

*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Cursed Earth,
Holy the King of the Herbs of Aceldama!*
10. And he drank, and the Wine restored that which had been lost unto him, and his eyes were opened unto the secret Glories of Paradise, and he beheld his True Nature. And when this Vision had filled him unto the brim, the Devil was filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit. And he wove him a crown of green leaves from the herbs of his Vineyard and placed it upon his head, and didst rule over the Vines.
11. Drunk upon new wine, the Devil rode forth, bearing the vessels of his Vintage unto Golgotha, and entered the Sepulchre of Jesus. Satan said: 'Rabbi, arise from thy sleep and take up the sceptre of thy dominion on Earth, for thou hast drunk deep of the Vines of Gehinnom, and death shalt not come for thee.'

12. Christ arose and spake, saying: 'Verily, brother, have I tasted of the Wine of Awakening, for in its shade have I slept, and supp'd with Abel's corpse in the Bosom of Abram, beholding visions no man may dream. I have rode by night with the Armies of the Dead, and stormed the Serpent-Cross'd Gates of Eternity, and yet now awaken in Bright Blessing. Behold, the forgotten is restored.'

13. And Satan brought him forth a cup like unto the shape of a man's skull, and gave the Lord to drink of the Wine a second time saying: 'Drink from the Living Cup, and thou shalt never thirst.'

14. And Jesus took him the Devil's Cup, praying unto the Fount of its Living Wine, saying: 'Speak, Voice of the Dead; and still the tongues of the Living, that the Wise may hear.' And he drank.

15. Then, the Mortified Cup waxed full of power, and became as a Voice of the Tomb, prophesying for them to hear:

16. And upon hearing this, both the Devil and Christ were humbled before the Graal, and awakened anew unto the Mystery of its Power. And they didst kneel before the Cup in supplication, and Light and Darkness pour'd forth from it in equal measure.

17. Then within the Tomb a secret compact was made betwixt Light and Dark, that despite their enmity, they should forever conceal the Secret of this Wine from Gods and men. And when the Covenant between Jesus and Satan was made, their secret was committed to the Treasury of the Skull.

18. And then were the Dominions and Lands of Earth divided equally betwixt the Lord of Light and the Lord of Darkness, their agreement sealed with a third drink from the cup.

19. With the sacred Wine upon their lips, they raised the cup and spoke unto it both as one saying:

*One Crown for Two Kings
One Crown for the Kingdom
And One Crown for the Vine
Which divides and conquers all.*

20. And Christ and Satan proceeded hence from the Tomb, each to rule over his dominion, in accord with their Agreement.

21. And each planted him a Vineyard of the Faithful, tended by servants, and they waxed green, and when the vines in their season bore fruit, these were crushed in great vats, and the earth was stained red, and the Wine of Resurrection was vented anew.

22. But without the communion of Light and Darkness, the Wine was as the Vintage of Mortality, lacking in power and savour: thus did Our Lord and the Devil convene as One at the fulfilment of the Harvest, and met in that place of shadow'd ground, where grew the Vines of Power, and spoke once again the words of their Oath.

23. And the Heavenly Glory of Jesus fill'd the skull-cup as the Radiance of the Baptism of Flame; and the Infernal Glory of Satan fill'd the skull-cup as the Winepress of the Wrath of God. And the Blood of Man wast spill'd anew, the Wine of Murder pressed beneath the heel and hoof. And as One they blessed their Vines saying:

*One is the Cup of the Blessed Land,
One the Blood of Heaven's Hand.
In death our Cup Divided be
For One is the Wine, and the Fruit, and the Tree.*

24. And the Spirit of the Grapes of Resurrection waxed strong, and became dead unto its former self, and verily received a bringing back, and arose in the New Flesh of the Wine.

25. Then didst the Devil and Christ go forth from the place of their meeting and rule, each according to his Power, and each over his own dominion. And the Secret of the Wine's making was concealed in their hearts, and none but they knew its meaning.

26. Thereafter rose and fell the Ages of Mortal men, and the Cult of the Resurrection waxed upon the Earth, gathering unto itself the arrayments of Shepherd and Tyrant, straying from the true mysteries of Christ. And the Cult of the Adversary waxed in shadow, but became a desolate idol, debased in vanity.

27. And among the Mysteries Obscured was that of the Wine of the Resurrection, and its True Nature, which the sages and soothsayers contemplated in great zeal.

28. It was said among some of them that there thrived, in a secret Vineyard, an antient and accurst Vine, husbanded by the reprobate angel Shamael, whose fruits the Christ had stolen in great cunning, and from them vinted the Wine of Resurrection.

