

197
IA

THE

THU'BAN

RITE

The Grand Stellar Convocation

of the Dragon's Brood

Enter NE - procession, to Station
Dantle silent circum - AOK lead.
Oracle
↓

The Summoning unto the Rite of Thu'ban

AOK

Ye that have come at mortal cost
To that have come to the tip of the flaming sword
Hear ye the Word of Azha-Qayin,
here cross in the Living Oracle of the Golden Winged Serpent!
Hear ye the Eternal Vagitus, echoing from the capstone of Al Qaf Saba!

Hear ye this Prophecy of the Waking Phoenix,
By this Sign rising from the Flame of the Darkest Night,
By this Word summoning the Companions of the Crooked Path
Season. Here to ascend 'pon the Way of the Starward flight!

O' Come ye, come ye, come forth from the Flame,
to go forth beyond - in the Elder Gods' Name!

O' Children of the Night! Hearken, all ye Children of Midnight,
Here come ye from the seed and the womb of Azhdeha!
For ye are now called unto this Rite -
to the Mystery of Wiseblood's Starry Communion!

Cast forth Thine Eye to Heaven's height, and behold!
The light of Al Thu'ban shineth in exaltation at the midpoint of all!
The sinistral foot of the Celestial Dragon hath breach'd the Path of the Sun,
marking the empyreal crossroads between this moment and all Eternity,
opening the secret way of alignment between this point and all Infinity.

By this, the Arcanum of the Upright Road - wherein Zenith, Heart and Nadir
are made one - ye shall pass beyond the Turnskin's Gate and enter, as with
a single leap, the Fourteen-door'd Palace of the Never-setting Stars.

Here is the instantaneous route of perfection - without beginning or end -
- the road of all inbetweenness that trespasseth the limbus of every domain.
Here is the narrowest way, leading direct into every Age and every Place.
Here all gates shall be flung wide, to unleash the Hydra into all Worlds -
that with a single step the Dragon's brood may move unseen amidst all!

*In your spirits draw nigh, all ye Brethren of the Lie!
Ye that have turned all mortal fate to dance on the tip of the flaming sword,
ye that have cast Thy wayward step to the endless coils of the Ouroboros,-
here cross within by the Razor-bridge - to the interstice dividing all Aeons!
Heed well this Summoning, for this is the beckoning of the Unknown
Intercessor's hand, a-reaching out through each limb of the Octrigan Rite!*

*By this Sign, ye are called - as at the Decree of the Eight Sacred Tides.
By this Word, ye are sent forth - to pass beyond the Way of Sun, Earth and
Season. Here seek to trespass the Circle..... beyond the Circle's Heart!*

*O' Come ye, come ye, come forth through the Flame,
to go forth beyond in the Elder Gods' Name!*

*O' Children of the Serpent! O' Noble Companie of the Dragon's brood!
Here enter the Royal Pathway of Our Grand Stellar Convocation;
here enter the Mystery of the Dragon-star....IA!*

*Ora de rite
- to Circle about.*

Commentary

When the Dragon-star shineth in the zenith of heaven and by its light doth hallow the vertex of the Smaragdina, then shall the brood of Dragon convene for the Mystery whose name is Ia

Beyond the many numbered tasks of the Crooked Path, beyond the rays of the octrigan wheel, there is a mystery that has no number: a rite that lies beyond the circle of every season. Set at the timeless centre of the aeons, marking the celestial apotheosis of the Dragon-road, this unnumbered arcanum is enshrined in the Holy Rite of Al Thu'ban. For when this most venerable star has ascended to shine in the very height of heaven, its light is cast down to anoint the summit of the world - even as a crown of wisdom to bless the Seeker's head. This alignment between heaven and earth creates the illumined axis of the upright path, the ladder of ascent and descent between the Star of the Golden Nail and the capstone of Al Qaf Saba. Upon this pathway the dual alchymic process of ascendant rarefaction and descendant reification - the starward purification of the flesh and the earthward manifestation of the stellar flame - are united in the instantaneous route of attainment. Here lies the Gate which opens beyond the chosen moment of time - beyond the monad of the mountain's peak.

As the fiery ladder between the summit of the mountain and the summit of the sky, the interstitial route of attainment is imaged as the road of the Seeker's ascension from the Blood-acre to the dark mirror of the heavens. The pilgrimage of the pathway's journeyman turns from the Secret Temples of Hu Saba and casts forth the vertical spirit-road to the Celestial Palaces amid the voidful aethyrs of space. With a single bound the soul shall enter the Starry Mansion of Ia, bejewelled with the radiance of the Elder Gods, shining through the fourteen suns of Azhdeha.

