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Volume I, No.1.

An LXXIII
May 1977 E.V.

ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS
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Ordo Templi Orientis



O. T. O. NEWSLETTER

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.
-- Liber AL:I, 40.

Dawn Invocation:

At Dawn, facing East:

Hail unto Thee who art Ra in Thy rising,
even unto Thee who art Ra in Thy strength,
who travelst over the Heavens in Thy bark
at the Uprising of the Sun

Tahuti standeth in His splendour at the prow
and Ra-Hoor abideth at the helm

Hail unto Thee from the Abodes of Night!

-- from Liber Resh

(There are four invocations Thelemites can use daily. The
above is the first, to be said at dawn. The others will appear in
later issues of this Newsletter.)

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Caliph Hymanaeus Alpha

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This initial copy of the O. T. O. Newsletter is free to
interested parties. Later issues are available by subscription:

\$3.00 North American ; \$5.00 International
Issued quarterly.

INTRODUCTION.

The O. T. O. NEWSLETTER is intended to fill a communication gap between the Caliphate in Berkeley and Thelemites throughout the world. Over the past several years, correspondence with the Ordo Templi Orientis in Dublin and later in Berkeley has grown greatly. Efforts to answer most of these letters have met with considerable difficulty. We are in the process of catching up on our back-log. Those of you who are still waiting for a response, thanks for your patience. In the meantime, many of your questions will be answered in this Newsletter. We believe it offers a unique insight into the current state of the Order, and a glimpse of what it means to be involved in an active Lodge. Future issues will be larger and will continue to keep you informed on the progress of the O. T. O.

BACKGROUND

According to Aleister Crowley, ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS is "The first of the Great Orders of antiquity to accept the Law of the New Aeon emanating from the A.A., which is: 'Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law' reorganizing in accordance therewith," (The Proclamation of the O. T. O.) That by this he meant the ORDER OF THE TEMPLE, or KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, founded during the Crusades and suppressed in the 13th Century, is made explicit on page 197 of the Blue Equinox. This gives us a continuous history of at least 850 years.

Hymanaeus Alpha was initiated into the Agape Lodge of ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS in Hollywood in the late 1930's and, due to his involvement with the armed forces, was the only member of the American O. T. O. to be with A.C. in England during World War II. As a result of Fr. H.A.'s time with Aleister Crowley he was advanced by A.C. to the rank of 9TH Degree, ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS, informed concerning the Caliphate, and given articles of broad authorization with specific emergency power to be used for the benefit of the Order in case of need. These articles are contained in two documents.

The first document, dated March 22, 1946, reads as follows:

Proclamation → "Ex Castro nemoris inferioris
Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.
This is to authorize Frater Hymanaeus Alpha (Capt. Grady L. McMurtry) to take charge of the whole work of the Order in California to reform the Organization in pursuance of his report of Jan 25, '46 e.v. subject to the approval of Frater Saturnus (Karl J. Germer).
This authorization is to be used only in emergency."

Love is the law, love under will. *

Baphomet O.H.O.

California
* subject to the approval of A.C. is not in accordance with the authority of K.G.

The second document, dated April 11, 1946, reads as follows:

* the emergency was the failure of Karl Germer to discharge the duties specified in the will of A.C. and also his failure to arrange provisions for a new O.H.O. when he (2) died in 1962.

"Ex Castro Nemoris Inferioris
Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.
These presents are to appoint

--Frater Hymanaeus Alpha--

--Grady Louis McMurtry IX° O.T.O.--

← IX° O.T.O.
- office suitable for
successor

as Our representative in the United States of America,
and his authority is to be considered as Ours, sub-
ject to the approval, revision, or veto of Our Viceroy

Karl Johannes Germer IX° O.T.O.

← - the same office

of 260 West 72nd St., New York City, N.Y.

Love is the law, love under will.

Witness Our Hand and Seal.

Baphomet X° O.H.O."

With the death of Frater Saturnus (Karl J. Germer) in 1962,
these articles of authorization automatically went into effect.

-- The above is adapted from an
article printed in the October
1974 issue of Gnostica News.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE ORDER

On April 19, 1977, we initiated eight people into the Minerval Degree of Aleister Crowley's ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS in Berkeley, California, and on May 21, 1977, we initiated six more people into the Minerval Degree, also in Berkeley. Included in these Minerval Initiates were people from Upper New York State, and Los Angeles areas, thus providing a basis for eventually having operative Lodges in these areas. One person has already signed up for initiation into the Order in June. We anticipate other initiations throughout the summer, infusing new blood into Aleister Crowley's ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS and bringing brothers and sisters together under the Aegis of the Caliphate -- thus bringing us to the fulfillment of Aleister Crowley's dream of a single place where all Thelemites can come together in harmony. *

This Newsletter includes a special page of activities and interests, which you are encouraged to fill out and return.