29. Others reckoned the Wine to have been brewed by the Devil from the soured blood of Judas, he who had betrayed Our Lord. For in those days it was the custom that sacrificial blood be spilled in atonement, and for the working of great miracles, and that by this unseemly sacrifice was Christ restored to his mortal body.

30. And yet others, thinking themselves wise, proclaimed the Wine to have been a Draught of Oblivion, formed of the juices of somnolent Herbs which smite the mind and ape the appearance of death, yet in their hour of passing, depart the flesh in peace.

31. But some among them attributed the Secret wholly to the power and Glory of Our Lord, for in his day he was known to hold great power over wines, for by his enchantment was the Vintage of La-Na summon'd from mortal water, and the celebrants made glad.

32. Then did the soothsayers wax false and lust after the Wine of Anastasis for the Power of Eternity it concealed, and some among them sought in secrecy to brew it, and caused great vats to be filled, and many vessels were consecrated unto the Lord in vain; and yet none among them became One with the Mystery. And the fruit did not ripen, and the Vintage did not come forth.

33. In time a new law arose and proceeded from the Temples of Christ, which foster'd ignorance and depravity, and false doctrines, and the Mystery of the Wine was forgotten in the minds of men. And sour wast the blood which beat in the hearts of mortal men and sour wast the sacrament made.

34. And Immortal Jesus looked and beheld the ascent of False Dominions in his name, and became wrathful, and went forth into the blessed Vale of Josaphat, there to dwell as a Hermit in Solitude. And the Grapes of his Mystery withered, and the Wine of his Mystery disappeared from the Earth.

35. And Eternal Satan, whose cult had descended into depravity and impotence, looked and beheld the falsehoods ascribed him, and the degradation of his Mystery, and gathered his armies unto the Hedge of Thorns, there to haunt and harry mankind. And his Vineyards fell to blight, and the Dark Casks ran dry.

36. By these signs, a shadow of un-knowing fell upon the Earth, and the succession of false Kings and Prophets arose under the regency of the Wretched Angel, whose four-fold name is a curse, and the Wine of the Righteous was vented no more.

37. And it came to pass, when the Great Vineyards of Light and Dark had perished from the earth and many ages had fallen into ruin, there was one named Hran-Issiyah, who sought knowledge in the arts of Herbs and their powers, and aspired unto the Ancient Instruction of the Immortal Gardens.

38. Each day in his garden prayed he at dawn unto the Lord for the wisdom of herbs; and at noontide made supplication unto the trees for ears to better hear their voices; and at dusk he made oblations to the Dead, that their shades teach him the lost arts; and at midnight made sacrifice unto the Devil of the Hedge for power.

39. Now came unto the garden of Hran-Issiyah a hooded one, garbed in the arrayments of a herder, and hideous was his face, for verily his skin was flayed, and what lie beneath his crimson hood was an abomination. And in his left hand he carried a crook of Hollen-Wood, and in his right hand he bore a horn-cup filled full up with blood.

40. And Hran-Issiyah was vexed at the sight of the red-robed one, for a cloud of pestilence followed him, and swarmed about his miserable libation. And he sought to know the Red-One's name.

41. Then He of the Red Cloak rais'd up his voice saying, 'Man of the Field, stand fast and hearken: I bear a message unto you, come in answer to prayer and sacrifice, but its writ may not be spoken by mortal tongue, no heard by mortal ear. Behold:'

*I am the Penitent of the Red Hood,
The Tree at whose Root all falsehood is cast: Crush'd each moment is my Fruit
'Neath Hooves and Heels of the Wise of Power, whose sweetest draughts once flow'd sour.
For One is the Blood and All the Skin
The God Without, and the Man Within.*

42. Then the red one gave him the cup of blood and bid him drink; and he drunk, and it was exceeding sour, tasting of earth and roots.

43. And when he had partaken of the fullness of the cup there arose a sound like winds passing through a hollow, full of voices, like unto screams, but also like a great fire-storm sweeping the land. And the garden was filled with exceeding heat, and a White Fire burned until everything shone with great radiance, yet the trees and herbs were not consumed.

44. And Hran-Issiyah was filled with light and fire, and waxed in strength and his eyes opened, and so beheld his in brightness also, wherein arose a multitude of faces, each speaking a truth. As One they spake saying, 'Son of Day, behold now a Vision of the Light.'

45. And he looked and beheld a great column of gold rising into the sky, upon it graven the images of a thousand-thousand men and women, each garbed in the raiment of a different age. And at the zenith of the column was graven a great winged angel with four arms and girded as if for leading an army into war.