Here, in this Mystery of Ia, is the stepless step of the Seeker's attainment. For within the midpoint of the sorcerer's leap the upright way for the soul is revealed as the sole route up and out - beyond the flesh and the manifest orders of time. And as the ambit of the Seeker's foot is from selion-edge to the hearth-fire's leap, so here the pilgrimage is revealed as the journey from the edge of every horizon to the universal centre of the Point without position. Where the Witches' Step and the Sorcerer's Leap shall meet, there may the Seeker enter the Palace of the Dragon's innermost coil; there may the Master of the Crooked Path attain to the Royal Seat of Tahkt-i-Tan-ta'us: the Throne of the Innermost Height.

.....

The Conclave of Ia may be entered by all and any that seek the Wisdom and Power of the Crooked Path. Its knowledge shall come readily to those that have fulfilled the ten ordeals that lead to the border of Bha-Ia, more so to those that have undertaken the nightly observance of the Pact 'twixt Blood and Starlight; yea, even more shall it be revealed to those whom have walked within and beyond the circle of the year and the day. This rite may be worked alone or amongst the companie of the serpent's brethren; its wisdom is given to each uniquely and alone. Therefore let each and all attain to this Magistry of Ia with the Blessing of the Unknown Mediator, whose hand doth guide and serve all who aspire to gnosis upon this Ever-turning Way!

The Rites of the First Circle

Let the Mystery of Ia commence.

The companie of the Dragon's brood shall gather in the precinct of the Blood-acre, entering therein in like manner unto the Rite of the Black Sun. When all are rightly assembled the Mystery of Ia shall begin in deed by the silent pagaent about the borders of the Double-ouroboros. The Magister shall bid all to bear forth their Dragon-vessels and in the very image of the Unknown Intercessor he shall lead the procession, crossing the threshold by the Shrine of the Tomb to walk witherwards around the second circle and returning to process deosil around the first.

When the wordless circumambulation has been completed, the initiates shall stand in their ordained stations at the cardinal airts of the Blood-acre; each returning their Dragon-vessels to dwell at the border-mark of the circle. The Northern Guardian shall then offer a single bow to the assembly in honour of their presence and thereafter he shall begin the Rite Proper with the proclamation of 'The Oracle of Elder Worship'.

When the words of the Oracle have been so declared, the Magister shall proceed to utter 'The Summoning unto Rite of Ia'. The seen and unseen body of the brood shall hearken unto the Magister's words and heed well in their hearts the nature of the rite to which they are called forth.

This being accomplished, the Mystery shall proceed to unfold through the working of the Rite of the Draconian Oracle. This shall be performed according to the manners of Arte, from the first unto the seventh stage of the octriga ceremony, even from the utterance of 'The Declaration' unto 'The Dragon's Rune'. 'The Charge unto the Shadow' is to be omitted.

These deeds being fulfilled and the foundation of the Mystery being so established, the covine shall stand in silence at their appointed stations around the first circle, each awaiting the sign and word of the Magister.

Heeding well the augur of the greenwood and the subtil aire of the circle, the Magister shall proceed in his office as the mediator of the Intercessor. Holding aloft the sacred bell, he shall strike it to sound a single knell. The intent of this sole note is to signify the unification of all cycles of time in the singular moment and the alignment of all phenomena in the singular point of enchantment.

When the single note has conjoined with silence, the Magister shall speak the Revelation of the Capstone's Arcanum:-

The Arcanum of the Capstone

ADK

Know ye this, O' my Companions, that here - in this Holy Conclave of Ia -
the boundless extent of the Blood-acre doth reside in perfect equilibrium
as the very summit of Our Sacred Isle.

By the Proclamation of the Endless Knell from the Hermitage of Bha-Ia,
all Words of Enchantment are spoken with a single voice:
All is made one at the summit of Al Qaf Saba!

All timely circles of mortal reckoning are made still at this axis:
One is the moment born of all seasons.

All directions of the Seeker's path, through and throughout the mortal
dominions of Earth, turn and return unto this hallowed place -
here to behold the fullness of the World in a single grain of sand:
One is the Step of the Dancer upon the mountain-peak of Kahu.

All that here doth attain unto existence is the Body of Azha-Qayin,
poised in the Corpse's dance upon the tip of the Raised Arthana..
Here our flesh hath become the Purified Heart of the World-field,
laid in offering upon the undimensioned point of the Smaragdina Stone.

Behold the Blood-acre as the Monad born from the Millions-of-Years,
the Pearl above the Ocean of Poison that anulleth all duality.

Behold, O' my Companions, the direction of our path - within and beyond -
is cast forth above us as the Upright Road to the Dragon's Stars.
Thence is the turning of Our Crooked Way to the Ladder 'twixt Heaven and
Earth. Thence is the turning of the Pilgrim's step - as one in ascent and
descent - toward the Celestial Palaces of Azhdeha!

