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Sky's Embrace

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Horizon Oasis OTO

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Celebrating Six Months in our New Home

By Frater Jonah

February the 24th will be the six month anniversary of the dedication ceremony for our Horizon Oasis Temple Space.

While our thanks have been given to all of the many initiates, community members and friends who volunteered their time, money and labor in order to realize this goal, it cannot be said enough.

The goal itself was many years in its conception, planning and execution, and I sincerely hope that everyone who contributed to that goal's realization takes their share of personal pride in this worthy achievement.

What is more, the number of acquaintances who we have come to identify as friends, honored guest, and brothers and sisters since that time has filled our new home with light and laughter, joy and beauty beyond our expectations. It is a cause for hope in the good fortunes and fine company we can expect in the years to come.

It is with gratitude in my heart that I reflect on the words I shared on the evening when we dedicated our new Temple, and that same heart swells with the pride that I feel in a community that lives up to its ideals.

Please allow me to share these words with you once again.

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.

The Officers and Community Member of Horizon Oasis

would like to welcome you to our Temple. This is a sacred space, an Oasis separate from the mundane world, and as such we ask that you respect it, and that a few simple precepts be observed.

Hospitality is an ancient tradition among desert dwelling peoples, and it was commonplace for members of warring encampments to share the same oasis in the desert and to set aside their differences under the protection of the sovereign of that oasis in order to be permitted regular visitation to that island of sanctuary in an otherwise inhospitable climate. To violate that hospitality was an affront to the host, and could amount to a death sentence for the entire tribe should the potentate decree that they no longer be granted access to the oasis.

In this land, often savage with superstition, brutal with ignorance and corrupted by greed, we have endeavored to construct our own island of hospitality. We ask that members and guests observe the principals of hospitality. Share this space. Greet each other as friends. Lay aside your differences. Bring the best part of yourself to this place to share with your community. Do not engage in hateful speech, mockery, shunning or cliquish behavior, as each of these dulls the luster of our hospitality.

Differences of opinion and unresolved resentment over past difficulties can be common among free-peoples, and there is a time and a place to resolve those issues. Nor does our code require that you lay down your reason, or forgo all redress of grievance. Our precept states only that enmity be laid aside in this sacred space. If there is a present need to resolve some disagreement, it is expected that the parties will discreetly remove themselves from this place and its immediate precincts in order to address it.

It should be noted above all that this is not requested, but is an expectation of the members of our Holy Order, and especially of this body. Our Order is built upon discipline. The behavior of initiates, no matter where they are, reflects upon every member of the Order. Any breach of conduct would be an affront to the officers of this camp, and the Primate of the Order, whom they represent. As such we know that members of the OTO will be at pains to make this Oasis a model of modern Thelemic Hospitality.

With all this ever in mind, we invite the community to share with us this place dedicated to the divine principals of Freedom and Fraternity. Enter freely and accept our hospitality. It is a gift of great worth. The more it is honored, the more strictly it is observed, the more its value increases.

Spring Horizon Community Meeting

Horizon Oasis, OTO will be hosting our quarterly community meeting on Sunday February 25th after our regular celebration of Liber XV, The Gnostic Mass. Horizon Oasis makes every effort to host quarterly community meetings in order to share our leadership vision for the body, discuss policies and some upcoming events, and address any ideas or issues brought to us by the membership and extended community.

We hope that attendance will be high and enthusiastic, and that community members will bring their thoughts and ideas to share. We want to know what our community wants, and what all of our members have to offer to our community.

Some of the upcoming events that the officers will be reporting on and discussing will be:

Temple Renovations

Novitiate Training

The Thelemic Holy Season

NOTOCON '09

Summer Camp-Out

Some specific areas where we would like input are classes and events that the community would like to see, or classes or events that members of the community would like to host. We are encouraging community members to write and perform original public rituals for our community, and would love to hear your ideas, and help to facilitate the spiritual development of our community and its individual members.

Please come out. Share your ideas. Become an integral part of Horizon Oasis.