46. And the gilded image of the angel bore an ancient countenance of great power and wisdom, but also great cruelty: and with two arms he reached skyward, gathering up the sacred fires of sun, moon, and stars. And with two arms he reached earthward with both hands outstretched; and touched a kneeling woman.

47. And the graven image of the woman reached her own hands earthward, touching with both hands the crown of the man beneath her, and so he also touched the head of the next beneath him,

and downward in this manner the images of the people descended, until at the base of the pillar was the graven image of Hran-Issiyah himself.

48. Then the voice of the high angel thundered in an ancient tongue, and cleft the aires with words of power, and all the men and women graven upon the golden pillar began to move, and spoke in a great clamour in divers tongues.

49. Then did Hran-Issiyah discern in part the meaning of their speech, though their tongues were not his own, knowing their manifold revelations as the mysteries of the Conceal'd Arts, which have passed hand-unto-hand, mouth-unto-ear, in secrecy though the generations of man, or else were written down in the lost books. And he felt the great weight of their spirits pressing down upon him.

50. And loud grew their voices, waxing mighty in words: so too did the Light of the Column grow brighter, and the weight of souls upon him grew heavier. And he implored the intruder saying: 'Father of the Red Cloak, pray tell me the meaning of this vision.'

51. And the Miserable One said unto him: 'That revelation which thou dost behold is the secret pages of the Book of Light, and the measure of the generations of thine ancestors. Know this Obelisk as the Eternal Stone of First Transgression, the Gilded Waymark of the Lamp-bearing Soul, set at the Cross-Ways of the Heavens.'

52. 'But the monument which thou didst behold is also the Engorged Flesh of the First Luminous, piercing the World of Darkness and sending forth blessed seed. For in its season The Tower ever rises unto the heights, as a tree, and bears good fruit.'

53. Then did the light of the garden wane, and the Penitent speak: 'Son of Night, behold now a Vision of the Darkness.'

54. And Hran-Issiyah stood on a high mountain, and beheld in the night a great heap of burning bones, about which gathered a hooded multitude: and the air was parched and sour from the smoke of their immolation.

55. And by an altar of sacrifice stood a great horned man, like unto a King, his body and beard the colour of lampblack, and by his side a pale queen, having wings and the feet of an owl, and they called for the music of drum and horn, then led the people in a procession around the fire, and all sand as One Voice:

IA! ARA! KA-RA KIA!

56. Now King and Queen took them their staves and thrice three times smote the earth. And the ground yielded unto them, and a great gulf therein appeared, like unto the entrance to a Tomb, and from it arose a fulminous vapour of great stench, and a terrible shriek which silenced the clamour of the music and singing.

57. And there arose from the pit a great stone coffin, and the King and Queen tore asunder its lid, and brought out the corpse of the dead man, and lay him out upon the altar.

58. Then didst King and Queen take and eat of the dead man's flesh, and drank of his blood and so pronounced it Holy: then summoned they each of the robed multitude by name, and the King gave them to eat of the body, and the Queen gave them to drink of his blood.

59. And when all had eaten and drunk of him, they began to sing unto the dead man, and his flesh was restored to life, and he arose in a body of great beauty, and a crown of leaves was placed upon his head, and he stood betwixt the King and Queen and sang also.

60. Likewise did the Miracle of New Flesh go forth unto all there gathered: for the robed multitude received new bodies strong and fair, and the robes and hoods which once concealed them were cast aside, and they began to sing and rejoice, and give tribute unto their King and Queen, and unto the Resurrected One, and the odour of the grave and bone-fire as one became a sweet perfume.

61. And the herder said unto Hran-Issiyah, 'Witness now what thou seest with thine eyes, for verily it is the secret pages of the Book of Darkness, and also the measure of thy generations.'

62. Then did the darkness fade, and the green of the earth return; and the Herbs of the garden spoke as one saying, 'Son of the Vine, witness now a vision of the Holy Vineyard.'

63. Now Hran-Issiyah beheld a great meadow full of the bones of men, flensed and moss-covered; and among them grew an abundance of fragrant Herbs, in whose blossoms the bees took delight.

64. Then there appeared a fair maiden, in arrayment of white and attended by bees, and she proceeded amongst the meadow until she came unto a great Vine of ancient majesty, great of trunk and standing alone, the whorls of its bark alive with faces, and she beckoned Hran-Issiyah unto her.

65. And she shew him the Old Vine, its branches heavy laden with leaves and fruit, and before the Vine stood a golden cup, buried in the earth, its bowl above the ground and its base beneath: and blood-red wine dripped from the grapes into the cup.