As it is spoken, so shall it be!

Bilo Bilo Hu!
Hu-Saba-Ia!

The Initial Empowerment of the Phoenix-vessel

The Magister shall then bid all to take up their sealed Phoenix-vessels and proceed to pace deosil around the first circle...

ANK

Ye Children born of the Horned Serpent!

I entreat you in the Name of Azha -Qayin!

By the prophesied crossing of Al Thu'ban and the Path of Helios, I bid ye - in both hands alike to bear forth the Sealed Vessel of the Unborn Phoenix.

For such is the Destined Image of Empowerment 'twixt the Stars and the Body of Our Initiation; such is the Mage's Effigy, wrought to enthrone the Guardian Spirit of Intercession, to guide and to lead us in pilgrimage on the Double-way of the Upright Road!

As I have decreed, so let this be done!

Let Wiseblood and Vessel be borne on the sunwise gyre of Ia.

As the covine turns deosil around the circle, let all unite in orison, thereby to empower and to bless the vessels of the Phoenix. Let these be the words of the chant:-

IA - AZHA -QAYIN ♦ DRAKU-EZHU PHOENIX

- All +
Phoenix
vessels

The chant should gradually build in volume, and at its culmination the Phoenix-vessels should be opened to receive the empowerment of the chant and to drink deep of the Blood-acre's aire. If so desired, a candle should then placed a-top the Vessel's mouth. When the Words of Exultation have been met in deed by Vessel and Sorcerer, let the Rite proceed.

At the sign and word of the Circle's Master, let all resume their stations in the four quarters. Let each step forth and place their Phoenix-vessels around the central hearth, bow seven times thereto and then turn and return unto their stations. Thus, with the Dragon-vessel standing behind them in the appropriate quarter and with the Phoenix-vessels standing before them, each shall stand betwixt the twain as upon the midpoint of their double encompass.

When the vessels of Arte have been duly appointed and the deed of the sevenfold bow has been attained, the covine shall forth-speak their address toward the empty Phoenix-vessels - even as toward the very Spirit of the Threshold:-

open
vessel
lit candle
stop
place
by fire

Seven
bows.

*Now do we stand, a true covine, the world's Sabbath meadow,
that spans the summit of the midpoint of the World.
Once more are we gathered, returned through eternity.*

Preparatory address unto the Spirit of the Threshold

*O' Draku Ezhu! Thou Unknown Intercessor upon the Crooked Path,
we summon and call Thee forth by Thy secret name.
We summon Thee as the Unseen Watcher, the thousand-eyed shade of Qayin
- that Thou mayst here bear witness and be as one in our words and deeds.*

(The secret name of the Intercessor, as revealed by dream or initiatory succession, shall here be decreed. Let this arcanum be expressed by each initiate according to the predilection of their path - by earth-sign, gesture, voice, musick or mime)

*O' Draku Ezhu! Hear us and be here with us!
For We, the Children of Azhdeha,
self-born in mystery from the Black Sun's light,
here do summon and call Thee forth as the Mediator of the Upright Path -
as the Guardian of the Double Way 'twixt Starry Height and Mountain-peak.
We call Thee from the Spark of Witchfire that danceth on the Emerald Stone.
We call Thee from the Pearl of Stillness, that spinneth unmoving on the crest
of the Hidden Tide. We summon Thee from the Labyrinth of Hesternity, from
the Maze of Unborn Tomorrows - from the fiery seed of the Horned Stave.
O' Come Thou forth, as the Image of Our Transmutation -
the Mirror of Realisation to the Potentiated Body of all Sorcerous Power.*

*We have come to stand before Thee, poised in the Leap of Al Surat.
In Thy Name may we ascend through the lightning-crack of the Narrow Gate
- for ours is the twofold way of Heavenward Perfection by Infernal Descent.*

*We have hung before Thee upon the Gallows of the Thrice-triple Tree;
slain 'neath the emblazoned Signs of Skull, Sword and Star.*

*We have walked through the Four Ways and the Four Ways between.
We have borne the Sign of Twilight, five-rayed upon our brows;
we have cast its flame hexalphan to the extremities of the dual abyss.*

*We have called upon the Seven Powers in the Secret Temples of the Earth.
We have harvested the World-field by the eight hands of the year.
Now do we stand at the heart of the Earthly Sabbat-meadow;
alone upon the summit at the midpoint of the World.
Once more are we gathered, returned through eternity.*

Al Surat - azarbridge. 7

*Once more to behold the Circle-hearth as Our Womb and Our Grave.
Therefore do we summon Thee, O' Draku Ezhu, to come forth as the
Possessor of the Colbran-key, - Guardian of the Path that lies between!.*