RAP WITH THE CALIPH

While trying to work out a plan to catch up on O. T. O. correspondence at one of our regular Tuesday-night meetings, we read a letter asking for instruction. The point raised dealt with a verse in the Book of the Law. In as much as this was rather a sizeable problem of interpretation, we went into a discussion. The following is a verbatim (almost!) transcript of the tape of the discussion. Editing has been kept to a necessary minimum in order to better share the fraternal experience.

* With two Minerval Initiates in Central New York area and a 1° in N.Y.C., there is possibility of establishing a Lodge. An initiation team could be flown in from Berkeley. This could be accomplished by area members pooling their money to purchase ticket for Caliph. Initiations could then be held in this area. m.e.

"All these old letters of my Book are aright;
but Tzaddi is not the Star." -- Liber AL; I,57.

Arden: "... (Tzaddi) doesn't correspond to the Star. Am I right?"

Caliph: "Who knows who's right? All we know for sure, is that Crowley found this statement in The Book of the Law to be a puzzle. In meditating on it, thinking about it -- whatever other trips he did about it, he came to the conclusion that the Hay card and the Tzaddi card should be transposed, at least as established in the Golden Dawn Tree of Life. That meant transposing the Aries card, which was on the Hay path, and the Aquarius card, which was on the Tzaddi path. Now, the next question is: 'Should the two paths be transposed?' If you take a look at the final arrangements in The Book of Thoth, that's what it looks like. ... He was the guy who supposedly knew what he was doing ..."

Arden: "Crowley?"

Caliph: "Yes, therefore I at least respect his right to do so..."

Kathy: "Bill, what do you think about that?"

Bill: "I think that there is something there worthy of study. If you want to change the paths on the Tree ... This would not change the primary quality of the paths, but it would change the manner in which they are observed, or seen, to act. If the Star is the outer visible form of the path between Chokmah and Tiphereth in the Dawn Tree, instead of energy from Chokmah being imposed on the structure of life in Tiphereth through Order, it would form -- emerge in life without evident order. Under that view, one would not talk about the Laws of the Universe, one would talk about the Nature of the Universe -- without being iron-clad and legalistic."

Kathy: "So this is some indication toward the changing into the Age of Aquarius."

Bill: "Presumably that is why this distinction has to be made. There are many ways of signaling the World - Age ... Sometimes a correspondence is shifted. One thing that the Golden Dawn did back in the Age of Pisces was to assign special color associations to Pisces. The change involving Aquarius and Aries (traditional starting sign of the Zodiac) can be made to signal the Aquarian Age. It's interesting and bears a lot of thinking."

"Another insight - into Ancient Egypt: There is a picture on a papyrus ... of Nuit in the sky over Geb (Hadit?). Geb has a colossal erection. On the side there is a Ram and a Bird. The Star is like Nuit, but the Ram is nearest Nuit. Geb is like the Emperor; but the bird like the one on the Star Trump is near Geb. Something was represented or studied with these things back in Ancient Egypt. There may be a current of energy that re-manifests every so often, maybe once every half of the Great Age of the Universe in either the time of Aquarius or Leo. Maybe this is the gate that opens whenever a World - Age begins. Here is something that should be looked into with metaphysical study and speculation, study of historical documents relating these two things (Aries and Aquarius). That's a good area for somebody to work in."

Steve: "I got the Thoth deck from Grady (Caliph) last week. I went home, sat down, and started transposing the two cards. It just completely opened up a door in my head. I got so many insights out of it that the next night I called both Grady and Bill and said 'What does it all mean?' And they both said, 'Figure it out for yourself.' So I spent the week figuring it out as best I could for myself. The whole thing became, I found, much more logical again -- down at the bottom you are changing from the Tower, ... It seemed much more likely that the next step after that extreme experience would be ..."

Arden: "To impose control."

Steve: "To impose control rather than go into meditation. They always say in the teachings, that you go from seeing that there is more to it, to meditating on it. It sounded logical, but it sounds more logical to me the other way around. I did some readings then, and, for what it's worth, the Tarot readings confirmed this pretty definitely. I found that after a week of studying this, I like it a lot better with Tzaddi in the 4th position and the Emperor below."

Arden: "Is it Tzaddi or is it the Star in the 4th position?"

Steve: "The Star, pardon me."

Bill: "This in itself must be settled."

Steve: "As you said, it must be worked out. ... Crowley numbers his deck in the traditional manner with Strength as XI and Justice as VIII. It seems logical to me from a couple of years of study that you should switch those. Well, he makes the point on that whole wheel that he's drawn in The Book of Thoth that has the two things on the end (The Book of Thoth, page 11. Diagram of the double loop in the Zodiac), if you switch these two, why not switch the other two, which just happened to be Hay and Tzaddi? When you do that, you switch two of the traditional middle cards, and it gives you an entirely different picture on the way the Universe is structured."