Novice Training and E.G.C. Policies

by Sr. Melissa Holm

Horizon Oasis is now in its eighth month in a dedicated temple space. We have come so far and still there is work to do. Upgrades in temple equipment are being scheduled, the calendar is filling with more and more events, and we are faced with how to use our ever growing resources to the utmost benefit of our Oasis and the Order in general. As E.G.C. Secretary it has been my role over the past several years to ensure that Liber XV, the Gnostic Mass be made available publicly and that interested members have opportunity to learn about the Mass and its varied and complex roles, and to have the opportunity to celebrate our central ritual.

One of the things that we have gained from our new temple is the freedom and flexibility to offer more. One could even say it is our responsibility to offer more as our members step up to support our endeavor with their pocketbooks, blood, sweat and tears. So it has become my mission, as E.G.C. Secretary, to examine how my particular office could offer more, and it has come to pass in the form of Novice Training.

The new Novice Training Program, assembled under the direction of Tau James, is designed to ensure that each Novice under his supervision is on a track toward a better understanding of the Gnostic Mass and their role in the community as clergy. Detailed information about this program is available at http://seattle-oto.org/mass_requirements.htm or can be made available in hard copy by request.

As with any system, once implemented it brings to light the need to streamline associated practices in order to ensure consistency and fairness. With all of the changes happening at Horizon Oasis in the last year we have found it necessary to update a lot of the policies. Our structure, ever changing as we go through this speedy evolution, may have been hard to keep tabs on in recent months, particularly in the Ecclesia Gnostica Catholica (E.G.C.) where several new policies and programs are currently being implemented.

The following is an overview of the current Horizon E.G.C. policies in regards to participation in the Gnostic Mass:

Requirements for Children:

Any individual who has been baptized in EGC may fill the role of child.

Requirements for Priests, Priestesses and Deacons:

*Must be ordained in the EGC, or a novice under the active supervision of a bishop. Novices must be initiate OTO members in good standing (of at least 1st degree), and have been confirmed in EGC.

*Must be formally authorized by their supervising bishop to celebrate each role: It is policy at Horizon Oasis that clergy will not celebrate the Gnostic Mass publicly without being authorized to do so by their supervising bishop. For those of you who have been celebrating the role for a while, I don't see that this will be an issue, but we are establishing this program for all novices. If you have not already done so, please contact your supervising bishop to discuss your participation in this program prior to the first time you perform mass in the coming year. Contact me at mass@seattle-oto.org and let me know who your bishop is, and confirm that you have established a formal supervised relationship.

[Note on Novice program requirements: Whether you participate and/or to what level you participate in the Novice Training program currently offered at Horizon and it's bearing on your public participation in the Gnostic Mass is a matter to be decided between novices and their supervising bishop.]

*Must be either a member of the Oasis (see information about dues below), or a guest officer with the approval of the E.G.C. Secretary or Bodymaster. The Oasis recognizes the following types of membership:

Member - an OTO initiate in good standing of 1st degree or above.

Affiliate - an OTO initiate in good standing of the Minerval degree, or a non-initiate EGC member who is at least 18 years of age.

*Must be local dues current. The Oasis defines "not current" as failing to pay Oasis dues for two or more consecutive months without making other arrangements. Membership dues are figured on a sliding scale, at 1% of each member's income; members self-declare their contribution. Affiliates are encouraged to pay membership level dues but may choose to pay base level dues of \$10.00 a month. Members and affiliates who are unable to pay their local dues may make arrangements with the Master of the Oasis to waive or reduce their dues according to their circumstances.

Dancing with the Divine

Thursday Night Bellydance Classes at Horizon Oasis

by Kendra Schmidt

Centuries before Christ, the priestesses of Diana in Anatolia (now Turkey) performed circle dances around their sacred oak tree. Around the time of Christ, the Vestal Virgins of Pompeii held dances and games to honor their goddess Vesta. Ancient Cretan priestesses danced topless with snakes in their sacred groves; they allowed the snakes to bite them about the chest, and the venom caused them to see visions and speak prophecies. In ancient Egypt, at the time of the yearly festival, priestesses would sing and play the sistrum as they danced from house to house, bestowing the blessings of Hathor. In old Persian poetry, we find the Houris of Paradise, musicians/dancers whose job it was to carry the people beyond the material plane to a higher level of consciousness. In some of the classic dances of India which exist even to this day, intricate hand and head motions are offered like prayers in the temples; the stated goal of those who perform these dances is to transcend the mundane world and commune with divinity. Even in the Christian bible, we read about the Daughters of Zion dancing