66. And the maiden spoke unto Hran-Issiyah, saying:

*Behold thy Father
First and last of the generations of Earthly Vines,
Whose Root drinks of the Four Blessed Rivers:
Behold the Golden Cup of the Wise, who ever receives His blessing.*

67. Then did the Maiden of White shew him the great heaps of bones in the meadow, and speak in firm warning: 'Behold also the Midden of Man, the bones of them who sought after this Vine and Cup, but did not humble themselves before me.'

68. The Maiden said: 'Know also, that each day and each night, when thou hast prayed and made sacrifice unto the many powers, and asked to know the secrets of the Meadow, thou hast done so unto me, even though my name was Unknown to you. And when you prayed I did hear thee: thus as thou hast called me forth from spirit, so have I called ye forth from flesh, that our Compact might be accomplished in the Garden of All-becoming.'

69. With both hands the Maiden took the cup from the ground and drank deeply, then gave it to Hran-Issiyah, saying: 'Man of the Garden, drink of the Wine of Resurrection, that you may awaken from sleep and know of its Mystery, and ever seek to return unto me.'

70. And Hran-Issiyah drank of the cup, and its taste was bitter upon the tongue, but in his belly sweet, and straightaway he beheld the Vineyard as it had been in days of old, standing at the heart of a great garden, in which grew every kind of pleasant tree and herb.

71. And the Cup stirred remembrance of the Wine of Resurrection, that elixir brewed in ancient days by the First Vintners, who brought their knowledge from dominions beyond; and whose precious draught restored the flesh of the crucified.

72. Then did Hran-Issiyah receive a bringing back, for he stood in his garden once more, and the vision of the Maiden and the Vine had passed. And he gave the empty cup to the stranger, who was no longer arrayed in a red cloak, but in the black robes and beard of exile. And his hide, once riven, was returned anew, and his face shone, marked with the fearsome power of learning.

73. He of the Black Robe took the cup from Hran-Issiyah, raised his staff and said: 'Man of the Field, take up thy staff and go forth, for thou hast drunk of the Blood of Antient Eden, and are there summoned to partake in the Mysteries of the Wine Eternal.'

74. Then did the stranger sing out, and behold: there arose the sound of heavy hooves, and there came a horse with no rider, pulling a cart of dark and heavy wood, in which lay nine great earthen vessels. And each held within it a pure water of adamantine radiance, like unto the silvern light of the Moon. And he of the Black robe blessed the vessels, saying:

*One is the Horse who pulls the plough
One is the Water of Beckoning,
One is the Wine from the Good Furrow sprung,
Thrice three the Phials of Reckoning.*

75. And verily, the light waned, and Hran-Issiyah and the wanderer set forth in silence upon the Western Road. And in the hour of Midnight their steps brought them to a ruinous temple, and there they found a sepulchre, whose Oaken door was graven with the Seal of Sun and Serpent, pierced by the Image of the Cross.

76. The exile bore the empty cup aloft and spake: 'You who would chance to enter the gates of Paradise, go forth amid the Mouldering Dead and find that which would grant you passage.'

77. And Hran-Issiyah went forth into the antient sepulchre and saw that it was the Tomb of the Saints of Christ. And above each corpse a lamp wast lit in remembrance, but that which shone brightest burned above the bones of St. Peter. And Hran-Issiyah opened his coffin and took from his hands a ring of thirty-three golden keys. And he bore them unto his companion.

78. And when the exile saw this, he said unto Hran-Issiyah: 'Behold the Hallow'd Keys of Heaven, for this is the First Mystery.' And he took him the Keys and placed them in the First Vessel, which was filled with a marvellous water. And the waters consumed the Keys one by one, and verily became golden, and in their shining depths the image of St. Peter appeared, saying '*Angelus Domini per Visum Apparuit.*'

79. And after the vessel was sealed, they went forth upon the road again and there walked many days, and the habitations of men gave way to a land inhospitable and parched. And no beast was there to be seen, save for the black-feathered carrion bird.

80. And at last they came before a lone tree of great age, whose spreading trunk and crooked branches bespoke old torments, and from the branches hung the remains of nooses, and at her base were heaped many dry bones. And the tree marked a boundary upon the land, for here the hard road ended, and unbounded waste lay beyond.

81. And with severity the wanderer spake unto Hran-Issiyah, saying: 'You who would gain admittance unto the Mystery of the Wine, I set this test before you: Pluck ye now the fruit of this tree, which is sweet, though the tree itself is poison.'

82. And Hran-Issiyah went before the tree, but its flesh was afflicted and putrid of smell, and its leaves were meagre, and its twisted boughs were barren of fruit. And because of this he was vexed in spirit, and made offering at the tree's base that he might know how to proceed.