Arden: "It would seem to me that you should leave Hebrew letters where they occur and simply switch the cards."

Steve: "...It seemed to me that the current running from Chokmah, which is above the Abyss, down to Tiphereth is much more likely to be meditation than reason, because one supercedes the other. Whereas, down below ..."

Kathy: "Knowledge would be the result of reasoning."

Bill: "One part of knowledge..."

Kathy: "Let's put it this way: (if) reason is the stage before knowledge -- I'm coming from above like on your pillar -- when you are switching it from the Emperor to the Star, you have gone from reason and judgement to a conscious knowledge."

Bill: "Here's a hypothesis, just to see what it does: (what) if this is not just the characteristic of the whole World Age, but the way that any world age opens. When a World Age closes, its philosophy should be pretty tight ... you can speak meaningfully of the great Emperor up in the sky that brings things down in an orderly fashion, and of the Laws of the Universe. When a World Age changes, it's as though there is no ruler in the sky..."

Arden: "When it begins, you mean?"

Bill: "Yes, ... and there must be that openness that we see in the Star card. You must be able to see just how the stars are moving and re-aligning. For those who are really weird and Qabbalistic, these two letters, Hay and Tzaddi, are one of the 231 gates - a thing that could be studied - but it also signals one of the 24 methods of Temurah (the particular one called ATHBASH). Temurah is a type of alphabet substitution code. There are 24 of these codes. If you know of a pair of letters, in this case Hay and Tzaddi, that are associated, you can take anything that is written in Hebrew and find one of these 24 Temurah codes that will be keyed in by that pair of letters. You can substitute the given letters in that code and see if it makes sense in the Old Testament or any thing that can be written in Hebrew. If you find that the substitution code yields something that makes sense, that should be interpreted as something that is valid in this Era."

Kathy: "Have you done it?"

Bill: "God, no!"

Kathy: "It sounds like a large project."

Bill: "It's a life-time project. Even something as big as the Old Testament ... it would take the better part of a life-time just to diddle your way through the first five books of that."

Kathy: "It sounds like a good code during war-time."

Erin: "What's the pass-word? 'Tzaddi is not the Star...'"

Arden: "I once saw an advertisement in the classified section of the Berkeley Barb that said something like: 'This month the universe ends - This month the skin sheds its snake - Head for the center of the Universe' -- excuse me, 'the serpent sheds its skin'!"

Bill: "I like it better the other way."

Caliph: "Head for the center of the serpent?"

"Well, somebody mentioned this business of ending a World - Age, beginning a World - Age. Of course in The Book of the Law, the primary function is in terms of establishing the Aeon of Horus, the transition from an old Aeon to a new Aeon. In an article I wrote for In the Continuum, a newsletter for the Order, the basic premise came down to the idea of the Tree of Life and the Psychic Body in terms of this very concept -- of the switching of the Aquarius card and the Aries card. The reason was as follows: Crowley's primary claim to fame, other than being the world's greatest poet in the English language', was that he had in his life-time activated the Leo card of the Tarot deck. That is to say -- in terms of the psychic body in the cosmic sense, viewed whether as the Yogic Chakra system or as the Qabalah or whatever system you want to use -- in that system he had, by his incarnation as Aleister Crowley, activated the Leo card. If so, this is of extreme importance in terms of the psychic body in the Universal or Cosmic Sense: because, if this is true, then -- in other words, this is his claim as the Great Wild Beast of the Aeon and so forth -- he has activated a path in the Tree of Life which is above the Anahata Chakra -- or to put it another way, it is above the Sun. If that is the case, then the path between Mars and Jupiter is now open and active, whereas before it was passive. It was there, but it was passive. Why would that be significant? Just take a look at it from the point of view of any particular individual, a yogin, a qabbalist, an alchemist -- anyone who is operating in terms of an activation of a psychic body -- if you were to activate a psychic body, your own individual one, before this came down, before this universal trip was laid on the Universal Psychic Body; well then, you would simply activate a psychic body. But you wouldn't necessarily run into any particular form of energy at that particular path because that particular path hadn't been activated. Therefore, you would go ahead and do your trip and go 'choggying' out on whatever plane of existence you have been 'choggying' out on; but now, Aleister Crowley has lived, has had his incarnation, has activated the path on the cosmic level. OK, now you come along and activate your psychic body; and you run into the fact that this path is now active. It's like before it was a wire that somebody had forgotten to throw the switch -- it was there, simply not active ... Now let's say that you have activated your psychic centers at this time, on this level of the psychic body, with the Leo path activated. What kind of energy is the Leo energy? Usually, it is considered to be a heavily masculine trip ... Let's say from the point of view of the ordi-