*As the Spirit of Our Inward Return to the Circle of the Stars,
we bid Thee arise from the Congress of Our Primal Origination.
We call Thee forth as the Daemon of Our Murd'rous Pact,
to here indwell the Image of Our Making and Our Taking -
to possess the Mannikin Fetish-urn of the Dragon's Sacrificial Child.*

*For Thou art the Eternally Resurrected One,
born anew from the corpse on the pyre of offering.
Thou art the Spirit called forth by Thine own Word,
exalted in silence 'pon the Sorcerers' Tongue.
Thy Flesh shall be formed by our own Deed,
wrought in the mimesis of Thy Hand's Sacred Gesture.
For All is One in this Compact, sworn in the Circle of the Royal Arte.*

*O' Thou Hidden Companion 'midst the Sorcerers' Procession -
who walketh 'pon every wayside of the Tortuous Road of Ordeal -
by the power of Thy step we ensorcel the turning spheres of gods and men.
We bind all, sinistral and dextral, in the endless coils of the Snake.
We mark the Way of Pilgrimage for the Wandering Souls of ev'ry land
and here draw all at Sabbat-tide to the Pinnacle of the World.
Let the way beyond be seen within us; the way above be opened before us!*

*O' Thou Many-masked Watcher of Our Nameless Covine,
We summon Thee as the Phoenix, the Golden Seraph of a Thousand Eyes!
In this form do we venerate Thee, that Thou mayst bear us forth -
from the Mountain of the World to the Dark Mirror of the Skies -
from the Summit of the Earth to the Height of Heaven's Arch -
yea, that Thou mayst empower us in Our Grand Convocation:
the High Pact of Witchblood and the Dragon's Starlight.*

*Let the Holy Spell of the Covenant 'twixt Star and Flesh be pronounced.
As One, let us decree the Mystery of the Unnumbered Rite,
the Manifold Arcanum of Our Stellar Transvocation:
I - HU - SA - BA - KU - LA - TAN - HUA - KA
AZHDEHA IA!*

When the mantic orison of the Circle of Time has been uttered and sealed in the Dragon's Name, let all conjoin in the Pact of Blood and Starlight: the Stellar Transvocation. This Spell shall be pronounced until the appropriate space-mark of procedure wherein the Stellar Spells are customarily uttered. At this point, let all bow unto their Phoenix Vessels and then turn to bear forth their Dragon-vessels around the First Circle, thus to seal and ensorcel the Path about the Domain of the Earth. Let the Northern Guardian lead off from his station and proceed around the Circle in his chosen direction.

At the sign of the Circle's Master or Mistress, let all proceed - one by one - across the Threshold of the Twin Circles and let this be accomplished in the widdershins order of succession: the Northern Guardian proceeding first and the Eastern Guardian last.

At the Threshold let each bow unto the Skull and make some sign of their troth - for verily the silent deed is the greater address unto the Spirit of the Threshold. When this has been accomplished, let each step across the Way between.

When each initiate has stepped across, let all convene at the Circles' border. The Dragon-vessels should then be placed before the Threshold and, in unison, all should bow in honour and adoration to both the Vessels and the Cross-ways of the Circles' Divide. This shall be done as a gesture in reverence of the Way that has led the companie of initiates to the place of their present attainment.

When the bow has been made, let all take up their vessels and proceed to circumambulate the second circle, thrice in a deosil direction.

After three complete pacings of the Stellar Compass, the initiates shall bow to each other in silence and then proceed to assume their stations around the compass. This shall be done in reflection of the stations within the First Circle: the Northern Guardian shall stand in the South by the Threshold - as the Warden of the Stang and Skull; the Western Guardian shall stand in the East; the Southern Guardian shall stand in the North and the Eastern Guardian shall stand in the West.

Each shall uplift their Dragon-vessel in salutation to the Circle's heart, for therein is the Sacrosanct Point of the Mystery: the Throne of the Peacock-Dragon. This gesture is a sign made in portent of the Four Watchers who shall ascend to the Throne through the Body of the Fifth and Secret One. Let the words of their salutation be thus:

*BILO BILO HU!
AZH-TA'US IA!*

Stellar
Transvoc

- bow to
Phoenix

- turn to

Dragon
pick up

- walk
about
circle

- threshold

- crossing

bow to

Skull +

Vessel

down

gentled

- take

vessels

circum

* 3

assume

position

in reflected

visualize

DAg.

lift
vessels

All

Each initiate will then proceed - in widdershins order - to follow the direction of the One who stands as the Guardian of the Threshold, for He is the Guide that shall cast the Seeker's step upon the labyrinthine course of the earth-sign. Thus will the covine walk inward upon the earth-sign of the stellar pilgrimage. The sign should be paced in entirety, following the line of tracery from the fourteenth to the first point of the transvocation.