83. But the tree spoke unto him in the voice of a woman, and said with severity: 'Fear not, nor be wrathful, ye who come unto me in want, for in death shall we ever be as One. Accurst am I unto Living Eyes: behold as the Skull sees, and thou shalt be Wise.'

84. And the gardener was humbled before the tree, and his eyes were opened. Then gathered he the threadbare nooses which hung from the boughs, black and rotten with age, and bearing the stench of corpses.

85. And when he witnessed this act, the wayfarer in the black cloak said unto Hran-Issiyah: 'Sweet is the Blessed Fruit of Conviction, the Ward of She who guards the Places-Under-Earth.' And he took the morbid fruits and placed them in the second earthen vessel, and its waters became a deep crimson, like unto the vessel, like unto an old woman wearing a silver crown.

86. And after they had sealed the vessel and given thanks unto the tree, they proceeded further into the waste, and the sky grew dark, and an unseemly wind blew, rattling the dry husks of the fallow plot. And the man of exile looked upon the blighted ground and spake, saying: 'Behold the plot where Cain slew his brother Abel, where only bitter herbs abide, whom all creatures shun, even the horse with no rider.'

87. Near unto the waste plot they found a ruin of great age, a stone table graven with worn characters, rent in three pieces by the spreading trunk of an old and rotten Oak. And great was the Oak of girth of girth and height, but had few branches, and fewer were the leaves which proceeded from them. And all about the tree and altar swarmed a host of flies and gnats. And upon the stone were graven the words:

MAM-ZUR-SHAD-DA-EL

88. Then did the wayfarer look upon the stone with dismay and speak, saying: 'Man of the Garden, look upon this monument and know the taste of gall! For here stands the remains of the altar of the Angel of Deceit, built by Adamas of the Red Clay, upon which Abel offered up his flocks, and whereon the offering of the first fruits of the fields of Cain was rejected. Woe, woe unto the Vineyard of the Resurrection, for by this Stone was all lost!'

89. And the stranger in the black robe said unto Hran-Issiyah: 'Thou who seekest the Wine of Eternity, I set this goad before thee: go forth unto the Altar of Gall and there make supplication until thy wrath is sated. Then bring unto me that thing which is pure and contains no gall. But ever beware, for if you bring corruption of any kind, your flesh shall be consumed upon this very stone, for here attends the Spirit of Pestilence, and for aeons hast he hungered.'

90. And Hran-Issiyah went unto the Altar and poured out his wrath, and smote the stone, and leveled curses of great venom against it. And when the cup of his wrath had been poured out in full, Hran-Issiyah became still and waited for a sign.

91. But the sign did not come, so he sought about the stone for that one sweet thing which eluded him, but found nothing, and began to curse anew. And he sought amongst the roots of the Rending

Oak, but found only pismires, swarming out from the hollow places of decay. Then with zeal the gnats and midges began to bite his flesh: and in his anger Hran-Issiyah forgot the purpose of his goad, and became consumed in rage, cursing at all of them.

92. Then Hran-Issiyah beheld a light hidden amongst the bark of the sickly Oak, an object which shone like pearl, and which put forth a great light, and which the verminous legion shunned. And he took it in his hand, and it was supple like unto a soft skin, and many-faceted like a diamond, sparkling in radiance. And he went from the altar and gave it unto the wanderer, though because of the fascination of its beauty he was loathe to relinquish it.

93. And the man of exile said: 'Verily, Man of the Garden, thou hast discovered a portion of the Holy Skin of the Serpent. Such is a relic mighty of power, for here pass'd the Wise One in ancient days as he took flight from the Immortal Gardens.' And he placed the skin in the third vessel, which was filled with the waters of angels, and they became radiant like unto gems, and therein appeared the vivified image of a Mighty Serpent, wearing an emerald-bejeweled crown.

94. When this deed was accomplished they went out from the place of the Stone Accurst, and passed through the remains of a grove, with no Herb or Tree growing there. But there amid many hollows in the earth stood blasted remains of tree-corpse, and the wanderer paused to pray unto them in a barbarous tongue.

95. After he prayed, the man of exile went unto his horse, and took from the cart the second vessel, and poured out two thirds of its vintage into the hollows of the earth, and thereover uttered great blasphemies, and the hollows echoed loudly with the sound of his curses. Forthwith the dead grove began to tremble and crackle, and the ground to shake, and a great voice below the earth called out, saying: 'Wayfarer, well-given is thy offering. Because thou hast remembered me, I shall stretch forth my right hand upon this place.'