nary person turning on to the psychic body, it is a heavy masculine vibration. Alright now, Crowley has activated it - 'The Big Red Lion' as he called himself at Cefalu, 'The Great Wild Beast of the Aeon' - whatever you want to call it, now that Leo trip is just buzzing with energy. That being the case, you come along with an Old Aeon psychic body and you turn on the Aries vibration from the Adjna Chakra down to the Anahata Chakra, you've got now, all of a sudden, Aries is a fiery energy, Leo is a fiery energy. You have two fire energies crossing each other -- you will blow a fuse. From the point of view of the psychic body, it is the best possible sense that Nuit should point out for our benefit (Book of the Law, Ch. I, v. 57) that Crowley is in the process -- of course it's 1904 -- and will in his incarnation activate the Leo path in the Cosmic Psychic Body; therefore, you are going to have to take the inner fiery energy of the Aries card from here and put it down below the Abyss, down there at the Tzaddi level, and put the Aquarius, female, feminine type energy, The Star, up here, coming from the Adjna Chakra down to the Anahata Chakra (Note: hand gestures at this point to the different chakras), so that when you have activated your psychic body, you will be in harmony; and you won't be blown in pieces ... "

Kathy: "He's initiating a path like the Christianized versions of the Qabalah indicate -- that Christ activated the sixth Sephiroth on the Tree?"

Caliph: "Tiphereth? Well, yes. Now of course you are speaking in terms of Sephiroth, and I was speaking in terms of the paths. Possibly, the paths have more energy than we are used to thinking of because paths tend to be positive and Sephiroth are considered to be negative. Basically you are right."

(... here ends this segment of the tape, as our energies were directed back to this Newsletter...)

* * * * *

Poem.
by Shirine

Meditation:

Shhhh! Listen to Silence

Speaking softly wordless wisdom,

Eyes Closed; mind at rest

All in the Nothing,

Nothing in the All

* * * * *

- O.T.O. will soon publish its official version of The Book of the Law with Samuel Weiser Inc.

- O.T.O. will have a booklet soon of Aleister Crowley books and related writings (i.e. Israel Regardie, etc.) that may be

purchased through the O.T.O. by members and interested people. Proceeds from this will go to finance the undertakings of O.T.O. which at present does not have exactly a huge bank account like certain other organizations.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

In the past, Ordo Templi Orientis has only opened its ranks to Full Membership, requiring a person be physically present at his or her initiation. A number of groups or individuals have offered "astral initiation" into what they have represented as O. T. O., but the genuine Order does not do this. Full Initiation must be "grounded" by physical presence. Still, there are many who are unable to travel to Berkeley or to arrange for the visit of an initiation team. For such worthy aspirants to the Law of Thelema, something must be done. O. T. O. now offers Associate Membership -- with the understanding that this is not Full, Initiated Membership. Being an Associate of the Order is being a recognized Friend and Communicant of O. T. O. Highest priority will be given to answering the letters of our Associates. Special instruction will be provided, both in the form of organized instruction and answer to inquiry. Every effort will be made to provide the opportunity for Full Initiation into the various Degrees of O. T. O.

Associate Membership in Aleister Crowley's Ordo Templi Orientis -- under the Caliphate -- is obtained by sending \$10.00 per year to the Order at the Berkeley address on the front of the Newsletter. OR else to address in Syria The annual dues will be used to finance the Newsletter, establish a Publication Fund for publishing the works of Aleister Crowley, print Correspondence Courses, meet mailing expenses, and provide for the general operating expenses of the Order. Those submitting for Associate Membership should include a brief summary of their interests and experiences in Magick, study of the works of Aleister Crowley and similar matters -- this is optional, but it will provide the Order with a better means of improving services to Associate Members. Also be sure to include Name and Address. The Newsletter is included in the dues of Associate Membership, but correspondence courses will be offered at an additional fee. The Caliph is planning incorporation of the Order under the laws of the State and the Federal Governments. When Non-profit status is achieved, fees and donations will become tax-deductable.

ADDENDA

Articles will be accepted for consideration in future Newsletters. Questions may be sent in for discussion in the Newsletter or for private answer. Return postage or International Postage Certificates will hasten your answer. You may obtain the O. T. O. Newsletter either through Associate Membership (see above) or by separate subscription (see front page). A more specialized Journal for Members only is in the planning stages.

Works of Aleister Crowley which have been published by Weiser are available from the O.T.O. in Berkeley. For a list of available titles send a legal size self addressed stamped envelope with your request to the address on the front of this Newsletter.

Steve Englehart,
our travelling Ambassador,
will be in Europe from the
Summer Solstice 1977 to 1978

Love is the law, love under will. ⁽⁸⁾

Liber AL