All having convened at the point of the first star, let its spell and contemplative formulae be pronounced and the offerings unto its powers be made. Thus, from the first star to the fourteenth, let the initiates proceed upon the spiral course of the earth-sign; at each point working the appropriate spell, tracing the sigil of the dragon-point and utilising such adjunctive formulae as is deemed needful. The procedure shall follow this course, except for the manner of working upon the twelfth point - the point of the Dragon-star lying at the Circle's heart. At this point, the customary spell/s are to be worked and then an especial address should be made to celebrate the culmination of Thu'ban.

12th dragon
point.

All

Celebratory Address of the Dragon-star's Ascent

*Upon this Blessed Day of Thu'ban's exaltation,
We stand as One 'neath the Golden Nail of the Master's Forge -
unified in the Body of the Self-divided Adversary,
consanguine in the Eternal Oath of Qayin A:haka.
All as One, We are convened at this Secret Twilight,
between the Double Noontide of the Living and Dead;
here to mark the course of Our Heavenward Ascent
upon the Transgressor's Path of Infernal Descent.*

*O' Great Father Opposer, Great Mother Destroyer!
Thou Amphisbaena of the Twice-turning fang!
We are fallen in our rising betwixt Thine open jaws: the offering made for
the Phoenix-child upon the Throne of Tan-ta'us. We are the Body of the
Fourfold Watcher, slain to beget the Watcher Within. We are the Body of all
Mortal Substance, given for the manifestation of the Magical Quintessence.
All that we are - we sacrifice, that we may become the Living Vessel of Thee:
the Body of the Elder Gods, the Flesh Entire of Azhdeha!*

*the Soul of the Elder Gods is sent forth anew; the Ancient Dragon doth walk
upon the Earth and the Serpent of the Wise doth ascend to the Highest Star!*

*Amphisbaena - Serpent with a basal
sting at each end.*

O' Antient One! All-powerful Slayer! All-potent Begetter!
Upon this Cursed Day of Thu'ban's Zenith, we bid Thee to transfix the
Heart of ev'ry World with the falling star-light of the Golden Nail.
O' Azhdeha! Let Thy sinistral and back-turning claw here descend upon the
Sorcerer's Vessel; let the Nowl-blade pierce the cauldron of bone and open
the skull to the unbounded sky. Make Thou this gesture of initiation 'pon the
fallen head of the Child, that the Seven Royal Crowns of Thee may each
ascend in their time. For as Thou dost make this Sign to affirm the sacrificial
marriage 'twixt Serpent and Man, so must the Blade here turn upon all to
test and to affirm the Oath of the Crooked Path!...

Behold! The Body of the Universe is rent asunder,
divided 'neath Thy reddened tooth and Thy bloodied claw.
The Corpse of the World becometh Thy Nuptial Banquet,
that Thou mayst consume all and make all things anew.

For all that existeth doth return to the Void,
to pass through the flame that testeth all metal,
to burn or to dance 'pon the turning Nowl-blade.

All things shall pass through this Ordeal,
the Numberless Task of the Crooked Path.

Yet who shall attain and who shall fall?

All that hath existence must return to the Void,
that from the Place of All Otherness the Dragon may eternally become!
For with each timely destruction, the Vessel of Our Pact is created anew:
the Sorcerous Flesh is this Eden of every trespassed Kingdom.
The Living Body of Azha-Qayin is the Triune Void-made-substance,
wherein doth shine the Fallen, Never-setting Dragon-star!

Upon this Most Blest and Accursed Day the Circle is cast at the Cross-ways
'twixt the White Noon of the Living and the Black Noon of the Dead;
the Turnskin doth stand alone at the Axis 'twixt Sun, Earth and Star.
Here, by Our Word and Our Deed and Our Timely Step,
the Doorways of Heaven are opened and cast their light into the Deep...
the Soul of the Elder Gods is sent forth anew: the Antient Dragon doth walk
upon the Earth and the Step of the Wise doth ascend to the Highest Star!

BILO BILO HU! AZHDEHA IA!

At the culmination of this Address and before moving onward to the Spell of the Thirteenth Point, a candle should be lit from the Thu'ban Point and placed in the midst of the solar earth-sign lying in the western airt of the Second Circle.

Each initiate should also take a handful of earth from the twelfth point; this is later to be used as the first offering to the mouth of the Phoenix-vessel.