96. And the rumbling of the earth waxed louder, and the dry soil cracked, and from the hollows a mighty hand arose, ten cubits high and four cubits wide, and covered in blood. And the hand went forth, and began to touch the afflicted grove, and every accursed place its fingers touched green'd anew, and the woody stumps put forth life, and flowered, and produced many divers fruits fragrant with odours, Hran-Issiyah looked upon this in great wonder.

97. And the man in the black cloak said unto him: 'Behold, thou witnesseth the appeasement of the Holy Dead, and their King, which is ordained for the Mystery of the Wine to be accomplished.' And they took and ate divers fruits from the grove, and there slept, and took repast, and the horse with no rider was nourished upon sweet grass, and upon the morn they went forth from that place into the wilderness again.

98. And they came unto a dry valley where stood a vast ruin at the centre of four mighty and terrible roads. And when he beheld the ruin, the stranger wept and knelt before its expanse. Filling the Cup with the desert dust, he poured it out unto the Eight Winds, then raised his staff unto the distant ruin, saying:

*Az-Ha-Mu-Nin, built by Holy Cain at wandering's end!
Watchtower of the Vigilants, why hast thou fallen?
O Speaking-Stone of Laynam's straying,
Thy Writ be crown'd by sand and wind:
Behold the Works of Angel and Man,
Despoil'd by the armies of an insolent god!*

99. Then the stranger found a hollow bone upon the ground and gave it to Hran-Issiyah, saying: 'Ye who seek the Mystery of the Wine of Resurrection, behold! Amidst the Vessels of Destruction, and the many shards of the unform'd, there abides the Pure One who shall give High Aid unto the Faithful. Thus I say to you, go forth unto this place of death and bring me that which thrives, despite ruination. Take ye this bone that it be thy faithful guide.'

100. Hran-Issiyah went forth unto the expanse of rubble, and walked many hours in silence. And the wind arose, and passed through the hollow of the bone, giving forth a sound like unto a voice, waxing in strength when the bone was raised to the ear. And the voice led him to the broken foundations of the very Watchtower of the Vigilants, and there amid the stones stood a woman of resplendent beauty, arrayed in green, and wearing a crown of purple, but her feet were encased in the stone and she could not walk.

101. The Lady in Green greeted him saying: 'Man of the Garden, I know what thou seekest, for I am the Living Queen of this city, though my subjects all be dead.' And she stretched forth her hand unto him and gave him a radiant gem like unto a garnet, being the colour of dark wine, and bid that he should eat it.

102. And he ate the stone, and it was of sublime flavour, and mighty of strength, so that his eye were opened, and he beheld the majesty of the Queen as he had not before. And her face was writ as a luminous book bearing the glory-script of the Quill of Moonlight, her skin inscribed with Signs of Power known only unto the gods. And each sign became as a word, and each word became as a power, and each power became as a hand to control the souls and flesh of men. And upon her forehead appeared the words

MAL-I-KI-YA
GUL-AL-I-YAH

103. And the Lady in Green spake, saying: 'Behold, my Husband, the Life which thrives amid the ruins, which may show many wonders of my Dominion.' And she proffered a full grain-sack of the gems unto him, and said that he might have them, if he would give unto her the bone which guided him unto her. And Hran-Issiyah gave the Queen the hollow bone and accepted the gems of power, and took and ate of another, and her beauty waxed stronger in his eyes.

104. Now she took her the bone and kissed it, laughing, then ate it as her bread, saying: 'Now shalt though be mine, Husband, and together we shall rule in delight over the Ruination of Man.'

105. Then did the eyes of Hran-Issiyah open wider, and unto them the Lady in Green appeared anew in great cruelty, and a great host of spirits surrounded her, like unto a legion in ebon armour, and wielding fierce weapons, their hearts set upon torment and the Abominations of War. And vision after vision thundered over him like storm-waves upon the rocks.

106. And though his eyes had been opened, his mind became troubled, and his body still, like unto a corpse, and he looked upon his feet and they were sinking into the stones, becoming as one with them, like unto the feet of the Queen.

107. And he pulled his feet from the stones with great resolve, and commanded his body to awake, and turned away from the sight of the Lady in Green, and fled amongst the ruins, taking the precious stones she had given him. And the city ruinous was like unto a Maze, filled with her laughter, and he

was harried by the spirit-troop who sought to bind him. And after many hours of wandering, Hran-Issiyah arrived by night at the edge of the city, where waited the Wayfarer in black and the horse with no rider, and he gave unto him the grain-sack of gems.