for the glory of their Lord, in the books of Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Throughout history, people have used sacred dance as a means of communing with their gods and goddesses. Losing oneself in music and the responsive motion of the body has a magical way of releasing the mind and spirit to seek truth and spiritual meaning. Circulating the pelvis, shimmying the hips, undulating the torso, rolling the belly -- these rhythmic movements we do in the bellydance have a special, undeniable power to put us in touch with the Divine Feminine. Dancing together with like-minded people is also a lot of fun; it's a great way to build community. And let's not forget the health benefits a good bellydance workout can provide. In my bellydance classes, we explore all three aspects: Connecting with the Divine Feminine, building community and getting a good sweaty workout. It's glorious in every way. Please consider joining us in the temple space for bellydance class, Thursday evenings at 7pm. Everyone's welcome! Feel free to email me at kendra@handsofkali.com with any questions.

Financial Transparency

Sharing News of Our Fortunes with the Horizon Community

From the Body Master

Wondering where your dues are going? Wondering how we're doing financially now that we've started renting our own temple? We want to be good stewards of your financial contributions, and feel strongly that the membership is entitled to know where your money is going. Towards that goal, Horizon is now posting monthly and quarterly treasurer's reports on our website at <http://seattle-oto.org/treasury.htm>. We'll update this page at the end of each month and at the end of each quarter. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please send them to me at bodymaster@seattle-oto.org, or to treasurer@seattle.oto.org.

We operated at a deficit for a few months, mostly due to construction costs, but we're moving in a positive direction and actually took in a bit more than we had to spend in December. It's wonderful to see so much support of our Oasis and our Temple! Thank you all.

Upcoming Horizon Events

February 2008

All of these events are open to the public and are held at the Horizon Oasis Temple:
1423 10th Ave
Seattle, WA 98122

Gnostic Mass

February 9th and 24th, 6:00pm.
Horizon performs Liber XV, The Gnostic Mass, on the 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday of each Month. All are welcome.

Classes

Goetia, Class 2 of 3.

February 26th, 7pm. The second class, on February 26th at 7pm, will focus on banishing rituals and their role in the Goetia. There will be practical instruction available during this class.

Garden of Pomegranates Study Group

3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00pm. Open to new participants, come even if you've missed a few sessions.

Novitiate Night

2nd Mondays at 7:00pm. A monthly date where Novices and those interested in becoming Novice clergy in the E.G.C. can gather to share, practice, and receive information through discussions and workshops.

Other Events

Bellydancing with Kendra, 7pm every Thursday.

Email horizon@seattle-oto.org with questions.
Horizon Oasis, Ordo Templi Orientis
seattle-oto.org

Seattle, WA 98122
1423 10th Ave
Horizon Oasis, OTO

Horizon Oasis Calendar

February, 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Liber XV The Gnostic Mass 6PM	28	29	30	31 Belly Dance instruction with Kendra 7PM	1	2
3 Offsite study group 5PM Magick in Theory and Practice. Contact Brother Kolson for information	4	5	6	7 Belly Dance instruction with Kendra 7PM	8	9 Liber XV The Gnostic Mass 6PM Aquarius Birthdays 7PM
10	11 Novitiate Night 7PM For those interested in practicing Liber XV.	12	13	14 Belly Dance instruction with Kendra 7PM	15	16 <i>First Degree Initiations. Set up at 9am. Start at 1pm. Above 1st* initiates only.</i>
17 Garden of Pomegranates Study Group 12 noon FRC at 3PM Members and guests only.	18 <i>EGC Boot Camp 7PM Ordained Clergy Only, Mentoring Training.</i>	19 <i>Officers Meeting 7PM Horizon officers and invited guests only.</i>	20 <i>Anahata Chapter of Rose Croix, V* Degree and above only. 7PM.</i>	21 Belly Dance instruction with Kendra 7PM	22	23
24 Liber XV The Gnostic Mass 6PM Horizon Community Meeting 7PM	25	26 Horizon's Monthly Class. Goetia part 2 Frater Jonah 7PM	27	28 Belly Dance instruction with Kendra 7PM	29 <i>TLD Private Rental 6pm to 10pm</i>	1