At the completion of the pilgrimage upon the Path of the Fourteen Celestial Palaces the initiates should stand at the Threshold and await the Sign of the Circle's Master. At his word and direction all shall step forth across the Divide, once more into the Circle of the Earth. The decree of the Great Return shall be the binding words of the Stellar Transvocation:

*In the seething chaos of universes new-born, we were.
At the dwindling twilit death of worlds, we shall be.
For our very flesh is of Thy Stars;
Our Bodies the Vessels of Thee,
O' Azhdeha!*

At the fulfilment of this decree and upon re-entering the First Circle, the initiates shall bear forth the Dragon-vessels in one complete circumambulation and this shall be done according to the guiding step of the Circle's Master, even the Unknown Step of the Intercessor. (This deed of encircling should be accomplished in opposition to the direction taken earlier when leaving the First Circle, and ever in mindfulness of the Rite's intent: to walk both with and against the Sun.)

After the First Circle has been paced thus, each initiate should touch their Dragon-vessel to their respective Phoenix-vessel as a gesture of empowerment and then turn, widdershins upon the point, to place the Dragon-vessel in the appropriate station of the compass. All will then unite within the utterance of the Dragon's Rune or such mantic orisons and musick as is fitting to the Blood-acre's aire.

At the appropriate sign, let all convene at the station of their Phoenix-vessels and perform the first four charms of consecration. Let the manner of their utterance be thus: the first charm shall be uttered by the Western Guardian, the second charm by the Southern Guardian, the third charm by the Eastern Guardian, and the fourth charm by the One whom guards the Place of Power.

The Phoenix-vessels shall then receive the offerings of the circle; each initiate wandering as they will about the compass of the Blood-acre and placing within their vessel such tokens of Arte as are deemed needful - ever according to the hidden direction of the familiar spirits and Our Unknown Intercessor.

- light candle
- take earth
complete Fourteen points.
bind stellar Trans-25 return

- widdershins return station

- touch dragon vessel to place turn upon the point Wind place vessel back. stand at Phoenix vessel

The Five Charms of the Phoenix-Vessel

I

AV

*O' Thou Vessel masked in Mortal Substance,
Be Thou the Shrine of Immortal Essence.
By Our Words and Deeds we consecrate Thee
as the Brazen Urn of the Royal Arte.
From the Red Earth is Thy Body stolen;
from the Grave of the First-dead Thy Corpse is exhumed.
Thy Bones are forged from the Seven Metals of the Double-edged Blade.
Thy Skin is woven about Thee by the hands of They who watch;
for Thy raiment is stitched with the birthcords of ancestry and Thy magic
garment is sown from the flayed pelt of the star-harvested sky.*

II

ABK

*O' Thou Vessel masked in Mortal Substance,
Be Thou the Shrine of Immortal Essence.
Be Thou the Image of the Hidden Companion
who doth stalk unseen upon the Crooked Path.
Be Thou the Antient Child who walketh 'neath the Dragon's Moon.
Thy Path is from the Crossroads of Thu'ban and Helios;
Thy Path is upon the Summit set amid the Seven Stars.
Thou art the Monarch of the World for Fourteen Nights.
Thou art the Usurper of the Sun, enthroned within its Yearly Height.
Thou dost mark the Way of Sacrifice 'pon the Path of Infernal Descent.
In Thy wake the blood of all who seek this Way shall redden and stain the
Royal Road; their Scarlet Libation shall mark the Fateful Signs
in portent of the Turning Path. With Thee and within Thee, I shall step amid
the scattered bones; leading the Dead in the Skeletal Dance, speaking the
heart in the shadows of posture; casting the Cipher and telling the Round -
of the Zodiak spun in the Dragon's Eye! *Then to speak
For Thou art the Master of the Secret Silence.
the Spirit that guardeth over the Well of Words' blood.**

III

PA

O' Thou Vessel masked in Mortal Substance,
Be Thou the Shrine of Immortal Essence.
Within Thee is the Flame in which Thou dost die.
Within Thee is the Flame from which Thou art born.
Thou art the Form of Light in the midst of the World-field;
Unto Thee all Souls shall flock in convocation.
For Thou art as the Lamp amidst the darkness, the Torch that guideth all to
stray, that leadeth all and lureth all, in offering to the Crooked Way.
All Spirits are convoked in Thee and Thou makest known their Names to me.
Thou dost whisper of their nature and of their place upon the Path.
Thou dost command them by the Sign of the Master's Name
and bind them with the knotted cord of his Power's Succession.
O' Brazen Urn of Magistry, Thy Form doth cast the Eternal Circle
and draweth all into the Single Point of Perfect Transmutation.