108. And the black cloak'd said: 'Man of the Garden, thou hast well done, for you have brought unto me the Diadem of the Maiden in the Ruin, and yet your mind and soul are preserv'd against the cunning of her charm. And he placed the gems in the fourth vessel, which was filled with the waters of angels, and they became the colour of dark wine, and therein appeared the living image of the Lady in Green, wearing her crown, kind as first she had been.'

109. And when this act was accomplished the City Ruinous was overtaken by a night-mist which came unto the valley, and when at last the sun shone again, and the mist went forth, Hran-Issiyah stood with his guide in a great enclosed Garden, surrounded by a great hedge of blooming Roses, and filled with divers herbs and monuments, and ancient Vines heavy laden with fruit, and there was a sound in the air like unto singing.

110. And his guide was no longer a man in black robes, but him in the guise of a priest or holy hermit, wearing vestments of white, with a great golden sword at his side. And aged was his face, and severe, and his beard white as the mists. And gone was the horse with no rider, but the nine earthen vessels there remained upon a great golden altar.

111. The priest said, 'Man of the Garden, thou hast been tested according to the first four Mysteries of the Wine, and have been found pure. Now we stand in that forbidden place from which The First Father of Man was barr'd, for thy Heart-Key has gain'd thee admittance.' And there came forth from the garden the Maiden of White, which Hran-Issiyah had once seen prophesied in Vision, and he humbled himself before her.

112. The Maiden of White spake unto him, saying: 'If thy heart remains worthy, the Father of the White Robe shall consummate the Mysteries of the Wine. But first I set this Labour before you: as a sacrifice unto me, and a test of thy heart's troth, go forth in this pleasure-garden and cut for me flowers. But be warned, for though there are here many kinds of blossoms, only one kind is sacred unto me, and will allow the hand of man to take them: all others shall poison thy hand unto death.'

113. And Hran-Issiyah went forth unto the garden and saw the flowers, and many were their forms, colours, and odours, but could not discern which would please the Maiden. And after many days, and many prayers, none were found to be true to the counsel of his heart.

114. And at last he had reached the limits of the garden, and was vexed that he could not find the flower he sought. But his vexation was of a sudden overcome by the fragrance of the roses blooming in the thorn-hedge of the garden's boundary. And he looked upon them in wonder, knowing these to be the flowers of Her Desire.

115. And the roses of the hedge were of two kinds: red, which faced outward toward the desert, and white, which faced inward toward the Midst of the Garden. And he chose the white because that was the colour of the Maiden's dress, and of the Sage's Robe, and because it was the one flower she could behold wherever she stood. And these he brought unto her and offered them in sacrifice.

116. And she took them and affirmed her love of them, then placed them into the fifth vessel, which was filled with the waters of angels, which became white as pearl and opalescent, and therein appeared the vivified image of the White Maiden, crowned with a chaplet of white roses. And when this was completed, she sealed the vessel and said:

*This do in my name always:
For the Wine of Resurrection
Must ever call forth the Faithful
Into the Vineyard Eternal*

117. And then the Maiden and the holy man led Hran-Issiyah unto the golden altar, near which stood a monument, a stone set there in antient days, as if to mark a tomb, cracked by the ages, and from one crack proceeded a small tree with three branches, and on the stone were written the words:

SABBATHVM QVIES

118. And the man of the white robe said: 'Behold the Greatest Mystery of the Wine of Ages.' And before them lie the mummied body of a once-great King, stretch'd out on the left side of the stone, tall of stature and severe of countenance; with withered crown and skin the colour of sand, and his body was wrapped in cord and amulets.

119. The Man of the White Robe spake aloud before the corpse in prayer, saying:

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Thou Corpse of Midnight's Eden,
Sovereign Ghost of all Heathendom past,
Thy Flesh made sweet by Balsam and Spice,
Asleep in Waiting for Renewal's Cup.*

120. Then did the priest remove his robes, and the Blessed Maiden also, and kneel naked before the dead King. And thus did Hran-Issiyah do like-wise. And then the Holy Man unsheath'd his golden sword and with one stroke cleav'd the Regal Corpse in two, with the single shout 'HU!'.

121. And this first portion of his body was blessed by the Holy Man and given baptism in the Waters of the Angels, after which his flesh was restored in Golden Splendour, becoming as One with the Spirit of the Water.

122. And when the first portion of the King had been restored, the second portion was cursed by the Maiden and thrown into a great boiling vat, filled up with waters from the Four Rivers of the Garden, and boil'd until he became as One with the Spirit of Water.

123. Then Maiden and Man called upon the First Angel, him who hangs at the pinnacle of the Column of Light, and united Blessed Flesh and Cursed Flesh as One within the Sixth Vessel. And therein the King opened his eyes and spake, saying:

*I-A-KIA, IZ-TA-RAN
Restor'd is the Fallen Crown of Angel to Man
Risen am I, now come to seek the World's Inheritance.*

124. And they returned unto the stone monument where the King had slept, and at its right side lie a Queen, robed in splendour, with a verdant crown of emeralds upon her head. And her skin was not withered, as the Heathen King's had been, but soft and supple.

125. The Maiden spake unto Hran-Issiyah saying: 'Behold the Living body of the Queen, robed and crowned in glory. She rules the Heathendom of Time Future: She sleeps, dreaming of the day that her King will arise, and that they may be wed, so that the span of Time Past and Time Future may unite together in the present.'

126. And the Man of the White Robe took him the golden sword and held it aloft, singing. Then he walked three times around the Queen, the sword held high, speaking the words:

ABILA
ABAaza
ABRAYYA

127. The priest took the Queen's hand and grasped it, raising her up from her cold bed. And She awoke with a start, screaming.

128. And the sound which came from her lips was like unto the winter wind's bitter howl, a Song of Harrowing with a thousand voices of the Dead, a bell whose chime endures the Aeon.

129. And when the Queen's eyes were open, and she was awake, the Maiden gave her milk and honey to eat, and at last she spake, saying: 'Let the Dominion of remembrance commence, for today I awake to wed my husband, and from this shall the Treasury of the Wise be enriched.' And she took and ate what the Maiden gave her.

130. Then did the Queen go into the seventh vessel, and there was she bathed in the waters of angels, and her skin made to shine. Then did the waters become verdant, and she became as One with the Spirit of the waters, and her image appeared in the waters, wearing a crown.

131. Then the holy hermit spake unto Hran-Issiyah saying, 'Man of the Garden, take up the Eight Vessel and come.'

132. And they took their leave of Altar and Tomb, and the Maiden who stood watch over the other vessels.

133. And they came unto an antient Vine, gnarled of form, upon which great clusters of fruit hung, dark as the midnight sky. And before the Vine was a golden cup, its bowl above the ground and its base buried beneath.

134. The Man of the White Robe knelt before the Vine and said:

Behold ye that Vine which caused Blessed Haawa to stray.

135. The Holy Man said: 'The Eighth Mystery of the Wine is the Fruit of the Vine, which you must

pluck correctly, and with great wisdom. For if you pluck in error, the Vine will take offence, and the Wine of the Resurrection will sour, and become the Wine of Decay. Thus, I set before thee this final Labour.'

136. And Hran-Issiyah went before the Vine and beheld its fruit, which were filled with juices like blood. And he beheld the stem which held the bunches there, and sought a weak place where he might break them off, but the stem was strong and stubborn.

137. Then did Hran-Issiyah recall the vision of this same Vine, which the Maiden of White didst shew him. And he reached unto the ground, where lie the golden cup, and took it with both hands, and lifted it. And he held it beneath the fruit, without touching the Vine, and the cup was filled.

138. And the holy man in the white robe said.

*Praise be the Earthen Cup, fill'd with Heaven's Seed,
Praise of Praise to Heaven's Cup, pour'd out for Earthly need.*

139. And he took the cup from him, and poured out the grapes into the vessel, and the waters of angels became wine, and then they went forth unto the golden altar in reverence.

140. Then the Maiden spake, saying: 'Thou hast beheld the Eight Mysteries of the Making of the Wine, which was known unto Christ the Lord. But there is a Ninth Mystery, which is its proper blending. The Mystery is this: thou must now work backwards what thou hast worked forward. Thus taught the Master Satan.'

141. And so into the ninth Vessel was poured the Wine of the Ancient Vine; then was poured together the King and Queen, and they were allowed to marry, and drink the wine of their wedding-feast; then was the blessed White Wine of the fifth vessel added. And the Maiden said: 'This is called "The Marriage of Life", for the Wine of the Wedding has been poured, Man and Woman have taken their vows, and the flowers have been strewn.'

142. And then the Holy Man took the green wine of the fourth vessel, and added it to the ninth, and thereafter the wines of the third, second, and first vessels. And he spake saying: 'This is called The Marriage of Death, for the Elixirs of Transgress must be united unto those which uphold the Holy Laws of Heaven.'

143. And when all the wines had been mixed, a voice spake from the heavens, saying: 'Behold, it is done.'

144. And they drank them all a Cup of their Labours, and verily, received a bringing back, and the Dominions of Past and Future Heathendom were assumed in One Body, the Treasury of the Wise was enriched, and many more miracles according to the powers of the Holy Vintage.