IV

A

O' Thou Vessel masked in Mortal Substance,
Be Thou the Shrine of Immortal Essence.
Thou art hailed at the Double-way of the Dawn and the Dusk,
for Thou art the Light-bringer and the Night-wanderer -
who doth stand in the cleft between the Land and the Sea:
the Measurer of the Circle that lieth betwixt all Worlds.
Thou dost walk upon the Azure Waters and the Verdant Land alike;
For Thy Step doth lie in balance upon Leviathan and Behemoth.
Thou dost come forth in the East bringing illumination with Thy Being.
Thou dost go forth into the West as the Thief into the Night.
Thou art hidden 'neath the burning robe cast down by the setting sun.
Thou art myself concealed within the Symbol of Earth:
the Sorcerer's Heart within the Vessel of Clay.
None but I may reveal Thy Nature. None but I may charm Thee to speak.
For Thou art the Oracle of the Secret Utterance,
the Spirit that guardeth o'er the Well of Worlds' blood.

make offerings to
vessel. of earth
from about the first
circle. casting with
small stone 12th point.

V

All

*O' Thou Vessel masked in Mortal Substance,
Be Thou mine Image of the Immortal Quintessence.*

*Thou dost arise as the Nameless One
within the Temple of the Innermost Coil.*

*Thou makest Thy Way forth from every direction to the fourteen-edged dais
of the Highest Altar: the Pinnacle of Takht-i-Tan'taus.*

*Thy Path doth lead Thee through the fourteen nights of the Dragon's Stars;
each step doth count the thirteen Dark Moons of the Year and the Day,
and Thy last step doth guide Thee within the Circle of the Seven Thrones.*

Here Thou dost trespass against the Sun in its hour of Noontide exaltation.

As Thou dost arise, so shall the Seven Heads of Wisdom ascend.

*As Thou dost fall, so Thou dost mark the fate for all who take not succour
from the Serpent's poisoned fang. Thou art the Secret One, eternally reborn
from the Dragon's Flame, the Golden Angel of a Thousand Eyes*

that alighteth 'pon the Column's Tree.

*Thy Word is the Cry of Creation and Destruction,
the Annunciation of the Beginning and the Echo of Return:*

the Mystery which no mortal tongue may tell.

*Thou art the Sacrificial Child that liveth and dieth,
solely for the Quickening of the Sorcerous Flesh.*

*O' Thou Vessel, Child of Azhdeha! O' Thou Self of my Self!
Thou art the Phoenix arisen at the Stellar Solstice of the Elder Gods.*

Thou art the Death-masked Sovereign,

enthroned at the High Sabbath of the Ages!

All Offering of Worship is rendered unto Thee.

*For as I have spoken of Thee in magical incantation,
so Thou hast echoed my Voice and have made me as Thou art.*

*This is the Charm that will overturn the many worlds of mortal gods and
mortal men.*

This is the Lie a million times true.

When all have made their offerings and have once more returned to their stations, the fifth charm shall be recited by all.

At the completion of the fifth charm the Phoenix-vessels should be sealed. Thereafter the Phoenix-vessel not be opened again in the companie of anyone other than the solitary presence of the individual sorcerer; this tabu shall be observed until all shall convene for the Rite of the Seven Stars.

When the Phoenix-vessels have been sealed, they should be taken in the clasp of the sorcerer and exalted toward the central hearth. Each initiate, so bearing the Urn of the Mediator, should then turn deosil upon the point and place the Phoenix-vessel before the Grand Fetish-urn of the Dragon, even as a mask before the face of the seer. All shall then address the twain:-

Consummatory Chant: the Vagitus of Ia

wields

O' Phoenix-child of Sacrifice! O' Turnskin-child who wieldeth the Knife!
Both as One, Our Words decree: the Crooked Dance of all Mystery...

From Mountain pyre upon the Earth, from Thu'ban's fire hast Thou Thy Birth
Both as One - we mark the Way: the Phoenix Path from the Dragon's Day.

From Circle-edge to Circle-hearth, through fourteen turnings of the Path.
Both as One, Our Deeds decree: the Oath of Truth and Treachery.

O' Phoenix-child of Golden Wing, 'pon Thu'ban's Throne we name Thee 'King!'.
Both as One - we wear the Crown, 'til Death doth cast the Sun-king down!

For Thou shalt reign but fourteen nights, 'til Thou hast reaped the Heaven's light.
Both as One - in Truth and Lie, - this Masquerade wrought in the Sky.

From Thu'ban's Reign within the Height, 'til Seven Stars cast forth their light.
Both as One - the Dragon's Kin - shall turn and take the Monarch's skin.

O' Phoenix-mask! Hide Thou Our Face, 'til Thou hast claimed the Highest Place.
Both as One - through Solstice-pyre - shall walk the blade and steal the fire.

The turning blade shall cut the Way, for the Sun's rebirth with each new day
Both as One, Our Deeds shall decree - the Pauper's rise to Royalty

To Brightest Day from Darkest Night, through Dawn and Dusk to Blackest Light.
All as One, Our Steps decree: this Turning Maze of Extasie!

pick up
vessel
Exalt
vessel
turn
and
place
as the
mask of
Dragon

All

At the completion of the Vagitus of Ia, let the seen and the unseen body of the covine turn as one toward the central hearth and conjoin in the words of final consummation:-

All

The Consummation of the Thu'ban Rite

*Hearken, All Ye Elder Gods, to the Words of Consummation,
uttered for the Binding of Our Grand Stellar Convocation!*

On Earth 'neath Thu'ban and Helios, we have stepped and re-turned to the Dance of the Dragon,- thus to exact the Mystery through which the churning void didst create the stellar naos for our cunning and the cradle for the nuturing of our sorcerous flesh.

*In the spiral dance 'pon the back of Thee, O' Azhdeha,
we have come forth through the Four Quarters of the Earth,
through the division of blood 'midst the lineages of time,
through the division of Time 'midst the turning of the year,-
to stand here: Ourselves enthroned within Ourselves -
as the Living Flesh of Thy Power.*

ADK

*Upon this Day we hold covine in the turning Circle of Earth,
when the Dragon-road doth mediate betwixt the Depth and Height.
For now doth the Star of the Inmost Coil burn at the Crossroads of Sun and Earth, creating a focus for the Ophidian Flame at each and every crossing of the ways. At each crossroads of ley, of death-way and hidden track, whether in heaven 'twixt star-path and bird-flight, or else 'pon Earth 'twixt the roads of Elphame and the graves of the wise,- the Serpent doth burn to cast forth the light of Ia.*

*O' Al Thu'ban, Opener of the Great Year,
Steal Thou the spark of the Sun in Thy passing and draw it down into our midst; here to ignite the Flame of Spirit within the Vessel of the Phoenix..
For thus in the Form of the Golden Seraph, we shall ascend 'pon the Path toward the yearly zenith of the Midsummer throne -
from the pyre of resurrection lit 'pon the summit of the Earthen Field -
to the pyre of transformation lit to consume the Disk of the Sun!*

A

By the Word of the Phoenix, we fortell our transgression and here lay claim
to the Light of this World. By this Deed the Sun shall rise anew each day,
reborn in darkness from the Dragon's Mouth.

O' Al-Thu'ban, Thou who dost stand above all at the Pinnacle of the Sky,
here cast down Thy harvest of fiery grain, gathered from the Fields of
Eternity. For the Primordial Inferno is cast out from the Void and here doth
burn within us - that Star unto Star, Flesh unto Flesh, we alone may bear
forth Thy Flame through the darkness of Creation.
For We are Thy Flesh Illuminate, O' Azhdeha!

Now is the Moment-between-the-Aeons,
the Instant lock'd at the Crossroads of Time.
Hearken ye all, O' Wise-blooded Kin,
for now the Dragon hath taken form amidst Being;
the Antient One ~~go~~ forth at will throughout the Earth!

By the moment-span of the sinistral step,
the Waters of the Flood are gone from the land;
with a single sip in Thu'ban's name, the ocean of poison lieth empty.

By the timely span of the dextral foot, the Waters shall abate in the season of
the Phoenix' flight; through fourteen days and fourteen nights we shall drink
from the cup of the deluge and awaken the land as our own flesh reborn.

We, the Betrothed Brethren of the Dragon, declare, affirm and re-affirm the
Oath of Our Witchblood: the Pact of Sorcery 'twixt Serpent and Man.
By Our Spells we rekindle the Flame of the Spiritual Quintessence
within the Heart of the Draconian Mystery.

O' Azhdeha!
We are summoned at our own bidding:
Called forth by our own word;
Form'd of our own flesh;
Slain by our own sword;
Born from our own womb;
arisen from our own corpse;
Named by our own tongue,-
as the Living Flesh of Thee!

*We who traverse the Millions-of-Forms-of-Being, as nomads wandering
through the Seven Ages, hermits amidst our own multitude,
many-faced to mask our solitude, - do now go forth beyond!
Our Path direct, from all a-stray; this Moment become - the Way Itself!*

*O' Omen-bearing Lightning-bolt! Thou Flame of Heaven's Forge!
Here smite the Land with Thine Infinite Power,
O' Azhdeha Ia!*

*Man and Serpent, both as One.
In the Dragon's Name, this Rite is done!*

Some
trumpets

By the final declaration of unity the Rite of the Grand Stellar Convocation is complete. Let each go forth from its Circle, alone and unique in the power of its magistry.